



Gulfport Community Update

July 5 - 11, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

It was a beautiful day for the City's annual 4th of July celebration on Saturday (photos below). Morning activities for the kids and family included a dishing derby and sand sculpture contest, and a waterslide provided cool relief. The Fireworks were a bit late due to weather and a technical issue, but went on as planned.



Lieutenant Scott Burford was sworn in at the July 7 City Council meeting by Deputy City Clerk Kathy Tatay and awarded his gold badge and red helmet by Mayor Sam Henderson. The pinning was done by Mrs. Burford (photo below).



Upcoming Events:

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	204
Self-initiated calls for service	400
Offenses	49
Arrests	13
Traffic citations	29

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Someone used a black marker to write hate speech on the vinyl fencing surrounding the Beachway Mobile Home park early July 2. The message was written on a section of fence facing the Pinellas trail.

A business owner in the 2200 Block of 49th Street reported that a man caused a disturbance inside his store after he was told that he had to wait his turn in line. He pushed over a display and left with a woman.

Officers responded to a fight in progress in the 5100 Block of 15th Avenue early July 3. Several people were in front of a house when officers arrived, and the residents reported that a family started a brawl over an ongoing issue involving their teenage daughter who was dating the

suspect's son. There were obvious injuries to some of the residents and witnesses to what happened. Cedric and Kedric Helaire, Aleathea Protho and Jamaz Protho were arrested. They are all members of the same family.

A resident in the 700 Block of 59th Street reported that his roommate hit him in the face with a gate after they argued. The complainant had an injury to his nose. The victim was transported to the hospital and Kevin Lester was issued a notice to appear for simple battery.

A woman reported that she parked her car at a closed business in the 4900 Block of Tangerine Avenue while she was at a local bar. When she returned several hours later she discovered that the car's paint had been scratched down to the metal. The victim believes that an ex-boyfriend may have vandalized the car because he was angry that she broke up with him.

A resident in the 1400 block of 55th Street reported on July 4 that his estranged son burglarized his home. An eyewitness gave a statement to the police after having seen the victim's son and his girlfriend on the property. Ty Rickerson and Samantha Hamilton were located and arrested for the burglary. Rickerson was also charged with dealing in stolen property when it was determined that he sold some of the property he stole from his father.

Officers responded to a scooter crash in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard. The woman claimed a vehicle ran her off the road causing her to crash into a mailbox. She was evaluated by rescue but refused transport.

An officer observed fireworks being fired into the roadway on 15th Avenue, barely missing vehicles, and issued a warning to keep them contained. Shortly after the warning, another firework shot into the roadway, causing a driver to slam on his brakes. A notice to appear was issued to the person setting off the fireworks.

Officers responded to the 4900 block of 31st Avenue regarding a male upset that canoes were on the walkway. The resident moved them back onto the grass.

Police were dispatched to the scene of an elderly female found deceased in her home in the 5100 block of Preston Avenue on July 5. The death was determined to be from natural causes.

A woman came to the police station to report that she was robbed by two youths while walking down the street. She showed signs of heavy drug intoxication, and made statements that were wholly illogical. There was no probable cause that a crime occurred.

A resident in the 1300 block of 53rd Street left her vehicle unlocked overnight and someone stole several items from inside.

A resident in the 1900 block of 54th Street discovered that a bullet had pierced the roof of his storage shed. The bullet was likely fired into the air during the Independence Day celebration.

A resident of the 1300 block of 59th Street reported that the windshield of his car had been broken overnight. The windshield wasn't penetrated, but was hit with something blunt that caused it to "spider web".

A resident in the 6000 block of Kipps Colony Drive reported that someone stole beer from the refrigerator on her back porch.

A resident in the 5100 block of 13th Avenue reported his bicycle stolen from the residence sometime between 4 & 5 p.m. July 5.

Cynthia Hamilton was arrested on one count of child neglect on July 6 after Officer Crane learned she left her child home alone for four days without sufficient food or supervision while she attended a multi-day music festival in Lakeland.

A couple in the 2400 block of 52nd Street allowed a man to borrow their lawnmower for what was supposed to be 45 minutes, but the man failed to return it. Police initiated a theft investigation and will attempt to recover the property for the victims.

