



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *May 31 - June 6, 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.

Fifteen vendors provided important hurricane-related information before the City's annual **Hurricane Seminar** at the Catherine Hickman Theater on May 28 (photos below). Kevin Baxter from Pinellas County Communications was presenter for the event. The program will be broadcast on GTV640, and web-streamed on the City's website daily at 10 a.m., 1 p.m., 6 p.m. & 10 p.m. beginning June 15.



### Upcoming Events:

Bring your beach blanket down to the Gulfport History Museum, 5301 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue on Saturday, June 6 and enjoy summer like it's 1975! The **Bring Your Own Beach Blanket party** offers free outside games, water games, music and summer movies from 5 until 11 p.m. Roast marshmallows and make s'mores around a bonfire after dark. Get a dozen clams, drawn butter, corn on the cob, and watermelon for \$10; advance purchase only, at Gulfport Beach Bazaar. Hot dogs, corn on the cob and watermelon will also be available on site (cash and credit accepted). Well-behaved adults, kids, dogs, picnic baskets and BYOB are welcome. The Gulfport Historical Society, a 501c3, preserves and celebrates Gulfport culture and history through exhibits and programs that educate and inspire the community and visiting public. Please consider supporting the Society with your attendance, donation, membership or bequest. For more information visit [facebook.com/GulfportHistoricalSociety](https://www.facebook.com/GulfportHistoricalSociety), call 327-0505 or email [info@GulfportHistoricalSociety.org](mailto:info@GulfportHistoricalSociety.org).

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 from the Casino to Tropicana Field begins at 5 p.m. Return transportation will begin during the seventh inning. For more information call 893-1070 or 893-1118.

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](mailto:gulfportneighbors@yahoo.com) or visit [www.facebook.com/gulfportneighbors](https://www.facebook.com/gulfportneighbors).

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 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<sup>th</sup>](http://www.mygulfport.us/july-4th) 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	159
Self-initiated calls for service	380
Offenses	30
Arrests	1
Traffic citations	15

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

An officer responded to the 6200 block of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue on May 28 after a caller reported he was bitten by a dog, and claimed the owner allowed her dog to go outside to bite him. The officer was also bitten by the dog and concluded the owner did not let the dog out intentionally. No charges were filed.

Officers were dispatched to the 1400 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street after a resident reported he left his bicycle unlocked while he was inside a business, and saw a male take the bike, which is described as a light blue 26' women's bike with purple spots, and a lock with a red cap.

A resident in the 1300 block of 56<sup>th</sup> Street reported that she was punched in the eye during an altercation between two men. She declined to prosecute.

A caller reported early May 29 that he witnessed a male subject break a window and enter a vehicle parked in front of a business in the 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard. Officer Iwanowski was in front of the business and saw the man inside the vehicle. He ran from the scene but Officer Iwanowski set a perimeter and summoned a K9 to the scene. After a short track, Demetrious Hunter was located hiding in a backyard. He was arrested for burglary, possession of burglary tools, resisting an officer without violence, and on an outstanding warrant for a prior burglary at the same location.

A man reported that he left his cell phone charging inside a Laundromat in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard while he went outside to smoke early May 30, and when he returned the phone was gone. The man told officers that a male subject entered and exited the laundry while he was outside.

A resident in the 2700 block of Beach Boulevard observed two juveniles attempting to break into his girlfriend's car early May 31. They had just opened the door, and ran in different directions when confronted by the owner. Nothing was reported missing.

A resident in the 1500 block of Hull Street reported on June 1 that several mailboxes on his street were opened and mail stolen.

A woman reported that a black male approached her from behind while she was walking in the 5100 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and stole an envelope containing cash, cigarettes, and other items. Inconsistencies in the victim's story, as well as noted drug addiction indicate the likelihood the woman made a false report.

A patron at a local bar stated her wallet was taken after she left it unattended. The wallet was found outside with the contents strewn about. Two people who were nearby when the wallet was taken were interviewed and denied involvement. Video from inside the establishment will be reviewed.

