



Gulfport Community Update

June 7 - 13, 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.

The Gulfport Historical Society hosted a **Clam Bake and Cook Out** on June 6 (photos below). After a torrential downpour, the event went on with Cedar Key clams, corn and watermelon. Hot dogs were available for those who did not prefer surf food. Attendees were also treated to a surf movie, and a history hunt took place earlier in the day. Stop by the History Museum at 5301 28th Avenue not just for history, but also for the community spirit!



Upcoming Events:

Volunteers are needed to assist the **Gulfport Neighbors yard cleanup** for an elderly resident on Saturday, June 13. The group will clean the yard, cut back overgrowth and trim shrubbery. Attendees are asked to bring their own gardening tools. We anticipate work starting at 7 a.m. For more information call 698-9471, email gulfportneighbors@yahoo.com or visit www.facebook.com/gulfportneighbors.

The next **Gulfport Beach & Area Cleanup** is Sunday, June 14 at 4 p.m. The group meets at Gulfport Beach Shelter 4. Cleanups are also scheduled for 4 p.m. Sunday, July 12 & August 9. If you're looking for an activity where you can make a difference, get outdoor exercise and meet interesting people while reducing the pollution in our waterways and litter in our community, these events are for you! Please bring picker/grabber tools, gloves, sun protection and comfortable footwear. Water will be provided.

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 **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.

Gulfport Neighbors' Junk in the Trunk is back, offering even more ways for Gulfport residents to recycle, and clean & green Gulfport! Swap, trash or give away old furniture, appliances, tires, and other bulk items for free during our next event at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Saturday, June 20, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. No firearms, drugs, liquor, paints, chemicals or batteries please. The Gecko Gardeners will have some great offerings to share, and representatives from the Community Garden will provide gardening tips and information on Vermiculture Technology composting. The Neighbors will also collect toiletry and non-perishable food items for the Senior Center pantry. Stop by for a cup of coffee and meet Gulfport Police Lt. Josh Stone and Community Resource Officer Zack Mills. Josh and Zack are available to hear your concerns and offer safety tips for your home. Register bikes at no charge. Sign up for Code Red to be notified by your local emergency response team in the event of emergency situations or critical community alerts. All Children's Hospital representatives will provide free bike helmets and teach the 5 steps to properly fitting a helmet. This event is for Gulfport residents only. Proof of residency (driver's license or utility bill) is required. Join the Gulfport Neighbors network of volunteers: inspiring, motivating and uniting our neighbors to improve the quality of life in Gulfport. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/gulfportneighbors or call 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.

Everyone is invited to the City of Gulfport's **4th 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 4th 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 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 28th Avenue; Senior Center & Theater, 5501 27th Avenue; Hoyt Field, 2306 56th Street; Chase Park, 54th Street & 28th Avenue; Ted Phillips Wood Ibis Park, 58th Street & 28th 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 no later than Friday, June 26. For more information, email gbiron@mygulfport.us or call 893-1118.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	146
Self-initiated calls for service	390
Offenses	41
Arrests	3
Traffic citations	24

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 2100 block of Premier Drive reported that a vehicle crashed into the brick wall in front of their home in the early morning hours of June 4, and drove away. Parts left at the scene indicate the vehicle may be a white Mazda.

A resident in the 4700 block of Tradewinds Drive reported that she placed mail in her mailbox for pickup. She later discovered the envelope addressed to her flood insurance company in her front yard, torn open and the check missing.

Officers responded to the 5100 block of 14th Avenue on June 5 after a caller reported juveniles grilling in the backyard of an abandoned house. One was listed as a runaway and the other had an outstanding warrant for failure to appear.

Officers responded to the 5700 block of 20th Avenue after a caller reported he parked his vehicle in front of a residence, leaving it unlocked with the keys inside. He exited the house a few minutes later and saw his vehicle being driven away by 2 males.

A resident in the 1400 block of Freemont Street reported on June 6 that four packages left at her front door by a shipping company were stolen. The shipping company confirmed the items were delivered.

A Lexus reported stolen from St. Petersburg was found parked at an apartment complex in the 2900 block of 45th Street.

GPD officers assisted SPPD on June 7 following a call they received regarding a man wielding a rifle in the alley on the east side of 49th Street. The man left before police arrived, or the call was erroneous as the area was found to be clear.

A resident in the 5500 block of 15th Avenue reported that her car window was broken and several expensive items were stolen, along with prescription narcotics.

Gulfport Police assisted the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office in the arrest of Robert Ibbitson, a man on community control probation who cut off his electronic ankle monitor.

Officers responded to the 3000 block of 49th Street after a family went to view a rental home located behind another house on the property. The property owner did not notify the tenant in the front house that potential renters were coming, leading to a confrontation and threats of violence when the tenant thought the visitors were intruders.

Robert Walker was arrested June 8 on a warrant for failure to appear after officers responded to a verbal domestic call in the 2600 block of 53rd Street.

