Gulfport Community Update

December 27, 2015 - January 2, 2016

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Gulfport City Hall, Library and facilities will on Friday, January 1 in observance of **New Year's Day**. Thursday's sanitation routes will be collected on Wednesday the 30th, Friday's routes will be collected on Thursday the 31st and there will be no Wednesday yard waste collection.

Upcoming Events:

The Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce is planning an exciting new level of fun as it hosts a **New Year's Eve Gala** at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom like none before. *Glitz, Glamour & Glitter* will feature a variety of entertainment and surprises on December 31. Enjoy dancing and live music by the popular party band *Daydreams*, D.J. dance music, party favors, commemorative photo booth, roaming magician and balloon artist, sumptuous decorations, full cash bar, and a midnight ball drop with complimentary champagne toast. Guests are encouraged to dine at one of Gulfport's many fine restaurants prior to the event. Late-night tapas will be served after 10 p.m. Tickets: $35 per person. Casino Club reservations are $45 and include reserved seating with no table minimum or maximum, full private VIP bar area, exclusive Casino Club concierge service, tableside midnight champagne pour and premium party favors. Tickets are available at the Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard and the Gulfport Casino. Space is limited, so purchase tickets early. This event is sponsored by the Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce. For more information call Angela Lagan at 348-6490 or email Angela.Lagan@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/New-Years-Eve-Gala-866500280041698.

The 6th Annual Gulfport 8K J West Prostate Cancer Run and Health & Fitness Fair is Saturday, January 2. The run begins at 8 a.m. outside Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Boulevard. Register at www.active.com/JWest Prostate cancer 8k. Registration is $25 and $30 the week of race. Call Mike Calamari at 638-2389 or email diggermc@earthlink.net, or: Steve Battle at 954-615-7354 or email iamstevebattle@gmail.com.

Visit the 49th Street South Business Association (So49) weekly **SoTangerine Market** every Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. For more information, visit www.SoTangerine.com or call 439-0164.

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.

Meet Janet Shepherd and view her work during her first solo **Art Reception** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue at 6 p.m. Friday, January 8. Free admission: cash bar & free tapas. For more information call 893-1118.

Come hungry for the **Gulfport Lions Club Spaghetti Supper** at the Lion's Den at 4630 Tifton Drive 4 - 7 p.m. Saturday, January 9. Admission: $7 at the door. Proceeds benefit several community organizations. Call 321-5717 for more information.

The Gulfport Community Players will present *In the Restroom at Rosenblooms* at the Catherine Hickman Theater Thursday - Sunday, January 14 - 24. Thursday, Friday & Saturday shows begin at 8 p.m., with Saturday & Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. Tickets: $16; available at Beach Bazaar, online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org and at the door within one hour of performance.

Help us plant a tree on the beach! The City of Gulfport will celebrate **Arbor Day** with help from the Gulfport Recreation School Year Childcare Program, Teen Council, the Gulfport Food

Forest and Gulfport Gecko Garden at Gulfport Beach (west side of volleyball courts) on Friday, January 15 at 3:30 p.m. Free Sweetgum and Red Maple seedlings will be presented to guests. Call 893-1118 for more information.

On January 16, 2016 Gulfport residents, businesses and civic organizations will join Americans across the U.S. for the **Second Annual Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service**. The event will begin at 8:30 a.m. with an opening ceremony hosted by Mayor Sam Henderson and Vice Mayor Yolanda Roman at Tomlinson Park on the corner of 19th Avenue & 54th Street. Volunteers will be at their service project destinations from 9 a.m. until noon, and return to Tomlinson Park for closing ceremonies and a picnic. For more information call 893-1118, email gbiron@mygulfport.us, or visit www.mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice.

It's time again for **Junk in the Trunk** on Saturday, January 23, 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bring your Gulfport I.D. and your junk to the Gulfport Neighborhood Center parking lot, 1617 49th Street. If you have good junk that works, drop it off at the free trade table. Free bike registration and kids free helmets. Have coffee with Zack and Josh and meet the folks from the Gulfport Gecko Garden. For more information call 893-1118.

