



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *January 12 - 18, 2014*

### **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Monday, January 20 in observance of **Martin Luther King Day**. The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Bring gently used items to swap, give away or dispose of during the **Gulfport Neighbors Junk in the Trunk or on a Truck** event behind the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday January 18, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Enjoy “Java with Zack” and register you or your child’s bike with the Gulfport Police Department, and meet the candidates for the March 11 Municipal Election between 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Enjoy music and fun. 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 call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, email [gulfportmarket@gmail.com](mailto:gulfportmarket@gmail.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket) or [www.GulfportMA.com](http://www.GulfportMA.com).

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. For more information call Recreation Coordinator John Lapham at 893-1079.

The Professional Association of Visual Artists, PAVA, will host the **2Cool Art Show** in the Gulfport Casino Ballroom Saturday & Sunday, February 8 & 9, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free admission and parking. For more information visit [www.pava-artists.org](http://www.pava-artists.org).

The **So Classic Car Show** is Saturday, February 8, 11 a.m. - 6 p.m. on the Tangerine Greenway between 49<sup>th</sup> & 51<sup>st</sup> Streets. More than sixty awards will be presented in numerous categories ranging from best in show, best paint job, Mayor’s Choice and more. Bring the whole family to enjoy the live music, shopping bazaar, costumed characters, and kiddy area! To register your classic car, email [JSRTraining@aol.com](mailto:JSRTraining@aol.com) or call Phil at 327-3509.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Administration**

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

Dispatch calls for service	162
Officer initiated calls for service	253
Offenses	58
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	38

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

Officers were dispatched to the 4900 block of Newton Avenue on the evening of January 9 regarding juveniles loitering in an alley. They were gone when officers arrived. This is an ongoing issue in the area and officers are attempting to identify the juveniles.

Officers responded to the 5700 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the evening of January 9 after a woman reported she was spat on by another woman during an altercation. A charge of battery was forwarded to the State Attorney's Office for prosecution.

Officers responded to the 5300 block of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the early morning hours of January 10 after a resident reported that their car had been vandalized. All four tires were slashed, the back window was broken out, and the front windshield was shattered. There were no witnesses to the incident, and no suspects.

A resident in the 2900 block of 51<sup>st</sup> Street reported on the evening of January 11 that someone broke into their apartment through a window. There are no suspects.

Officers were dispatched to a business in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard in the early morning hours of January 12 regarding a report of a disturbance. The subjects were gone when officers arrived, but returned approximately an hour later and were trespassed after the business owner called a second time for assistance.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 7 hours this week.

**Investigations:**

New Cases:	14
Cases Assigned:	7
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	6
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements Received:	11
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	9
Previously Cleared With Arrest	1
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	7

Detective Hanh Pham interviewed several witnesses this week regarding the exploitation of an elderly resident, and spoke with bank representatives, fraud investigators and detectives from other agencies. He also searched the Pinellas County Pawn database for reported stolen items and submitted two subpoena requests to the State Attorney's Office for financial records.

Detective Jennifer Crowson cleared a case after Freddie Daniels was arrested by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office on a warrant for felony theft from the Gulfport Family Dollar. She also conducted an interview at the Pinellas County Jail, identified a suspect in an armed burglary case, assisted another agency with a sexual battery complaint, collecting evidence via a Victim Examination, completed 4 supplements and closed out 2 reports.

School Resource Officer Langston responded to an after school disturbance and assisted school staff in preventing a possible fight on campus. She also assisted in investigating a fight that occurred off campus involving BCHS students who caused the campus disturbance, identifying the students involved and forwarded that information to administrators for further review. Officer Langston assisted ESE teachers with a disturbed student who caused property damage inside an office. The student was escorted off campus and picked up by a guardian. Due to the student's mental health issues the victims opted to allow the school to handle this issue. Additionally, Officer Langston provided assistance to a juvenile probation officer and SPPD investigator, providing relevant information about BCHS students involved in their respective cases, and provided security coverage at two basketball games.