A resident in the 3000 block of 54th Street reported on June 9 that sometime overnight someone slashed the tires on his bicycle.

Jonathan Richmond was arrested on an outstanding warrant for theft. He also had a small amount of marijuana in his pocket.

Three fire extinguishers were reported stolen from the Stetson College residence hall.

A juvenile reported that 5 to 7 black males forcibly took his iPhone from him and fled east across 49th Street. The victim's mother does not want to prosecute, but would like the phone returned.

The marine unit was on the water for 9 hours this week. Sergeant Marotta made 4 contacts, and Sergeant Burkhardt & Officer Embry assisted with a vessel that broke anchor and was drifting.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	22
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	15
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	3
Cases referred back to patrol:	2
Supplements received:	10
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	2
Cases unfounded-no crime:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases still active:	2

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted a vehicle burglary surveillance detail and interviewed a suspect in a petit theft case.

Detective Crowson investigated a fraud case and submitted a subpoena request; investigated a possible elder exploitation case and unfounded it; arrested a juvenile suspect in several vehicle burglary cases; attempted to locate and interview a suspect in a grand theft case, and; conducted a vehicle burglary surveillance detail.

School Resource Officers Langston and Motte are assisting patrol during summer break.

CIS, SET, and Lieutenant Farrand conducted a 4 hour surveillance detail in response to recent burglaries.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	15
Supplements reviewed:	52
Public records requests:	18
Background checks:	4
Bike registrations:	7
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	49

MARINA

Assisted in forty four (44) pump outs, evacuating seven hundred sixty (760) gallons of waste.

Pumped four thousand fifty nine (4,059) gallons of gas and one thousand five hundred eighty one (1,581) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred fifty eight (158) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Marina staff welcomed a 30' powerboat, 33' powerboat and a 45' powerboat this week.

Staff activities:

- Repaired lock on pier 6.
- Replaced line holders on pier 3, slip 3.
- Replaced steps on Coast Guard dock.
- Installed dock boxes on piers 2 & 3.
- Adjusted bunks on pier 4 for new boat.
- Cut rebar on boat ramp.

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 and training new staff on GTV640 live meeting & programming operations.
- Updated meeting schedules, agendas & minutes, and Granicus & upcoming events information on City website.
- Continued preparation of July calendar and updates to Casino Facebook page.
- Continued preparations for Flag Day & Independence Day events.
- Sent July calendar to printer.
- Met with St Pete Pride organizers.
- Provided technical assistance for Historical Society event.

Multipurpose Center

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

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

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

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. Topics: Women's Cancers (6/16), Managing Pain (6/23) & Fixing Your Nutrition (6/30).

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.

Whether you're new to Medicare or established recipient, learn some Medicare basics during **Getting Started with Medicare**, presented by Steven Reiser from Senior Benefit Solutions on Wednesday, June 24 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 July 13. 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 31 7 p.m. - Ellis Hale's Band & Ballroom Dance (Turnout 40)

Tuesday, June 2 9 a.m. - Rec Center Tai Chi (Turnout 21)
Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 16)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 58)

Wednesday, June 3 10 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 16)
6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 244)

Thursday, June 4 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 41)

Friday, June 5 5:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 178)

Saturday, June 6 6 p.m. - Maggio Total Sound Dinner Dance (Turnout 40)

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 10 a.m. - Yoga
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, June 6 4 p.m. - Vibe Dance Center Recital (Turnout 170)

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

Sunday, May 31 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, June 2 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Wednesday, June 3 7 p.m. - Crime Watch meeting (Turnout 12)

Thursday, June 4 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)
2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 40)

Saturday, June 6 5 p.m. - Graduation party (Turnout 50)

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

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

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

Sunday, May 31 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

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

Tuesday, June 2 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

LIBRARY

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

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, June 1, 5 p.m. - *Gulfport Food Forest meeting.*

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

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

Wednesday, June 3, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, June 3, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

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

Thursday, June 4, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, June 4, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Resource Center Launch.*

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

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, June 13, 11 a.m. - *Author Lynda Lippman-Lockhart discussion of her new novel The Laundry Room*, about the Israeli Resistance in 1946. For more information visit www.lyndalippmanlockhart.com

Saturday, June 13, 2 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program Kick-off*: Magician Cesar Domico entertains at this all-ages family event.

Tuesday, June 16, 7 p.m. - *Coming Out in Faith*: Susan Gore, a nationally known author who also provides significant leadership in the LGBTQ community will discuss her book.

Thursday, June 18, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Plato's Republic* over coffee & light refreshments. Copies available at the Circulation desk. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Friday, June 26, 10 a.m. - *Community Involvement Consulting*: A representative from Senator Marco Rubio's office will be available to meet individually with constituents on matters of interest and concern.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program for Grades K-5*: Each week features a different activity. For more information call 893-1074 or visit the Library.

