



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *December 22 - 28, 2013*

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

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Wednesday, January 1 in observance of New Year's Day. There will be no Wednesday yard waste pick-up.

Community Development Director Fred Metcalf reports that new regulations are in effect for the placement of recreational vehicles (RVs). All RVs must have a permit. Permit applications, RV regulations and a flowchart of the permit process are available at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us). RVs meeting setbacks will receive a green permit window sticker. Owners of RVs not meeting setbacks can obtain, through January 2, 2014, a red permit sticker which allows for an exemption from regulations to place the RV within setback areas. This exemption only applies to one RV in a specific location and is not transferable to a new RV. Red stickers for exemptions **will not** be available after January 2, 2014, and owners will be required to remove un-stickered RVs at that time. For more information call Code Enforcement Officer Bruce Earling at 893-1061.

### **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. Call Laura Garrison at 278-4285, visit [www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket) or [www.GulfportMA.com](http://www.GulfportMA.com), or email [gulfportmarket@gmail.com](mailto:gulfportmarket@gmail.com) for more information. **The Fresh Market will close at 2 p.m. on December 31.**

The **Fourth Annual JWest Prostate Cancer 5k Walk/Run for Awareness** is 8 a.m. Saturday, January 4. For more information visit [www.jwestprostatefoundation.org](http://www.jwestprostatefoundation.org) or call Mike Calimari at 638-2389.

### **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Administration**

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

Dispatch calls for service	131
Officer initiated calls for service	301
Offenses	30
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	43

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

Officers responded to the Gulfport Café on the morning of December 19 after the owner reported the water pipe had been vandalized. An unknown person(s) damaged the building's water main.

Officers were dispatched to the 6000 block of Gulfport Boulevard on the morning of December 20 after a resident reported a bicycle was stolen sometime 9 p.m. December 19 and 8 a.m. December 20. An unknown subject entered the backyard through an enclosed fenced and took a 26" woman's bicycle valued at \$700.

Richard Horton was arrested on an outstanding warrant for possession of narcotics after officers located him in the 1400 block of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street on the morning of December 21.

A resident in the 6200 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported on the afternoon of December 21 that the screens were removed from 2 of his home's windows and someone attempted to pry a window open. No entry was made to the house.

Officers were dispatched to the 5500 block of Shore Boulevard on the evening of December 21 regarding a report of juveniles climbing on the roof of the Gulfport Casino and other buildings in the area. Officers circulated the area but there were no signs of the juveniles.

Officers observed a female who appeared to be unconscious on a bus bench on the evening of December 21. When officers approached she woke up and shouted that she had been waiting for the bus for 3 hours. The woman was slightly intoxicated and officers gave her a courtesy ride home.

Officers were dispatched to the 5300 block of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue after a caller reported that somebody had pulled a weapon on another person in the parking lot at Veterans Park. After a short investigation, officers determined that no weapons were used and there was no cause for police action.

A resident in the 6200 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on the morning of December 23 that her unlocked vehicle was entered overnight, and a cell phone and cash were stolen. There are no suspects.

A resident in the 5200 block of 31<sup>st</sup> Street reported on the afternoon of December 23 that the tag was removed from his trailer sometime overnight.

Officers responded to a residence in the 1800 block of 50<sup>th</sup> Street on the afternoon of December 23 after a caller stated he wanted to kill himself and his landlord. The caller had not taken his prescribed medications in 4 days. Due to other medical issues, he was Baker Acted and transported to St. Anthony's Hospital.

Officers recovered a car reported stolen in St. Petersburg after several males were observed running from the vehicle in the 5700 block of Shore Boulevard.

Officers responded to the 5100 block of 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the morning of December 25 after a caller reported that a 2003 Subaru Outback with Colorado tags was stolen sometime overnight. There are no suspects.

A resident in the 6300 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on the morning of December 25 that someone entered his unlocked car and took the keys to the car and a trailer.

