



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *May 24 - 30, 2015*

### OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

**Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Friday, July 3** in observance of Independence Day. The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

### Upcoming Events:

Tickets for the **June 11 Tampa Bay Rays vs. the Los Angeles Dodgers game** are available at the Gulfport Casino 5500 Shore Boulevard. The \$25 price includes round trip transportation via the Gulfport Trolley. Rays fans who already have tickets are invited to catch free a ride to the game. Departure times begin at 5 p.m. from the Casino to Tropicana Field. Return transportation will begin during the seventh inning. For more information call 893-1070 or 893-1118.

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](http://www.gulfportma.com), call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto:FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com).

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. For more information call Gail Biron at 893-1118.

The City of Gulfport will cohost the **St. Pete Pride 5K and Stiletto Sprint** on Saturday, June 27. The run/walk begins in front of Gulfport Casino at 8 a.m. For registration information, visit [www.stpetepride5k.com](http://www.stpetepride5k.com).

Everyone is invited to the City of Gulfport's **4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration** in the Waterfront District. The day's events begin with a kid's Fishing Derby at the Recreation Center Seawall at 8 a.m. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Bring your own pole! This year's Family Sand Sculpture contest on Gulfport Beach from 10 a.m. until noon will have a patriotic theme. Bring your own tools and supplies. The little ones will have a great time with water slides, balloon entertainment and concessions at KIDZONE behind the Recreation Center from noon until 5 p.m. Food, fun, art and crafts vendors will offer their wares from 2 until 10 p.m. Live musical entertainment sets the Casino stage with Maggio and Friends beginning at 5 p.m. No 4<sup>th</sup> of July would be complete without a Parade on Beach Boulevard at 6 p.m. The day's celebration caps off with a spectacular fireworks display at 9:15 p.m.

The trolley will be running noon - 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 - 11 p.m. to transport passengers to & from remote parking locations: Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard; Library, 5501 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Senior Center & Theater, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Hoyt Field, 2306 56<sup>th</sup> Street; Chase Park, 54<sup>th</sup> Street & 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue; Ted Phillips Wood Ibis Park, 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The driver will also be picking up passengers along the route - just give a wave!

Residents wishing to participate in the parade are invited to register at Gulfport City Hall, or fill out the online form at [www.mygulfport.us/july-4](http://www.mygulfport.us/july-4) no later than Friday, June 26. For more information, email [gbiron@mygulfport.us](mailto:gbiron@mygulfport.us) or call 893-1118.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

Dispatch calls for service	188
Self-initiated calls for service	359
Offenses	47
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	35

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

An adult woman and a male juvenile were observed in the Dollar General on May 21, concealing items inside a purse. They walked out of the store with the items and were located across 49<sup>th</sup> Street where the woman attempted to dump the items inside the funeral home. The juvenile claimed responsibility, but store video showed the woman concealing most of the items in her purse. She had multiple prior convictions for theft and was arrested for felony retail theft. Charges for the juvenile will be sent to the State Attorney's Office.

A resident in the 5100 Block of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that while he was in the hospital for several days someone entered his unlocked house and stole several items.

A resident in the in 1400 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street reported that a black male stole his bicycle. Just before the call came in Sgt. Marotta observed a black male riding east on 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue without lights, dropping the bike at 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 51<sup>st</sup> Way and running from the scene. The bicycle had unique markings which the resident was able to describe. The suspect was not located.

Officers responded to the 2500 block of 51<sup>st</sup> Street on May 22 after a woman reported that she encountered a man from her past who threatened her with a gun. The man, who was believed to be inside a nearby residence, was not located. Officers will continue to follow up.

A resident in the 2600 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street reported on the morning of May 23 that she left her car unlocked in her driveway overnight. Someone entered the vehicle, stole money, and attempted to steal the car.

Officer Obrart facilitated a meeting concerning two eight year-old boys who took keys from a neighbor's home in the 5700 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The children's parents brought them to the neighbor to apologize. The neighbor preferred this course of action over further law enforcement involvement.

