



Gulfport Community Update

July 26 - August 1, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

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. 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.

The 49th Street South Business Association (SO49) weekly **SoTangerine Market** opens on Saturday, August 15. Hours of operation are 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.SoTangerine.com or call 439-0164.



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	131
Self-initiated calls for service	362
Offenses	26
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	42

Significant incidents or calls this week:

Tavaris Burden was arrested for theft on July 23 after he stole a cell phone left on a table at McDonalds by a diner while he refilled his drink. Witnesses provided Burden's description and he was apprehended near the restaurant. The phone was returned to the owner.

Joseph Bukowski and Benjamin Langkamp were arrested for auto theft and burglary after they stole a minivan and used it to burglarize a backyard shed in the 5300 block of 17th Avenue. They fled on foot, leaving the van behind after being confronted by the shed owner, and were apprehended nearby. Another juvenile thought to be involved was seen in the neighborhood acting suspiciously, and fled when ordered by an officer to stop. He was apprehended a few minutes later and charged with resisting an officer without violence. An investigation is underway to determine if he is linked to the auto theft and burglary.

Officers were dispatched to the 5100 block of 17th Avenue regarding a suspected burglary. Cash and a laptop were taken sometime during the past week. There were no signs of forced entry and the victims had no knowledge of who may have entered the home.

A lawn mower was stolen from a residence in the 5300 block of 25th Avenue sometime overnight. The mower was last seen under a boat parked in the front yard.

Officers responded to the 5900 block of 15th Avenue on the evening of July 24 after a caller reported that a roommate sold several of the caller's items during a yard sale while the victim was out of town. The investigation is ongoing.

D'Andre Roseman was arrested on July 25 on a warrant for FTA for DWLSR.

Officers observed an unoccupied car with its lights on, parked against traffic at the intersection of 49th Street & 27th Avenue. Further investigation revealed the car had been reported stolen out of St Petersburg.

A woman reported that someone took her wallet from her back pocket while she was in a bar in the 3100 block of Beach Boulevard. The wallet was later recovered with \$220 missing.

A man reported on July 27 that his blue and grey mountain bike was stolen from the bike rack at the Villa Robles Apartments.

Officers responded to a fight in the 1000 block of 59th Street on July 28 in which a female was struck on the arm with a baseball bat. All involved parties were acquaintances, and provided conflicting statements. No medical attention was required.

Officers arrested Russell Moore on an outstanding probable cause for criminal mischief. Moore was being sought for painting graffiti on two Gulfport Police cars.

A resident in the 4900 block of Newton Avenue reported on July 29 that he had video of a subject trying to enter his parked vehicle. The burglary attempt was thwarted by a locked car door.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	14
Cases assigned:	7
Cases suspended-no leads:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	6
Cases suspended-no leads:	0
Cases unfounded-no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	5

Investigator Highlights

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplements on a grand theft case, a burglary and a homicide; attended a State Attorney Invest for Byron U Brown; assisted patrol with a burglary in progress and a stolen vehicle; reviewed the residential burglary analysis and the recent 17 burglary reports to formulate a response to the rash of burglaries; completed sex offender address verifications, and; participated in the Teen Citizens' Academy.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano covered records for two days; completed pawn checks on 23 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description., and; created and distributed 2 bulletins for Ofc. Crane in an attempt to ID suspects in an attempted vehicle burglary and a shoplifting.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	18
Supplements reviewed:	74
Public records requests:	13
Reports disseminated:	5
Background checks:	20
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	5
Citizens assisted:	29

MARINA

Assisted in thirty nine (39) pump outs evacuating six hundred fifteen (615) gallons of waste.

Pumped two thousand fifty four (2,054) gallons of gas and one thousand six hundred twenty eight (1,628) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred one (101) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Marina staff welcomed a 40' motorboat, 37' motorboat, 36' motorboat and a 34' motorboat 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, Senior Center, Parks and Events information on City website.
- Commenced preparation of upcoming fiscal events sheet and contacting organizers.
- Continued preparation of September events calendar and for Gulfport Night Out event.
- 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.

Gulfport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS) 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. Beginning in August, GEMS will provide transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital & Medical Centers and the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

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.

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.

Join your friends for an **Ice Cream Social** on Thursday, August 9 at 3 p.m. Tickets must be obtained prior to event. Limit 2 tickets per person. Sponsored by Pinellas Point Nursing & Rehab.

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 10. 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.

Watch a free, current movie and get a \$3 lunch deal during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, August 11.

Here's your chance to check out new shopping venues during our next **Gulfport Getaway** on Tuesday August 11. We'll stop at Trader Joe's, Fresh Market, and Mazzaro's Italian Market. Reserve your seat by August 5. GEMS members; \$5/nonmembers \$7.

Learn to harness the **Law of Attraction** at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, August 12. Master Life Coach Kathy Lane will explain how to use the power of thoughts to positively impact health & wellbeing.

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Free blood sugar and blood pressure screenings will be offered on Thursday, August 13 at 10:30 a.m.

Bring your cell phone Thursday, August 13 at 2 p.m. when Tony & Christine from The Cell Phone Solution will be here to answer your questions during **Cell Phone Q&A**.

Find out how to receive a free phone that displays text of conversations on a large color touchscreen. **Clear Captions** is Friday, August 14 at 10 a.m.

