



Gulfport Community Update

December 7 - 13, 2014

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport City Hall, Library and facilities will be closed on Thursday & Friday, December 25 & 26 in observance **Christmas**, and Thursday & Friday, January 1 & 2 in observance of the **New Year**. Thursday's sanitation routes will be collected on Wednesday, December 24 & 31; Friday's pickup will remain on schedule, and there will be no Wednesday yard waste collection.

Fire Chief James Marenkovic would like to remind residents that **smoke detectors** are available free of charge to elderly and low income households *within Gulfport City limits*. Call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

For twenty three 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.

Upcoming Events:

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.

Get your group, family and friends together for a great outdoor activity at the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** on Saturday, December 13, 9 - 11 a.m. The group meets at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex Shelter #4. Email gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com or visit Gulfport Neighbors on Facebook for more information.

Feeling Scrooge-y? Don't get your Tinsel in a Tangle! It's time to get your holiday cheer in gear, and fun-filled festival will do the trick. Support small business by shopping local during the Gulfport Merchants Association's annual **Holiday Hoopla** 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Saturday, December 13. 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. The Gulfport Merchant's Association gives back to the community all year. A portion of the proceeds from the event will benefit Operation Santa and Gulfport families in need, and new unwrapped toys, gift cards, etc. will be collected for Operation Santa, the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation will accept nonperishable food & toiletries for their pantry, and Gulfport's Get Rescued group will collect pet food & cat litter. Donations can be dropped off at the Gulfport Police Department and the Gulfport Area Chamber of commerce prior to the event. This event is sponsored by Bright House Networks, Tampa Bay Times and the City of Gulfport. Visit www.gulfportma.com for more information.

The holiday spirit continues into the evening on December 13 with the **Boca Ciega Yacht Club Boat Parade** along Gulfport Beach at 6 p.m. Sail and power boats are welcome! Entry fee: Two or more unwrapped toys for Operation Santa. Sign up at BCYC, 4600 Tifton Drive South, or visit www.sailbcyc.org for more information.

The Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce is planning an exciting new level of fun as it hosts a **New Year's Eve celebration** 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, available at the Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard and the Gulfport Casino. A limited number of exclusive "VIP Party Rooms," including personal concierge service are available for \$200 each. Doors open at 8 p.m. and the celebration will continue until 1 a.m. For more information visit Glitz, Glamour & Glitter on Facebook, call 381-8548 or email GulfportBeachBazaar@gmail.com.

The City of Gulfport will celebrate the life of trees and their importance during the annual **Arbor Day** event at the Dog Park, 2726 54th Street at 10 a.m. Friday, January 16. Children from the School Year Child Care Program will read excerpts, the Gulfport Teen Council will provide refreshments and a new Live Oak tree will be planted. Free seedlings will be offered to guests.

On January 17 Gulfport residents, businesses and civic organizations will join Americans across the U.S., stepping up as volunteers during our inaugural **Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**. In partnership with Gulfport Neighbors, the Day of Service will leverage the strength of our community through a variety of service-oriented projects. Now is the time to identify a community service project and form a team. Visit www.mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice for more information.

MARINA

Pumped one thousand six hundred forty three (1,643) gallons of gas and four hundred fifty four (454) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling sixty five (65) vessels.

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

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 45' sailboat, 34' sailboat t, 30' sailboat, 19' sailboat and a 48' powerboat this week.

Staff activities/Marina maintenance:

- Repaired gate B on pier six.
- Performed pump out maintenance.
- Repaired shrimp tank.
- Replaced pedestal on pier three tee-dock.
- Removed dock box on pier one, slip five for repair.

LEISURE SERVICES

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfport.us/gtv-615. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Distributed Newsletter and December calendar to Tuesday Market vendors.

- Updated meeting schedules & minutes, Recreation Center, Senior Center, Public Works & City Clerk information, MLK event page and upcoming events on City Website.
- Provided control room coverage for December 10 Board of Adjustment meeting, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV615.
- Assisting with organization and preparations for MLK Day event; attended planning meeting.
- Completed preparation of January calendar and sent to printer.

Multipurpose Center

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

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

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

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **multiple volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South for more information.

