



Gulfport Community Update

July 12 - 18, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Children from the Summer Program participated in a Bike Rodeo hosted by the Gulfport Police Department and All Children's Hospital on Wednesday morning (photos 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.

Everyone is invited to **Gulfport Night Out** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue on Thursday, August 6, 6 - 8 p.m. Check out Police and Fire vehicles and the Marine unit. The Fire Department will present a Fire Water demo. You can snap a picture with the 1925 Lafrance fire truck! GPD will offer free bike registrations, helmets and a bike rodeo sponsored by All Children's Hospital. Other demonstrations include the St. Petersburg Police department K-9 unit and Amos the Wonder Horse. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Department will display the

Forensic Mobile unit for participants to learn more about the process. Pinellas County Consumer Services will hand out important information. Florida Fish and Wildlife information has a presentation booth and kids can check out their boat. Sunstar will be on hand with their special robot. Other demonstrations include the Florida Highway patrol rollover simulator. Enjoy free kid friendly activities with popcorn, sand art necklaces, a high striker for kids, mini hoop shot basketball, etc. For more information call Lieutenant Stone at 893-1111.

An opening reception for an exhibit of the works of the nine local artists chosen to create geckos for this year's Gecko Ball charity auction will be held at 6 p.m. Friday, August 7 in the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue. Light refreshments and a cash bar will be offered. The exhibit, featuring selections of the artists' other works will be on display through August 31. This year's artists are Janet Folsom, Denise Keegan, Lenne Nicklaus-Ball, Owen Pach, Tom Pitzen, John Ricci, Jonathan Schork, Frank Strunk III and Matt Worsham. They work in a variety of media including painting, mixed media, steel, glass, wood, fabric, stone and others, but create and embellish their geckos from any materials they choose. This first-ever Gecko Artists' Show is the first of four events in Gulfport's growing roster of gecko-themed events, celebrating the City's unofficial favorite reptile at summer's end. Other Gecko Season events include the **8th Annual Gecko Crawl and Poker Run** on August 8; **7th Annual Gecko Ball** on August 29 (this year's theme is Gecko Gras); and the **15th Annual GeckoFest** street festival on September 5. The Crawl and Ball are ticketed events for adults only. GeckoFest is a free, day-long event offering attractions for all ages. The geckos will be on display throughout the Gulfport Waterfront District in the weeks leading up to Gecko Ball.

Tickets for the **August 27 Tampa Bay Rays vs. the Minnesota Twins 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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	136
Self-initiated calls for service	458
Offenses	37
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	53

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Music equipment was reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 4900 block of 15th Avenue sometime between the late evening of July 8 and the morning of the 9th.

A resident in the 2000 block of 56th Street reported that someone entered their home and took prescription medication and jewelry. A window on the rear of the residence was broken to gain entry.

A resident in the 2600 block of 44th Street reported on July 10 that someone entered his unlocked work vehicle and stole a handgun.

Officers responded to the 2900 block of 53rd Street after a red SUV struck a parked vehicle and left the scene. The SUV's bumper was left at the scene, and the driver returned to the area while officers were investigating the crash. She claimed she did not know she struck another vehicle, even after officers showed her that her front bumper was missing and matched the bumper left at the scene. Officer Iwanowski conducted a DUI investigation, and Jeniffer Hayes was arrested after performing poorly on field sobriety tasks. Her breath test results were .12/.13.

Javon Flowers was arrested for driving while license suspended or revoked (felony status - habitual traffic offender) on July 11. Officer Priest initiated the traffic stop after observing Flowers driving on the rim of his tire.

A resident in the 4900 block of Newton Avenue reported that sometime overnight someone entered their unlocked vehicle and stole change, a cell phone, and a camera.

An unknown black male stole approximately \$140 worth of t-shirt and tank top packages from the Dollar store and fled on foot.

A resident in the 5400 block of 16th Avenue reported that his stereo was stolen from his residence and he believes the roommate took it. The roommate, Justin Rodriguez had an outstanding warrant for sale of narcotics and was arrested when he returned to the residence.

An officer discovered a boat anchored in the restricted area of Veterans Park early July 12. TowBoat/US towed the vessel to the Gulfport Marina. The owner will be served with a City Ordinance Violation.

