



Gulfport Community Update

December 6 - 12, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport City Hall, Library and facilities will **be closed for Christmas** on Friday, December 25. Thursday's sanitation routes will be collected on Wednesday, December 23; Friday's routes will be collected on Thursday the 24th, and there will be no Wednesday yard waste collection.

For twenty four years the Gulfport Police Department has sponsored **Operation Santa**, collecting cash, unwrapped toys and gift cards for needy children living in the City, and is again asking for help. Call 893-1097 for more information or to make a donation.

The **Gulfport Senior Center is accepting donations of coats and blankets** through the month of December. Grand Villa of St. Petersburg will distribute the donated items to people in the community in need of assistance. For more information call the Senior Center at 893-5657.

Upcoming Events:

Visit the 49th Street South Business Association (So49) weekly **SoTangerine Market** every Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.SoTangerine.com or call 439-0164.

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

It's time to get your holiday cheer in gear. Support small business by shopping local during the Gulfport Merchants Association's annual **Holiday Hoopla** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district on Saturday, December 12, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. The festival will provide shoppers with one-of-a-kind gifts that cannot be found anywhere else, and all of your holiday shopping can be done in one place! Visitors will be enchanted by a variety of festive and fun holiday-themed music, holiday carolers, dance performances, and roving street performers. A portion of the proceeds from the event will benefit Operation Santa and Gulfport families in need. Vendor applications and information are available at www.sikpromotions.com/applicants/fall/holiday-hoopla.

The holiday spirit continues on the evening on December 12 with the **Boca Ciega Yacht Club Lighted Boat Parade** along Gulfport Beach at 6 p.m. The parade begins at the Gulfport Municipal Marina and passes by the BCYC clubhouse before heading into the bay and on to Williams Pier and the beach, past the Casino, through Town Shores, Pelican Bay, Kipps Colony, Pasadena Yacht & Country Club, and Isla del Sol. Sail and power boats are welcome! Entry fee: Two or more unwrapped toys for Operation Santa. Boca Ciega Yacht Club is proud to have been part of Operation Santa for 15 years. Sign up at BCYC, 4600 Tifton Drive South, or visit www.sailbcyc.org for more information. To become a parade sponsor call Don & Jen Rogers at 345-7544 or email jrogers@tampabay.rr.com.

Celebrate the history of our winter holidays with a cookie exchange, trolley caroling tour, and a celebration of all the holidays that have combined to give us Christmas. The Gulfport Historical Society's **Festivus History of Christmas Party** is Friday, December 18, 6 - 10 p.m. at the Gulfport History Museum at 5301 28th Avenue. It doesn't matter what you believe - everyone is welcome. Free to all and filled with cookies! Bring cookies to trade or sample.

The Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce is planning an exciting new level of fun as it hosts a **New Year's Eve Gala** at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom like none before. *Glitz, Glamour & Glitter* will feature a variety of entertainment and surprises on December 31. Enjoy dancing and live

music by the popular party band *Daydreams*, D.J. dance music, party favors, commemorative photo booth, roaming magician and balloon artist, sumptuous decorations, full cash bar, and a midnight ball drop with complimentary champagne toast. Guests are encouraged to dine at one of Gulfport's many fine restaurants prior to the event. Late-night tapas will be served after 10 p.m. Tickets: \$35 per person. Casino Club reservations are \$45 and include reserved seating with no table minimum or maximum, full private VIP bar area, exclusive Casino Club concierge service, tableside midnight champagne pour and premium party favors. Tickets are available at the Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard and the Gulfport Casino. Space is limited, so purchase tickets early. This event is sponsored by the Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information call Angela Lagan at 348-6490 or email Angela.Lagan@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/New-Years-Eve-Gala-866500280041698.

On January 16, 2016 Gulfport residents, businesses and civic organizations will join Americans across the U.S. for the **Second Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. with an opening ceremony hosted by Mayor Sam Henderson and Vice Mayor Yolanda Roman at Tomlinson Park on the corner of 19th Avenue & 54th Street. Volunteers will be at their service project destinations from 9 a.m. until noon, and return to Tomlinson Park for closing ceremonies and a picnic. For more information call 893-1118, email gbiro@mygulfport.us, or visit www.mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	143
Self-initiated calls for service	365
Offenses	33
Arrests	3
Traffic citations	47
Ordinance violations	49

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 2800 block of 49th Street reported on the morning of December 4 that sometime overnight someone forced entry into the trunk of his vehicle and stole a handgun.

