



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *December 2 - 8, 2012*

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

It was a beautiful evening for the **Gulfport Holiday Tree Lighting** in Clymer Park on December 3 (photos below). Attendees enjoyed festive music with songs performed by children from the Recreation Center's Tot Time/VPK & School Year Child Care programs. Mayor Yakes, Gulfport City Council and Former Mayor Yvonne Johnson joined in for caroling. Refreshments were served and as always, Santa was there to listen to all the children's wishes.



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

Gulfport City Hall will be closed on Monday & Tuesday, December 24 & 25 in observance of the **Christmas** holiday, and Monday, December 31 & Tuesday, January 1 in observance of the **New Year** holiday. Sanitation pick-ups scheduled for Tuesday will be rescheduled to Wednesday, December 26 & January 2. There will be no Wednesday yard waste pick up on December 26 or January 2.

For over 20 years the Gulfport Police Department has sponsored **Operation Santa**, collecting toys to be donated to needy children living in Gulfport. Once again the GPD is accepting monetary donations, new unwrapped toys and gift cards. For more information please call 893-1042.

## Upcoming Events:

Enjoy the crisp December air and get into the holiday spirit at **First Friday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on December 7, 6 - 10 p.m. Call 322-5217 for more information.

Visit the **Christmas Collectorama: Santa-Comes-to-the-South Holiday Antiques Show** on Saturday, December 8, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., at the Catherine Hickman Theater. Admission: \$5.00. Call 421-0441 or visit <http://hulahula.biz> for more information.

Enjoy music, shopping and holiday carols during the annual **Holiday Hoopla** extravaganza on Beach Boulevard Saturday, December 8, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Admission is free for this event. For more information call 322-5217. Stay for the **BCYC Annual Christmas Boat Parade**. The boats will leave Gulfport Marina at 6 p.m. and head to Gulfport Beach. Sail and power boats are welcome to join in the fun. There is an entry fee of two unwrapped toys for Operation Santa or a donation can be made. For more information call 430-7241 or visit [www.sailbcyc.org](http://www.sailbcyc.org).

Everyone is welcome to the **Crime Watch Meeting** at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street on Monday, December 10 at 7 p.m. Call 327-3509 for more information.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods; hand-made art and crafts; bath, body and wellness products; live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. with extended hours until 8 p.m. and special events on the first Tuesday of each month. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the **Gulfport Senior Center Pantry** to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent each Tuesday. Donate your gently used clothes to the **Clothing Swap to Benefit CASA** (Community Action Stops Abuse) at the Peninsula Courtyard on December 11, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Bring your own hangers. Extra clothing donations for CASA are appreciated. For more information visit [www.gulfportma.com](http://www.gulfportma.com) or [www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket](https://www.facebook.com/gulfportfreshmarket).

Want to experience a real old fashioned Gulfport Christmas? The **Museum Jolly Trolley Christmas Party** is Friday December 14 at 7 p.m. We'll leave from the Museum and take the trolley to tour some of the town's prettiest seasonal lights. Following the tour, we'll return to the Museum for festive refreshments good wishes for Gulfport's 103<sup>rd</sup> year. Space is limited to 25 seats, so please call Miki at 321-5705 to reserve your place.

Ring in the **New Year** at the Historic Gulfport Casino Ballroom on Monday, December 31. Doors open at 7:30 p.m. Enjoy the **Hefner & Hefner 5-Piece Variety Band** playing music from 1940 to present, full cash bar, snacks, party favors, decorations, prizes, and a Champaign toast at midnight. Tickets \$22, available at the Casino Monday - Thursday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Call 893-1070 for more information. Advance reservations suggested.

## Weekly Casino Ballroom Events

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

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Nineteen new laptop computers were purchased and are being phased into operation to replace the outdated units currently deployed in patrol cars.

Chief Vincent attended a meeting with the Secretary of the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice to discuss upcoming program changes and how they can best serve local law enforcement.

## **Administration**

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

Offenses	50
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	32

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

Officers interviewed the victim of an alleged robbery at Bayfront Medical Center in the early morning hours of November 23 after the complainant reported he was battered and robbed by two males in the 3000 block of Beach Boulevard following dinner at a local restaurant. The victim stated that he lost consciousness and did not remember the attack.

