



Gulfport Community Update

August 16 - 22, 2015

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport City staff is continuing with frequent water quality testing following the release of sanitary sewer waste into Clam Bayou during the recent heavy rains. The beach is currently open. Please visit www.mygulfport.us for up-to-date information.

The Gulfport Library Circle of Friends is searching for the City's first **Poet Laureate**. Any Gulfport resident age 18 and over may enter the contest. According to the Library of Congress, a poet laureate is a poet who is expected "to raise the consciousness of the population to a greater appreciation of the reading and writing of poetry." A panel of five judges will conduct a blind review of submissions. The Poet Laureate will be confirmed by the Gulfport City Council, and will agree to host 2 to 4 poetry events under the auspices of the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library within 12 months of being named, and may be asked to compose and deliver a poem for special events in or on behalf of Gulfport. No compensation will be provided. Gulfport residents interested in applying should submit three works of poetry as one attachment, along with a brief autobiography in the body of an email addressed to teachedit@yahoo.com by September 4. Only email submissions will be accepted and must include the applicant's name, Gulfport address, phone number and age. Applicants are not required to have published poems prior to entering the contest. Call 941-447-7811 for more information.

So49 Board members Phil Reid, Jeri Reid and Art Padula are all smiles during the inaugural **SoTangerine Saturday Market** on August 15 (photo below). The Tangerine Greenway has the capacity for one hundred vendor spots. Twenty seven vendors participated on the first day. Additional food vendors will offer their tasty fare on the 22nd, so come hungry and peruse the offerings. For more information call 439-0164.



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.

Get your tickets for the **Seventh Annual Gecko Ball** on Saturday, August 29. Mardi Gras will be the order of the evening, featuring festivities and pageantry, high energy dancing, New Orleans-style music, food and more. Hors d'oeuvre and tapas, cocktail specials and a cash bar will also be offered. Live music by the Jammin' Jambalaya Band will fill the dance floor. Tickets: \$35, available at Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard. For more information call 366-4086 or email dan@iqc.org.

The monthly **Crime Awareness Meeting** is 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, September 2, at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street. For more information call 418-0126

Meet local artists from the **Professional Association of Visual Artists (PAVA)** during an opening reception for an exhibit of their works at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue on Friday, September 4 at 6 p.m. PAVA works include paintings in watercolor, oil & acrylic, mixed media, drawings in ink, charcoal & colored pencil, and photographs. Each work will reflect the unique talents and interests of the artist.

The **15th Annual Geckofest** will provide entertainment during a daylong spectacle on Saturday, September 5. Amid the thousands of festival-goers, hundreds of vendors and dozens of live musicians on two stages, expect to come face to face with acrobats, aerialists, break dancers, escape artists, magicians, jugglers, fire performers and more, creating an interactive circus atmosphere throughout the waterfront village. A kids' zone and Mardi Gras-themed costume contest promise a little lagniappe for everyone! All festivities will take place on Beach Boulevard from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. Geckofest is free and family-friendly. For more information call 322-5217.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

Dispatch calls for service	129
Self-initiated calls for service	516
Offenses	44
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	110
Ordinance violations	87

Significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 1100 block of 63rd Street reported on the morning of August 13 that someone smashed their car's passenger side window with a brick, and stole a wallet and money clip.

Officers responded to the 1600 58th Street after a caller reported that his intoxicated friend assaulted him. The complainant was intoxicated as well and did not wish to prosecute. The suspect denied hitting the complainant, but admitted they argued because his friend was smoking marijuana and the complainant did not want him doing it on his property.

Officers were dispatched to All Children's Hospital on August 14 to assist with an investigation involving an infant who had sustained multiple head injuries. The baby's mother fell asleep while impaired and dropped the child on the floor. The mother was arrested for child neglect.

Several residents in the 5900 block of Pelican Bay Plaza called in a complaint that residents at a home nearby had a large party, and an attendee drove through the grass, damaging it. The two juveniles at the house admitted to having an unauthorized party while their parents were out

of town, and identified the person who caused the damage. The residential association decided to handle the situation civilly.

Officers responded to the 5100 Block of 15th Avenue after a caller reported that he had an altercation with another motorist which resulted in the other motorist confronting him and punching his car window. There was no damage to the window. The case will be forwarded to the State Attorney's Office to determine whether not the suspect will be prosecuted.