An anonymous caller reported a suspicious person at a business in the 1800 Block of 49th Street. Officers discovered 2 vehicles vandalized and 2 other vehicles had been rummaged through.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a fight in progress in the 5400 Shore Boulevard. The bar tender requested they be trespassing. While issuing trespass warnings, Kenneth Duell III tried to lunge at another person and had to be restrained. He was arrested for disorderly intoxication.

A resident in the 2700 Block of 45th Street reported that a \$1600 fishing rod and reel were stolen from his unlocked truck. The alarm went off, but no one was seen in the area.

Power tools onsite at a house being remodeled were reported stolen on December 6. They were found a short time later approximately 50 yards away in Clymer Park.

Officer Hutsko observed a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed north on 49th Street and attempted to conduct a traffic stop in the 2300 block of 49th Street. The driver stopped but sped away as Officer Hutsko exited his patrol vehicle. Officers were unable to make contact with the vehicle or the registered owner.

A truck driver making a fuel delivery at the Sunoco reported on December 7 that his iPhone 6 was snatched from the outside step of his semi by a male on a bicycle.

A window was smashed and entry was made to a vacant home being remodeled in the 2200 block of Beach Boulevard. Several power tools were stolen. Evidence left behind was collected by police.

A man reported on December 8 that he was playing his ukulele on a bench in Clam Bayou Park, and set it down to go relieve himself in the bushes. When he returned it was gone.

Officers assisted the St. Petersburg Police Department with a search for suspects involved in a drive by shooting. The suspects led SPPD officers on a pursuit and crashed the stolen car they were driving into a tree at Gulfport Elementary School. Aynis Cherry and Marcus Frazier were seen running from the school. Video from the school's security camera caught them jumping over the fence shortly after the crash. A gun was found in a yard nearby. Cherry & Frazier were charged with trespassing and may face additional charges related to the shooting once DNA/fingerprint results are obtained.

A resident in the 2200 block of 52nd Street reported on December 9 that a Smith & Wesson revolver and several other items were stolen from her residence in November. Her handyman told her that one of his employees was arrested for dealing in stolen property, and she believes he took the items.

A resident in the 1000 block of 59th Street reported that someone used a starter check with her account information to pay a Brighthouse bill. The account has been reversed and closed.

A customer at the Dollar General forgot her wallet at the store. Someone took it and made a \$500 purchase in the store using her credit card.

Sergeant Marotta and Officer Ross made contact with a fishing vessel off the sea wall at Town Shores. The vessel had all necessary paperwork and it was determined they were not doing anything wrong.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	18
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	5
Cases referred back to patrol:	2
Supplements received:	21
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	1
Cases unfounded-no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	18

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for three fraud cases, a grand theft, and an uttering forged checks case, and; interviewed a homicide suspect at a correctional facility in the Panhandle.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for multiple grand theft, grand theft auto and vehicle burglaries, and assisted with an attempt to locate an armed robbery suspect.

School Resource Officer Langston assisted SPPD with an investigation, interviewing a BCHS student; responded to two disturbances; investigated three reported thefts, a battery, and a

crime stopper tip about a possible planned shooting; provided security for two sporting events; discussed the topic of Baker Acts at the police explorer meeting, and; continued working on shop with a cop and MLK day of service, collecting donations and creating invitations/flyers.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano created and distributed a bulletin for Ofc. Petit in an attempt to locate a suspect wanted for questioning in a grand theft case; compiled the CIS monthly report and open case lists; created and distributed a bulletin for Ofc. Lavigne in an attempt to ID a suspect in the theft of a bicycle, and; completed a review of property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper documentation of entry into FCIC/NCIC.

Records

Reports reviewed	11
Supplements reviewed:	73
Public Records requests:	32
Background checks:	7
Bike registrations:	5
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted:	48

MARINA

Assisted in twenty nine (29) pump outs evacuating three hundred forty (340) gallons of waste.

Pumped one thousand six hundred thirty eight (1,638) gallons of gas and one thousand sixty six (1,066) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling eighty seven (87) vessels.

Transient vessels

Marina staff welcomed a 35' sailboat, 34' sailboat, 30' sailboat, 19' sailboat, and a 48' sailboat this week.

Staff activities

- Replaced diesel nozzle on pump three and gas nozzle on pump two.
- Replaced toilet seats in restrooms.
- Repaired dock cart on fuel dock.
- Cleaned diesel and gas sumps.

LIBRARY

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, November 30, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, December 1, 2 p.m. - *Computer Class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, December 1, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, December 2, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, December 2, 6 p.m. - Gulfport Toastmasters.