An investigation is underway following a burglary in the 5000 block of Newton Avenue. On the afternoon of November 27 after a resident reported a bank bag containing cash and three checkbooks was taken from his home. The victim discovered the crime when a bicyclist returned the checkbooks to the residence, stating he found them while riding on the Pinellas Trail.

Officers arrested Lattoya Walker on a warrant for failing to appear on DWLSR and marijuana possession charges following a traffic stop on the evening of November 28. Passenger Travis Johnson was issued a notice to appear for Possession after he admitted that a small amount of marijuana found under the seat belonged to him.

GPD assisted the Pinellas Park Police Department with the recovery of two jet skis and a trailer reported stolen on September 14. The person holding the property behind a home at 4601 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue South advised the complainant that they were abandoned by a former tenant. The property was returned to the victim.

Officers stopped vehicle in the 1800 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street for driving without headlights on the evening of November 29, and discovered the driver had a revoked license and four outstanding warrants from Polk County. The driver was arrested and turned over to the Polk County Sheriff's Office.

Officers responded the 2800 block of Clinton Street in the early morning of November 30 after a caller reported seeing a black male departing the area on a bicycle at the same time she discovered a mattress and other items burning in the alleyway. A search of the area did not lead to the suspect.

Officers responded to the Save A Lot on the afternoon of November 30 after a caller reported his bicycle was taken after he left it unsecured outside the store. Store video does not give a clear shot of the suspect described only as a black male.

Officers responded to the 1400 block of 59<sup>th</sup> Street on the evening of November 30 after a resident reported that someone entered her car and removed \$80 from her wallet. There are no suspects.

Officers responded to the 5100 block of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue on the afternoon of December 2 after a caller reported a Johnson 6HP outboard motor was stolen from his son's residence. The investigation continues.

Officers responded to a report of a hit & run in the 5400 block of Essex Avenue on the evening of December 2 after an unknown person left a note on a vehicle, stating a truck had backed into it and left the area. Officers tracked down the truck's owner using the tag number from the note

and he denied hitting the vehicle. There was no damage to the truck and the case was inactivated.

An officer spoke with a resident in the 5600 block of Tangerine Avenue on the evening of December 3 who reported that someone removed a package from the mailbox and stole a cell phone case and charger. This incident is believed to be related to a call received at approximately 3 p.m. reporting juveniles looking into mail boxes in the area.

### **Investigations:**

<b><i>New Cases:</i></b>	12
Cases Assigned:	2
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	8
Cases Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	0
Cases Referred Back to Patrol:	0

<b><i>Supplements Received:</i></b>	21
Cases Cleared With Arrest:	0
Previously cleared with Arrest:	1
Cases Closed-No Leads:	5
Cases Unfounded/No Crime:	1
Exceptionally Cleared:	0
Cases Still Active:	14

Detective Hanh Pham conducted a follow up investigation to a residential burglary in which several bicycles were stolen and identified several juveniles that might be involved. He also participated in the fire detail this week.

Detective Embry processed a subpoena request regarding a fraud case. He is also trying to locate a male suspect in a Dealing in Stolen Property case, and a female for Grand Theft.

Analyst Palmisano updated information for her analysis of suspicious fires occurring for the past five years. She completed pawn checks for 13 cases with a named suspect for identifiable and searchable property, and covered records for 10 hours.

Special Enforcement Team (SET) members and CIS participated in a weeklong midnight - 4 a.m. detail in an attempt to catch the person setting fires in alleyways throughout the City.

### **Records**

Reports reviewed:	25
Supplements reviewed:	72
Public records requests:	11
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	0
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted:	65

One policy is in the review process: 413 - Vehicle Towing and Impounds.

Probationary Officer Crystal Langston has completed phase 2 of the field training program.

Seven sworn members completed firearms qualifications this week.

Three sworn members completed testing for recertification for access to the Florida Crime Information Computer.

Four Police Officer applications were reviewed this week. Six applicants participated in oral boards this week. Two were scheduled for polygraph examinations. Seven applicants participated in physical abilities testing (PAT) with six receiving a passing score.

Eleven applications were received for the open Staff Assistant II position.

