



Gulfport Community Update

May 10 - 16, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

The Gulfport Library is closed through May 18 as staff transitions from Scout Hall to the newly renovated facility. Join Library and City staff for the Library's **grand reopening** at 3 p.m. Tuesday, May 19. The library has undergone a major renovation using grants, donations and Penny for Pinellas funds. Call 873-3919 for more information.

Tickets for the **May 21 Tampa Bay Rays home game** are available at the Gulfport Casino. The \$25.00 ticket price includes transportation to Tropicana Field via the Gulfport Trolley, a lower box seat and complimentary Ray's baseball hat, available at the redemption desk inside Tropicana Field. Rays fans who already have tickets are invited to catch free a ride to the game. Departure from the Gulfport Casino begins at 5 p.m. For more information call 893-1070.

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.

Join Kevin Baxter of Pinellas County Communications in the Catherine Hickman Theater at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 28 for the **2015 Hurricane Seminar**. Kevin's presentation advises residents on their evacuation zones, and highlights a new "Storm Surge Protector" app that shows how individual addresses could be affected by storm surge. Hurricane related vendors include The American Red Cross, Florida Green Energy Works, Harbor Freight, Lowes, Home Depot, Morgan Exteriors, Solar Energy Systems, Storm Source LLC, Pinellas County, PSTA and Whitco Insurance. The Theater lobby will open at 6 p.m. for attendees to view vendor displays. Pizza and drinks will also be offered for purchase. For more information call Gail Biron at 893-1118.

Join American Legion Post 125 and the City of Gulfport at Veterans Park on Monday, June 15 at 10 a.m. for **Flag Day**. Special guest vocalist and former New York City Opera Soprano Catherine Bassett will perform. Flag Day commemorates the adoption of the flag on June 14, 1777 by resolution of the Second Continental Congress. Red stood for hardiness and valor, white for purity and innocence, and blue for vigilance perseverance and justice for the American flag. For more information call Gail Biron at 893-1118.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	130
Self-initiated calls for service	398
Offenses	25
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	51

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 1300 block of 53rd Street reported on May 7 that over \$1,500 was missing from a small safe she left open in her home while she was moving.

A resident in the 5300 block of 21st Avenue reported on the morning of May 8 that her black 2001 Cadillac Escalade was stolen from her driveway sometime overnight. It was recovered in the 3600 block of 18th Avenue South in St. Petersburg on May 10.

The owner of Scooter Rescue on Gulfport Boulevard reported that sometime in the last month someone entered the enclosed yard at the business and stole a customer's scooter. The customer left the scooter because he could not pay for repairs and the business did not realize it was gone until he arrived to retrieve it.

Officers responded Advance Auto on May 9 after an employee reported his laptop was taken from behind the counter. Officers reviewed the security video and were unable to observe anyone go behind the counter or leave the building with the laptop.

Officer Petit observed a juvenile riding a skateboard in the Skate Park without a helmet. The juvenile had been advised of the helmet requirement several times in the past, and was issued an ordinance violation.

A resident in the 5500 Block of Newton Avenue reported that someone broke into his home, removed a video game console & controller and left them on the front porch. The next day someone broke in again and took the items.

Officers responded to the 2800 block of Miriam Street on May 11 after a caller reported a damaged vehicle parked in the middle of the street. A check of the Florida tag revealed the car was stolen from St. Petersburg. Dispatch also advised SPPD was investigating a hit and run involving the vehicle.

Officers were dispatched to the Wells Fargo Bank after a male punched a female in the face. The male, identified as Jeremy Dolan was under the influence of an unknown narcotic. He was arrested for battery and taken to the hospital for observation.

A resident in the 5600 Block of 31st Avenue reported on May 12 that a neighbor punched her in the face. The neighbor was upset that someone called police on her earlier for playing loud music. She believed it was the victim and an argument ensued which led to a physical altercation. The victim did not wish to prosecute, so no one was arrested.

A woman upset about a child custody issue went to her ex-boyfriend's place of employment, and allegedly sprayed him with pepper spray. Two other people nearby were also affected. None of those pepper sprayed wished to prosecute.

A woman reported on May 14 that she was walking in the alley in the 1400 block of 49th Street when a black male on a bicycle rode up behind her and pushed her to the ground. He reportedly pointed a handgun at her and told her to give him her money. The victim gave several conflicting stories about where the incident occurred, and police were able to use security footage from a private residence to disprove her story.

Gulfport Elementary staff reported that a male stole a bike from the enclosed bike compound during the school day. The suspect was seen on security cameras riding his bike out of the compound while towing the stolen bike.

A resident in the 6200 Block of 11th Avenue reported that her 14 year old daughter had received threatening messages on Facebook from another 14 year old girl. The mother of the victim did not want to press charges but requested an officer speak with the girl sending the messages. The officer was unable to make contact with her, but will continue to try to resolve the situation.

The marine unit was not in use this week.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	21
Cases assigned:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	18

Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements received:	18
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	3
Cases suspended/no leads:	4
Cases unfounded/no crime:	3
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases still active:	6

Detective Pham reviewed pawn shop records for comparison with known items of stolen property; conducted follow up investigations, and; completed eight investigative supplement reports this week.