Sergeant Marotta and Officer Mills participated in a DUI Wolf pack assignment, seeking and apprehending impaired drivers. The detail resulted in 15 DUI arrests.

Officer Lavigne stopped a vehicle traveling in the 5700 block of Gulfport Boulevard with a flat tire that was coming off of the rim in the early morning hours of May 24. Harry McCormick had red, watery eyes and a strong odor of alcohol. He performed poorly on field sobriety tasks and was arrested for driving under the influence. He refused to provide a breath sample.

Officers responded to the 5300 block of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue regarding a man who has been trespassing at a vacant property. Clothing and a mattress were found in the garage, indicating he has been staying on the property. He was not there when officers arrived, but they will follow up.

A pickup truck was found parked in the middle of the 5700 block of 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the early morning hours of May 25. Police unsuccessfully attempted to contact the owner and spoke with neighbors, who were unable to provide details. The vehicle was impounded.

Three unlocked vehicles were burglarized in various locations on May 25.

A resident in the 5500 block of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that a visitor to her home stole \$300 from her purse. Police interviewed the visitor, who denied the theft and said they actually attempted

a drug transaction that failed, causing the complainant to lose some money. The visitor provided phone records that discredited some of the complainant's statements.

A resident in the 1300 block of 55<sup>th</sup> Street reported her car was stolen from her driveway overnight. It was recovered in St. Petersburg with front-end damage.

A resident in the 5100 block of Newton Avenue reported her car was stolen after she left it running in her driveway. It was later found abandoned in St. Petersburg.

A shoplifter was seen stuffing items in his pants at Dollar General. He fled the area before police arrived at the scene.

A resident in the 5400 block of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue flagged down Officer Hutsko to report that her house was on fire. Officer Hutsko ensured that no one was in the house and called the fire department. Other police officers responded to block traffic and handle crowd control.

A resident in the 1500 Block of 60<sup>th</sup> Street reported seeing a man looking into car windows on May 26. Contact was made with the man in an alleyway. He claimed he was on his way home and provided vague details. A field interview report was completed and the man was issued a citation for no light on bike.

A neighbor saw a male enter an unlocked law enforcement vehicle in the 5000 Block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and take a bag. The neighbor alerted the resident who went in search of the subject. When officers arrived in the area the burglar could not be located.

An iPad was reported stolen from a dinghy at the Casino dock.

Officers responded to the 5100 block of 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue after a neighbor heard glass breaking at a nearby home, and saw a black male exiting the front door carrying items. He was located nearby and fled on foot before being captured a short time later. The stolen items were found stashed near a shed. Rikene Brown was arrested for burglary, criminal mischief, grand theft, and resisting without violence. Additional items linking him to the burglary were found in his pockets.

Sergeant Marotta attempted to stop a juvenile male riding a bicycle without lights in the 5000 Block of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue. The juvenile fled and was caught at 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 47<sup>th</sup> Street. He was on a court ordered curfew, and had 10 outstanding pick-up orders for crimes including burglary, grand theft, and battery on a law enforcement officer.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 4 hours this week. Officer Cavanah made 4 contacts and wrote 2 citations.

### **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham conducted Sex Offender checks, and performed acting supervisor duties while Sgt. Woodman was on vacation.

Detective Crowson completed photo packs with the defendant and victim in an armed robbery case, and assisted patrol with a burglary case involving pawned property.

School Resource Officer Motte mentored two students; conducted an Explorer meeting; assisted patrol with an information report and responding to calls; assisted Officer Langston in a drug arrest at Boca Ciega High School; provided security coverage during Senior Prom, and; finalized the Multijurisdictional police explorer academy with Pinellas Park, St. Pete, and PCSO.

School Resource Officer Langston arrested a trespasser on campus in possession of marijuana who violated her home detention; responded to two reported fights in progress, and two reports of suspicious persons; issued a citation to a driver blocking traffic; investigated a crime stoppers tip regarding a narcotics violation; made contact with numerous students skipping class and redirected them to the appropriate areas; spoke with a female subject about a dispute she had

with her mother; provided security coverage at Senior Prom, and; assisted day shift with a theft report and assist citizen call.