## **MARINA**

Pumped one thousand four hundred thirty three (1,433) gallons of gas, and eight hundred thirty eight (838) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling fifty seven (57) vessels.

Assisted in forty eight (48) pump-outs evacuating seven hundred twenty four (724) gallons of sewage. This free service is well received by the boating public and helps keep our waters clean.

## **LEISURE SERVICES**

### **Technical Events**

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

- Updated weekly program schedule. Copy available at the City Hall reception desk, or online at [http://www.mygulfport.us/GTV615/Live\\_Webstream.htm](http://www.mygulfport.us/GTV615/Live_Webstream.htm).
- Distributed biweekly press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted GTV615 station equipment, City Intranet Server and WIFI router.
- Provided Control Room coverage for December 4 City Council meeting and December 5 Planning & Zoning meeting. Rebroadcast both meetings on GTV615 and made DVD copies for City Clerk and IT Department.
- Continued housekeeping preparations for 2013 meeting pages on City website.
- Fixed broken links on City website.
- Organized video and sound for December 3 Holiday Tree Lighting at Clymer Park.
- Edited and published December 3 Holiday Tree Lighting video.
- Updated Women's Softball stats and upcoming events on Recreation Center web page.

### **Parks**

Adjusted irrigation at 49<sup>th</sup> Streetscapes, Library, 28<sup>th</sup> Street signage area and Caldwell & Clymer Parks.

Weeded, trimmed and cleaned Library grounds, 49<sup>th</sup> & Beach Streetscapes; trimmed palms and oak trees at Clymer Park, and hand raked around benches and pavilions.

Greased mowers and sharpened blades, and replaced pull-strings on equipment.

Set up chairs and sound equipment in preparation for Tree Lighting in Clymer Park.

Mowed Caldwell & Veterans Parks, Pasadena entrance, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue median, and Chase block.

Repaired fence at Little League backstop, pull timers on holiday light at Clymer Park, replaced lights at Lum Field, Beach Boulevard & 28<sup>th</sup> Street, and aerated ball fields.

Opened & cleaned Skate Park daily.

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

#### **Other Activities:**

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

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

The City of Gulfport offers transportation service for residents 55 and older. GEMS (Gulfport Extended Mobility Service) offers rides to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. The \$65 annual registration fee entitles members to ride GEMS for \$2 per one-way trip and is good for one year from date of registration. Want to go shopping? GEMS offers hourly trips to South Pasadena on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays; transportation to the Tyrone Shopping area on Tuesday mornings and Thursday afternoons, and; service to Walmart & Aldi every Tuesday afternoon. Call 893-2242 for more information on this door-to-door service.

#### **Senior Center**

The Senior Center will be closed Monday & Tuesday, December 24 & 25 in observance of the Christmas holiday.

Ready to get fit and meet new friends? If you're over 50 visit the **Foundation Fitness Center** Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m., and Fridays 8 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Annual membership is \$25 or \$40 a couple. Stop by the Senior Center and take a tour of our state of the art fitness facility.

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

A new weekly **Tai Chi for Arthritis Program** is offered on Thursdays at 1:30 p.m.

Due to the success of **Snack Bar Movie Day**, the event has moved to a larger room. The next movie day is Tuesday, December 11 at 11 a.m. when Stephanie will cook up a great Hot Dog and Chili special for \$2.50, followed by a special holiday movie with friends.

Seats are limited for the **Holiday Trolley Tour** scheduled for 6 p.m. Monday, December 17, so sign up now! Stop by the Senior Center or call GEMS at 893-2242 for more information.

Deck the halls at the **Holiday Party Double Feature** on December 19. Two events for one price: The Holiday Dinner party begins at noon, followed by the Holiday Follies at the Theater at 1 p.m. This event is open to registered Senior Center members only. Tickets: \$8.00. Seats are limited, so get your ticket now at the Senior Center.

Looking for a **Road Trip** in December? Gulfport Seniors are invited to the following outings:

- Wednesday, December 5: *Catfish Johnny's Christmas*. A long time favorite in beautiful Lake Panasoffkee with 20 years serving great food in a friendly, fun and casual atmosphere with a buffet of unique and delicious offerings & live holiday music: \$59.00.
- Tuesday, December 11: Visit *Disney's Wilderness Lodge & Grand Floridian Resort* to view the spectacular holiday décor and enjoy a delicious buffet meal at Orlando's Gaylord Palms Hotel's premier restaurant Villa de Flora: \$69. Guests are also invited to

visit the Gaylord Palms DreamWorks Merry Madagascar movie-themed Celebration Lights tour for an additional fee.

