



Gulfport Community Update

October 14 - 20, 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.

Are you ready to get into the spooky spirit? With Halloween just around the corner the Gulfport Recreation Center is looking for 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. Residents are invited to ride the 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 on the 22nd. Winners will be chosen from three categories: general for single/joint home, haunted house for single homes and commercial 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 November 6 at 7 p.m.

Upcoming Events:

Volunteer at the **Clam Bayou Cleanup** on Saturday, October 20, 9 a.m. - noon. Clam Bayou Nature Park is located at the corner of 29th Avenue & Miriam Street. Due to construction the project underway the Gulfport Marina is the designated kayak/canoe launch site for this event. 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.

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. 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.

Gulfport's popular outdoor antiques and collectibles show **Antiques in the Park** returns on Saturday, November 3. Join us from 10 a.m. until 5 p.m. at Clymer Park located at the corner of Gulfport & Beach Boulevard and peruse antiques and collectibles exhibitors throughout the park. Find estate jewelry, old pottery, art, china and glassware, primitives and folk, kitchen collectibles, linens, toys, fun ephemera, small furnishings, home décor, and more! This event is cosponsored by the City of Gulfport and the Gulfport Historical Museum, and is managed by Hula Hula Productions. In the event of rain, this event will be rescheduled to Saturday, November 10.

Stetson Law Alumni Veteran Javier Centonzio, American Legion Post 125, The Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce, Gulfport Merchants and the City of Gulfport would like to invite everyone to a fun packed weekend of events for **Heroes Weekend** November 8 - 11. All are welcome to join the **City of Gulfport Veteran's Day Parade** on Beach Boulevard Saturday, November 10 at 4 p.m. Those wishing to participate should stop by City Hall to pick up an application, or print a copy from the City's website. Participation is free, but donations will be accepted for the Veteran's Law Institute. On Sunday, November 11 at 1 p.m. VETSports takes

on Gulfport Police & Fire Departments in Volleyball Benefit. Many Veterans playing in the volleyball matches use prosthetics for mobility. Please come and cheer on America's Bravest and Gulfport's Finest! Immediately following the volleyball event, an aerial photo will be taken by helicopter of the human chain spelling of **GULFPORT, FL** on the beach.

The Gulfport **Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods; hand-made art and crafts; bath, body and wellness products; live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. (8 p.m. the first Tuesday of each month). Special events are planned to enliven the experience. 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 or contact Daniel Hodge at 366-4086 or 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
- 1st and 3rd Thursday 7 p.m.: Salsa Dance/Lesson - \$7
- 1st and 3rd Sunday, 6 p.m.: Band/Ballroom Dance and Band - \$7
- 2nd & 4th Sunday, 6 p.m.: Ballroom DJ & dance - \$7

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Administration

Calls for Service:

Offenses	56
Arrests	13
Traffic citations	22

Examples of arrests and significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers responded to the 5500 block of 16th Avenue on the afternoon after a complainant said she found drugs on her property. The label on the prescription bottle was for Zantac, but the bottle contained four 2mg Alprazolam (generic Xanax).

Officers responded to a report of a disturbance at a gas station in the 5200 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the afternoon of October 10. A woman returned to the store after pumping four gallons of gasoline and complained that her fuel gauge was still on empty. The responding officer's investigation revealed that the pump was working properly and the woman's gauge was slow, taking several minutes to register the additional fuel.

A resident in the 2600 block of Beach Boulevard reported on the afternoon of October 10 that unknown subjects took several fishing poles from the exterior of his residence the night before.

Officers arrested Tonya Lensey at the Gulfport Police Department on the evening of October 10 on charges of stealing a necklace from an 80-year old patient at the Boca Ciega Genesis Health Center. Lensey denied stealing the necklace and advised that her husband had given it to her as a gift. An investigation revealed the necklace was pawned at a local pawn shop by the suspect shortly after the theft.

Officer Ashcom stopped a car in the area of Gulfport Boulevard & 49th Street on the evening of October 11 for a traffic violation. Upon getting consent to search the car, she discovered a

baggie that contained 2 grams of suspected marijuana. Jeromy Barnes admitted the marijuana belonged to him and was issued a notice to appear for possession.