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

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

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Hangout*: Each week features a different cool activity. We'll have prizes and snacks! For more information email cklasson@mygulfport.us.

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

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area around the rocking chair near the Easy books. Cailey leads the group in singing songs, playing instruments & networking with other caregivers in our community.

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

Library Services/Statistic March May 31 - June 6, 2015:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,695	585
Sun. 5/31	Library closed	
Mon. 6/1	261	95
Tue. 6/2	334	113
Wed. 6/3	310	105
Thu. 6/4	314	94
Fri. 6/5	274	88
Sat. 6/6	180	71

Recreation Center

The game room was reserved 10 a.m. - noon Saturday, June 6 for the Gulfport Little League closing Day banquet with approximately sixty (60) in attendance, and 2 - 4 p.m. Saturday, June 6 for a memorial service with approximately fifty (50) in attendance.

Programs, Classes & Activities

One hundred nine (109) children have been registered for the **2015 Summer Recreation Program**, and seventeen (17) for swim lessons. The program lasts eight weeks and is available to children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. 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.

Seventy seven (77) 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.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 44 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 5 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Transformer/Pole Fire
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 21 Fire Inspections
- 3 C.O.'S
- 3 Site Plan Review

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly at the Gulfport Multipurpose Center, 5501 27th Avenue South. The next meeting is Thursday, June 18. For more information call 916-8014 or visit www.gulfportcert.com.

- Lieutenant Burford on the "B" shift is preceptor for an EMT Student from the St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program.
- The Gulfport Fire Department Company Officers continued reviewing Paramedic applications this week.
- Gulfport Firefighters rescued a small flock of ducklings from the sewer grate at Town Shores Condominiums. The 4 baby ducks were reunited with their mother.
- The Gulfport Firefighters have commenced their St. Pete College June 2015 CME. This month's topic is face to face hands-on Pediatric Emergency Scenarios.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced cord sensor on PD detective door.
- Replaced air handler and condenser at Library, and reconnected smoke detector.
- Delivered trucks to Tampa auction.
- Inspected fire alarms at Senior Center, Theater & Neighborhood Center.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Removed dead tree from Clymer Park.
- Repaired fences at Wood Ibis Park and Tangerine Greenway.
- Replaced exhaust motor in Parks workshop.
- Reworked sand at beach volleyball courts.
- Continued aerating ball fields.
- Replaced steel trash cans at Caldwell Park & Williams Pier.
- Cleaned and organized shop area.
- Replaced cigarette butt cans at Wood Ibis Gazebo.
- Cut pallets and pickets for Recreation Center art projects.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Veterans Park, Beach Streetscapes and Neighborhood Center, raked leaves around benches & pavilions, and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Clymer & Veterans Parks, Chase Block, Senior Center & Library grounds, 28th Avenue sign areas & City Complex.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- Repaired irrigation along 49th Streetscape, and adjusted irrigation clocks & timers.
- 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 several loads of debris from 49th Street holding area.
- Removed palm tree obstructing stop sign at 56th Street & Tangerine Avenue.
- Continued automated curbside street sweeping.

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 & 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 35 locations for non-payment of service.

- Completed 16 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 123 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 5 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 32 backflow devices due in June.
- Repaired water leak in fire service line under Gulfport Marina Pier 6.
- Replaced water service and meter at 4917 20th Avenue.
- Replaced water service at 4923 20th Avenue.
- Replaced backflow at 5413 Shore 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.
- Replaced emergency back-up floats at Lift Stations 1& 2.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Delivered 2 vehicles to auction.
- Replaced tires on Police vehicle #42, Sanitation vehicle #45 and Water vehicle #17.
- Replaced brakes and ball joints on GEMS vehicle #3.
- Repaired tire on Police vehicle #12.
- Repaired hydraulic leak on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Replaced batteries on Fire Engine #E17
- Repaired A/C on Parks vehicle #52, GEMS vehicle #11 and Recreation Center Bus #68.
- 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 4 of the City, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49th Street to 58th & 59th Streets.

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.

June 10 Board of Adjustment results:

V15-17; 5701 26th Avenue South; Variance request to:

- 1) reduce the side yard setback requirement by 3 feet, from 12 feet to 9 feet; and
 - 2) reduce the required separation distance from the principal structure by 4 feet, from 12 feet to 8 feet to allow for the construction an accessory structure (wooden shelter).
- BOTH APPROVED.**

July 1 Planning and Zoning Board and July 21 City Council/CRA meeting:

AV15-01; Application for Vacation of Public Right-of-Way, City Ordinance to vacate a portion of the East-West Alley between 51st & 52nd Streets and North of 8th Avenue. (FIRST READING)

July 7 City Council/CRA meeting:

OE15-01; 3121 Beach Boulevard; CRA application request for an Outdoor Entertainment permit for an existing restaurant.