- Monday, December 17: *Hard Rock Casino in Tampa*. The \$20 fee includes a \$5 food voucher & \$15 in free play. Bring valid ID.
- Thursday, December 20: *Bok Towercarrillon and Pinewood Estate*. Experience the lovely musical Bok Tower and visit the beautifully decorated Pinewood Estate. Meal included: \$59.00.

For more information on these events, please call Carolyn at 347-0806.

Need assistance with your smart phone, iPad or android tablet? The Gulfport Senior Center will offer classes for registered Senior Center members with Karen Gates every Monday beginning in January. Smart Phone: January 7, iPad: January 14, and Android tablet: January 28. Call Gail at 893-2237 for more information.

Want to learn more about your family tree? Instructor Kay Boatwright will assist in researching family histories 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. every second Friday beginning January 11 at the Catherine Hickman Theater. Learn where ancestors come from and nationalities; find out the variations of the spelling of surnames and how to build a family tree. This event is open to registered Senior Center members only. For more information call 893-2237 or 893-1231.

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

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

Sunday, November 25	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance lesson with John 7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 47)
Monday, November 26	7 p.m. - USA Ballroom Dance (Turnout 66)
Tuesday, November 27	Noon - Intermediate Ballroom dance lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 14) 1 p.m. - Beginner Ballroom dance lesson (Turnout 3) 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance 6:30 p.m. - Beginner Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance (Turnout 52)
Wednesday, November 28	6 p.m. - Bonus lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance (Turnout 187)

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

Sunday, December 9	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance lesson with Paul Kirk 7 p.m. - Holiday Ballroom dance featuring the Encore IV 17-piece big band: dance demonstrations, snacks, cash bar Admission \$15
Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance Lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Dance Admission \$7
Every Tuesday	2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$7 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$7
Every Wednesday	6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime

7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime  
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$7

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

There were no events in the **Catherine Hickman Theater** last week.

**Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events)**

Saturday, December 8, 10 a.m. - Christmas Collecto-Rama Holiday Antique show, lecture on collecting vintage Christmas items and screening of old holiday flicks. \$5 admission

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

Sunday, November 25 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 13)  
6:15 p.m. - Over Eaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 19)

Thursday, November 29 7 p.m. - Pasadena Point Homeowners meeting (Turnout 6)

Saturday, December 1 7 p.m. - Birthday party (Turnout 43)

**Neighborhood Center (Upcoming events):**

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, November 27 10:30 a.m. - Senior Center Line dancing (Turnout 10)

**Scout Hall (Upcoming Events):**

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

**LIBRARY**

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

**Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

- Tuesday, November 27, 3 p.m. - *eSalon* facilitated by Alex Hooks.
- Tuesday, November 27, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting.
- Wednesday, November 28, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Wednesday, November 28, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*, facilitated by Sheri Stanley.
- Thursday, November 29, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime for Preschoolers* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.
- Thursday, November 29, 4:30 p.m. - *Business Debtors Anonymous* meeting.

## Upcoming Events:

- Every Tuesday, 3 p.m. - *eSalon*. Learn to browse, place a hold, check out and download ebooks from our digital catalog. Meet with others to learn the basics, or discover new ways of using the e-Reader, tablet or mp3. For more information call 893-1073.
- Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information please call 916-0916.
- Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers* meeting.
- Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Zone*. Challenge your friends on the latest XBOX 360 games or just hang out and enjoy free refreshments.
- Every Thursday, 9:30 a.m. - *Beginning Spanish*.
- Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Enjoy picture books selected to be read to preschool age children, in the Youth Services area at the rocking chair near the Easy books.
- Every Thursday, 4:30 p.m. - *Business Debtors Anonymous*.
- Saturday, December 8, 11 a.m. - *Holiday Crafts for Kids*.
- Saturday, December 8, 1:30 p.m. - *Crafts Club for all Ages*.
- Saturday, December 17 - Free Family Movie Day: 10:30 a.m. - *Brave*; 1:30 p.m. - *The Amazing Spiderman*.
- Thursday, December 20, 10:30 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk* discussion of the book *Cannery Row* by John Steinbeck. Copies are available at the Circulation Desk.