Someone broke the handle off the gate of a privacy fence in the 3000 block of 50th Street in an effort to break into the back of a residence. The entry attempt was not successful.

A resident in the 5200 block of 10th Avenue reported on July 7 that her ex-boyfriend, against whom she has an injunction, threw a brick at her car causing significant damage. GPD has responded multiple times to this address for problems with the same person. There are several PC affidavits in VIPAR for Ernest Floyd for Aggravated Stalking and Felony Criminal Mischief.

A resident in the 5200 block of 21st Avenue reported that her silver Honda Civic was stolen from her driveway overnight. The car was locked but she believes the keys were left inside her sister's vehicle which was parked next to the stolen vehicle.

A resident in the 5500 Block of Newton Avenue reported that a ladder was stolen from the bed of his pickup truck.

Erica Blossom was arrested for criminal mischief after a cab driver reported she became angry and ripped the microphone out of his radio which he uses to contact his dispatcher after the driver transported her to a residence in the 5200 block of 9th Avenue.

Officer Affeldt stopped a man riding a bicycle with no lights in the 2600 Block of 49th Street. He refused to provide his correct name or date of birth. Once he was handcuffed he provided his information. An ID card in his wallet identified him as Jaimz Wherry. He was issued a notice to appear for resisting an officer without violence.

Officers responded to the 5300 block of 15th Avenue after a resident called from Mexico to report that her refrigerator had been stolen from her home. A neighbor who was watching the residence discovered the crime.

Melanie Wehunt was arrested on theft charges after she obtained a pack of cigarettes from the clerk at Walgreens, stating she was going to pay for them at the pharmacy when she picked up a prescription. She never went to the pharmacy and left the store without paying for the cigarettes. Officers located her at her residence. She claimed she paid for items but could not produce a receipt. She had two prior convictions for theft which resulted in a felony charge.

The marine unit was on the water for about 16 hours during Independence Day weekend. Detective Pham and Officer Cavanah made more than twenty contacts throughout their details.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	22
Cases assigned:	6
Cases suspended-no leads:	14
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	1
Cases unfounded-no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	5

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations in a stolen vehicle case and a vehicle burglary; served as acting supervisor while Sergeant Woodman was on vacation, and; attended a 3 day training course in Orlando.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations in a death investigation, grand theft, sexual battery, burglary, and a vehicle burglary; completed supplements in a grand theft case, vehicle burglary and a sexual battery; worked the Fourth of July celebration writing a handicapped parking violation and a found wallet property report, and; attended a State Attorney's Invest with Det. Pham for a vehicle burglary involving a juvenile under arrest for previous vehicle burglaries and auto theft.

School Resource Officer Motte is assisting patrol and with the Explorer post during summer break.

School Resource Officer Langston is assisting patrol during summer and covering the summer bridge program at Boca Ciega High School. This week she exceptionally cleared a reported theft at the high school.

Margaret Palmisano is compiling the 2015 semi-annual UCR data to be submitted to FDLE; sorted and distributed case agent evidence review forms, and; provided Pre-FTO crime analysis and UCR training to Probationary Officer Morales.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	17
Supplements reviewed:	71
Public records requests:	7
Reports disseminated	16
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	4
Fingerprints	3
Subpoenas processed:	3
Citizens assisted:	37

MARINA

Assisted in thirty six (36) pump outs, evacuating one thousand twenty eight (1,028) gallons of waste.

Pumped five thousand four hundred eighty (5,480) gallons of gas and one thousand nine hundred ninety five (1,995) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred forty nine (149) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Marina staff welcomed a 30' powerboat, 21' powerboat, 40' sailboat, 34' sailboat, 28' sailboat, 25' sailboat, and a 22' sailboat this week.

Staff activities:

- Pumped out derelict boats.
- Repaired USCG Aux dock.
- Repaired/replaced damaged dock boxes.
- Placed swim buoys in preparation for 4th of July celebration.
- Serviced all pump out stations.

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, main page, Recreation Center, City Council & CRA information on City website.
- Sent August calendar to printer.
- Assisted with parade check-in, fishing derby & sandcastle contest during Independence Day celebration.
- Provided control room coverage for July 7 City Council meeting, uploaded video to City website and rebroadcast on GTV640.
- Continued updates to Casino Facebook page.