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso from the Alzheimer's Association offers a **free Monthly Memory Screening Clinic**, providing information and confidential advice to Gulfport Senior Center members the second Monday of every month, from 9 a.m. until noon. The next clinic is December 8. You **MUST** call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Have questions about real estate? Join in on the **Real Estate Chit Chat** on Monday, December 15 at 2:30 p.m. Ask your questions to the experts from Keller Williams Realty.

Come to our **Very Merry Holiday Party** and celebrate the season at noon on Wednesday December 17. Remember to bring a new, unopened toy or gift card for Gulfport Police Department's Operation Santa. **LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE**. Tickets must be obtained prior to the event. Limit 2 tickets per person.

Enjoy a wonderful array of entertainment during this year's **Joe Koehler Christmas Showcase of Stars** on Wednesday, December 17 at 1:30 p.m. Produced by Dave & Cookie O'Brien. Remember to bring a new, unopened toy or gift card for Gulfport Police Department's Operation Santa. **LIMITED SEATING AVAILABLE**. Tickets must be obtained prior to the event. Limit 2 tickets per person.

Join **Suncoast PACE** on Thursday, December 18 at 2:30 p.m. and learn about a free program that provides services to assist seniors 55 and older with remaining at home.

Learn to play **Mah-Jongg** and other fun, simulating games at our new class every Monday at noon.

Check out the new **Mindful Movement for the Mind, Body, & Spirit** class every Wednesday at 2:30 p.m. This fun and creative fitness class is for all levels of ability, and focuses on strengthening the mind, body, & spirit. Anyone CAN do this, Everyone SHOULD!

Join us for **Laughter Yoga** every Friday at 9:30 a.m. Laughter exercises and yoga breathing benefits your brain, body, and mood. Find out why Laughter Yoga is sweeping the world.

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

SHINE (Serving Health Insurance Needs of Elders) is a free program offered by the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and the Area Agency on Aging. Specially trained volunteers visit the Gulfport Senior Center every first & third Tuesday of the month to assist clients with Medicare, Medicaid and health insurance questions, providing one-on-one counseling and information. SHINE services are free, unbiased, and confidential. Call 893-2237 or 893-1231 to schedule an appointment.

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

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

Recycle your old cell phone, General Mills Box tops, Campbell's labels, can tabs and eye glasses at the Senior Center. Staff forwards these items to the proper organization for reuse, recycle or education.

GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service) offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

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

Casino (*last week's events*):

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|-----------------------|---|
| Tuesday, December 2 | Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 23)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 49) |
| Wednesday, December 3 | 6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime and two bands (Turnout 213) |
| Thursday, December 4 | 6:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission (Turnout 26) |
| Friday, December 5 | 7 p.m. - Hillsborough County Family Partnership Alliance Holiday Christmas Jam (Turnout 168) |
| Saturday, December 6 | 7 p.m. - Engagement party (Turnout 250) |

Casino (*upcoming events*):

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|--------------|--|
| Every Sunday | 6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance lesson with Swing Time
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$7 |
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Every Tuesday 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7
6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7

Every Wednesday 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7

Every Thursday 6:30 p.m. - Salsa lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Salsa dance Admission \$7

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events):

Friday, December 5, 6 p.m. - Reception and art exhibit showcasing the works of Michael Eismont. (Turnout 50)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Saturday, December 13, 1 p.m. - *Suncoast Dance & Music Academy Holiday Mosaic: A celebration of music & dance for the holiday season.* Tickets: \$20, available at the Suncoast Dance & Music Academy, 290 Ninth Street North in St. Petersburg, or by calling 553-9369.

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

Sunday, November 30 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, December 2 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 18)

Thursday, December 4 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 14)
2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 24)

Saturday, December 6 3 p.m. - Private function (Turnout 52)

Neighborhood Center (upcoming events):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every first - third Sunday 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - Bible study

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

Scout Hall (last week's events)

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

Monday, December 1 9:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 11)
11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 27)

Tuesday, December 2 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing (Turnout 13)

Wednesday, December 3 10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 13)

Thursday, December 4 10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 12)

Friday, December 5 11 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 10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Wednesday 10:30 a.m. - Yoga

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Line dancing

LIBRARY

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

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, December 1, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, December 2 - *SCORE Counseling*.