Officers responded call in the 6200 block of 9th Avenue on the afternoon of October 12 after a resident who was mowing her lawn noticed a black truck circling the block and alleyway near her home. When she went inside she discovered that someone had entered through her front door and stolen her purse. The purse was recovered an hour later at 25th Avenue & York Street. A witness there saw a Hispanic male in a black truck with a hard top on the bed standing over the purse. When she confronted him and told him she was calling the police he left the area. The witness completed a computer generated composite sketch of the suspect with Gulfport Police Criminal Investigation Section.

Officers arrested Sean Kennedy on the afternoon of October 12 after he broke through the fence of a property in the 5600 block of Tangerine Avenue and assaulted a resident, punching and kicking him in the face and torso.

Officers responded to the 2700 block of 53rd Street after a caller reported that his Trek bicycle was stolen from a locked bike rack in the courtyard at the Waldon School.

GPD is investigating after two people riding bikes in the 1100 block of 58th Street reported on the evening of October 12 that someone in a dark-colored truck fired plastic pellets from an air gun at them.

Officers responded to the area of 56th Street & 28th Avenue on the afternoon of October 13 after receiving a report of two male subjects engaged in a physical altercation in the street. An investigation determined that the altercation started over one of the subjects feeding squirrels near the other's property. Neither subject wished to press charges.

An officer on patrol in the 2000 block of 49th Street observed a woman staggering near the Wells Fargo Bank on the evening of October 13, and made contact with her after she attempted to enter the building. The woman stated she had been drinking earlier, and accepted a courtesy ride from the officer to her home.

Officers responded to a report of a fight at Tomlinson Skate Park on the evening of October 14. Two juveniles were still engaged in the fight, with several other juveniles cheering them on when officers arrived on scene. They were arrested and video footage of the fight was recovered.

Officers were called to the Suncoast Food Mart on the evening of October 14 after a man was observed shouting racial slurs at others in the area. He became argumentative with officers and was arrested for disorderly intoxication.

Officers arrested Grady Barr on the morning of October 15 after a witness observed him in front of the Gulfport Garage with a bag of items and acting suspiciously. The bag belonged to a vehicle at the garage for maintenance, and Barr was charged with burglary to a vehicle.

Investigations:

<i>New Cases:</i>	16
Cases Assigned:	2
Cases Closed-No Leads:	10
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	3
Cases Referred Back to Patrol:	0

<i>Supplements Received:</i>	17
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	1
Previously cleared with Arrest:	1
Cases Closed-No Leads:	3

Cases Unfounded/No Crime: 1
Exceptionally Cleared: 1
Cases Still Active: 10

Sgt. Woodman identified George Englund as the suspect in an armed robbery case. Probable Cause for his arrest is in VIPAR.

Detective Hanh Pham investigated a credit card fraud incident in which the suspect stole the victim's credit card and used it at several different locations in Pinellas County. Detective Pham is looking for the suspect for questioning. He was called out on Monday night regarding a potential sex crime between two teenagers. The case is being investigated.

Detective Embry helped create a photo composite of a suspect who committed a burglary to a residence. A witness observed the suspect and was able to provide detailed information.

Officer Beltran worked several football games without incident. He also met with several student clubs and spoke with students about issues on campus.

Officer Motte mediated an altercation preventing a fight, and mentored several students. He also scheduled 5 presentations for the Gulfport Elementary Great American Teach-in.

Crime Analyst Palmisano completed an analysis on a vehicle burglary pattern and possible suspects. She created and distributed a bulletin for Sgt. Woodman for a subject in a robbery case, and pulled statistics on DUI arrests for Chief Vincent. She also delivered the final IMC data to the Sheriff's Department for conversion, and worked in records for one day.

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

Records

Reports reviewed: 65
Supplements reviewed: 78
Public records requests: 20
Bike registrations: 0
Fingerprints: 1
Subpoenas processed: 16
Citizens assisted: 67

Professional Standards Section

Lieutenant Farrand is overseeing the review and update of all police department job descriptions.

MARINA

Pumped two thousand four hundred forty one (2,441) gallons of gas, and one thousand one hundred three (1,103) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred ten (110) vessels.