Officers responded to the 5200 block of 21st Avenue in the early morning hours of August 16 after a caller observed a male subject enter a neighbor's car and attempt to open the hood. The caller shouted at the burglar who left the area before police arrived. Fingerprint evidence was collected.

Matthew Leonard was issued a court date on a DUI charge after he crashed his pickup truck into a tree. It was determined Leonard was under the influence of alcohol, but he refused to provide a blood sample after being admitted to a hospital for treatment of injuries sustained in the crash.

A resident in the 2500 block of 50th Street reported that someone slashed two tires on his vehicle. He believes he may know the suspect, and officers are following up.

A resident accused two subjects of attempting to steal her phone charger and hitting her. Police spoke with all parties involved, but there were several conflicting statements and no independent witnesses. There was no probable cause to support the accusations and no charges were filed.

A resident in the 4900 block of Newton Avenue reported that someone slashed the tires on his two cars and he suspected an ex-girlfriend. Video footage from a nearby building provided an image of the suspect committing the crime.

Officers were dispatched to the 5300 block of Tangerine Avenue in the early morning hours of August 18 after a caller reported a group of juveniles walking into yards. Officer Ross located the group near Tangerine Avenue and they all fled westbound. Three female juveniles were caught immediately by Officer Ross and Officer Priest. Sergeant Vandenberg later located the two males hiding behind a backyard shed. The group claimed they were heading to McDonalds which was not open at the time, and is in the opposite direction. All five will have charges forwarded for loitering & prowling, and obstruction. They were released to their father.

A resident in the 5100 Block of 12th Avenue reported that someone entered his unlocked vehicle and took his cell phone from the center console.

A resident in the 2600 block of Tifton Street reported on the morning of August 19 that sometime overnight someone slashed the tire on his truck which was parked in his driveway.

Someone entered two unlocked vehicles parked in the 1100 block of Hull Street and rifled through the consoles, but nothing was taken. A witness reported seeing a white truck make a U-turn through two yards and stop near the vehicles. The suspect vehicle matches the description of a 2011 Chevy Silverado reported stolen from 1400 Hull Street around the same time. The Silverado had been left unlocked with the keys in the floorboard, and was involved in several burglaries in the area as well as the theft of a 2005 Ford Explorer from a driveway in the 1200 block of Hull Street. A spare key was left in the Explorer's wheel well and a valet key inside. Another report was taken later in the day for a vehicle burglary at the same location.

A 2013 Honda Ridgeline was stolen from the Town Shores Chatham Building parking lot. The vehicle had been left unlocked with a valet key in the center console.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 10.5 hours this week. Detective Pham assisted Chief Vincent with an inspection/review of boats anchored in Gulfport waters. Five contacts were made.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	14
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	7
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	3
Cases referred back to patrol:	1
Supplements received:	7
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	0
Cases unfounded-no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases still active:	4

Investigator Highlights

Sergeant Woodman arrested a woman for child neglect after she dropped her infant three separate times in less than a month. The last incident fractured the baby's skull.

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and investigative supplement reports on two burglary cases, two stolen vehicle cases, and a hit & run; attended a sex crimes intelligence meeting; spent approximately 8 hours on marine patrol, and; closed a stolen vehicle case as Exceptionally Cleared. The suspect is incarcerated in a correctional facility.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations a string of residential burglaries in which Michael Sampson is the prime suspect, and attended a State Attorney Invest in the case, and; attended a State Attorney invest for Avion Johnson for home invasion robbery.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano started an analysis for Officer Randazzo regarding a problem oriented patrol he is working; updated the sexual predator/offender display and pamphlet, adding an offender that recently moved back into the City; compiled and distributed the open case lists, and; compiled statistical information for Lieutenant Farrand and Sergeant Marotta.

Records Section

Reports reviewed	24
Supplements reviewed:	93
Public records requests:	24
Reports disseminated	17
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	11
Citizens assisted:	35

MARINA

Assisted in thirty two (32) pump outs evacuating four hundred forty five (445) gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand eight hundred forty eight (3,848) gallons of gas and two thousand two hundred seventy nine (2,279) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred sixty six (166) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Marina staff welcomed a 31' sailboat, a 42' Smokey, and three powerboats 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 on City website.
- Provided photographic coverage for SoTangerine Market grand opening.