A Florida Fish and Wildlife officer requested assistance with a woman he arrested for reckless driving in the 2700 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street on June 3. She was secured by patrol officers until the transport van arrived.

The Marine Unit was on the water for about an hour this week. Officer Cavanah assisted with the recovery of a vessel that had been reported stolen.

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

New cases:	21
Cases assigned:	4
Cases suspended-no leads:	10
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	6
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements received:	20
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	6
Cases suspended-no leads:	2
Cases unfounded-no crime:	4
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	8

## **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham testified in court on a battery case; interviewed a burglary suspect, and; completed six investigative supplement reports.

Detective Crowson interviewed a suspect in an armed robbery case; assisted Det. Pham with interviewing a suspect in a vehicle burglary case; attempted to locate and interview a grand theft suspect; interviewed a sex offender regarding compliance with restrictions, and; completed four investigative supplement reports.

School Resource Officer Motte conducted the weekly Explorer meeting on the topic of building clearing; mentored two students; finalized the summer Multijurisdictional Police Explorer Academy with Pinellas Park PD, St. Pete PD, and PCSO, and; filled in for a patrol shift vacancy.

School Resource Officer Langston investigated a crime stoppers tip regarding a narcotics violation; responded to a disturbance; completed report for missing school property; spoke with a female student regarding harassment by another student; spoke with a female student regarding the repercussions of fighting on and off campus, and with a parent regarding an incident involving her daughter; provided security at BCHS graduation, and; filled in for a patrol shift vacancy.

## **Records Section**

Reports reviewed	18
Supplements reviewed:	27
Public records requests:	16
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	4
Fingerprints	1
Subpoenas processed:	9
Citizens assisted:	33

## **MARINA**

Assisted in forty four (44) pump outs, evacuating six hundred forty (640) gallons of waste.

Pumped five thousand six hundred seventeen (5,617) gallons of gas and two thousand six hundred sixty four (2,664) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred sixty one (161) vessels.

### **Transient vessels:**

Marina staff welcomed a 31' sailboat, 42' Smokey and several powerboats this week.

## **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 and training new staff on GTV640 live meeting & programming operations.

- Updated meeting schedules, agendas & minutes, and Granicus, Library, Recreation Center & Police Teen Academy information on City website.
- Continued preparation of July calendar and updates to Casino Facebook page.
- Continued preparations for Flag Day & Independence Day events.

## **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.

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.

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: Conquering Diabetes (6/9), Women's Cancers (6/16), Managing Pain (6/23) & Fixing Your Nutrition (6/30).

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 24	7 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 116)
Monday, May 25	4 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 195)
Tuesday, May 26	Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 12) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 56)
Wednesday, May 27	10 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 16) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 239)
Thursday, May 28	6:30 p.m. - Latin Night (Turnout 39)
Friday, May 29	6:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 70)
Saturday, May 30	7 p.m. - Wedding reception (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 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

Friday, June 6 6 p.m. - Maggio Total Sound Dinner Dance Admission \$15

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

Thursday, May 28 2 p.m. - Gingerbread School Graduation (Turnout 170)  
6 p.m. - City Hurricane Seminar (Turnout 120)

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

Sunday, May 24 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, May 28 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)  
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, May 28 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)

Saturday, May 30 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

**Scout Hall (last week's events)**

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

Tuesday, May 26 10:30 a.m. - Line Dancing at Recreation Center

Thursday, May 28 10:30 am - Dance Fusion at Recreation Center

Friday, May 29 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

Classes usually held at Scout Hall will be relocated June 8 through July 3 as the Art of Science Summer Camp will be using Scout Hall.

## **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 26, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, May 26, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, May 27, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Prompt Short Story Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, May 27, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, May 27, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Friday, May 29, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

Thursday, June 11, 10:30 am. - *Special Musical Toddler Storytime* presented by Music & Me, LLC.

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

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

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 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 beginning June 17, 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](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.us).

