



Gulfport Community Update

June 28 - July 4, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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

Upcoming Events:

Meet this month's featured artist, Cay Maria Adams at an opening reception for an exhibit of her works in the Catherine Hickman Theater on Friday, July 3, 6 - 8 p.m. Cay Maria is largely self-taught. She credits living in Europe for seven years as a great influence. Her needlepoint designs for Erica Wilson were sold by Pierpont Morgan Library and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Cay Maria relocated from Sag Harbor to Gulfport in 2014 to concentrate on painting. Light refreshments will be offered and cash bar available. For more information call Jessica at 608-0070. Cay Maria's works will be on display through July.

Everyone is invited to the City of Gulfport's **4th of July Celebration** in the Waterfront District. The day's events begin with a kid's Fishing Derby at the Recreation Center Seawall at 8 a.m. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Bring your own pole! This year's Family Sand Sculpture contest on Gulfport Beach from 10 a.m. until noon will have a patriotic theme. Bring your own tools and supplies. The little ones will have a great time with water slides, balloon entertainment and concessions at KIDZONE behind the Recreation Center from noon until 5 p.m. Food, fun, art and crafts vendors will offer their wares from 2 until 10 p.m. Live musical entertainment sets the Casino stage with Maggio and Friends beginning at 5 p.m. No 4th of July would be complete without a Parade on Beach Boulevard at 6 p.m. The day's celebration caps off with a spectacular fireworks display at 9 p.m. The trolley will be running noon - 5:30 p.m. & 6:30 - 11 p.m. to transport passengers to & from remote parking locations: Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard; Library, 5501 28th Avenue; Senior Center & Theater, 5501 27th Avenue; Hoyt Field, 2306 56th Street; Chase Park, 54th Street & 28th Avenue; Ted Phillips Wood Ibis Park, 58th Street & 28th Avenue. The driver will also be picking up passengers along the route - just give a wave. For more information, email gbron@mygulfport.us or call 893-1118.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	154
Self-initiated calls for service	377
Offenses	35
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	37

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 6100 block of 12th Avenue reported on June 25 that he sent an explicit video of himself over the Internet to someone he thought was a female admirer. The recipient then demanded money from the victim with the threat of releasing the video to others.

A shoplifter left the Dollar General store with a trash can containing merchandise he did not pay for. Police were not called until after the suspect left, and he was not apprehended.

A resident in the 3000 block of 52nd Street reported on June 26 that someone in an older model black pick-up truck struck her neighbor's mailbox with an unknown object. The complainant was unable to get a tag number or identify the suspects.

Joseph Bukowski was arrested on 4 outstanding warrants after a caller reported three suspicious persons in the 5200 block of 15th Avenue.

A resident in the 3100 block of 59th Street reported on June 27 that his wallet with over \$100 in it was missing. He advised that the property owner had recently been inside the condo.

Officers were dispatched to a stolen vehicle report in the 5100 Block of Gulfport Boulevard. They spoke with the vehicle owner who stated that the person who stole it fled on foot after someone confronted her. The vehicle had been stolen from an address in St Petersburg.

Sergeant Marotta stopped a car 1900 Block of 49th Street for an equipment violation and observed a strong odor of marijuana inside the car. The driver, Dani Kulic admitted to having a few grams of marijuana. A search of the vehicle revealed 2 baggies of powdered cocaine as well. Kulic was arrested and his car was seized.

Officers responded to the 1100 block of 49th Street after a caller reported that got out of his car to pick up some papers that he had inadvertently left on top. He left the car running and an unknown suspect stole the car. It was later recovered in Clearwater.

A resident reported that while he was walking in the 6300 Block of 11th Avenue an unknown black male put what felt like a gun to the back of his head and took his backpack and headphones before punching him in the face and fleeing on foot.

Officers responded to a reported burglary in the 5100 Block of 26th Avenue. Upon arrival they quickly ascertained that no burglary had taken place. An individual in the house, Amy Kumis was arrested on outstanding theft warrant.

There were three vehicle burglaries reported in various locations on June 28. All of the victims reported that valuables had been stolen from their unlocked vehicles.

GPD assisted the FD with traffic control for a multiunit fire alarm at Pelican Bay Plaza on June 29. Chemicals being mixed set off a sprinkler, causing water damage to several units.

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office requested the PD check an address for a wanted person. Vanessa Simard had a violation of probation warrant issued by Hillsborough County. Officer Ross made contact and took her into custody in the 6000 block of Shore Boulevard.

A resident reported that he left his unlocked bicycle was stolen from the Casino bicycle rack. It was described as a gray mountain bike with the word Hyper written on the frame.

A resident in the 2400 block of 54th Street reported on June 30 that someone entered her home through a window and stole several items. The residence has video surveillance and footage of the suspect committing the crime was obtained.