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. GEMS also offers 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.

Avoid the Hassles with **Medicare Made Clear** on Wednesday August 26 at 3 p.m. Learn about the costs, benefits, & limitations offered on new & existing Medicare Beneficiaries. Presented by Steven Reiser, CFP.

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.

Join Financial Advisor Scott O'Berry for a discussion of current events, the economy & investing over coffee & donuts during **Coffee Club** at 10 a.m. Tuesday, September 1.

First Friday Flea Market returns after a long summer. Find great deals on September 4, 9 a.m. - noon. We've been gathering goodies all summer. Don't miss out!

Join us for lunch and a free current movie during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, September 8.

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 to assist clients with Medicare, Medicaid and health insurance questions, providing one-on-one counseling and information. Counselor Roger Baxter will provide free, unbiased counseling regarding the upcoming Medicare open enrollment season at 3 p.m. Wednesday, September 9.

It is important to **Know Your Numbers**. Get your blood sugar and blood pressure checked on Thursday, September 10 at 10:30 a.m.

Enjoy ice cream with your friends during our **Monthly Ice Cream Social** at 3 p.m. Thursday, September 10. This event is sponsored by Pinellas Point Nursing & Rehab.

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.

. 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, August 9 6 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion Dance with Swing Time (Turnout 178)

Tuesday, August 11 9 a.m. - Rec Center Tai Chi (Turnout 12)
Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Paul Kirk (Turnout 3)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 61)

Wednesday, August 12 10:30 a.m. - Yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 12)
6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 271)

Thursday, August 13 9 a.m. - Rec Center Tai Chi (Turnout 11)
6 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 44)

Casino (upcoming events):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson

7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8

Every Tuesday 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8
6:30 p.m. - Beginning Argentine Tango lesson
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8

Every Wednesday 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn
6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8

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

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Friday, September 4, 6 p.m. - Art Reception featuring a selection of works by members of the Professional Association of Visual Artists (PAVA). Free admission.

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

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

Tuesday, August 11 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 13)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, August 13 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 14)

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, August 10, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program for Grades K-5.*

Tuesday, August 11, 2 p.m. - *Computer class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, August 11, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, August 12, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, August 12, 2 p.m. - *Advance Computer class.*

Wednesday, August 12, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Hangout.*

Thursday, August 13, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, August 13, 7 p.m. - *End of Summer Party with Didgeridoo Down Under!*

Friday, August 14, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, August 15, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day.*

Upcoming Events:

Thursday, August 27, 3:30 p.m. - *Story-time Yoga:* All children must be accompanied by caregiver. Mats a plus, but not required.

Monday, August 31, 5 p.m. - *Acoustic Jam:* Alex invites everyone to bring their acoustic instruments as he begins a new season of group musical creation.

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, 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/Statistics August 9 - 15, 2015:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1926	687
Sun. 8/9	Library closed	
Mon. 8/10	386	104
Tue. 8/11	339	126
Wed. 8/12	362	128
Thu. 8/13	290	102
Fri. 8/14	278	100
Sat. 8/15	240	89

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room was reserved 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, August 15 for a family reunion with approximately ninety (90) in attendance.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Registration is underway for the **2015/16 School Year Child Care Program** for children who will be entering Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents and \$188 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Registration is underway for the 2015/16 **Tot Time/VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten) program**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas County, Inc. and the child must receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Classes begin Tuesday, September 8.

One hundred fifty two (152) children have been registered for the **2015 Summer Recreation Program**. 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:

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday.

Teen Council President Elizabeth Brown-Worthington and Advisor Marivel Gutierrez volunteered at the SoTangerine Market on Saturday morning.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 43 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Vehicle Fire

Life Safety:

- 24 Fire Inspections
- 3 Fire Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.

Firefighter/Paramedic Rene Fernandez and Lt. Poirrier taught CPR with AED training to the Gulfport Police Teen Academy on August 20. Students also toured the Fire Station and learned Fire Extinguisher Training.

Gulfport Fire Department continued with their Advanced Cardiac Life Support recertification with the St. Petersburg College August CME Prep course this week. ACLS is renewed every two years.

