



# *Gulfport Community Update*

*October 7 - 13, 2012*

## **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

The Osgood Point kayak launch ramp is closed for construction through December 23. Kayaks may be launched from the Gulfport Municipal Marina.

Gulfport residents enjoyed kids' games with obstacle course and inflatables, chalk art contest, famous mullet toss, fish fry, artist booths, trolley tour, antique appraisal and free cake during the **City of Gulfport 102<sup>nd</sup> Birthday Bash** at the Historical Museum on Saturday, October 6 (photo montage below).



## **Upcoming Events:**

The **Most Holy Name Oktoberfest** continues through Sunday, October 14. Enjoy rides, games, food & drink, dancing and entertainment. For more information call 344-2744.

Volunteer at the **Clam Bayou Cleanup** on Saturday, October 20, 9 a.m. - noon. Clam Bayou Nature Park is located at the corner of 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Miriam Street. For more information call 893-1066.

Visit Gulfport during **Third Saturday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District 6 - 10 p.m. on October 20. For more information call 322-5217.

Are you ready to get into the spooky spirit? With Halloween just around the corner the Gulfport Recreation Center is looking for some scary decorated homes, haunted houses or business to enter this year's **Halloween Decorations Contest**. Stop by the Gulfport Recreation Center or City Hall to pick up an application. This year residents can ride the in-town trolley and help judge the haunted sights on Monday evening, October 22. No one knows what time the hearse will travel through the City of Gulfport, but please be ready by 6:30 p.m. Deadline to enter the contest is Noon, Monday, October 24. There will be three theme categories: general, haunted house and commercial. The general theme is for single/joint home only, the haunted house

theme is for single haunted houses only and the commercial theme is for single/joint business and professional locations, including home occupations. A plaque will be awarded to one winner in each category and winners will be presented a certificate at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, November 6 at 7 p.m.

Put on your best costume and take the kids to the **Halloween Bash** at the Gulfport Recreation Center on Wednesday, October 31, 7 - 9 p.m. Carnival games, Costume Contest, Haunted House, Tot Boo Room and a Snack Shack. For more information call 893-1068.

Sign up your Gulfport address for the **Citywide Yard Sale** scheduled for Saturday, November 3. Applications can be picked up and dropped off at City Hall or the Gulfport Library. Participants can also email yard sale addresses to [jshea@mygulfport.us](mailto:jshea@mygulfport.us). A confirmation email will be sent. Deadline for registration is October 26. For more information call 893-1118. No phone-in addresses please; one address per application.

The Gulfport **Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods; hand-made art and crafts; bath, body and wellness products; live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday. Hours of operation are 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the **Gulfport Senior Center Pantry** to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent each Tuesday. The Pantry is in great need of donations to keep up with the needs of clients. For more information visit [www.gulfportma.com](http://www.gulfportma.com) or contact Daniel Hodge at 366-4086 or [dan@igc.org](mailto:dan@igc.org).

### **Weekly Casino Ballroom Events**

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

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Administration**

James Beane served his final day as the Police Services Supervisor on Monday, October 8. James worked with the Gulfport Police Department for eleven years. He accepted a position in the St. Petersburg Police Department communications center.

Cynthia Hayes has been promoted from Administrative Assistant to Police Services Supervisor. The A.A. position is vacant, and is advertised for internal applicants.

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

Offenses	56
Arrests	3
Traffic citations	18

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

Officers responded to a 911 hang up call at a residence in the 2200 block of 51<sup>st</sup> Street in the early morning hours of October 2 after a man reported he had been attacked. Sgt. Michael Vandenberg forced entry to the residence after getting no response from the males inside who could be seen stumbling to and from the kitchen, and discovered Steven Petanowick in the kitchen bleeding from injuries to his head. Another resident was located in the bedroom barely

conscious with serious wounds to his face and head. Both men were transported to the hospital for treatment, and Petanowick was arrested for Aggravated Battery.

Officer Nicita spotted William Jahn walking through the City Hall parking lot on the morning of October 2 and arrested him for probable cause for a battery that occurred the previous week.

GPD is investigating a burglary after a resident in the 1000 block of 60<sup>th</sup> Street reported that sometime between 4 p.m. Saturday, September 29 and 6:30 a.m. Monday, October 1 an unknown suspect entered the residence and stole jewelry from a jewelry box. The burglary was reported on the afternoon of October 3.