The Professional Association of Visual Artists (PAVA) will host the **Fourth Annual 2Cool Art Show** at the Gulfport Casino on Saturday & Sunday, January 30 & 31, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thirty eight juried fine artists will display and offer their works for sale. Free parking and admission.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	134
Self-initiated calls for service	262
Offenses	37
Arrests	5
Traffic citations	17
Ordinance violations	35

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

An officer conducted a traffic stop early December 25 after observing a vehicle traveling west on Shore Boulevard with no lights and an obscured tag. The driver, Bradford Ray Daniel was driving on a suspended license with an active warrant for his arrest. He was issued a citation and transported to the County jail on a misdemeanor warrant.

A resident reported on December 26 that she forgot her wallet at a business in the 1000 block of 49th Street, and when she returned to retrieve it, it was gone.

The manager of a restaurant in the 2900 Block of Beach Boulevard reported that a customer ordered over $50 worth of drinks and food, and left without paying the bill. The suspect was identified and is being sought for questioning regarding the theft.

A resident in the 5900 Block of 20th Avenue reported that $10,000 in cash was missing from a coat pocket. She discovered that someone had entered her home while she was away by breaking the lock on her back door. She believes her ex-boyfriend may be the suspect. He is being sought for questioning.

Kindred Carter was arrested on December 27 on a warrant for failure to appear on a traffic citation.

A resident in the 2800 block of Beach Boulevard reported on December 28 that someone entered her unlocked vehicle the day before, and stole a black bag containing prescription medication.

A resident in the 1400 Block of 49th Street reported that someone entered his unlocked car and took an iPhone 5S from the center console.

An mp3 player was reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 4600 block of Tifton Drive.

The marine unit was on the water for 4 hours this week. Officers Cavanah & Sigsbee made twelve contacts and assisted with a water rescue.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	8
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	0
Cases unfounded-no crime:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	3

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for 2 grand theft cases, a fraud, 2 death investigations, and a hit and run. He also recovered a stolen cell phone.

Detective Crowson collected and reviewed video for a robbery investigation, and assisted Det. Pham with questioning a suspect in a grand theft case.

Records

Reports reviewed	25
Supplements reviewed:	53
Public Records requests:	23
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	5
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	3
Citizens assisted:	36

MARINA

Assisted in twenty three (23) pump outs evacuating three hundred fifteen (315) gallons of waste.

Pumped eight hundred seventy five (875) gallons of gas and nine hundred thirty two (932) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling fifty seven (57) vessels.

Transient vessels

Marina staff welcomed a 27’ motorboat, 43’ cruiser and a 20’ motorboat this week.

LIBRARY

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

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, December 21, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Tuesday, December 22, 2 p.m. - *Computer Class for Beginners* facilitated by Alex Hooks.

Tuesday, December 22, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, December 23, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, December 23, 3 p.m. - Teen Hangout.

Thursday, December 24, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, January 5, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga:* Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 to reserve a spot, or email cklasson@mygulfport.us.

Thursday, January 7, 5:30 p.m. - *LGBT Meet up:* Join us in the Library's meeting room. For more information, email glburk@gmail.com.

Wednesday, January 8, 4 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport!* Are you new to, returning to, or just curious about Gulfport? Everyone is invited to this get-together co-hosted by the Gulfport Neighbors and the Library. Learn about both organizations and discover services offered by the City. For more information call 893-1074.

Tuesday, January 12, 1 p.m. - *Healing Thoughts Book Club:* This new group will meet on the second Tuesday of each month. If you have interest in understanding the relationship between our thoughts and their influence on the physical body, this club is for you. Title for discussion: *The Divided Mind*, by John H. Sarno. For more information email klane@untieyourwings.com.

Tuesday, January 12, 4 p.m. - *Middle School Robotics Club*. The group meets every second Tuesday of the month. Pre-registration required. See Cailey in Youth Services to sign up or call 893-1074.

Thursday, January 14, noon - *Lunch & Learn: 3D Printing:* Learn about and see a live demonstration of this amazing technology presented by Diana Silveira. Bring your lunch; drinks will be provided. Sponsored by the LGBTQ Resource Center. For more information call 893-1073.

Thursday, January 14, 5:30 p.m. - *Ukulele Workshop:* Learn to play one of the most popular musical instruments in our area. Classes sponsored by the Pinellas Public Library Cooperative. For more information call 893-1073.

Saturday, January 16, 10:30 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day:* For movie titles, call 893-1074.