This week Analyst Palmisano finished compiling the annual UCR report to be submitted to FDLE; completed the monthly PCSO crime scene call out report, and; completed an analysis for Officer Priest regarding barking dog complaints in the 5400 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	14
Supplements reviewed:	93
Public records requests:	26
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	4
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	36

### **LEISURE SERVICES**

#### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport) to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at [www.mygulfport.us/gtv-615](http://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.
- Completed Arbor Day event Preparations.
- Completed Gulfport Neighbors event preparations.
- Commenced production of Leisure Services Annual Report.
- Trained Recreation staff on inputting information to Rental Areas Calendar.

#### **Parks**

Obtained estimates for Caldwell Park tree trimming.

Ordered shell for walking trails at Wood Ibis Park and Clam Bayou Nature Park.

Meet with artists to discuss Greenway project.

Leveled beach volleyball courts.

Removed equipment from Recreation Center Tot Time playground.

Removed tree lights at Clymer Park.

Delivered tables to Library for Yard Sale and removed following event.

Repaired irrigation at Recreation Center, Casino & Clymer Park.

Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced chain on chainsaw and carburetor, engine & fuel lines on pole saw.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned Library and Wood Ibis Park drainage area & fence line; hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed and trimmed Neighborhood Center grounds.

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.

#### **Other Activities:**

- 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.

**GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service)** offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$65 annual registration fee entitles members 55 and older to ride GEMS for \$2 per one-way trip and is good for one year from date of registration. 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.

#### **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, & 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 a copy of this month's calendar or download your 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 and 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, come 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.

Peg Stella will return on Wednesday, January 22 at 2 p.m. for a **Memory Techniques Workshop: I Will Positively Remember This**. Using a combination of active participation and fun activities, foolproof methods will help trick the brain into remembering names, faces, numbers, and lists. Learn to sharpen your memory by combining several memory techniques and using all five senses. Use it or lose it!

As we get older, we take more and more prescription and over the counter (OTC) medications, herbal products and dietary supplements. In addition, care is being managed by multiple healthcare professionals. This could be a recipe for complications. Join us for an **HCA Health Talk "Chat with a Pharmacist"** at 2:30 p.m. Monday, January 27. Bring your medication list and go over everything you're taking with a St. Pete General Hospital pharmacist trained in Medication Therapy Management to determine if there is a risk for drug interactions, and discuss possible less costly options.

Everyone is invited to a **Satin Lips and Satin Hands Mary Kay Party** on Tuesday, January 28 at 11 a.m. The first 10 to sign-up will receive a personal lip and hand treatment, plus a mini skincare spa experience to soften skin for the winter season. Space is limited. Call Rachel at 893-1231 to sign up.

**Premier Vein Institute** will offer complementary screenings and an educational seminar on venous disease and the effects on the body on Monday, February 3 at 2:30 p.m.

The **Coffee Club** meets at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every first Tuesday of the month to discuss current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed, informal setting. The next meeting is February 4. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

Heidi Crockett from Aging Care Advocates, Inc. will present **Healthy Aging: Mindful Consumption of Food & Pleasure** on Wednesday, February 5 at 1:30 p.m. Participants will discuss how to bring more awareness, joy, and pleasure into normal daily activities.

You never know treasure you might find at **First Friday Flea Market** on February 7, 9 a.m. - noon.

*Empower your Mind, Body, & Soul* during the annual **Health & Wellness Expo** at the Gulfport Casino on Wednesday, February 19, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Healthcare professionals will offer health screenings, interactive demonstrations, and representation of both Eastern and Western health modalities. Don't miss out!

Volunteers for the **Reassurance Telephone 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 every third Tuesday of the month between 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. 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.