Officers responded to the Town Shores Buckingham building on the afternoon of October 3 after a woman reported that her mother's Social Security information was stolen and used to file her federal income tax return. A report was taken and forwarded to the IRS.

Officers are investigating a burglary in the 2700 block of 52<sup>nd</sup> Street south after a resident reported on the evening of October 3 that a window in her home had been smashed, and several items were stolen.

GPD was contacted by a victim advocate on the afternoon of October 4 who requested Aggravated Stalking charges be filed for a State Attorney investigation into documented reports of a Gulfport woman being stalked by her former boyfriend, a violation of a protective injunction. The suspect lives in Brooklyn, New York.

GPD is investigating a burglary in the 6000 block of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue after an unknown person entered a home through an unlocked window sometime between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. on October 4. Numerous items of jewelry, a laptop computer and digital camera were taken. Due to the large number of items touched and boxes overturned, Pinellas County Sheriff's forensics processed the scene.

Officers responded to the 4800 block of 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the morning of October 6 after a caller reported that his residence was broken into sometime during the previous weekend, and a laptop computer and two watches were taken from a locked closet in his bedroom.

Officers responded to a motorcycle crash in the 5900 block of Gulfport Boulevard in the early morning hours of October 7 after the driver failed to properly negotiate a curve in the roadway and hit a curb. He was not wearing a helmet and was transported to the hospital with minor injuries.

A resident in the 5400 block of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that a woman threw bleach on him and his dog following an argument in the early morning hours of October 7. The woman, identified as Robbie Macon was gone when police arrived but was located a short time later in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard. She was arrested for battery.

Officers responded to the 5300 block of 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the morning of October 7 after a caller reported that sometime after midnight, someone entered his unlocked vehicle and stole change and credit cards. Later that day, they were called to the 5400 block of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue after a woman reported that her vehicle was burglarized, and a gym bag containing boxing gear and a text book were taken. The crimes appear to be related and some of the items were later recovered.

On the morning of October 8, a woman flagged officers down in the Save a Lot parking lot and reported that she had found a football, cleats and an ID card on the side of her home in the 5300 block of Jersey Avenue. Ofc. Novak later discovered the items had been stolen during vehicle burglaries reported the previous day.

GPD is investigating a criminal mischief after someone damaged the doors and handles on the beach restrooms sometime last weekend.

On the afternoon of October 8 a caller in the 2200 block of 52<sup>nd</sup> Street reported that a dog was tethered in a yard without proper shelter, food or water. The owner could not be located and the dog was turned over to Animal Control. An investigation continues.

## **Investigations:**

<b>New Cases:</b>	10
Cases Assigned:	2
Cases Closed-No Leads:	5
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	2
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Cases Referred Back to Patrol:	0

<b>Supplements Received:</b>	15
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously cleared with Arrest:	0
Cases Closed-No Leads:	5
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	2
Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Cases Still Active:	7

Sgt Woodman provided a photo pack to an armed robbery victim who picked George Englund as the suspect. He located some of the stolen property at a pawn shop and developed probable cause for the arrest of the suspect.

Detective Hanh Pham investigated a Grand Theft case in which Desiree Gunther stole a men's 14kt gold bracelet from a residence she was cleaning. Detective Pham interviewed Gunther at the Pinellas County Jail and she confessed to the alleged crime. Gunther informed Detective Pham that she pawned the bracelet at a Largo pawn shop. He was able to retrieve the bracelet, valued at approximately \$5,600 and Gunther was charged with Grand Theft and Dealing in Stolen Property.

Ofc. Beltran worked 2 football games and made one arrest at the Friday night game. He also worked the homecoming dance without incident.

Ofc Motte dealt with a trespasser at school, assisted PCSO in serving an injunction, and arrested two students for disorderly conduct and possession of marijuana on school grounds. He also covered the school's Varsity Homecoming football game and dance.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 4 hours this week.

## **Records**

Reports reviewed:	43
Supplements reviewed:	77
Public records requests:	18
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	3
Subpoenas processed:	19
Citizens assisted:	65

## **Professional Standards Section**

Two policies are in the review process: 130 - Overcoming Communication Barriers, and 146 - Training for Specialized Units

Annual sexual harassment training has begun. We are using the Public Risk Management website for this training.