Thursday, December 3, 10:30 a.m. - Storytime, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Friday, December 4, 4:30 p.m. - Circle of Friends Annual Book Sale Preview.

Saturday, December 5, 10 a.m. - *Circle of Friends Seasonal Book Sale.*

Upcoming Events:

Monday, December 14, 1 p.m. - *BarTAB, Bar Training for Active Bystanders:* Almost 50% of sexual assaults involve alcohol. Training session presented by Suncoast Center to help create a safe environment for patrons and staff. For more information call 327-7656, ext. 4150 or email BarTabPinellas@gmail.com.

Thursday, December 17, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Casual Vacancy by J.K. Rowling* over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 or visit the Library for more information.

Thursday, December 17, 7 p.m. - *Bay Voices Concert:* The men's vocal ensemble has performed at Nordstrom's in International Plaza, area churches, and for civic events. This holiday event is sponsored by the LGBTQ Resource Center and the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Public Library.

Friday, December 18, 7 p.m. - *Family Blanket Fort Night:* Bring the kids and some old sheets. We'll build awesome forts and watch a family movie. Popcorn provided! For more information call Cailey at 893-1074 or cklasson@mygulfport.us.

Saturday, December 19, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day.* For movie titles, call 893-1074.

Monday, December 28, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night:* Alex invites everyone to share their talents, musical and otherwise for a lively season of spontaneity. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club:* We try a fun new activity every week, explore engineering through building with Legos, and meet other young scientists and engineers in the community! Parents get to join in on the fun too! Email cklasson@mygulfport.us or call 893-1074 for more information.

Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 360-9069.

Every first & third Tuesday, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group:* Everyone is invited to join Allen Goldenson for some strummin' fun!

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

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout:* Games and activities for teens and tweens.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.* Email robynfeatherstonesq@gmail.com for more information.

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime:* Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area around the rocking chair near the Easy books. Cailey leads the group in singing songs, playing instruments & networking with other caregivers in our community.

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

Library Services/Statistics November 29 - December 5, 2015:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,294	751
Sun. 11/29	Library closed	
Mon. 11/30	556	163
Tue. 12/1	331	110
Wed. 12/2	348	125

Thu. 12/3	330	115
Fri. 12/4	321	107
Sat. 12/5	312	93

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfport.us/gtv-640. 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.
- Updated meeting schedules, agendas & minutes, upcoming events and water quality information on City website.
- Continued preparations for MLK Day of Service.
- Provided a/v coverage for Casino 80th Birthday Party and Historic Designation
- Set up and operated sound equipment at Holiday Tree Lighting.
- Delivered materials for event at Library.
- Provided control room coverage for December 9 Board of Adjustment meeting, uploaded video and links to City website, and rebroadcast meeting on GTV-615.
- Commenced preparation of January calendar.
- Uploaded event images and post on Social media.

Multipurpose Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and Fridays, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at www.mygulfport.us.

Gulfport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS) offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65 plus \$2 per ride. GEMS also offers transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital and the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

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

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

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **multiple volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, join the volunteer program at the

Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South for more information.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Monthly Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is December 14. By appointment only; call 893-5657 to schedule your screening.

Enjoy a healthy snack as Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance Services presents **Fruit for Thought** every second Monday of the month. The next meeting is December 14.

The **Out-to-Lunch Bunch** is a monthly get together to share a meal, conversation, and fun! The group will visit Cracker Barrel on Tuesday December 15. Space is limited: seats MUST be reserved in advance. The round trip fee is \$4 for GEMS members and \$6 fee for nonmembers.

Learn to make a holiday centerpiece for your table at the **Flower Arrangement Class** presented by Boca Ciega Center on Thursday December 17 at 2 p.m. Call 893-5657 to register.

The **LGBT Support & Resource Group** meets at 5:30 p.m. every first & third Monday of the month. The group focuses on unique challenges confronting older LGBT citizens. December's topic is *Religion & the LGBTQ Community*. The next meeting is December 21.

Enjoy lunch and a free current movie during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, January 12.

Volunteers for the **Telephone Reassurance Program** call Gulfport seniors every Monday through Saturday between 7:30 & 8:30 a.m. To sign up for this program visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

The **Community Law Program** offers free legal assistance to qualified residents 60 & older at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center every third Friday of the month. Call 582-7480 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every third Tuesday of the month. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

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 organizations for reuse, recycle or education.