Pinellas County Professional Firefighters Local IAFF 4966 voted on the agreement with the City of Gulfport. It will be a few days before the votes are counted.

Lieutenant Firefighter/Paramedic Burford on the "B" shift is preceptor for a Paramedic Student from the St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced belt on a/c unit at Recreation Center.
- Replaced bubbler on water fountain in Public Services Building.
- Installed new toilet handle and cleared shower drain in Fire Station ladies' restroom.
- Performed semi-annual inspection of fire suppression system at City Hall.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Finance Department.
- Replaced a/c belt at Library, and cleared drain on a/c unit in Theater lobby.
- Replaced parking lot light sensor at Neighborhood Center.
- Replaced ceiling tiles in Theater lobby men's restroom.
- Completed monthly pest control on all City buildings.

Parks

- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned and mulched Recreation Center green spaces & beachscapes, and trimmed Oleanders at 58th Street terminus.
- Inspected irrigation systems and reprogrammed irrigation clocks.
- Picked up debris in parks following storms.
- Sanded, Sprayed weeds and removed weeds at ball fields.
- Tilled and reworked clay at ball fields.
- Continued replacement of broken boards on Tangerine Greenway parking stall fence.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Reworked sand at beach volleyball courts.
- Installed upcoming events banners on Gulfport Boulevard.
- Mowed Caldwell, Clymer & Veterans Parks, Marina, Senior Center, Library & Neighborhood Center green spaces, and Tangerine sign area.
- 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.
- Removed illegal dumping at Osgood Point
- Reset “No Parking” signs on Tangerine Greenway.
- Removed overgrowth and debris from handicap ramps on 54th Street between 19th & 20th Avenues.
- Removed “No Swimming” signs from Gulfport Beach.
- Reset stop sign and pole at 53rd Street & 27th Avenue following vehicle strike, and replaced damaged sign at 58th Street & 7th Avenue.
- Set out garbage and recycling containers for new Saturday Fresh Market, and removed following event.
- Continued automated curbside street sweeping.
- Replaced broken sidewalks at various locations throughout City.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes 31, 32, 33 & 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 20 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 5 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services are still off.
- Completed 156 miscellaneous customer service department 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 applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water sample at Gulfport Beach for quality testing.
- Replaced 2 old water meters with new electronic meter.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Replaced fire hydrant at corner of Shore & Beach Boulevards.
- Repaired water break at 5832 Skimmer Point Boulevard.

Sewer

- Daily rain fall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Weekly generator exercise & preventive maintenance check on lift stations 1 & 2.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance at Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall & Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Installed well points around sewer break at 1009 Gray Street.
- Replaced sewer lateral at 2603 Quincy Street and cleaned sewer lateral at 5107 28th Avenue.
- Replaced transducer and calibrated Lift Station #2.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Welded step on Sanitation vehicle #43.
- Replaced wheel and tire on Parks’ Toro Groundskeeper.

- Removed and replaced faulty overhead LED flasher on Utilities vehicle #22.
- Investigated electrical issue Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Performed preventative maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at www.pced.org/entrepreneurs or call 464-7332. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

Building Division staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on do-it-yourself projects. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, due to hard economic times many are electing to do these projects themselves. Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, or for an explanation of code requirements.

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

The Pinellas County Communications Department offers the following information when looking for qualified contractors:

The Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board helps guide homeowners in hiring a licensed contractor for home improvements.

Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

"Do your homework and follow the guidelines and resources provided to you by the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board," said Executive Director Rodney Fischer. "Why take a chance with your money and safety?"

The function of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board is to regulate construction and home improvement contractors practicing in all Pinellas jurisdictions.

The licensing board can tell you if a contractor has a license. They must be licensed by the board or the state of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and be registered with the board. Licensed contractors have passed a competency exam and perform electrical, plumbing or structural work in compliance with the building codes.

The state requires licensed contractors to have workers' compensation and liability insurance and the board monitors their insurance coverage. Without these, if a worker gets injured on the job or damages property, the homeowner is liable. Many insurance policies will not pay claims if an unlicensed contractor was doing the work.

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and

check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100.

- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.
- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.
- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.
- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit www.pcclb.com.

Code Enforcement activities continued this week in Section 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.

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.