Sergeant Vandenberg made contact with Nicholas Conn at a bus stop on July 13 because he resembled a person GPD is trying to locate. Conn initially gave an incorrect spelling of his last name. After he left Sergeant Vandenberg discovered multiple felony warrants for him from Brevard County. He was located in the restroom at Wells Fargo Bank and arrested.

Alade Campbell was arrested July 14 on an outstanding warrant for failure to appear for the sale and delivery of spice. Officer Hutsko located Campbell in the 5600 block of 15th Avenue.

Sometime between mid-morning and early afternoon on July 14 someone entered a home in the 2600 block of 56th Street through an unlocked window and stole jewelry, coins, a passport and social security card.

A woman reported that someone entered her residence in the 5500 Block of Newton Avenue sometime between 1:30 & 5 p.m. on July 15. Cash and several computer tablets were taken. Entry is believed to have been made through an unlocked window.

The marine unit was on the water for 10.5 hours this week. Officer Cavanah spent time training Officers Ross & Morales. Eight contacts were made, 1 vessel stop, 1 ordinance violation, and assistance with a vessel in distress.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	23
Cases assigned:	4
Cases suspended-no leads:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	5
Cases referred back to patrol:	3
Supplements received:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	0
Cases unfounded-no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	10

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations in a grand theft case and a robbery; completed supplements on a dealing in stolen property case, a grand theft and a robbery;

interviewed a suspect at the Pinellas County Jail and charged the suspect with grand theft, and; obtained a confession from a suspect in a robbery incident, exceptionally clearing the case.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations on an unattended death, a grand theft case, a burglary and a homicide; completed supplements on a death investigation, a credit card fraud, a burglary and a homicide, and; completed Case Agent Review forms.

School Resource Officers Motte and Langston are assisting patrol during summer break. Officer Motte is also assisting with the countywide Explorer academy.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano completed the 2015 Semi-Annual UCR data to be submitted to FDLE; compiled and submitted quarterly seat belt violation data to DHSMV; updated the sexual predators and offenders display in the police lobby and the sex offender/predator pamphlet, adding a new predator who recently moved into the City and removing 3 offenders who moved out of the City. There are 5 sexual predators and 17 sexual offenders living in the City.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	9
Supplements reviewed:	57
Public records requests:	27
Background checks:	5
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	3
Citizens assisted:	30

MARINA

Assisted in twenty nine (29) pump outs evacuating three hundred eighty five (385) gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand four hundred seventy seven (3,477) gallons of gas and two thousand one hundred eight (2,108) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred fifty nine (159) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Marina staff welcomed a 41' powerboat, 50' powerboat, 37' powerboat, 39' powerboat 40' sailboat and a 34' sailboat this week.

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 Recreation, Parks & Public Works information on City website.
- Distributed August calendar to City Facilities & Tuesday Market vendors.
- Updated August calendar on City website.

- Continued updates to Casino Facebook page.

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** 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: Combating Fatigue (7/21), and Autoimmune Mysteries (7/28).

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 12GEMS members \$6/nonmembers \$8, includes round trip 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.

A new **LGBT Support & Resource Group** will meet at the Senior Center at 5:30 p.m. every Monday beginning August 3. The group will focus on and discuss unique challenges that the older LGBT population faces: Healthcare, Financial Security, Social Isolation, Access to Aging Programs and Services, and much more with occasional guest speakers.

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.

Be an advocate for your medication safety by learning what questions to ask your doctor and pharmacist during **Medication Safety Tips** on Wednesday, August 5 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 August 11. 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 August 10.

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, July 5 7 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Ellis Hale's Band (Turnout 30)

Tuesday, July 7 9 a.m. - Rec Center Tai Chi (Turnout 20)
Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 12)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 48)

Wednesday, July 8 10:30 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 24)
6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 288)

Thursday, July 9 9 a.m. - Rec Center Tai Chi (Turnout 13)
6 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 29)

Friday, July 10 5 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 55)

Saturday, July 11 3 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 63)

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 (*last week's events*):

Thursday, July 9 8 p.m. - *Gulfport Community Players (GCP) 15th Annual Summer One Act Festival* (Turnout 116)

Friday, July 10 8 p.m. - *GCP 15th Annual Summer One Act Festival* (Turnout 68)

Saturday, July 11 8 p.m. - *GCP 15th Annual Summer One Act Festival* (Turnout 97)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Thursday- Saturday, July 16-18, 8 p.m., and Sunday, July 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, July 5 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 26)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, July 7 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 16)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