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.* For more information contact Robin Riddell at [rriddell@gmail.com](mailto:rriddell@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 24-30, 2015:**

	<b>Items Circulated</b>	<b>Patrons</b>
Weekly Circulation:	1,558	572
Sun. 5/24	Library closed	
Mon. 5/25	Holiday Library closed	
Tue. 5/26	188	79
Wed. 5/27	365	123
Thu. 5/28	377	128
Fri. 5/29	295	91
Sat. 5/30	287	90

### **Recreation Center**

#### **Programs, Classes & Activities**

Eighty (80) children have been registered for the **2015 Summer Recreation Program**, and fourteen (14) 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.

The **School Year Child Care Program** ended with a total of fifty-eight (58) children registered.

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 and Summer Program Staff attended Summer Training sponsored by the City of St. Petersburg Parks and Recreation Department on Saturday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport thirty nine (39) Gulfport Elementary students and five (5) adults to Dell Holmes Park in St. Petersburg on Monday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Independence Day planning meeting at the Casino on Monday, and the Senior Staff meeting & Health Fair planning meeting on Wednesday.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

- 38 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fire
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 6 Vehicle Crashes

## **Life Safety:**

- 5 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspection
- 1 Site Plan Review

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).

- Chief Marenkovic attended the PCFCA meeting at the Epi-Center in Largo.
- Lieutenant Firefighter/Paramedic Burford on the "B" shift is preceptor for an EMT Student from the St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program.
- Chief Marenkovic attended the monthly Safety Committee meeting with the Human Resources and other staff members for. Discussions involved new Safety & Workers Comp manual and training requirements.
- The Gulfport Fire Department Company Officers are reviewing Paramedic applications. Applicants are being ranked for progression to interviews, background checks and physical & psychological exams.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Spot-treated trolley for termites.
- Hung 7 plaques at Recreation Center.
- Set up rooms at Senior Center for daily activities.
- Installed new bar sink at Casino.
- Repaired a/c unit at Fire Station.
- Cleared blocked toilets at Hoyt Field.
- Treated carpets Recreation Center Rooms A & B.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks**

- Repaired fences at Wood Ibis Park and Tangerine greenway.
- Cleaned & organized shop, and replaced exhaust fans & electrical outlets in restrooms.
- Replaced basketball nets at Recreation Center.
- Reworked sand at beach volleyball courts.
- Continued aerating ball fields.
- Replaced 3 steel trash cans at Tomlinson Park.
- Removed graffiti from poles, sidewalks, bridges and signs along Tangerine greenway.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Veterans Park, Beach Streetscapes and Recreation Center, raked leaves around benches & pavilions, and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Recreation & Marina green spaces, Lions Club, York & 49<sup>th</sup> Street termini, Caldwell & Veterans Parks, Pasadena entrance, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue medians, Hoyt perimeter, Clymer Greenway and Dog Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and cleaned gas tank and carburetor on reel mower.
- Repaired irrigation at Chase block, Library, Senior Center & Clymer Park, and adjusted irrigation clocks.

- 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 curb/footer at 51<sup>st</sup> Street & 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Installed new sign and post at Marina.
- Cleaned street signs on 49<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **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 9, 10, 11 & 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 61 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 13 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 137 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 5 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 5 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 56 backflow devices due in June.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Replaced valve and hose on Williams Pier fish cleaning table.
- Repaired water break 2709 57<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Sewer**

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.

- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2, Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Replaced hose swivel on ¾" reel of sewer cleaning trailer.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced upper ball joint on Building Maintenance vehicle #65.
- Replaced hydraulic cylinder on Recycling truck.
- Replaced fan blades and radiator in Police vehicle #91.
- Replaced tires, and reinstalled passenger door hinge on Fire Engine #E17.
- Replaced reverse camera cable in Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Recalibrated radio system in GEMS vehicle #1.
- 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 have moved to Section 4 of the City, also known as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

**June 10, 2015 Board of Adjustment:**

V15-17; 5701 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Variance request to:

- 1) To reduce the side yard setback requirement by 3 feet, from 12 feet to 9 feet; and
- 2) To 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).