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

Casino (last week's events):

Sunday, November 29	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with the Good Times Band (Turnout 15)
Monday, November 30	7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance Ballroom Dance (Turnout 88)
Tuesday, December 1	Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 14) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 60)
Wednesday, December 2	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 31) 6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 261)
Thursday, December 3	6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 18)

Friday, December 4 6 p.m. - Gulfport Casino 80th Birthday party (Turnout 300)

Saturday, December 5 5 p.m. - Private holiday party (Turnout 350)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

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

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

Every Wednesday 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn/Joyce Bloom
6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8

Every Thursday 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom

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

Wednesday, December 2, 5 p.m. - *Innovate Her* reception and competition (Turnout 75)

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

Sunday, November 29 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Monday, November 30 7 p.m. - Golfview Condos HOA meeting (Turnout 13)

Tuesday, December 1 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 20)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, December 3 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 20)
2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 25)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - Bible study
Every Tuesday 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

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

Monday, November 30 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 23)

Tuesday, December 1 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 12)

Friday, December 4 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 12)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday & Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

Recreation Center

Santa and his elves will judge the **Holiday Decorations Contest** on Monday evening, December 14. There are two theme categories: general for single homes and; commercial for single business and professional locations, including home occupations. Deadline to enter the contest is noon on the 14th. A plaque will be presented to one winner in each category at the City Council meeting (televised) at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 5.

The Gulfport Recreation Center will offer **full day activities during Holiday Break** from 7:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. December 21-24, December 28-31 & January 4 for children in Kindergarten through age 14. Extended care is available until 6 p.m. for an additional fee. The children will participate in arts & crafts, field trips, sports, and much more!

The multipurpose room was rented 2 - 6 p.m. Saturday, December 5 for a baby shower with 30 in attendance.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Forty seven children are registered for the **2015/16 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. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents and \$188 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Nine children have been registered for the **2015/16 Tot Time Program**, and ten for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten.

Thirty five teens are registered for the **2015/16 Teen Night Program** for teens in middle school thru age 17. Program hours are 6 - 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents.

Contractual classes: Bootcamp, Gymnastics, Karate, Mat Pilates, Pickleball, Spanish, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Women's Self-Defense, Yoga and Zumba.

Staff Activities:

Jaylissa Williams worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

Teen Council members Elizabeth Brown-Worthington and Phoebe Carrazco helped serve cookies and punch during the City’s Annual Holiday Tree Lighting celebration.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 48 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fires
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Vehicle Fire
- 1 Wires Down

Life Safety:

- 8 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.’s
- 1 Plan Review
- 1 Smoke Detector

Chief Marenkovic attended the Regional Fuel Supply Disruption discussion at the County EOC. This important project measured the level of resiliency in our fuel supply and the effect that a disruption in fuel delivery would have on our multi-county area.

The Gulfport Fire Department brought Santa to the Holiday tree lighting on December 7.

Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief’s Association meeting at the Epi-Center in Largo on Thursday.

Chief Marenkovic and Inspector Lundh met with Holiday Hoopla vendors, advising them of safety concerns for the December 12 event.

Lieutenant Burford on the “B” shift is preceptor for an EMT Student from the St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program.

PUBLIC WORKS

Staff continues daily water quality testing at Gulfport Beach, Gulfport Shores and the Marina. The beach is currently open. The results of December 9 are provided below. Visit www.mygulfport.us for the most up-to-date information.

<u>Gulfport Casino</u>		<u>Enterococci EPA 1600 – (CFU/100 ML)</u>			<u>Fecal coliform – SM 922D- (CFU 100 ML)</u>		
Sample ID	Date/Time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
1534306-01	12/9/15 9 a.m.	8 B	4	12/9/15 10:55 a.m.	20 B	10	12/9/15 10:55 a.m.
<u>Gulfport Marina</u>		<u>Enterococci EPA 1600 – (CFU/100 ML)</u>			<u>Fecal coliform – SM 922D- (CFU 100 ML)</u>		
Sample ID	Date/Time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
1534306-02	12/9/15 9:50 a.m.	8 B	4	12/9/15 10:55 a.m.	10 B	10	12/9/15 10:55 a.m.
<u>Gulfport Shores</u>		<u>Enterococci EPA 1600 – (CFU/100 ML)</u>			<u>Fecal coliform – SM 922D- (CFU 100 ML)</u>		
Sample ID	Date/Time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
1534306-03	12/9/15 10:05 a.m.	8 B	4	12/9/15 10:55 a.m.	30 B	10	12/9/15 10:55 a.m.