Officer Petit stopped a Hyundai in the 4200 block 22nd Avenue because the license plate was not assigned to the vehicle. Upon closer inspection, he discovered that the registration decal on the plate was counterfeit. Robert Walton was arrested for possession of a counterfeit decal and for driving on a suspended license.

Officer Petit stopped a Hertz rental car on Gulfport Boulevard because the license plate was not assigned to the vehicle. When he made contact with the driver, the interior of the car smelled strongly of marijuana, prompting a probable cause search of the vehicle. In addition to finding marijuana in the vehicle, officers found crack cocaine packaged for sale. Rodney Lumpkin was arrested on narcotics charges.

Officer Crane stopped a vehicle in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard for a traffic violation on July 1 and determined that Maurice Thurton was driving on a suspended license and had several prior convictions for the same offense. He was arrested for felony driving while license suspended or revoked.

Officers responded to the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard after a caller reported that he observed someone getting into his car. The victim chased the suspect who managed to get away and nothing was stolen.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a fight in the McDonalds lobby. A man was punched in the face by a younger male, causing a laceration above his eye. The victim advised that several males, including the assailant, give him trouble every time he sees them near Kings Market at 49th Street & 20th Avenue.

Officers responded to the 6000 block of Shore Boulevard regarding a deceased female found in a storage area. The cause of death appears to be a self-inflicted gunshot wound. The woman was reported missing earlier in the evening and a suicide note was found inside her residence.

The marine unit was on the water for about 4 hours this week. Eight contacts were made and two vessel stops were conducted. Officers Cavanah & Affeldt also assisted FWC with two stolen jet skis.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

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

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations on a grand theft and a vehicle burglary case, and arrested a juvenile for the burglary; completed supplements on a stolen vehicle case; attended an 8-hour financial fraud training course in Tampa; was guest speaker at the Gulfport Crime Watch meeting, and; investigated an unattended death.

Detective Crowson attended an 8-hour financial fraud training course in Tampa; interviewed and arrested a juvenile in a vehicle burglary case, and; conducted sex offender checks.

Margaret Palmisano updated two forms frequently used by officers and detectives and started compiling and reviewing data for the 2015 semi-annual UCR report to be submitted to FDLE in July.

School Resource Officers Motte and Langston attended the State of Florida Association of Police Explorers (FAPE) competition. The Post came home with two trophies, which is outstanding considering the team consisted entirely of first-year Explorers.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	13
Supplements reviewed:	108
Public records requests:	23
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	4
Subpoenas processed:	20
Citizens assisted:	42

MARINA

Assisted in twenty two (22) pump outs, evacuating four hundred ten (410) gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand seven hundred twenty five (3,725) gallons of gas and one thousand four hundred ninety five (1,495) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred fifty six (156) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Marina staff welcomed six sailboats this week.

Staff activities:

- Installed anti-slip tape on transient dock gangway ramp.
- Installed signs on fence surrounding pier 6.
- Cleaned shrimp tank and system.
- Serviced all pump-outs.

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, Recreation Center, Senior Center, Casino, Public Works and Planning & Zoning information, and Trumba calendar on City website.
- Continued preparation of August calendar.
- Continued preparations for Flag Day & Independence Day events.
- 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: Redefining Cancer (7/7), Heart Health (7/14), Combating Fatigue (7/21), and Autoimmune Mysteries (7/28).

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, July 7.

Do you suffer from TINGLING, NUMBNESS, THROBBING, STINGING, ACHING, PAIN or CRAMPING? Join us for the Premier Vein Institute's presentation on **Neuropathy** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 8.

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*.

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

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 **Gulfport Getaway** on Wednesday, July 29. Space is limited - reserve your seat by 7/20. \$25 per person. Price includes round trip transportation, parking, & admission.

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.

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 21	7 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 130)
Tuesday, June 23	9 a.m. - Rec Center Tai Chi (Turnout 16) Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 14) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 51)
Wednesday, June 24	11 a.m. - Employee Health Fair (Turnout 61) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 239)
Thursday, June 25	9 a.m. - Rec Center Tai Chi (Turnout 6) 6 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 23)
Friday, June 26	6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 125)
Saturday, June 27	9 p.m. - Argentine Tango Milonga (Turnout 102)

Casino (upcoming events):

Every Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8
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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
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 21 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 33)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, June 23 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 15)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, June 25 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 15)

Friday, June 26 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 8)

Saturday, June 27 12:30 p.m. - Ficiocelli celebration of life (Turnout 60)

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.