Multipurpose Center

Mayor Sam Henderson, Vice Mayor Yolanda Roman, Councilmembers Christine Brown and Michael Fridovich, and Senior Center Foundation volunteer Linda Grimes cooked and served hotdogs & burgers during the **Senior Center Stars and Stripes BBQ** July 1 (photo below). Seventy seniors enjoyed the day's fare which also included potato salad, watermelon and dessert.



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** program, 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. This month's topics: Heart Health (7/14), Combating Fatigue (7/21), and Autoimmune Mysteries (7/28).

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.

Enjoy a healthy snack as Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance Services presents **Fruit for Thought** every second Monday of the month. The next meeting is Monday, July 13

Join us for the **Aging Healthy, Wealthy, & Wisely Ice Cream Social** on Wednesday, July 15 at 3 p.m. and learn what you need to know about navigating the healthcare system. Presented and sponsored by Karyn Rizzo-Jimenez, author of *Aging in America*.

IT'S BACK!! **Healthy Heart Cooking Class** is the third Thursday of every month at 2:45 p.m. Dolphin's View will be cooking up some healthy, tasty treats. The next class is July 16.

Cheer on your team as the Rays take on the Tigers during our Wednesday, July 29 **Gulfport Getaway**. Space is limited - reserve your seat by 7/20. The \$25 price includes round trip transportation & admission.

Go behind the scenes and see for yourself how your local news is brought to you every day during our July 21 **Gulfport Getaway to Bay News 9 Studio**. Space is limited to 12. Reserve your seat by 7/15. GEMS members \$6/nonmembers \$8, includes roundtrip transportation, parking & tour.

The Senior Center offers free blood pressure and glucose screenings at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Our next **Monthly Mini Health Clinic** is July 30.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games and more at 3 p.m. Friday, July 31. Sponsored by Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance.

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, August 4.

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, June 28	7 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 130)
Monday, June 29	7 p.m. - USA Dance ballroom dance (Turnout 98)
Tuesday, June 30	9 a.m. - Rec Center Tai Chi (Turnout 11) Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 13) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 55)
Wednesday, July 1	10:30 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 14) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 303)
Thursday, July 2	9 a.m. - Rec Center Tai Chi (Turnout 6) 6 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 42)
Friday, July 3	6 p.m. - Graduation party (Turnout 42)

Casino (upcoming events):

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8
Every Tuesday	12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8 6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8
Every Wednesday	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8

Every Thursday 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Thursday- Saturday, July 9-11 and 16-18, 8 p.m., and Sunday, July 12 & 19, 2 p.m. - *Gulfport Community Players 15th Annual Summer One Act Festival*: Thirteen original, short plays in one evening. Tickets \$15: available at Gulfport Beach Bazaar (cash or check only), one hour before show time in the Theater lobby, or online at www.GulfportCommunityPlayers.org.

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

Sunday, June 28 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 14)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, June 30 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 18)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, July 2 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 9)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every first - third Sunday 9 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*)

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

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

LIBRARY

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, June 29, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program for Grades K-5.*

Monday, June 29, 5:30 p.m. - *Comedy/Improv Workshop.*

Tuesday, June 30, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

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

Wednesday, July 1, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, July 1, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, July 1, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Hangout.*

Thursday, July 2, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, July 16, 11 a.m. *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Thus Spoke Zarathustra* by Friedrich Nietzsche over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 or visit the Library for more information.

Saturday, July 18, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: For movie titles call 893-1074.

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 Monday, 5:30-6:30 p.m. - *Comedy/Improv Workshop*. For more information call 252-4413.

Every Tuesday, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 360-9069.

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information contact Robyn Featherstone at robynfeatherstonesq@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 June 14-20, 2015:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,323	454
Sun. 6/28	Library closed	
Mon. 6/29	313	102
Tue. 6/30	326	99
Wed. 7/1	275	95
Thu. 7/2	377	119
Fri. 7/3	Holiday - Library closed	
Sat. 7/4	Holiday - Library closed	

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room is reserved 2-6 p.m. Saturday, July 11, 3-7 p.m. for a family reunion, Saturday, June 18 for a birthday party, and 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, July 25 for a family reunion.