**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.

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

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

Sunday, January 5	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 33)
Tuesday, January 7	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance (Turnout 13) 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 34)
Wednesday, January 8	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime

	7 - p.m. - Swing Dance Lesson 8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 274)
Thursday, January 9	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 14)

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

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & ballroom dance Admission \$7
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	6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

**Catherine Hickman Theater (*last week's events*)**

Sunday, January 5	Noon - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) stage setup
Monday, January 6	6 p.m. - GCP Play rehearsal
Tuesday, January 7	6 p.m. - GCP play rehearsal
Wednesday, January 8	6 p.m. - GCP play rehearsal
Thursday, January 9	8 p.m. - GCP opening night performance of <i>In-laws, Outlaws and Other People</i> (Turnout 120)
Friday, January 10	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>In-laws, Outlaws and Other People</i> (Turnout 77)
Saturday, January 11	8 p.m. - GCP presents <i>In-laws, Outlaws and Other People</i> (Turnout 123)

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

Thursday - Saturday, January 16-18 & 23-25, 8 p.m., and Sunday, January 19 & 26, 2 p.m. - The Gulfport Community Players present *In-laws, Outlaws and Other People (That Should be Shot)*, a holiday comedy by Steve Franco. Tickets: \$15, available at the Gulfport Casino, Beach Bazaar, Couture'd Resale Boutique & Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, or by calling 322-0316.

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

Sunday, January 5	9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 21) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
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**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
Monday, January 6	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 6) 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 24)
Tuesday, January 7	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 16)
Wednesday, January 8	11 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 15)
Friday, January 10	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 9)

**Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):**

Every Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion class 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga
Every Tuesday	10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing
Every Thursday	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class
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 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

**Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, January 6, 3 p.m. - *Science Club.*

Monday, January 6, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault.*

Tuesday, January 7, 9 a.m. - *Circle of Friends Board of Directors meeting.*

Tuesday, January 7, 2 p.m. - *Adventures in Ancestry.*

Tuesday, January 7, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*

Wednesday, January 8, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, January 8, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone.*

Thursday, January 9, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Friday, January 10, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, January 11, 11 a.m. - *Beginning Digital Photography Workshop*.

Saturday, January 11, 2 p.m. - *Author Ken Bird Book Reading/Signing*.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Saturday, January 18, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Enjoy flicks with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. For movie titles call 893-1074.

Saturday, January 25, 11 a.m. - *Intermediate Photography Workshop*: Build on the skills from the Beginning class. Space is limited. Stop by the Reference Desk or call 893-1073 to register.

Tuesday, January 28 - *SCORE Counseling*: FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Thursday, January 30, 1 p.m. - *iPad for Beginners*: Learn to both benefit and enjoy your new technology. Register for this popular class at the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5. For more information call Cailey at 893-1073.

Every Monday, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault*.

Every Tuesday, 2 p.m. - *Adventures in Ancestry*: Gulfport Historian Lynne Brown instructs you on how to research family history and genealogy. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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 Zone*.

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 by the Easy books.

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

### **Library Services/Statistic January 5-11, 2014:**

#### **Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	2,266	699
Sun. 1/5	Library closed	
Mon. 1/6	448	116
Tue. 1/7	356	120
Wed. 1/8	350	118
Thu. 1/9	383	130
Fri. 1/10	359	102
Sat. 1/11	321	96

### **Recreation Center**

The multipurpose room is reserved 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, January 18 for a Baby Shower.

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

Forty eight (48) children are registered for the **2013/14 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 nonresidents. Bus

transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary. The program is licensed by the Pinellas County License Board.

Fourteen (14) children are registered for the **2013/14 Tot Time Program**, and six (6) 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. 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.

**Contractual classes:** Fencing, German, Gymnastics, Hatha Flow Yoga, Hawaiian Hula, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish for Beginners I & II, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Walking Club, Women's Self-Defense, Yoga and Zumba.

Sixty one (61) teens are registered for the **2013/14 Teen Night program**, a great hangout 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.

Skaters & bicyclists wishing to use the **Skate Park** are required to register with the Recreation Center. Six (6) FY2013/14 passes have been sold to date.

#### **Staff Activities:**

Marivel Gutierrez opened the Recreation Center for the Special Election on Tuesday morning.