Officer White completed a weeklong Law Enforcement Fitness Specialist training class at Hillsborough Community College. This course focused on Cooper standards.

Officer Iwanowski completed a 1-day Introduction to Internet Investigations class at SEPSI.

Officer Crowson completed a 2-day Ultimate Survival Skills class at Hillsborough Community College.

## **MARINA**

Pumped one thousand six hundred eighty two (1,682) gallons of gas, and one thousand two hundred seventeen (1,217) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling seventy four (74) vessels.

Assisted in fifteen (15) pump-outs evacuating three hundred ten (310) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

### **Staff Activities:**

- Removed motor from south pump-out, and repaired east pump-out motor.
- Purchased bait and drinks for resale.
- Removed loose board from pier six.

## **LEISURE SERVICES**

### **Technical Events**

Visit the City of Gulfport YouTube website at [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport). Cable and DSL internet users can access streaming video from the City's website at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us). Watch videos of recent events. It's a great way to keep in touch with out of town family and friends! Spread the word!

- Commenced training for Technical Events Specialist position.
- Updated weekly program schedule. Copy available at the City Hall reception desk, or online at [http://www.mygulfport.us/GTV615/Live\\_Webstream.htm](http://www.mygulfport.us/GTV615/Live_Webstream.htm).
- Distributed biweekly press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted GTV615 station equipment.
- Updated class schedule and softball standings on Recreation Center webpage.
- Updated and added new contacts for City Events Email/Newsletter. Please email at [jshea@mygulfport.us](mailto:jshea@mygulfport.us) for additions and updates of City events.
- Continued collecting registrations for Citywide yard sale and commenced brochure updates.
- Provided A/V support for Gulfport Birthday Bash.
- Distributed November Monthly Events/Meetings Calendar to City departments.
- Provided control room coverage for October 10 Board of Adjustment meeting, rebroadcast on GTV615 and made DVD copies for IT Director and City Clerk.
- Continued planning and preparations for Veteran's Heroes Weekend event. Applications are available at City Hall, the Library and online at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) under latest news.
- Received 2012-2013 Historic calendars from printer and distributed to Senior Center, Casino, City Hall and Library.

## **Parks**

Leveled ground around new playground and swing.

Cleared turf from volleyball court area in preparation for reconstruction, and hauled sand from volleyball court to swing area.

Replaced fencing at Recreation Center playground.

Refurbished direction/location signs on Gulfport Boulevard.

Weeded and trimmed garden beds at Library, Senior Center and Theater.

Set up tables, chairs, sound system and trashcans in preparation for Birthday Bash, and removed following event.

Mowed, trimmed, edged and cleared leaves from Clymer Greenways, Marina, Tomlinson, Caldwell and Veterans Parks, Lum & Hoyt Fields, City Hall complex, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 55<sup>th</sup> Street medians, Pasadena entrance, Clam Bayou, Recreation Center grounds and Beach areas.

Continued monitoring hole in seawall behind Recreation Center and filling as needed.

Opened & cleaned Skate Park daily.

Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas. Trash receptacles were emptied and the Bocce Ball courts were inspected for needed repairs.

#### **Other Activities:**

- All City park trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged all ball fields daily.

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

The City of Gulfport offers transportation service for residents 55 and older. GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mini-Bus Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc.

#### **Senior Center**

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

The Senior Center offers **Language Classes** for registered members every Thursday:

- 9:30 a.m. - Spanish for Beginners
- 10:30 a.m. - Spanish for Conversation
- 6 p.m. - Beginners and Advanced Italian
- 7 p.m. - Beginner Conversation, Intermediate & Advanced Grammar Italian

The Deaf and Hearing Connection will provide phones at no cost for the hearing impaired Floridians on Tuesday, October 16, 9:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

How do you dispose of outdated meds? What should you know about medication interaction? Don't miss this special presentation on Tuesday, October 16 at 1 p.m. Courtesy of Gulf Coast Jewish Family and Community Services.

Auditions for the **Senior Talent Show** will be held at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 17 & 24. The Talent Show is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, October 31 in the Hickman Theater. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

Tuesday, November 13 is national Memory Screening Day, and the Senior Center will offer free memory tests from 1 to 4 p.m. Call 893-2237 or 893-1231 to schedule an appointment.