### **Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)**

New cases:	11
Cases assigned:	4
Cases suspended-no leads:	6
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	0

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed	29
Supplements reviewed:	60
Public records requests:	7
Reports disseminated:	17
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted:	34

### **MARINA**

Assisted in fifty five (55) pump outs, evacuating one thousand two hundred sixty (1,260) gallons of waste.

Pumped five thousand ninety seven (5,097) gallons of gas and one thousand eight hundred fifty six (1,856) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred sixty four (164) vessels.

#### **Transient vessels:**

Staff welcomed 8 transient vessels from various clubs and individuals during the holiday weekend.

#### **Staff Activities:**

- Prepared 5 concrete anchors for swim buoys.
- Repaired Coast Guard Auxiliary dock steps.
- Assembled dock carts for Piers 1 - 6.
- Repaired concrete fuel dock.
- Pumped out boats on piers 3-10, 3-35 & 6-5.

### **LEISURE SERVICES**

#### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://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](http://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 Water Department, Senior Center, Recreation Center & upcoming event information on City website.
- Commenced preparation of July calendar.
- Assisted with preparations for Library reopening event.
- Created webpage listing City facilities hours of operation.
- Attended St. Pete Pride organizational meeting.
- Updated Casino Facebook page.
- Continued 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](http://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 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for more information.

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.

Join us for our new **Summer Series** every Tuesday at 10 a.m. *Feel Grand with Jane Seymour* is a nationally-distributed television series hosted by the actress, artist and health advocate. Featuring some of the country's top physicians, the show provides insight on aging, how to prevent illness and what to do if it strikes, and most importantly, how to get the most out of what should be the grandest time of your life. June's topics: The Emotions of Aging (6/2), Conquering Diabetes (6/9), Women's Cancers (6/16), Managing Pain (6/23) & Fixing Your Nutrition (6/30).

Planning a cremation service isn't the easiest thing to do, or the easiest subject to talk about. Learn the 10 things everyone should know about planning cremation services during **That's My Wish** on Wednesday, June 3 at 2 p.m.

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.

Learn the difference between a Living Will, Simple Will and Revocable Living Trust, and how to tailor your estate plan to your wishes and beliefs during **Learn the Secrets of Estate Planning** on Wednesday, June 10 at 2 p.m.

Join in the fun with Puzzle Pages at the **Puzzle Party** on Thursday, June 11 at noon. Learn how to play Sudoku, Binairo and so much more.

Join your friends for the **I Scream, You Scream Ice Cream Social** on Wednesday, June 17 at 2 p.m. Cool off this summer and have fun with a build your own ice cream sundae bar and karaoke. Tickets must be obtained prior to event. Limit 2 tickets per person.

**Donuts for Dads!!** Stop by the Senior Center snack bar between 9 & 11 a.m. Monday, June 22 for a free donut and a cup of coffee.

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 17            7 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with the Royal Blue Dance Band (Turnout 29)

Monday, May 18           7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance (Turnout 81)

Tuesday, May 19           Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 18)

7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 79)

Wednesday, May 20 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 219)

Thursday, May 21 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 24)

Friday, May 22 7 p.m. - Boca Ciega High School Prom (Turnout 357)

Saturday, May 23 7 p.m. - Birthday party (Turnout 130)

**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

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

Saturday, May 23, 1 p.m. - La Petite Center for Dance recitals (Total Turnout 315)

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

Sunday, May 17 9:30 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church bible study (Turnout 36)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, May 19 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)  
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, May 21 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)

Saturday, May 23 1 p.m. - Baby shower (Turnout 22)

**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 18            9:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center  
                                  11 a.m. - Chair yoga at Neighborhood Center (Turnout 18)

Tuesday, May 19            10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing at Recreation Center

Wednesday, May 20        10:30 a.m. - Yoga at Recreation Center (Turnout 17)

Thursday, May 21           10:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center

Friday, May 22             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 19, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, May 19, 2 p.m. - *Library Grand Reopening.*

Tuesday, May 19, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, May 20, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, May 20, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, May 20, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Friday, May 22, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

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 [rriddell@gmail.com](mailto:rriddell@gmail.com).