Thursday, January 21, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt over coffee & light refreshments. Stop by the Circulation Desk to pick up a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 or visit the Library for more information.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club:* We try a fun new activity every week, explore engineering through building with Legos, and meet other young scientists and engineers in the community! Parents get to join in on the fun too! Email cklasson@mygulfport.us or call 893-1074 for more information.

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

Every first & third Tuesday, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group:* Everyone is invited to join Allen Goldenson for some strummin' fun!

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

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout:* Games and activities for teens and tweens.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.* Email robynfeatherstonesq@gmail.com for more information.

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 December 20 - 26, 2015:

	Items Circulated	**Patrons**
Weekly Circulation:	1,943	587
Sun. 12/20	Library closed	
Mon. 12/21	528	142
Tue. 12/22	424	125
Wed. 12/23	358	105
Thu. 12/24	275	86
Fri. 12/25	Holiday - Library closed	
Sat. 12/26	288	86

PARKS & RECREATION

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.
- Updated meeting schedules, agendas, minutes, upcoming events, Human Resources, Recreation Center, Senior Center, and water quality information on City website.
- Continued preparations for MLK Day of Service.
- Distributed January calendar.

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 plus $2 per ride. GEMS also offers transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital 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.

Get the facts for 2016 and what you can expect from your insurance company. The **Insurance Workshop** is Wednesday, January 6 at 2 p.m. Presented by Professional Insurance.

Join us for **Empowerment of Healing with Barbara Newborn** on Monday, January 11 at 3 p.m. Learn where and how to look for answers in your own body, mind, & soul to empower & nourish your whole being.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Monthly Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is January 11. By appointment only; call 893-5657 to schedule your 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 January 11.

Enjoy lunch and a free current movie during **Movie Day at the Snack Bar** at 11 a.m. Tuesday, January 12.

Ameriprise Financial Services, Inc. will present **Protect Yourself Against Fraud & Identity Theft** on Wednesday, January 13 at 2 p.m.

Create a winter themed floral arrangement to brighten up your homeat the **Floral Design Class** on Thursday, January 14 at 2 p.m.

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.

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.

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 organizations for reuse, recycle or education.

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

Casino (last week's events):

Sunday, December 20	4 p.m. - Carol Baker's Ballroom Showcase (Turnout 38)
Monday, December 21	4:30 p.m. - Jordan Park holiday party (Turnout 250)
Tuesday, December 22	Noon - Ballroom lessons/dancing with Carol Baker (Turnout 16) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 83)
Wednesday, December 23	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 25) 6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 308)

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/Joyce Bloom 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
Every Friday	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom

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

Sunday, December 20	9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 38) 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous
Tuesday, December 22	10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 20) 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

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

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

Sunday, December 20	9 a.m. - Calvary Christian Assembly church services (Turnout 14)
Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Monday, December 21	11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 25)
Tuesday, December 22	10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 19)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Monday - Friday	7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday	11 a.m. - Chair Yoga
Every Tuesday & Friday	10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

Recreation Center

Programs, Classes & Activities

Forty seven children are registered for the **2015/16 School Year Child Care Program** for children in 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.

Nine children have been registered for the **2015/16 Tot Time Program**, and ten for **VPK (Voluntary Prekindergarten)**. 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.

Thirty five teens are registered for the **2015/16 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, Mat Pilates, Pickleball, Spanish, Table Tennis, Tai Chi, Tennis, Women's Self-Defense, Yoga and Zumba.

Staff Activities:

Alton Hooker used the school bus to transport twenty three Holiday Break participants to Largo Central Park.

Marivel Gutierrez and John Lapham interviewed two Recreation Leader applicants on Monday and three applicants on Tuesday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport twenty three Holiday Break participants to the Catherine Hickman Theater.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 46 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires

- 2 Fire Alarms
- 5 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Fires Outside Structure
- 1 Water Rescue

Life Safety:

- 9 Fire Inspections
- 5 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.
- 1 Permit Review

Chief Marenkovic attended the Fire/EMS Administration meeting on Monday December 21 to discuss EMS/ALS funding budgets for the upcoming fiscal year with County staff and other Fire Chiefs in Pinellas County. We will be meeting again on January 6 and 8.