The annual Senior Center **Thanksgiving Dinner Party** is scheduled for Tuesday, November 20 at 11:30 a.m. Seats are limited, and participants must be registered members of the Gulfport Senior Center. Tickets are available at the Center, online at [www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org](http://www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org) or by calling 893-1231 or 893-2237. Brentwood Senior Community Living is sponsoring this event.

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

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

Tuesday, October 2                      Noon - Intermediate Ballroom dance lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 12)  
1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom dance lesson (Turnout 3)  
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance  
6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango lesson  
8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 48)

Wednesday, October 3                      6 p.m. - Bonus Dance lesson with Swingtime  
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson  
8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 148)

Thursday, October 4                      7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera  
8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 20)

Saturday, October 6                      6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 158)

#### **Casino (Upcoming Events):**

Every Sunday                              6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson  
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Dance Admission \$7

Every Tuesday                              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 lessons with Carol Rivera  
8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

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

Thursday, October 4, 7 p.m. - Banned book lecture with Professor Michael P. Allen (Turnout 32)  
Friday, October 5, 6 p.m. - Opening art reception and piano concert featuring the works of Oliver Norden (Turnout 7)

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

Sunday, October 21, 5 p.m. - *A Healthy Vote* community forum and panel discussion with 5 physicians. This event is free and open to the public.

Sunday, October 28, 2 p.m. - The Performing Arts Consortium of St. Petersburg presents *Witches, Goblins & Friends* featuring Composers David Martines III and dancer Travis Mesman. Admission \$10 for adults/\$5 for students, or free if in costume and accompanied by an adult. For more information call 258-8315.

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

Sunday, September 30 6:15 p.m. - Over Eaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 10)

Thursday, October 4 2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 20)

**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 - Wednesday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

**Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):**

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

**LIBRARY**

The Gulfport Library offers free one-on-one computer instruction on a first come basis every Monday and Wednesday from 10:30 a.m. until 1 p.m.

**Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

- Monday, October 1, 1 p.m. *NaNoWriMo* Group meeting.
- Tuesday, October 2, 1:30 p.m. - *Suncoast Hospice Bereavement Group* meeting.
- Tuesday, October 1, 3 p.m. - *eSalon* facilitated by Alex Hooks.
- Tuesday, October 2, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting.
- Wednesday, October 3, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Wednesday, October 3, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Wednesday, October 3, 5 p.m. - *Real estate News You Can Use* forum.
- Thursday, October 4, 10:30 a.m. - *Storyime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Diann Morningstar.
- Thursday, October 4, 4:30 p.m. - *Business Debtors Anonymous* meeting.
- Thursday, October 4, 7 p.m. - *Banned Books! Who Decides* forum sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.
- Saturday, October 6, 10 a.m. - Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library book sale.
- Saturday, October 6, 1 p.m. - *In Our Own Words* youth book writing workshop/contest.

**Upcoming Events:**

- Every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. - *Suncoast Hospice Bereavement Group* meeting.
- Every Tuesday, 3 p.m. - *eSalon*. Learn to browse, place a hold, check out and download ebooks from our digital catalog. Meet with others to learn the basics, or discover new ways of using the e-Reader, tablet or mp3. For more information call 893-1073.

- Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information please call 916-0916.
- Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone* facilitated by Shrei Stanley.
- Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Enjoy picture books selected to be read to preschool age children, in the Youth Services area at the rocking chair near the Easy books.
- Thursday, October 18, 7 p.m. - *Tales from a Haunted Peninsula: The Folklore and Legends of Pinellas County*. Join local author and historian Deborah Frethem for an evening of spooky stories, haunted tales and local lore. FMI Call Dave at 893-1075.
- Every Saturday through November 11, 1 p.m. - *In Our Own Words* Youth Book Writing contest & workshops.

### **Library Services/Statistics September 30 - October 6, 2012:**

	<b>Items Circulated</b>	<b>Patrons</b>
Weekly Circulation:	1,920	442
Sun. 9/30	10	3
Mon. 10/1	355	79
Tue. 10/2	335	84
Wed. 10/3	294	68
Thu. 10/4	396	70
Fri. 10/5	316	76
Sat. 10/6	214	62

### **Recreation Center**

The art room is reserved 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 13 and 2 - 6 p.m. Saturday October 20 for private functions.