Programs, Classes & Activities

One hundred forty (140) children have been registered for the **2015 Summer Recreation Program**. 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.

Eighty two (82) 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

John Lapham, Nicole Latragna, Joanne McRoberts, Alton Hooker, Jaylissa Williams, Narada Caldwell, Robert Cole and Julie Froelich worked the 4th of July Celebration on Saturday.

Teen Councilmembers Elizabeth Brown-Worthington, Emerald Mancini & Savannah Roderick worked the waterslides and concessions during the 4th of July Celebration. Elizabeth Brown-Worthington and Taryn Spence carried the banner in the Parade

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 43 Emergency Medical Calls
- 6 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Water Rescue
- 2 Fires Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 17 Fire Inspections
- 1 Final Site Permit
- 1 C.O.

Lieutenant Burford on the "B" shift is preceptor for an EMT student from the St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program.

The "C" Shift presented a Fire Prevention education class for the Summer Recreation program with children 5-8 years old on July 8 at the Michael J. Yakes Recreation Center (photo below).



Special Rescue, Pumper 17, Engine 17 and Command GP100 covered the July 4th Celebration. Special Rescue 17 responded to 4 medical emergencies at the event location, transporting two patients through the crowd.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Performed semi-annual inspection of fire suppression system on GEMS bus.
- Repaired modular outlet at customer service.
- Repaired lock on partition door at Beach restrooms.
- Assisted with room set-ups for daily activities at Senior Center.
- Repaired water cooler in Theater lobby.
- Unloaded pallet of boxes at City Hall.
- Repaired tables at Recreation Center.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Set up numbers along Beach Boulevard South for parade participants to park and helped block streets in preparation for Independence Day celebration.
- Continued sealing picnic tables.
- Replaced GFI outlets on Tangerine greenway.
- Inspected electrical outlets at volley ball courts.
- Repaired benches at Casino and Gulfport Beach.
- Filled in holes along seawall at Recreation Center.
- Cleaned picnic tables on Gulfport Beach.
- Removed graffiti from playground at Tomlinson & Caldwell Parks.
- Repaired bench swings on Gulfport Beach
- Replaced lights on fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at City Complex, raked leaves around benches & pavilions, and cleaned beach.
- Mowed City complex, Marina, Lions Club & Recreation Center green spaces, York & 49th Street termini, Hoyt Field, large dog park & Caldwell Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- Repaired irrigation at Recreation Center, City Complex and Chase block.
- 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.
- Removed and disposed of debris at 49th Street holding area.
- Graded alleyway at 19th Avenue & 53rd Street.
- Repaired asphalt in Marina parking lot.
- Cleared debris from streets following 4th of July celebration.

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 37 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 11 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 99 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 12 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.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system
- Replaced 2 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Removed and repositioned 6" flange tee in backflow that services 6100 & 6150 Gulfport Boulevard, and exposed and prepped 6" valve at 61st Street & Gulfport Boulevard for replacement of 6" water line across Gulfport Boulevard.

Sewer

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

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced ABS sensor and fuel pressure sensor on Parks vehicle #89.
- Replaced brakes on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Took Police vehicle #54 to A/C repair shop for recurring problem.
- Replaced two rear tires on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Repaired tire on GEMS vehicle #1.
- Repaired A/C drain in GEMS Bus #93.
- Replaced tire on Police vehicle #154.
- Replaced batteries in Sanitation vehicle #45.
- Replaced tires on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Replaced upper radiator hose, and batteries in Water vehicle #17.
- 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 continued this week in Section 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26th Avenue to the water and east from 49th Street to the City boundaries.

The number of code enforcement cases for June was 231. The fiscal year-to-date total is 1,557. The number of citizen complaints was 20 for a fiscal year-to-date total of 134. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 8.6 percent.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous. E-mail correspondence is considered a public record, so if you wish to make a complaint using e-mail, please understand that such communications are not 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.

July 7 City Council/CRA meeting results:

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

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. P&Z RECOMMENDS APPROVAL.