Officers responded to the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard on the afternoon of December 25 after a caller reported a bar patron with a handgun. Officers made contact with Leighton Fuller who matched the description provided. Fuller attempted to reach into his pocket, and claimed he forgot he had the gun with him. Although Fuller had a concealed weapons permit, the permit does not allow him to carry at establishments whose primary function is the sale of alcohol. Fuller was arrested.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 5.5 hours this week.

**Investigations:**

New Cases:	12
Cases Assigned:	3
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	8
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	0

Supplements Received:	9
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously Cleared With Arrest	0
Cases Suspended-No Leads:	2
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	1
Cases Still Active:	5

Detective Hanh Pham completed 8 supplements, one which was exceptionally cleared due to a lack of prosecution by the victim. He also visited several businesses to gather evidence for his assigned cases, spoke with the victims and witnesses via phone, testified at a motion to suppress hearing in theft case, administered the Physical Agility Test to four new applicants, spoke with an IRS agent via phone regarding two tax fraud cases, completed six subpoena requests for several fraud cases, and interviewed an inmate at Pinellas County Jail about a Fraudulent Use of a Credit Card case he is investigating.

Detective Jennifer Crowson assisted patrol in retrieving surveillance video from Gulfport Liquors and in recovering a television stolen in a Gulfport burglary and pawned in St. Petersburg. She also completed 9 supplements and closed out 1 report.

Officer Motte is on leave following the birth of his baby.

Officer Langston is on vacation this week.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	18
Supplements reviewed:	116
Public records requests:	1
Reports disseminated:	11
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	2
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	56

### **MARINA**

Pumped one thousand nine hundred fifteen (1,915) gallons of gas, and one thousand eighty one (1,081) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling eighty four (84) vessels.

### **Transient Vessels:**

Staff welcomed a 27' motorboat, 43'cruiser and 20' motorboat this week.

### **Staff Activities**

- Repaired gate on pier five.
- Replaced lines on fuel dock.
- Replaced lights in power pedestals.
- Purchased drinks for resale.
- Replaced light in men's room.

## **LEISURE SERVICES**

### **Technical Events**

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

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

### **Parks**

Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.

Trimmed, weeded, mulched & cleaned City complex; hand raked around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.

Mowed and trimmed Recreation Center grounds, City complex, Clymer & Veterans Parks, Senior Center grounds, Library grounds, Neighborhood Center grounds, 28<sup>th</sup> Street signage area, York & 49<sup>th</sup> Street termini and Lions Club grounds.

Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.

Opened & cleaned Skate Park.

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

### **Other Activities:**

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

**GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service)** offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$65 annual registration fee entitles members 55 and older to ride GEMS for \$2 per one-way trip and is good for one year from date of registration. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65.00 plus \$2.00 per ride. Riders must have a green schedule card to use this service. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

### **Multipurpose Center**

The Gulfport Multipurpose Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m.-7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, & Fridays, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for a copy of this month's calendar or download your copy at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us). The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** programs, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or to lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Tuesday & Thursday for Gulfport residents 50 and older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank

statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Gail or Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **multiple volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, come join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with over 50 programs, classes and workshops offered right here in Gulfport. 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. If you have any interest in volunteering for the Center and are 18 years or older, please call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.

Get ready for **Flea Frenzy Reduction**. We're cleaning out the clutter at our next First Friday Flea Market on January 3, 9 a.m. - noon. ALL items will be priced at \$1.00 or less!

Attention Baby Boomers! Thinking about retirement? You're not alone. Take **A Closer Look at Your Social Security Benefits** on Monday, January 6 at 5:30 p.m. as we discuss Individual Benefits, Spousal Benefits, and Social Security Maximization Strategies. Learn about full retirement age, taking benefits early, working while collecting social security, taxation of benefits, and more.

The **Coffee Club** meets at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every first Tuesday of the month to discuss current events, the economy and investing in a relaxed, informal setting. The next meeting is January 7. Meet new friends and learn great tips from financial advisor Scott O'Berry over coffee and doughnuts.