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

**Library Services/Statistic March May 17 - 23, 2015:  
Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	195	312
Sun. 5/17	Library closed	
Mon. 5/18	45	53
Tue. 5/19	25	60
Wed. 5/20	12	49
Thu. 5/21	29	45
Fri. 5/22	23	43
Sat. 5/23	10	42

**Recreation Center**

**Programs, Classes & Activities**

Fifty six (56) children have been registered for the **2015 Summer Recreation Program**, and eleven (11) 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.

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, Women's Self-Defense, Yoga and Zumba.

**Staff Activities**

Marivel Gutierrez, Nicole Latragna and John Lapham attended Summer Food Program training in Largo on Thursday morning.

Carolyn Moore and Carmen Soto-Torres held new employee Orientation for Summer Program staff on Thursday afternoon.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Calls for Service:**

- 42 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 4 Structure Fires
- 2 WFF
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 1 Single Engine Response
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Wires Down
- 2 Vehicle Fires
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest

## **Life Safety:**

- 9 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspection
- 1 C.O.
- 1 Pressure Test
- 2 Fire Reports

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, June 18. For more information call 916-8014 or visit [www.gulfportcert.com](http://www.gulfportcert.com).

- The Gulfport Firefighters are continuing with their annual Physicals with LifeScans. Lab work and blood tests were performed by Lab Corp. The Physicals included a series of tests for Firefighter Safety and Wellbeing under NFPA 1500.
- Firefighter/Paramedic Grady on the "C"- shift is preceptor for an EMT Student from the St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Installed keyboard tray holder in Human Resources office.
- Replaced dining room furniture in Senior Center snack bar area following floor waxing, and set up rooms for daily activities.
- Installed sign for Accounting Manager.
- Repaired a/c unit in Fire Station living area.
- Dismantled 10-ton a/c unit and air handler at Library in preparation for replacement.
- Replaced flapper and chain on upstairs toilet at Little League Field.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks**

- Installed temporary fencing and reworked sand at beach volleyball courts.
- Replaced flags at Williams Pier, Recreation Center & Veterans Park.
- Continued dealing picnic tables at beach.
- Repaired bench at Recreation Center.
- Replaced cigarette butt cans at Wood Ibis Park, 3 steel trash cans at Tomlinson Park and sign at Clymer Park.
- Installed bulletin boards at Library.
- Cleaned signs at Chase Block and Dog Park.
- Repaired electrical conduits under casino docks and Williams Pier.
- Aerated ball fields.
- Panted sign post and signs at Clymer & Caldwell Parks.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Casino, City complex & along Beach streetscapes, raked leaves around benches & pavilions, and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Beach, Library, Senior Center, Neighborhood Center & Recreation Center green spaces, City complex, 28<sup>th</sup> Street signage area, Tangerine Greenway, Chase block, Wood Ibis, Clam Bayou, Tomlinson & Clymer Parks and Trail Spur.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and cleaned gas tank and carburetor on reel mower.
- Repaired irrigation at Caldwell Park, Chase block and Dog 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.
- Replenished recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Removed and disposed of dead palm tree in right of way at 1724 56<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Reset speed limit sign at 64<sup>th</sup> Street & 9th Avenue.
- Installed "No Standing" sign at 57<sup>th</sup> Street & 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **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.
- Disconnected water service at 26 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 2 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 88 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 5 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 3 meters that were 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 21 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 50 backflow devices due in April.
- Replaced water service at 5206 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Sewer**

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2, Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.

- Cleaned and televised sewer laterals at 4920 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 6268 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Repaired hydraulic leak, and refilled hydraulic fluid in Sanitation vehicle #29.
- Disassembled and repaired A/C units in Recreation Center bus #89 & GEMS bus #8.
- Recharged A/C on Water vehicle #78
- Filled hydraulic tank on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.pcclb.com).

**Code Enforcement** activities continued this week 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 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets to the City Limits.

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

Beginning in June Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 4 of the City, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets. 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](http://www.mygulfport.us).