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 August 27.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games and more at 3 p.m. Friday, August 28. 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.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater, Neighborhood Center & Scout Hall

Casino (last week's events):

- Sunday, July 19 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance with Ellis Hale's Band (Turnout 47)
- Tuesday, July 21 9 a.m. - Rec Center Tai Chi (Turnout 21)
Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Paul Kirk (Turnout 8)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 56)
- Wednesday, July 22 10:30 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 23)
6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 263)
- Thursday, July 23 9 a.m. - Rec Center Tai Chi (Turnout 14)
6 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 28)
- Friday, July 24 5 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 130)
- Saturday, July 25 4 p.m. - Anniversary party (Turnout 234)

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
- Saturday, August 1 7 p.m. - Wine Art & Heart presents *ONE HEARTBEAT, A Celebration of Love: An evening of local art, live music & wines from around the world, celebrating marriage equality! Hors d'oeuvres, silent auction & love stories of local couples.* Tickets: \$45, available at the Casino or by emailing info@wineartandheart.org

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

Sunday, July 19 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) *15th Annual Summer One Act Festival* (Turnout 140)

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

Sunday, July 19 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 21)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, July 21 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 10)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, July 23 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)

Friday, July 24 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 20, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program for Grades K-5.*

Monday, July 20, 4:30 p.m. - *Ukulele Concert and Workshop.*

Tuesday, July 21, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, July 21, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, July 22, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, July 22, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, July 22, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Hangout.*

Thursday, July 23, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Friday, July 24, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, August 6, 7 p.m. - *End of Summer Party with Didgeridoo Down Under*. All ages are invited to experience the fascinating sounds of Australia's signature musical instrument at this fabulous after-hours event.

Saturday, August 15, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: For movie titles call 893-1074.

Tuesday, August 18, 10:30 a.m. - *FHA Mortgages for Seniors*: Donna Moore from the Community Resource Council presents an informational program of interest to seniors about recent updates to guidelines for FHA mortgages.

Thursday, August 20, 11 a.m. - Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of *The Analects of Confucius* over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Call 893-1073 or visit the Library for more information. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.

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 robynfeatherstonesg@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 19-25, 2015:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2,125	701
Sun. 7/19	Library closed	
Mon. 7/20	448	129
Tue. 7/21	418	131
Wed. 7/22	351	126
Thu. 7/23	335	113
Fri. 7/24	286	95
Sat. 7/25	216	81

Recreation Center

Programs, Classes & Activities

One hundred forty four (144) 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.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 53 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms

Life Safety:

- 17 Fire Inspections
- 1 Fire Re-inspection
- 1 C.O.

Both of GFD's E-Ones passed annual ISO Pump Recertification Testing. NFPA 1911 helps ensure in-service fire apparatus are serviced and maintained to keep them in safe operating condition and ready for response at all times.

Chief Marenkovic met with Justin Shea and Lt. Joshua Stone to discuss the site plan for the August 6 Gulfport Public Safety Night Out.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Cleared a/c drains at Library.
- Reset gate system at Neighborhood Center.
- Picked up lamps and ballasts for gymnasium, and repaired tables at Recreation Center.
- Repaired water fountain in Theater Lobby.
- Replaced ballast at Senior Center, and assisted with room setups for daily activities.
- Replaced toilet handle and cleared blocked sink drain at Fire Station.
- Repaired lock on money drawer at City Hall.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Removed bee's nest from back porch at Scout Hall.
- Replaced broken boards on fences at Wood Ibis Park & Clam Bayou.
- Adjusted dog bag box behind Rec Center, and replaced box on Beach Boulevard.
- Repaired bench swings at pier.
- Reworked sand at beach volleyball courts, and set up fencing and trash/recycling containers in preparation for Volleyball Tournament, and removed following event.
- Continued replacement of tree lights & electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.

- Trimmed, weeded, mulched and cleaned beds at Clymer Park, Senior Center, Library & Dog Park/Chase block, raked leaves around benches & pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Repaired irrigation at Chase block, Dog Park and Caldwell Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades, adjusted valves and replaced gaskets on line trimmer and edger.
- 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 old tires and debris from City Garage
- Removed seaweed and debris from beach following storms.
- Reset stop sign at 54th Street & Delette Avenue following vehicle strike.

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 45, 46, 47 & 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 19 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 101 miscellaneous Customer Service Department generated service orders.
- Completed 10 Sunshine One-Call Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 2 meters that were 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 3 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Completed semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Replaced water service at 5019 20th Avenue.
- Repaired water break at 51st Street & 20th Avenue.

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.
- Repaired sewer lateral at 2832 Miriam Street.
- Monitored lift stations during heavy rainfall.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced grappler hose on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Ran exhaust filter regen, and repaired starting/running issue in Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Ran exhaust regen in Fire Engine #E17.
- Replaced brake pads and rotors on Police vehicle #101.
- Cleared fault codes in Police vehicle #116.
- Removed, inspected, and replaced brake assembly in Parks vehicle #52.
- Delivered Police vehicle #12 to Suncoast Chrysler for rear axle repair and alignment.
- Replaced front tires on Police vehicle #2.
- 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.

Beginning in August code enforcement activities will move to Section 1 of the City, also known as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7th Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64th Street to 58th Street. 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.

August 12, 2015 Board of Adjustment:

V15-18; 2810 47th Street South; Variance requests for the proposed construction of an 18' x 30' screen room with a composite panel roof which will connect the house to the currently detached garage:

- Reduce the required principal structure rear yard setback requirement by 19 feet, from 25 feet to 6 feet;
- Reduce the required separation distance between the principal structure (proposed screen room) and the north side of an existing shed by 10 feet, from 12 feet to 2 feet, and;
- Reduce the required separation distance between the principal structure (proposed screen room) and the west side of the existing shed by 11 feet, from 12 feet to 1 foot.