Concerned about your memory? Peggy Macaluso with Alzheimer's Association will offer free, confidential memory screenings and advice and information during the new **Monthly Memory Screening Clinic** on the second Monday of every month, beginning January 13, from 9 a.m. - noon. Participants MUST call 893-1231 to schedule an appointment.

Join your Senior Center friends for a tranquil visit and guided tour of the world famous Sunken Gardens botanical attraction during the **Gulfport Getaway** on Tuesday, January 14. The Gardens has collection of more than 50,000 plants and flowers representing over 500 species of arranged in a beautiful setting of pools and cascading waterfalls. Call 893-2242 before Wednesday, January 8 to reserve a seat. GEMS members \$10/ nonmembers \$12. Price includes round trip transportation and admission. The tour MUST have at least 15 riders.

Enjoy a free, current movie and get a \$3 lunch deal during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, January 14.

**Community Resource Partnership (CRP)** is an alliance of health care industry professionals whose mission is to provide support and information on aging and lifetime health care issues to families and individuals. They are committed to educating the community about available resources on aging and health-related issues, including Affording the Retirement Lifestyle you Need, Financial Planning/Insurance, Government/Public Benefits (Medicaid, VA Benefits), Health Care, Legal & Estate Planning, Nutrition & Wellness, and Senior Housing. Join them for a free informational seminar at the Senior Center on January 15 at 2 p.m.

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.

The **Laugh, Smile & Reenergize** group meets every Monday at 12:45 p.m.

Join Aston Hugh for **Easy Tai Chi** at the Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street every Tuesday & Thursday at 10 a.m. Designed for all levels of ability and mobility, Aston's technique focuses on breathing and meditation, resulting in improved agility, mobility, balance, and stress relief. This class is open to Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center members. For more information call Rachel at 893-1231.

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

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center every third Tuesday of the month between 9:30 & 11:30 a.m. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

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

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

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

Sunday, December 15	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson with Carol Baker 7 p.m. - Ellis Hales Band & Ballroom dance
Tuesday, December 17	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom lesson (Turnout 17) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom class (Turnout 14) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing 6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango Lesson with Kathleen & Steve 8 p.m. - Milonga/Dance (Turnout 33)
Wednesday, December 18	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7 (Turnout 231)

**Casino (Upcoming Events):**

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & ballroom dance Admission \$7
Every Tuesday	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7
Every Wednesday	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7

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

Sunday, December 15	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 20) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
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**Neighborhood Center (Upcoming events):**

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
Every first - third Sunday	9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services
Every fourth Sunday	9:15 a.m. - Bible study

**Scout Hall (Last week's events):**

Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Monday, December 16	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion (Turnout 7) 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 21)
Wednesday, December 18	10:30 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 19)
Thursday, December 19	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class (Turnout 6)
Friday, December 20	10 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 6)

**Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):**

Every Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday	10 a.m. - Dance Fusion class
Every Thursday	10:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion class
Every Friday	11 a.m. - Line dancing

**LIBRARY**

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

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

**Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, December 16, 3 p.m. - *Science Club* for children in Kindergarten through Grade 5.

Monday, December 16, 6 p.m. - *Victors Support Group for Victims of Sexual Assault.*

Tuesday, December 17, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open AA meeting.*

Wednesday, December 18, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.

Wednesday, December 18, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, December 18, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, December 19, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Toddlers & Preschoolers.*

Thursday, December 19, 1 p.m. - *Computer & Online Safety Crash Course* facilitated by Dave Mather.

Friday, December 20, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, December 21, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*

## Upcoming Events:

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

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

Every Tuesday beginning January 7, 2 p.m. - *Adventures in Ancestry*: Gulfport Historian Lynne Brown instructs you on how to research family history and genealogy. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information contact Robin Riddell at [riddell@gmail.com](mailto:riddell@gmail.com).

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

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

## Library Services/Statistic December 15-21, 2013:

### Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,930	632
Sun. 12/15	Library closed	
Mon. 12/16	388	120
Tue. 12/17	312	93
Wed. 12/18	392	116
Thu. 12/19	327	120
Fri. 12/20	316	113
Sat. 12/21	267	82

## Recreation Center

The game room was rented 12 - 5 p.m. Saturday December 21 for a Christmas party.