## Library Services/Statistics November 25 - December 1, 2012:

### Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,053	456
Sun. 11/25	18	7
Mon. 11/26	372	75
Tue. 11/27	416	87
Wed. 11/28	248	65
Thu. 11/29	434	86
Fri. 11/30	310	79
Sat. 12/1	255	57

## Recreation Center

Santa and his elves will judge the *Holiday Decorations Contest* on Monday evening, December 17. Nobody knows what time the big red sleigh will travel through the City of Gulfport. Deadline to enter the contest is noon on the 17<sup>th</sup>. Two theme categories: General for single/joint home and commercial for single/joint business and professional locations including home occupations. A plaque will be awarded to one winner of each theme category and will be presented at the Gulfport City Council meeting in January.

The Gulfport Recreation Center will offer full day activities from 7:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. during *Winter Break*, December 26-28 & January 2-4 for children K-14 years of age. Extended care is offered until 6 p.m. for an extra fee. The children will participate in arts & crafts, field trips, movies, and more!

## **Programs, Classes & Activities**

Forty (40) children are registered for the School Year Child Care program, a quality program that provides a nurturing atmosphere where children in Kindergarten through age 14 have the opportunity to experience recreational, social, creative and enriching activities. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Annual registration fee is \$17 for residents and \$110 for non-residents with monthly fees of \$146 for residents and \$292 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Eleven (11) children are registered for the 2012/13 Tot Time Program, and eight (8) for VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten). Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. Registration fees for the Tot Time Program are \$17 for residents and \$110 for non residents. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turned 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten.

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

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

Registration continues for the 2012/13 Teen Night program, a great hang out for teens in grades 6-12 providing recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects. The teens utilize the gymnasium, game room and outdoor area. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents. Program hours are Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 6 - 9 p.m. To date fifty (50) teens have been registered.

## **Staff Activities**

Marivel Gutierrez, Joanne McRoberts, Tomeka Junious and Leah Erbe participated in the City's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Monday evening.

**Teen Council members** Elizabeth Brown-Worthington, Lauran Harker, Laura Karbowski and Nolan Slone served cookies and punch at the Holiday Tree Lighting on Monday evening.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES**

### **Customer Service and Finance**

- Account Activity (Water and/or Marina): 33 new, 0 closed
- Water payments: 1,291 totaling \$221,033.69
- On-Line Water payments: 115 transactions totaling \$12,650.29
- Bright House payments: 22
- Utility Bills Mailed 12/05/12: 1,265
- Accounts Payable 11/30/12: 410 transactions totaling \$83,789.76
- Mail processed 11/30/12: 915 pieces totaling \$688.80
- Purchasing Cards December report: 203 transactions totaling \$30,233.75

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 49 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fire

- 5 Fire Alarms
- 1 HazMat Response
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

### **Life Safety**

- 6 Fire Inspections
- 4 Re-Inspections
- 0 C. O's

The **CERT Team** meets monthly at the Gulfport Senior Center, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South. The next meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Thursday, January 17. For more information on CERT visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com) or call Bob Worthington at 916-8014.

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

- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief's Associating meeting on December 6. Agenda items included approval of updated by-laws and a presentation from Physical Therapy Services. The next meeting is January 3, 2013.
- Fitch & Associates and the Optima Deployment Modeling group will be in town the week of December 10 to meet with South County Fire Chiefs (Gulfport, Lealman, St. Pete Beach, St. Petersburg, South Pasadena, and Treasure Island). The intent of the meeting to see the preliminary model in action, review the data model for accuracy, and have Optima's staff answer technical questions.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners Workshop on December 6. The agenda was Priority Dispatch Phase III implementation process.
- Lt. Huffman and the "A"-Shift crew gave a Holiday Fire Prevention presentation to approximately 25 Beachway Mobile Home Park residents this week.
- Flu season in the U.S. is off to its earliest start in nearly a decade and it could be a bad one. The push for flu shots doesn't usually begin until January because our flu season begins in February. This year we're seeing cases a lot earlier so we want people to get their flu shot earlier this season to stay healthy and to help prevent getting sick.
- Inspector Vento met with the Pinellas County School Board Fire Inspector for Boca Ciega High School's Annual Fire Inspection. No major violations were observed.