Assisted in twenty eight (28) pump-outs evacuating five hundred seventy one (571) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

Staff Activities:

- Killed wasps in dock boxes and around marina store.
- Commenced rebuilding pump-out motor.
- Commenced replacement of clasps on dock box.
- Removed mildew from electrical pedestals.
- Repaired east pump-out motor.

Transient Vessels:

Staff welcomed a 34' motor boat this week. Welcome to Gulfport.

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

Visit the City of Gulfport YouTube website at www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport. Cable and DSL internet users can access streaming video from the City's website at 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!

- Updated weekly program schedule. Copy available at the City Hall reception desk, or online at http://www.mygulfport.us/GTV615/Live_Webstream.htm.
- Distributed biweekly press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list. There are 1,231 active contacts on email distribution list.
- Rebooted GTV615 station equipment.
- Updated City Events Email/Newsletter contact list. Please email at jshea@mygulfport.us for additions and updates of City events.
- Continued collecting registrations for Citywide Yard Yale and updating brochure. Notified last year's participant via email of upcoming event.
- Provided control room coverage for October 16 City Council meeting, rebroadcast on GTV615 and made DVD copies for IT Director and City Clerk.
- Updated Heroes Weekend flyers & press releases to include Beach Playground & Volleyball court inaugural ceremonies. Applications are available at City Hall, the Library and online at www.mygulfport.us under latest news.
- Updated invitations for Volunteer Luncheon scheduled for November 14.

Parks

Continued construction of volleyball courts, scheduled fencing installation and ordered staging for Veteran's Heroes Weekend event.

Adjusted irrigation at Caldwell Park and Tangerine Greenway.

Weeded, trimmed garden and cleaned Casino, Library, Senior Center, Recreation Center & Veterans Park, hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned beach

Greased mowers, sharpened blades, replaced throttle cable on line trimmer and chains on reel mowers, adjusted bed knives on reel mowers, pull-strings on line trimmer & hedge trimmers, and primer ball on blower carburetor.

Mowed Recreation Center grounds, Clymer, Veterans & Ted Phillips Wood Ibis Parks, Senior Center, Library, 28th Street signage area, City complex, Tangerine Greenway and 56th Street drainage area.

Removed swing set from Tonkin Park playground in preparation for replacement.

Repaired bench swing on beach, bench at Tangerine Lake and bike rack at Tomlinson Park.

Inspected lights at Skate Park.

Continued to move sand from volleyball court.

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. The \$65 annual registration fee entitles members to ride GEMS for \$2 per one-way trip and is good for one year from date of registration. The GEMS has 160 active riders. Call GEMS at 893-2242 for more information on this door-to-door service.

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.

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

Back by popular demand, every first Friday is the **Friday Mini Flea Market**. Our next event is Friday, November 2, 9 a.m. - noon. Find great items at affordable prices while supporting Senior Center special programs. Drop canned goods into the new "Love Bucket" for the Senior Center pantry. Your donation helps the less fortunate.

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.gulfporseniorfoundation.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):

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| Sunday, October 7 | 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance lesson with John
7 p.m. - Mario DeLeon's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 45) |
| Tuesday, October 9 | Noon - Intermediate Ballroom dance lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 8)
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 42) |
| Wednesday, October 10 | 6 p.m. - Bonus Dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson |

8 p.m. - Swing Dance (Turnout 205)

Thursday, October 11 7 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Salsa dance (Turnout 40)

Saturday, October 13 6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 162)

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

Monday, October 29 7 p.m. - USA Ballroom Dance Admission \$5 members; \$7 nonmembers

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events)

Wednesday, October 10, 1 p.m. - MPSC Entertainment (Turnout 20)

Thursday, October 11, 1 p.m. Humana Presentation (Turnout 28)

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 & James Weaver, 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, October 7 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 20)
6:15 p.m. - Over Eaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 10)

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:

- Tuesday, October 9, 1:30 p.m. - *Suncoast Hospice Bereavement Group* meeting.
- Tuesday, October 9, 3 p.m. - *eSalon* facilitated by Alex Hooks.
- Tuesday, October 9, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting.
- Wednesday, October 10, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Wednesday, October 10, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Wednesday, October 10, 5 p.m. - *Real estate News You Can Use* forum.
- Thursday, October 11, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Diann Morningstar.
- Thursday, October 11, 3:30 p.m. - R.E.A.D Therapy Dog Maya.
- Thursday, October 11, 4:30 p.m. - *Business Debtors Anonymous* meeting.
- Saturday, October 13, 1 p.m. - *In Our Own Words* youth book writing workshop/contest.