Detective Crowson continued investigating an armed robbery case, attempting to identify three additional suspects; followed up the investigation into the open homicide case, and; cleared a burglary case with arrest.

School Resource Officer Motte mentored two students, prevented a fight, in which the school issued school consequences in lieu of criminal charges; covered a patrol shift; assisted SPPD in apprehending a student suspected of armed robbery; registered the Gulfport Police Explorers for State competition this summer, and; assisted Sgt. Woodman with case agent evidence review forms, supplementing multiple reports with evidence disposal.

School Resource Officer Langston investigated a report of a lost phone; reviewed video footage following reports of thefts in the girl's locker room; responded to a fight in progress involving two male students; escorted a disruptive student off campus; made contact with a trespasser on campus; attended a threat assessment for a student who made threats against the assistant principle; assisted SPPD with an attempt to locate a student involved in an off campus incident, and; made contact with numerous students skipping class and redirected them to the appropriate areas.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano created and distributed an "attempt to ID" bulletin for Officer Ross; compiled and distributed the open case list and monthly PCSO call out report; conducted pawn checks on 13 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description; conducted a review of property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper documentation that the items had been entered into FCIC/NCIC, and; started an analysis for Officer Mills regarding traffic crashes on Beach Boulevard.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	8
Supplements reviewed:	111
Public records requests:	20
Background checks:	7
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	4
Subpoenas processed:	2
Citizens assisted:	26

MARINA

Assisted in twenty eight (28) pump outs, evacuating three hundred five (305) gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand seven hundred fifty eight (3,758) gallons of gas and one thousand seven hundred eighty one (1,781) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred forty three (143) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed a 25' sailboat, 57' sailboat, 34' sailboat, 35' sailboat and a 38' sailboat this week.

Staff Activities:

- Replaced line hanger on piers 3-9 and 6-8.
- Replaced fuel hose dispenser two.
- Replaced pedestal lite on pier 2-30.
- Replaced GFIC on piers 6-15 and 3-4, and installed dock box on pier 3-4.

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-640. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us domain.
- Updated meeting schedules, agendas & minutes and Recreation, Flag Day & Independence Day event information on City website.
- Reviewed b-roll footage for upcoming project.
- Sent June calendar to printer.
- Commenced preparations for Flag Day & Independence Day events.
- Continued training new staff on GTV640 live meeting & programming operations.

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 **Neighborhood 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 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.

Want more companionship in your life? Curious about online dating? Check out **Healthy Aging with Heidi Crocket: Dating for Seniors** on Monday, May 18 at 2:30 p.m.

Confused about your healthcare? Attend **Health & Wealth 101** on Wednesday, May 20 at 3 p.m. Presented by Ameri-Life.

Enjoy a tranquil visit to world famous Sunken Gardens during the Senior Center's May 21 **Gulfport Getaway**. Space is limited. Reserve your seat by May 15. GEMS members \$10/nonmembers \$12. Price includes round trip transportation, admission, & guided tour.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games and more at 3 p.m. Friday, May 22. Sponsored by Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance.

Learn about employment opportunities for people with disabilities during **Vocational Rehab** on Wednesday on May 27 at 2 p.m. Registration required.

Join Financial Advisor Scott O'Berry for a discussion of current events, the economy & investing over coffee and donuts in a relaxed setting during **Coffee Club** at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 2.

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 June 8. By appointment only; call 893-1231 to schedule a screening.

Turn your favorite photograph into a work of art during **Painting with Judith** every Monday at 5:30 p.m. No experience necessary.

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

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*):

- Sunday, May 3 6 p.m. - Royal Blue Band & Ballroom dance (Turnout 18)
- Tuesday, May 5 Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 13)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 58)
- Wednesday, May 6 11 a.m. - Senior Living Guide Luncheon (Turnout 150)
6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 245)
- Thursday, May 7 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 36)
- Friday, May 8 7:30 p.m. - *Soul Train Throwback Party* (Turnout 155)
- Saturday, May 9 6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 158)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

- Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance lesson with Swing Time
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion 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
- Every Thursday 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$7

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

- Sunday, May 3 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 19)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
- Monday, May 4 7 p.m. - Crime Watch meeting (Turnout 19)
- Tuesday, May 5 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

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 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

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

Monday, May 4 9:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center
11 a.m. - Chair yoga at Neighborhood Center (Turnout 26)

Tuesday, May 5 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing at Recreation Center

Thursday, May 7 10:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center

Friday, May 8 11 a.m. - Line dancing at Recreation Center

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

Every Monday 9:30 a.m. - Dance Fusion
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:

Tuesday, May 5, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, April 28, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, May 6, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, May 6, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, May 6, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Friday, May 8, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, May 21, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Alice in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 873-3919 for more information.

Thursday, May 21, 7 p.m. - *Freedom to Read, Freedom to Marry: Where We Stand*: Program detailing LGBTQ issues presented by Nadine Smith in the Frances Purdy Friends Room.