The multipurpose room is reserved 1 - 5 p.m. Saturday, December 28 for a Birthday party.

The Gulfport Recreation Center will offer **full day activities during Holiday Break** for children in Kindergarten through age 14 from 7:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. December 23-27 & December 30 - January 3, 2014 (closed Wednesday January 1). 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!

## Programs, Classes & Activities

Forty six (46) children are registered for the **2013/14 School Year Child Care Program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$22 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for nonresidents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary. The program is licensed by the Pinellas County License Board.

Thirteen (13) children are registered for the **2013/14 Tot Time Program**, and six (6) for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turned 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must

receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$22 for nonresidents.

**Contractual classes:** Fencing, Gymnastics, Hawaiian Hula, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish for Beginners, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Urban Survival Bootcamp, Yoga and Zumba.

Fifty nine (59) teens are registered for the **2013/14 Teen Night program**, a great hangout for teens in grades 6-12 providing recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects. The teens utilize the gymnasium, game room and outdoor area. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents. Program hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 6 - 9 p.m.

Skaters & bicyclists wishing to use the **Skate Park** are required to register with the Recreation Center. Three (3) FY2013/14 passes have been sold to date.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

The Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, January 16 at 7 p.m. CERT trains volunteers in disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area, and in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search & rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. For more information call Bob Worthington at 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

- Gulfport Fire Department continued their December St. Petersburg College 2013 Online CME this week. The Course Evaluation and the Post-Test are required for completion of this CME.
- Over the next two weeks, the Pinellas County P25 Radio System will undergo upgrades. This will not affect voice traffic for Fire, but it will affect the High Performance Data System (HPD) and Fire Station Alerting (FSAs).
- The Final Draft of the 2014 Medical Operations Manual is going to print. The manual incorporates all corrections received to date, and is suitable for training purposes. The final manual will be transmitted once approved by the Medical Control Board in early January.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance:**

- Rewired light on Library sign.
- Replaced toilet handle in men's restroom at Police Department.
- Repaired lock on City Hall back door.
- Repaired air handler at Senior Center.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Administrative Services Department.
- Repaired door at Coast Guard Station.
- Transported vehicles to Tampa for Garage Supervisor.

### **Streets & Sanitation:**

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture and electronics.
- Continued curbside bagged leaf pick-up.

- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired potholes throughout City.
- Assembled and delivered new residential automated trash containers and replaced broken containers.
- Filled and graded the alleyway on 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 62<sup>nd</sup> & 63<sup>rd</sup> Street South.
- Removed barricades and debris from stormwater outfalls at Marina.
- Removed and disposed of several boxes of books from the Library.
- Cleared debris from roadway at 59<sup>th</sup> Street & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Removed and disposed of old tires from City Garage.
- Removed and disposed of debris following Tuesday Fresh Market.
- Removed debris from the Beach area.

#### **Water:**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #45, 46, 47 & 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Completed 69 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 12 old water meters with new style meters.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Repaired water break at 6602 Flamingo Way South.
- Repaired water break at Town Shores Buckingham Building, and assembled new 4" backflow and meter in preparation for replacement.

#### **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.
- Installed electric chain wench at Lift Station #1

#### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Repaired hood bumpers on Sanitation Trucks #29, and #88.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

### **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on

more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:**

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

#### **WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:**

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

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit [www.pccclb.com](http://www.pccclb.com).

**Code Enforcement** activities continue in Section 1 of the City, also known as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> Street.

The number of Code Enforcement cases for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013 was 2,336. The number of citizen complaints for the fiscal year 178, which represented an annual ratio of complaints to total number of cases of 7.6 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.

Beginning in January Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58<sup>th</sup> Street and east to 49<sup>th</sup> Street. To review the Code Enforcement Activities documents for more detailed information and a map of the Code Enforcement areas please visit the Special Documents section of the City's website at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us).