The gym is reserved 6 - 9 p.m. Saturday, October 27 for a party.

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

Thirty eight (38) children are registered for the School Year Child Care program, a quality program that provides a nurturing atmosphere where children in Kindergarten through age 14 have the opportunity to experience recreational, social, creative and enriching activities. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$110 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Ten (10) children have been registered for the 2012/13 Tot Time Program, and seven (7) for VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten). Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$110 for non residents. 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.

Contractual classes: Braveheart Bootcamp, Conversational Spanish, Fencing, Gymnastics, Hula Dance, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Yoga and Zumba.

One (1) 2012/13 Gulfport Skate Park sticker has been sold to date.

Registration continues for the 2012/13 Teen Night program, a great hang out for teens in grades 6-12 providing recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects. The teens utilize the gymnasium, game room and outdoor area. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents. Program hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 6 - 9 p.m. To date thirty seven (37) teens have been registered.

### **Staff Activities**

Marivel Gutierrez attended the FASA State Conference in Orlando from Wednesday thru Friday. Nicole Latragna, John Lapham, Alton Hooker, Mike Worthington, Leah Erbe, Justin Shea and Asaph Graham worked the City's Birthday Bash on Saturday.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

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

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 27 new, 1 closed
- Water payments: 1,241 totaling \$129,706.08
- On-Line Water payments: 117 transactions totaling \$11,534.08
- Bright House payments: 29
- Utility Bills Mailed 10/10/12: 1,254
- Accounts Payable 10/05/12: 646 transactions totaling \$372,487.34
- Mail processed 10/05/12: 1,791 pieces totaling \$491.70
- Purchasing Cards October 2012 report: 116 transactions totaling \$14,523.03

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

- 43 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Fire

#### **Life Safety**

- 5 Fire Inspections
- 3 Re-Inspections

The **CERT Team** meets monthly. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, October 18 at the Gulfport Senior Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. For more information call Bob Worthington at 916-8014, or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

It's VETSports vs. Gulfport Police & Fire Departments in an Inaugural Beach Volleyball Benefit on Sunday, November 11 at 1 p.m. Proceeds from this event benefit the Tampa family of fallen soldier Major David Taylor and Wounded Veterans of VETSports.

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

- Gulfport Firefighter/ Paramedic Hays taught CPR Heart Saver with AED to two Gulfport Police Officers on October 8.

- The Gulfport Fire Department “A”-shift gave a tour to a young gentleman and his friends for his Birthday party on October 7. The small group of kids walked through the Station and viewed the Fire Engines.
- The Pinellas County Fire Chief’s Association met with Public Safety Director Bruce Moeller on October 10 for introduction purposes and to discuss current issues relevant to the Pinellas County fire service.
- Inspector Frank Vento performed a follow up inspection/walk thru to Kipps Colony II after learning the Standpipe System for building 6250 was dry and out of service. The building president and CSS are working to correct the problem.
- Inspector Frank Vento performed a Fire/Safety Inspection for the annual Holly Name October Festival on October 11. A few minor violations were discovered and corrected.

It’s **Fire Prevention Week**, and the Gulfport Fire Department offers the following tips to keep your family safe. In the event of a fire, remember that every second counts so you and your family must always be prepared. Escape plans help you get out of your home quickly. In less than 30 seconds, a small flame can get completely out of control and turn into a major fire. It only takes minutes for a house to fill with thick black smoke and become engulfed in flames.

Prepare and practice your fire escape plan twice a year with everyone in your household, including children and people with disabilities. It’s also a good idea to practice your plan with overnight guests. Some tips to consider when preparing your escape plan include:

- Draw a map of each level of your home showing all doors and windows. Have two ways out of each room. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open easily.
- Only purchase collapsible escape ladders evaluated by a recognized testing laboratory. Use the ladder only in a real emergency.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them.
- Have a plan for everyone in your home who has a disability.
- Practice your fire escape plan at night and during the daytime.
- Always remember to change the battery in you smoke detector.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance:**