Tuesday, December 2, 10 a.m. - *Reverse Mortgages & Assistance for Homeowners*.

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

Tuesday, December 2, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting.

Wednesday, December 3, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, December 3, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*.

Wednesday, December 3 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, December 4, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for toddlers & preschoolers*.

Thursday, December 4, 1 p.m. - *iPad Workshop for Beginners* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Friday, December 5, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Friday, December 5 7 p.m. - *Family Blanket Fort Night* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, December 18, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Lowland* by Jhumpa Lahiri 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 for more information.

Thursday, December 18, 3 p.m. - *Storytime Yoga for 2-4 year olds*, and 3:30 p.m. - *Storytime Yoga for 5-10 year olds*: All children must be accompanied by a caregiver. Mats a plus but not required. Space is limited so sign up early! Call Cailey at 893-1133 for more information.

Saturday, December 20 - *Free Family Movie Day*: Enjoy two newly released movies with popcorn provided by our Circle of Friends. Call 893-1074 for movie titles.

Monday, December 22, 5 p.m. - *Acoustic Jam Session*: Bring a guitar or other acoustic instrument & join us! Get in touch with your musical self. Call Alex at 893-1073 for more information.

Tuesday, December 23 - *SCORE Counseling*: FREE & helpful advice from experienced business professionals the fourth Tuesday of every month. Call 893-1073 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Thursday, January 8, 1 p.m. - *iPad Workshop for Beginners*. Bring your iPad and learn to use and enjoy your new technology. Pre-register for this very popular class at the Reference Desk or call 893-1073.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for Grades K-5*. For more information call Cailey at 893-1133.

Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 916-0916.

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

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*: Play XBOX, watch movies, get help with homework, listen to music, and just have fun. For more information call Cailey at 893-1133.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information contact Robin Riddell at rriddell@gmail.com.

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area around the rocking chair near the Easy books.

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

Library Services/Statistic November 30 - December 6, 2014:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,226	700
Sun. 11/30	Library closed	
Mon. 12/1	438	147
Tue. 12/2	440	123
Wed. 12/3	332	113
Thu. 12/4	374	100
Fri. 12/5	356	93
Sat. 12/5	261	101

Recreation Center

Upcoming Events

Children from the City's School Year Child program and Tot Time program will sing holiday songs and read poetry during the Holiday Hoopla on December 13, beginning at 11 a.m.

The Gulfport Recreation Center will offer **full day activities during Holiday Break** from 7:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. December 22-24, December 29-31 and January 5, 2014 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 awesome Christmas & New Year's Parties!

Programs, Classes & Activities

Thirty nine (39) children are registered for the **2014/15 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for

non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Twenty one (21) children are registered for the **2014/15 Tot Time Program**, and eight (8) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents.

Sixty (60) teens have been registered for the **2014-2015 Teen Night Program** for teens in middle school thru age 17. Program hours are 6 - 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents.

Contractual classes: Fencing, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Watercolor, Women's Self-Defense and Yoga.

Staff Activities

John Lapham and several Teen Night Program participants judged homes and businesses entered in the Holiday Decorations Contest on Monday evening.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Customer Service and Finance

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 27 new, 15 closed
- Water payments: 1,139 totaling \$171,759.72
- Utility Bills Mailed 12/09/2014: 1,266
- Bright House: 13
- On-Line Water payments: 165 transactions totaling \$9,906.06
- Payroll 12/5/2014 161 transactions totaling \$185,598.45

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 41 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 5 Fire Inspections
- 3 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.
- 1 Plans Review
- 1 Smoke Detector

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

- The Gulfport Fire Department is participated in Emergency Vehicle Operation Course at the Largo Drill grounds EVOG. This class prepares the individual for the basic emergency vehicle driver training per national and federal standards, and is required for initial employment as a Firefighter, Emergency Medical Technician, and Paramedic or Rescue Squad member.
- Chief Marenkovic attended a Target Solutions training course on December 9 for the upcoming ISO requirements for next year's evaluation.
- A Paramedic Student from St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program is in Field Training with Firefighter/Paramedic Burford as preceptor.
- Fire Inspector Lundh conducted Fire Extinguisher training at the Recreation Center with Marivel Gutierrez and her staff on December 8. Students viewed a PowerPoint presentation, participated in hands-on training and took a ten question exam.
- Fire Inspector Lundh reviewed the Boca Ceiga Center Nursing Home Fire Evacuation plan.