Alton Hooker used the school bus to transport a group of Gulfport Elementary to Great Explorations in St. Petersburg on Wednesday morning.

Tuesday's **Teen Council** meeting was cancelled due to no quorum in advance.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

#### **Customer Service and Finance**

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 27 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1464 totaling \$246,510.50
- On-Line Water payments: 221 transactions totaling \$13,644.34
- Bright House payments: 21
- Payroll 01/03/14: 159 transactions totaling \$171,853.59

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

- 38 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 6 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

#### **Life Safety:**

- 1 C.O.

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, February 20 at 7 p.m. For more information call 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

- Gulfport Fire Department Paramedics and EMTs continued their January 2014 St. Petersburg College Emergency Medical Services online Continuing Medical Education (CME) this week. This month's topic is Medical Operations Manual 2014: Clinical Standards, Protocols and Procedures. (3 CEUs)
- The Florida Department of Health Emergency Medical Services conducted their biannual unannounced inspection at GFD on January 9. The Inspection included a review of all Personnel Records, Service Records & Facilities, Visual Inspections of the BLS and ALS Equipment, Narcotic Logs Books and Compliance. The State Inspector was very impressed and offered accolades to the City Manager after finding no discrepancies or deficiencies within the department.
- GFD personnel began High Rise Training on January 14. High-rise fires can be challenging due to the complexity of the buildings themselves, as well as all the bases that must be covered in these incidents to ensure a successful outcome. One of the most difficult challenges that we as firefighters can face when responding to these incidents is a wind-driven fire in a high-rise. This is an extreme and very serious situation. Locating the fire in a high-rise building is challenging but crucial. Stretching hose lines in high-rises is very labor intensive and we must be certain we're advancing to the right location; it's not a simple task to reposition the line.
- GFD would like to remind residents to get their flu shots. There are two types of flu vaccines: trivalent and quadrivalent. Trivalent vaccines protect against 3 strains of the flu, A/H3N2, A/H1N1, and influenza B. Trivalent vaccines are available in: Traditional flu shots, approved for anyone 6 months and older. Intradermal shots, which use a shorter needle, approved for anyone 18-64. High dose shots approved for people over 65. Cell based shots are created using viruses grown in animal cells and approved for anyone over 18. Recombinant shots created using DNA technology are approved for people 18-49 with severe egg allergies.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance:**

- Completed monthly replacement of air conditioner filters in all City buildings.
- Replaced exit light and battery in Recreation Center game room.
- Repaired door at ladies beach restroom.
- Repaired three chairs at Library.
- Replaced flush-o-meter in Dog Park men's restroom.
- Replaced water faucet in Library men's restroom.
- Replaced several ceiling tiles in City Hall.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Administrative Services Department.

### **Streets & Sanitation:**

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and 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 potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned storm grates around City Hall and Hoyt Field.
- Removed debris from storm grates on Tangerine Avenue, along Shore Boulevard and at 52<sup>nd</sup> Street terminus.
- Cleaned and removed debris from Tangerine Greenway.
- Installed “No Parking” sign at 50<sup>th</sup> Street & 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Continued curbside Christmas tree pickup
- Added millings to the roadway at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Completed asphalt roadwork at 51<sup>st</sup> Street & 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Delivered two commercial recycling bins to Beach Haus Restaurant.
- Continued automated curbside street sweeping.
- Installed mailbox on Pasadena Point.
- Reset storm water lid at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Removed debris from Beach and parking lot area.

#### **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 48 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 1 non-pay recheck to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 111 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 3 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 3 old water meters with new style meters.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Repaired water break at 5103 18<sup>th</sup> 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**

- Replaced brakes on Police Department vehicles #103 & 54.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

**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:

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 continue in Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58<sup>th</sup> Street and east to 49<sup>th</sup> Street.

The number of Code Enforcement cases for December was 198 for a year-to-date (YTD) total of 601. The number of citizen complaints was 15 for a YTD total of 38. The YTD ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 6.3 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).