### **Holiday and Christmas Tree Safety**

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

- Don't decorate live Christmas trees too early or leave them up more 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 live tree stands 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](http://www.usfa.fema.gov).

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance:**

- Installed new hinges and hung pantry door at Fire Station.
- Completed monthly pest control at all City buildings.
- Repaired conduit at Little League Park.
- Repaired air conditioner return & tables, and installed shelving at Recreation Center.
- Installed partition in Casino restroom.
- Repaired toilets in restroom at Theater, Beach and Dog Park.
- Repaired south gate at Police Department.
- Set up for daily events at Senior Center and assembled and decorated Christmas tree.
- Performed routine daily maintenance duties at all City buildings.

### **Streets & Sanitation:**

- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses on roadways.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, trash, electronics and Code Enforcement.
- Delivered recycling bins and "City of Gulfport Recycling Guidelines" information sheet to multiple residential and commercial properties.
- Received shipment of new automated containers, assembled and delivered to multiple residential and commercial properties.
- Removed traffic control obstructions and debris from various roadways and alleys throughout City.
- Cleaned, reset and maintained storm drains, grates and inlets at various locations throughout City.
- Completed asphalt patch work on multiple potholes throughout City per direction.
- Completed alley and easement grading, fill and dust control spraying throughout City.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping at Osgood Point, Gulfport Marina, Gulfport Beach, Tangerine Greenway and other locations throughout City per direction.
- Replaced/reset damaged traffic control signs throughout City.
- Graded Gulfport Beach and removed the seaweed and debris.
- Completed sidewalk work at 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 55<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Delivered and set up garbage containers for Coastal Cleanup event.
- Responded to chemical spill at Beach Area.
- Removed palm trees & brush at Tangerine Avenue & 60<sup>th</sup> Street and Premier Drive & 59<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Water:**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #09, 10, 11 and 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 29 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 17 non pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 122 Customer Service-generated miscellaneous service orders.

- Completed 4 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 4 water meters with new style meters.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Repaired 3" water break at 59<sup>th</sup> Street & 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 801 50<sup>th</sup> Street, 5901 Bayview Circle and 5308 28<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Sewer**

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2. Police & Fire Departments and Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Replaced sewer lateral at 5201 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 6249 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Repaired hydraulic oil leak, welded grabber arm roller and roller shaft on Sanitation Truck #46.
- Replaced fuel pump, idler arm, pitman arm and outer tie rod end on Facilities Maintenance Vehicle #05.
- Replaced heater hoses on Police Vehicle #103.
- Performed front brake job on Police Vehicle #18.
- Replaced hydraulic hose on Park's Department Tractor #73.
- Performed routine maintenance, repairs, etc. on various City vehicles.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Code Enforcement** activities have moved to Section 4 of the City, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets South.

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

To review the Code Enforcement Activities documents for more detailed information and a map of the Code Enforcement areas please visit the Special Documents section of the City's website at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us).

**December 5 Planning and Zoning Board and December 18 City Council/CRA meeting Results:**

- Consideration of amendments to the zoning code related to outdoor sales or displays within the WRD, CL-1 and CL-2 zoning districts to allow for expedited review. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.
- Application #C12-01: 4920 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue South - Conditional use with site plan application for a mixed use development with commercial and residential components. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL WITH CONDITIONS.
- Discussion of Public Information Program Strategy Plan. NO ACTION REQUIRED.

**December 12, 2012 Board of Adjustment:**

Variance Request V12-12; 4920 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Variance request to:

1. To reduce the rear yard depth setback 5 feet, from 8 feet to 3 feet to allow for an addition to the rear of the structure; and
2. To reduce the commercial component of a proposed mixed use development by 4.8%, from the required 60% commercial ratio component of the Floor Area Ratio (FAR) to 55.2%, and to increase the residential component of the proposed mixed use development by 4.8%, from the required 40% residential ratio of the Floor Area Ratio to 44.8%.

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