- Completed monthly filter change on all City building air conditioning units.
- Completed yearly fire protection stand pipe inspection on Marina piers.
- Replaced electrical solenoid switch on water cooler, exhaust fan in restroom and pulley on air condition unit, and installed motor in air handler at Recreation Center.
- Unblocked toilet at Public Service building.
- Painted offices, hallways and covered graffiti on concrete barriers, and replaced contactor on electrical panel for parking lot lights and Neighborhood Center.
- Replaced hose bib at City Hall Complex and closer on Hoyt Field restroom door.
- Replaced vandalized door handles on Beach restrooms.
- Repaired drawer at snack bar and set up for daily events at Senior Center.
- Pressure washed upper half of City Hall building.
- Installed new doors at Lift Station #2.
- Replaced wet ceiling insulation, drain pan on air conditioning unit & cabinet hinge, and repaired electrical disconnect for at Fire Station.
- Performed routine daily maintenance duties at all City buildings.

## **Streets & Sanitation:**

- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses on roadways.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, trash, electronics and Code Enforcement.
- Delivered recycling bins and “The City of Gulfport Recycling Guidelines” information sheet to multiple residential and commercial properties.
- Received shipment of new automated containers, assembled and delivered to multiple residential and commercial properties.
- Removed traffic control obstructions and debris from various roadways and alleys throughout City.
- Cleaned, reset and maintained storm drains, grates and inlets at various locations throughout City.
- Completed asphalt patch work on multiple potholes throughout City per direction.
- Completed alley and easement grading, fill and dust control spraying throughout City.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping at Osgood Point, Gulfport Marina, Gulfport Beach, Tangerine Greenway and other locations throughout City per direction.
- Cleared debris from 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area and truck wash area.
- Graded Gulfport Beach, removed seaweed and debris and reformed drain swale near Casino.
- Delivered trash and recycling containers and posted “NO PARKING” signs in preparation for Oktoberfest.
- Removed dirt and completed road work on Shore Boulevard.
- Restocked sand for emergency storm preparation.
- Reset landscape boulder at 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Beach Boulevard.

## **Water:**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes # 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 37 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 12 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 111 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 7 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Repaired water breaks at 5925 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 702 59<sup>th</sup> Street, 5601 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue, and 2014 52<sup>nd</sup> Street.

## **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 Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.

## Vehicle Maintenance

- Repaired hydraulic oil leak on Sanitation Truck #46.
- Replaced throttle body on Streets Department Vehicle #34.
- Replaced cab latch rebound mounts power supply for emergency lights and rooftop A/C system on Fire Truck #P17.
- Performed maintenance on Fire Truck #E17.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

### **Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors**

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

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

From January to July of this year, the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board issued 536 citations against unlicensed contractors. Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

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

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

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

The state requires licensed contractors to have workers' compensation and liability insurance and the board monitors their insurance coverage. Without these, if a worker gets injured on the job or damages property, the homeowner is liable. Many insurance policies will not pay claims if an unlicensed contractor was doing the work.

### WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

### WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.

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

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or check their website at [www.pcclb.com](http://www.pcclb.com).

**Building Division** staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on do-it-yourself projects. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, due to hard economic times many are electing to do these projects themselves. Before beginning home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and inspections that may be necessary, to explain code requirements and help you through the process.

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

**Code Enforcement** activities have moved to 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.

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).

**October 10, 2012 Board of Adjustment meeting results:**

- V12-10 - Two vacant lots with the Property Identification Numbers 33/31/16/4156/000/3710 and 33/31/16/4156/000/3730, located to the north and west of the intersection of 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 57<sup>th</sup> Street. The property owners are Robert Pohrer and Donald Engle II. Variance request is to reduce the minimum distance setback requirement from the rear property line by 5 feet, from 15 feet to 10 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed new 22'x 30' detached garage. THIS CASE WAS CONTINUED
- V12-11 - 6320 Pasadena Point Boulevard South. Property owners are Tod and Lisa Damkoehler. Variance request to reduce the rear lot line setback requirement by 1.9 feet, from 25 feet to 23.1 feet, to allow for the construction of a proposed new bathroom attached to the master bedroom. APPROVED

**November 7 Planning & Zoning Board & November 20 City Council/CRA meeting:**

- Consideration of amendments to the zoning code related to outdoor sales or displays within the WRD, CL-1 and CL-2 zoning districts to allow for expedited review.

- Consideration of amendments to the zoning code relating to political signs.
- Consideration of amendments to the zoning code relating to notice requirements.

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