Holiday and Christmas Tree Fire Safety:

Decorating homes and businesses is a long-standing tradition around the holiday season. Unfortunately, these same decorations may increase your chances of fire. Following are a few simple fire safety tips can keep electric lights, candles and the ever popular Christmas tree from creating a tragedy:

- Don't put your live Christmas tree up too early or leave it up for longer than two weeks.
- Place trees away from heat sources, including fireplaces or heat vents. The heat will dry out the tree, causing it to be more easily ignited by heat, flame or sparks.
- Keep the live tree stand filled with water at all times.
- Use only nonflammable decorations.
- Don't link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it's safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet.
- Avoid using lit candles; consider using battery-operated flameless candles, which can look, smell and feel like real candles
- Ensure that Christmas trees and other holiday decorations don't block an exit way.

For more tips on how to prevent a holiday fire and what to do in case a fire starts in your home, visit the U.S. Fire Administration's website at www.usfa.fema.gov.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired closing mechanism on PD record room door.
- Purchased tree and tables at Home Depot and Sam's Club for Recreation Center.
- Disposed of 20 boxes of records from Casino.
- Repaired ballast in Theater lobby.
- Purchased tag and title for new trailer.
- Moved tables and chairs at Recreation Center in preparation for floor waxing.
- Upgraded electrical for heating at Scout Hall.
- Repaired emergency lights at Theater.
- Set up rooms for events and activities at Senior Center.

- Purchased Christmas tree for Casino.
- Delivered donated food from City Hall to Senior Center pantry.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Repaired gate at Lum Field dugout.
- Removed graffiti from Tonkin Park playground equipment.
- Reworked sand at volleyball courts.
- Repaired bench at Wood Ibis Park.
- Replaced stolen bulbs on tree lights along Beach Boulevard.
- Replaced light on welcome sign at Caldwell Park.
- Installed lights on fence at outside reading area at Library.
- Installed upcoming event banners.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets, and inspected light timers along Beach Boulevard.
- Continued trimming palms along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned City Complex, Senior Center, Library & Beach streetscapes.
- Mowed Wood Ibis, Clam Bayou & Tomlinson Parks, Trail Spur, Clymer & Tangerine Greenways, Recreation Center, Beach & Marina green spaces, York Street & 49th Street termini, Lions Club grounds, Center, 55th Street medians and Hoyt perimeter.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, assembled new reel mower, adjusted bed knife and added fluids, replaced carburetors on two chains saws and adjusted/sharpened chains.
- Repaired irrigation at Library, Clymer, Veteran's & Caldwell Parks.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas. Trash receptacles were emptied and the Bocce Ball courts were inspected for repairs.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged all ball fields daily.

Streets & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned and removed debris from storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways & sidewalks.
- Reset poles on truck overhang in City Yard.
- Cleaned debris from truck wash area.
- Delivered barricades for weekend event on 27th Avenue between 58th & 59th Streets.

- Repaired roadway at 54th Street & 16th Avenue following water break.
- Removed graffiti from street signs on 11th Avenue between 54th & 64th Streets.
- Added fill and graded alleyways between 28th & 29th Avenue, and between 54th Street & Beach Boulevard.
- Continued stormwater line inspections throughout City.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #23, 24, 25, 26, and 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 82 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 32 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 88 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 7 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 2 old water meters with new style meters.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Replaced 2" meter and backflow at 1611 58th Street.
- Installed new meter and backflow at 1631 58th Street.
- Repaired water break at 5925 19th 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 Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Cleaned sewer line at 6202 13th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced fuel filter on Building Maintenance vehicle #65
- Traced broken signal wire inside Sanitation vehicle #44
- Repaired leaking water pump in Police vehicle #54
- Refilled oil in Streets vehicle #71
- Repaired taillight bracket on Streets vehicle #38
- Replaced headlight on Sanitation vehicle #43
- Removed leaking hydraulic cylinders on Sewer vehicle #79 in preparation for transport to repair shop.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

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

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

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

Code Enforcement activities continue in Section 3 of the City, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58th & 59th Streets to the City Limits.

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.