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

Friday, July 10 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 6)

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

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

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, July 6, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program for Grades K-5.*

Monday, July 6, 5:30 p.m. - *Comedy/Improv Workshop.*

Tuesday, July 7, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, July 7, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, July 8, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, July 8, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, July 8, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Hangout.*

Thursday, July 9, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, July 9, 5:45 p.m. - *Do You Want to Become an Author?*

Friday, July 10, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, July 20 - *Ukulele Concert and Workshop:* Ever wanted to learn to play the ukulele? Now you can! Children can enjoy a ukulele concert at 3 p.m., followed by a workshop for teens & adults at 4:30 p.m. If you have your own ukulele, feel free to bring it along. Space is limited for the workshop so sign up today by calling 893-1074 or email cklasson@mygulfport.us

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 email 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 July 5-11, 2015:
Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	2,078	748
Sun. 7/5	Library closed	
Mon. 7/6	503	154
Tue. 7/7	288	115
Wed. 7/8	257	104
Thu. 7/9	504	157
Fri. 7/10	311	113
Sat. 7/11	202	86

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room was rented 2-6 p.m. Saturday, July 11 for a family reunion with 35 in attendance.

The multipurpose room is reserved 3-7 p.m. 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 three (143) 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

Jaylissa Williams worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 47 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 5 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Single Engine Response

Life Safety:

- 7 Fire Inspections
- 1 Fire Re-inspection
- 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.

Chief Marenkovic attended the Fire Marshal Committee meeting in Largo on July 16. Topics of discussion: FMIA, Firework tents, Food truck inspections, school access roads.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Cleared blockages in men's urinal & ladies toilet and repaired light fixture at Beach restrooms.
- Repaired handicap outside post at Senior Center.
- Repaired A/C unit and installed light at Fire Department.
- Installed door stops on Library Friends Room doors.
- Performed monthly pest control on all city buildings
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Repaired rail at Skate Park.
- Cleaned shop area and pressured washed all equipment.
- Repositioned banner on fence at Little League field.
- Filled in holes at the dog park, removed broken equipment and installed two fire hydrants.
- Pressured washed benches and tables at Library, Senior Center & Clymer Park.
- Hung NO TRESPASSING sign at Veterans Park.
- Continued sealing picnic tables.
- Repaired bench swings on Gulfport Beach.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Reworked sand at beach volleyball courts, and set up equipment for tournament.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at City Complex, trimmed low branches at Gulfport Beach & Recreation Center, raked leaves around benches & pavilions, and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Clymer Park & greenway, Wood Ibis & Veterans Parks, Chase block, Dog Park, Neighborhood Center, Senior Center, Library, Recreation Center & Clam Bayou green spaces, Pinellas Trail spur, and 28th Avenue & Tangerine Avenue signage areas.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- 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.
- Disposed of debris at 49th Street holding area.
- Repaired sidewalk in 2300 block of 54th Street.
- Removed bagged leaves curbside.
- Removed two sailboats from Marina parking lot.
- Removed and disposed of tires and parts from City yard.
- Restocked mulch bin at 49th Street building.
- Removed debris from beach area.

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 26 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 5 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 105 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 8 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.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system
- Replaced 1 old water meter with new electronic meter.
- Collected bacteriological samples on new 6" water line that supplies 6100 Gulfport Boulevard, connected 6" flange tee at backflow that services 6100 & 6150 to new 6" water line and connected new 6" water line to existing water main at 17th Avenue & GPB.
- Commenced semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Completed annual DEP required testing of 15 backflow devices due in July.
- Repaired water break in 2300 block of alleyway between 54th Street & Beach Boulevard.
- Replaced water service and portion of water main at 1713 Gray 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.
- Televised sewer lateral and main line at 5014 26th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced fuel rail sensor and ABS sensor on vehicle #89.
- Replaced tires on vehicle #4.
- Replaced tail light and repaired a/c on vehicle #71.
- Replaced winch cable & 2 hydraulic hoses on vehicle #45.

- Repaired rear cylinders on dump truck #37.
- Repaired air sensor switch on vehicle #46.
- Replaced tail light assemblies on vehicle #34.
- Recharged a/c on vehicle #88.
- 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 continue 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 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.