Upcoming Events:

- Monday, October 29, 1 p.m. - *NaNoWriMo Group* meeting. For more information call Sheri at 893-1074.
- 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, 9:30 a.m. - *Beginning Spanish*.
- Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Enjoy picture books selected to be read to preschool age children, in the Youth Services area at the rocking chair near the Easy books.
- Every Thursday, 4:30 p.m. - *Business Debtors Anonymous*
- Every Saturday through November 11, 1 p.m. - *In Our Own Words* Youth Book Writing contest & workshops.

Library Services/Statistics October 7 - 13, 2012:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,855	433
Sun. 10/7	17	8
Mon. 10/8	338	74
Tue. 10/9	337	74
Wed. 10/10	252	61
Thu. 10/11	322	83
Fri. 10/12	283	73
Sat. 10/13	306	60

Recreation Center

The art room was rented 3:30 - 7:30 p.m. Saturday, October 13 for a birthday party with 30 in attendance.

The art room is reserved 2 - 6 p.m. Saturday October 20 for a private function.

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 are registered for the 2012/13 Tot Time Program, and seven (7) for VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten). Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. 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 eight (38) teens have been registered.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez hosted the Teen Council meeting at City Hall on Thursday afternoon.

Nicole Latragna, Mike Worthington, Leah Erbe, Joanne McRoberts and Tomeka Junious attended a **Making a Difference for Children conference** in Tampa on Saturday.

Five (5) **Teen Council** members attended the monthly meeting on Thursday afternoon. Topics discussed: approval of September meeting minutes, election of President and Treasurer, and changing the time of the monthly meeting.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

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

Life Safety

- 6 Fire Inspections
- 5 Re-Inspections

This Week's activities:

- Chief Marenkovic attended the PALS meeting at Station #48 in Clearwater. Main topic of discussion was the direction of the Medical Director's Office with standing protocols, TTP's.
- The Gulfport Fire Department received a Certificate of Appreciation from the State Fire Marshal Office for Florida Fire Incident Reporting for 2011 with 100% participation in the NFIRS and FFIRS Program.
- Inspector Frank Vento has begun the annual inspection process for Stetson Law University. All areas inspected to date are in compliance.
- Inspector Vento re-inspected the City Marina and spoke with Mr. Frain regarding the need for a Lock box on the west side of marina basin for key access during fire and EMS responses.
- Inspector Vento followed up with the Mariners Cove Marina sprinkler contractor after a report revealed deficiencies; all are being corrected.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance:

- Completed monthly pest control at all City buildings.
- Replaced light bulbs in gymnasium and damaged toilet seat at Recreation Center.
- Repaired fence and replaced ballast at Neighborhood Center.
- Set up for daily events at Senior Center.
- Replaced duct detector in office at Police Department.
- Treated for insects in Fire Station bunk room.
- Replaced 2 toilet seats at Casino.
- Repaired outside light at Dog Park.
- Completed semi-annual air conditioning maintenance at City buildings.
- 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 tire and metal debris from city garage and graded the city yard.
- Graded Gulfport Beach and removed seaweed & debris.
- Replaced damaged traffic control signs.
- Removed overgrown weeds at the 52nd Street terminus.
- Removed construction debris following installation of new Beach playground and swing set at Tonkin Park.

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 31, 32, 33 and 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 42 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 7 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 115 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 5 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.
- Installed new 1 1/2" water service, meter and backflow at 5601 31st Avenue.
- Installed new 3/4" water service, meters and backflows at 5321 Gulfport Boulevard & 5325 Gulfport Boulevard.
- Repaired water leaks at 5522 13th Avenue & 1518 57th 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.
- Cleaned and televised sewer laterals at 5701 16th Avenue & 6302 10th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Performed service on Sanitation Truck #43, Recycle truck #40 and new GEMS Bus #93.
- Removed right side cab door, replaced piano hinge and reinstalled door on Recycle truck #40.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or check their website at www.pcclb.com.

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

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

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

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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