Enterococcus Results Description		
<u>Good</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Poor*</u>
0-35 Enterococcus sp per 100 ml of marine water	36 – 104 Enterococcus sp per 100 ml of marine water	105 or greater Enterococcus sp per 100 ml of marine water
0-35 CFU/100 ml Enterococcus sp Geometric Mean		36 and over CFU/100 ml Enterococcus sp Geometric Mean
Fecal Coliform Results Description		
<u>Good</u>	<u>Moderate</u>	<u>Poor*</u>
0-199 fecal coliform organisms per 100 ml of marine water	200-399 fecal coliform organisms per 100 ml of marine water	400 or greater fecal coliform organisms per 100 ml of marine water

*A poor rating may result in a resampling event to confirm poor conditions; otherwise a Health Advisory or Warning will be issued immediately. These indicate that contact with the water at this site may pose increased risk of infectious disease, particularly for susceptible individuals. A reading of NR means “No Result”. This could indicate that no sample was taken at this point because of weather or other factors, or that an analysis result was not obtained from the laboratory.

Building Maintenance

- Repaired handicap toilet in beach men’s room.
- Replaced filters on all City a/c units.
- Replaced hot water tank at Recreation Center.
- Replaced handles and stems in City Hall break room sink.
- Repaired 11 holiday light fixtures throughout City.
- Assembled utility shed at Library.
- Repaired gate access button at Neighborhood Center.
- Replaced faucet in ladies’ restroom at Public Services building.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Met with representative of portable toilet company to discuss location of units, and transported audio equipment to Clymer Park in preparation for Holiday Tree Lighting event.
- Set up fence for weekend Volleyball Tournament.
- Replaced power poles on Beach Boulevard.
- Install historical sign at Casino.
- Replaced benches at Veterans Park pier, and trash cans at Clymer Park, Tomlinson Park & beach.
- Sealed & replaced picnic tables at beach pavilions.
- Replaced bracket and bolts on playground at Tomlinson Park.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and pier.
- Continued upgrades to Parks Department shop break area.
- Mowed Wood Ibis Park, Clam Bayou, Trail Spur, 56th Street drainage area & Hoyt perimeter.
- Repaired irrigation at City complex & Caldwell Park.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Beach Boulevard & 49th Streetscapes, hand raked around pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and repaired tires on mower & aerator.
- 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.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.

- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged all ball fields daily.

Streets & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned and removed debris from storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways, alleyways & sidewalks.
- Continued automatic street sweeping.
- Removed steel tie from right-of-way at 5126 17th Avenue.
- Removed debris following Tuesday Fresh Market.
- Removed barricades following sidewalk installation at Marina & 2810 47th Street.
- Leveled sidewalk at 2801 46th Avenue per City Manager request.
- Restocked recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Delivered 300-gallon container castors to McDonald's.
- Replaced barricade at 59th Street terminus following vehicle strike.
- Disposed of old tires and parts from City garage.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system.
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters.
- Completed routes #23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 26 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 19 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 100 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 12 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Continued locating water mainline valves throughout City.
- Continued directional bore along 26th & 27th Avenues in preparation for relocation of water services.
- Repaired water break on William's Pier, and at 1824 56th Street.
- Replaced water service line at 5217 14th Avenue.
- Replaced 2' main line water valve at Newton Avenue and 57th Street.
- Installed new water service lines at 2601, 2605 & 2615 58th Street.

Sewer

- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Weekly generator exercise & preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall & Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.

- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral and main at 5035 Jersey Avenue, and sewer lateral at 6275 10th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced transmission filters and drained/refilled transmission fluid in Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced heater hose and refilled coolant in vehicle #102.
- Delivered Police vehicle #54 to Suncoast Chrysler for evaluation and repair of collision damage.
- Replaced leaking fuel pressure regulator in Parks vehicle #53.
- Repaired tire on Police vehicle #9.
- Replaced coolant reservoir in Police vehicle #12.
- Reorganized vehicle maintenance parts room.
- Replaced a/c pressure switch O-ring and recharged A/C system in Sanitation vehicle #29.
- Repaired portable oil drain pump system.
- Replaced front wheels and tires on Parks tractor #23.
- Removed and replaced rear steering tire on Parks Toro Groundsmaster mower.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

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

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

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

Code Enforcement activities continued this week in Section 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26th Avenue to the water and east from 49th Street to the City boundaries.

The number of code enforcement cases for November was 113. The year-to-date total number of cases is 270. The number of citizen complaints for November was 6, making a year-to-date total of 16. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 5.9 percent.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous. E-mail correspondence is considered a public

record, so if you wish to make a complaint using e-mail, please understand that such communications are not anonymous.

To review 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.