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.

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

Library Services/Statistic March May 3 - 9, 2015:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	427	370
Sun. 5/3	Library closed	
Mon. 5/4	114	73
Tue. 5/5	141	92
Wed. 5/6	50	55
Thu. 5/7	34	52
Fri. 5/8	29	43
Sat. 5/9	5	40

Recreation Center

The Pinellas County Licensing Board performed a routine inspection of the School Year Child Care Program on Tuesday afternoon. There were no violations noted.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Thirty three (33) children have been registered for the **2015 Summer Recreation Program**, and six (6) for swim lessons. The program lasts eight weeks and is available to children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Hours of registration are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Summer Program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra fee. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

Fifty eight (58) 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 four (24) 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 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.

Seventy six (76) teens are 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: Bootcamp, Gymnastics, Karate, Pickleball, Spanish, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Watercolor, Women's Self-Defense, Yoga and Zumba.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Teen Council meeting on Friday, and the Health Fair meeting at the Fire Department on Tuesday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport twenty nine (29) Gulfport Elementary students and three (3) adults to the Clearwater Marine Aquarium on Tuesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 44 Emergency Medical Calls
- 5 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 12 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspections
- 1 Site Plan Review
- 1 Permit Review

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, June 11. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- Chief Marenkovic reports that FF/PM Scott Burford has been selected to fill the Fire Lieutenant position following Lieutenant Pete Huffman's retirement. Mr. Burford has worked for the department since September 2007. He is a well-qualified candidate for the job and the City will honor him at the July 7 Gulfport City Council meeting.
- Gulfport Firefighters continued their annual Physicals with LifeScans this week. Lab work and blood tests is performed by Lab Corp. The Physicals include a series of tests for Firefighter Safety and Wellbeing under NFPA 1500. Since the first Wellness Center, an alarming number of Firefighters have been identified with elevated heart risk conditions that could lead to a deadly heart attack or stroke and even cancerous conditions.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Cleaned restrooms outside Casino.
- Delivered leftover Senior Center Flea Market items to Goodwill.
- Repaired Theater lights.
- Removed old electronic items from Library, and installed exit lights.
- Repaired faucet in men's restroom at beach
- Set up rooms at Senior Center for daily activities.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Relocated desks, shelving etc. from Scout Hall to newly-renovated Library.
- Replaced upcoming events banner on Gulfport Boulevard & 55th Street.
- Repaired 2 benches, replaced outlets at pavilion #6 and continued sealing picnic tables at beach.
- Repaired gates at ball fields.
- Reworked sand at beach volleyball courts and replaced wind screen.
- Installed blinds at Public Works office.
- Removed graffiti from the bridge and playground at Tomlinson Park.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.

- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Scout Hall, Dog Park, Library and Beach Boulevard streetscapes, raked leaves around benches & pavilions, and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Beach, Marina, Lions Club, Recreation Center & Neighborhood Center green spaces area, Hoyt perimeter, Chase Block, Tonkin Park, Dog park, 49th Street & York Street termini, Tangerine & 49th Street signage area, Tangerine & Clymer Greenways, and behind City Complex.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and cleaned gas tank and carburetor on reel mower.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park, Senior Center, Library and Caldwell Park.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged all ball fields daily.

Streets & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned and removed debris from storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways & sidewalks.
- Replaced STOP sign and pole at Dupont Street & 29th Avenue.
- Installed new street signs at 58th Street and 7th & 20th Avenues.
- Removed glass and debris from roadway at 49th Street & 15th Avenue following vehicle crash.
- Replaced sidewalk at Beach Boulevard & 25th Avenue, installed new sidewalk on 55th Street, at 13th & 15th Avenues, and installed new sidewalk square and added fill at Beach Boulevard & 28th Avenue.
- Completed concrete work at Fire Department.
- Installed handicap ramp at Town Shores Boat Dock.

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 15 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 13 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 113 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 4 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.

- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 11 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 35 backflow devices due in April.
- Replaced backflow at 6240 Kipps Colony Court, and backflow & meter at 6112 Kipps Colony Drive.
- Repaired backflow at 3043 Beach Boulevard and fire hydrant at 6286 10th Avenue.
- Replaced water service line at 3043 Beach Boulevard.

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.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Towed Sanitation vehicle #41 to City yard following breakdown.
- Cleaned A/C coil on Sanitation vehicle #40.
- Readied former Building Maintenance vehicle #24 for auction.
- Attempted to recreate recurring overheating condition in Police vehicle #54.
- Replaced “grabber” straps, and hydraulic hoses on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Sent tires to be retreaded.
- Took Police vehicle #9 to dealer to assess underbody damage discovered during preventative maintenance.
- Filled oil in Sanitation vehicle #29.
- 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.

The number of code enforcement cases for April was 194. The fiscal year-to-date total is 1,137. The number of citizen complaints was 17 for a fiscal year-to-date total of 96. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 8.4 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.

To review Code Enforcement activities documents for more detailed information and a map of the Code Enforcement areas please visit the Special Documents section of the City's website at www.mygulfport.us.