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, June 22, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Monday, June 22, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program for Grades K-5.*

Monday, June 22, 5:30 p.m. - *Comedy/Improv Workshop.*

Tuesday, June 23, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, June 23, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, June 24, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, June 24, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, June 24, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Hangout.*

Thursday, June 25, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Friday, June 26, 10 a.m. - *Senator Rubio Community Involvement Consulting.*

Friday, June 26, 6:45, p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, July 9, 6 p.m. - *Do You Want to Become an Author?:* Author Sam Black shares his experiences and tips in this workshop for beginning writers.

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:	1,823	582
Sun. 6/21	Library closed	
Mon. 6/22	356	124
Tue. 6/23	291	99
Wed. 6/24	309	98
Thu. 6/25	330	100
Fri. 6/26	243	74
Sat. 6/27	278	75

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room was reserved 12:30-4:30 p.m. Saturday, June 27 for a dinner party with approximately forty (40) in attendance.

The multipurpose room is reserved 2-6 p.m. Saturday, July 11, and 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, July 25 for family reunions.

Programs, Classes & Activities

One hundred thirty nine (139) 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

Shanoah Washington-Davis worked the room rental on Saturday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 37 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Wires Down
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 14 Fire Inspections
- 1 Site Plan Review
- 1 FACP and Fire Pump Final
- 1 PYCC Guard House Final

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

Gulfport FD renewed their Advanced Life Support License with the Department of Health, Bureau of Emergency Medical Services in Tallahassee. We are renewed until August 2017.

FF/EMT Lesley Jordan and FF/Paramedic Gerard Grady on June 26 staffed Special Rescue 17 for the Pride Run.

The Gulfport Fire Department has chosen a finalist to fill the vacant firefighter/paramedic position. We are proceeding with background checks, polygraph & psychological exams and a pre-employment physical. We hope to have the process complete by August.

Chief Marenkovic & Community Development Director Fred Metcalf attended Damage Assessment Collector Application Training at the Pinellas County EOC Complex on June 30.

Chief Marenkovic would like to remind Gulfport residents of the countywide fireworks ban. As the rocket's red glare this Independence Day, revelers are reminded that Pinellas County bans the retail sale, purchase or use of fireworks that project into the air or explode. Anything that goes up or goes boom is illegal.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Completed semi-annual hood inspection at Senior Center and Little League.
- Replaced 4 regular light switches with dimmers at Historical Building.
- Installed clock in City Hall lobby.
- Replaced damaged light pole in Neighborhood Center parking lot.
- Removed graffiti from men's restroom at beach.
- Remounted toilet paper holder inside restroom at Casino.
- Repaired outside pole lighting in Police compound area.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Trimmed palms at Marina, Clam Bayou & along Shore Boulevard.
- Continued sealing picnic tables.
- Cleared trash from Tangerine Pond.
- Reworked sand at beach volleyball courts.
- Installed upcoming event banners on Gulfport Boulevard
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Casino & Recreation Center, trimmed palms at Marina, Clam Bayou and along Shore Boulevard, raked leaves around benches & pavilions, and cleaned beach.
- Mowed Senior Center & Library grounds, 28th Street sign area, Recreation Center, Neighborhood Center & Beach green spaces, Clymer & Tangerine Greenways, Chase block, 56th Street medians, Veterans, Tonkin, Tomlinson & Clymer Parks, and both dog parks.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park, Library & Senior Center.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.

- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged all ball fields daily.

Streets & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned and removed debris from storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways & sidewalks.
- Replenished recycled mulch bin at Neighborhood Center.
- Removed several loads of debris from the 49th Street holding area.
- Arranged for pickup of 12 pallets of electronics for proper E-waste handling & recycling.
- Completed concrete work on storm drain at 58th Street & 15th Avenue.
- Cleaned ditch on 27th Avenue between 56th & 57th Streets.
- Assembled 20 automated trash containers in preparation for 4th of July celebration.
- Replaced stop sign on west side of 55th Street & 20th Avenue.
- Delivered barricades to Upton Street between 26th & 27th Avenues in preparation for Fourth of July festivities.

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).
- Disconnected water service at 56 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 10 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 138 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 5 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit application for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 5 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Replaced 6 water service lines that cross 25th Avenue in preparation for street repaving.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service at lift stations 1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Daily per trip vehicle check inspection.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2, Police & Fire Departments and Multipurpose Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 4921 25th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced fuel pump in Police vehicle #12.
- Replaced front tires on Streets vehicle #34.
- Replaced expansion valve, and A/C compressor & dryer in Police vehicle #54.
- Replaced headlight and turn signal bulb on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Investigated fuel leak on Fire Engine #E17.
- Replaced underbody valance, and filled electric power steering reservoir on Police vehicle #2.
- Picked up Police vehicle #12 at dealership following warranty repairs.
- 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 have moved to 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.

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

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. FIRST READING BEFORE CITY COUNCIL SCHEDULED FOR JULY 21.

July 7 City Council/CRA meeting:

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