A new EMT student with the St. Petersburg College Paramedic program continues doing his ride along with Preceptor Lieutenant/Paramedic Scott Burford of the Gulfport Fire Department on the "B"-shift.

Congratulations to Firefighter/Paramedic Rene Fernandez for completing his Florida State Fire Safety Inspector Certificate.

Inspector Lundh went above and beyond the call of duty saving a duck that was hit by a car in front of the Pasadena Yacht & Country club. The duck was taken to the bird sanctuary.

PUBLIC WORKS

Staff continues daily water quality testing at Gulfport Beach, Gulfport Shores and the Marina. The beach is currently open. The results of December 30 are provided below. Visit www.mygulfport.us for the most up-to-date information.

Gulfport Casino		Enterococci EPA 1600 – (CFU/100 ML)			Fecal coliform – SM 922D- (CFU 100 ML)		
Sample ID	Date/Time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
1536404-01	12/30/15 8:23 a.m.	4 B	4	12/30/15 10:45 a.m.	10 B	10	12/30/15 10:45 a.m.

Gulfport Marina		Enterococci EPA 1600 – (CFU/100 ML)			Fecal coliform – SM 922D- (CFU 100 ML)		
Sample ID	Date/Time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
1536404-02	12/30/15 9:15 a.m.	92	4	12/30/15 10:45 a.m.	140 B	10	12/30/15 10:45 a.m.

Gulfport Shores		Enterococci EPA 1600 – (CFU/100 ML)			Fecal coliform – SM 922D- (CFU 100 ML)		
Sample ID	Date/Time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time	Result	MDL	Analyzed date/time
1536404-03	12/30/15 9:23 a.m.	80	4	12/30/15 10:45 a.m.	70 B	10	12/30/15 10:45 a.m.

Enterococcus Results Description

Good	Moderate	Poor*
0-35 Enterococcus sp per 100 ml of marine water	36 – 104 Enterococcus sp per 100 ml of marine water	105 or greater Enterococcus sp per 100 ml of marine water
0-35 CFU/100 ml Enterococcus sp Geometric Mean		36 and over CFU/100 ml Enterococcus sp Geometric Mean

Fecal Coliform Results Description

Good	Moderate	Poor*
0-199 fecal coliform organisms per 100 ml of marine water	200-399 fecal coliform organisms per 100 ml of marine water	400 or greater fecal coliform organisms per 100 ml of marine water

*A poor rating may result in a resampling event to confirm poor conditions; otherwise a Health Advisory or Warning will be issued immediately. These indicate that contact with the water at this site may pose increased risk of infectious disease, particularly for

susceptible individuals. A reading of NR means "No Result". This could indicate that no sample was taken at this point because of weather or other factors, or that an analysis result was not obtained from the laboratory.

Building Maintenance

- Replaced emergency lights, two receptacles and switch at Recreation Center.
- Repaired A/C units at City Hall & Casino, and replaced filters on a/c units at all City facilities.
- Moved boxes for Building Department.
- Delivered mail to main Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Repaired fences at Clam Bayou and Tangerine Greenway.
- Greased bench swings on beach and pier.
- Cleaned up dead fish at marina and beach.
- Aerated ball fields.
- Removed dead tree from beach area.
- Repaired fence around skate park electrical boxes, and replaced light timer box.
- Installed bike rack in front of post office.
- Dropped off mulch at community garden.
- Removed past event banners on Gulfport Boulevard, and installed upcoming event banners.
- Continued sanding picnic tables in preparation for installation.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets on Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed Tangerine Greenway, Tomlinson Park, 56th Street drainage area and drainage line at Wood Ibis Park.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park, and 49th & Beach Streetscapes.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Recreation Center & City complex, hand raked around pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades and replaced PTO shaft on mower.
- 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, alleyways & sidewalks.

- Disposed of old tires and parts from Garage.
- Restocked recycled mulch at 49th Street building.
- Removed loads of debris from 49th Street holding area and delivered to landfill.
- Performed monthly street sweeping citywide.
- Cleaned up debris and trash following Tuesday fresh market.
- Removed sod, sand and rocks from easement at 2801 46th Street.
- Replaced concrete stormwater covers at 11th Avenue & 54th Street, 18th Avenue & 57th Street, 54th Street & 26th Avenue, and at 30th Avenue & 59th Street.
- Removed glass from roadway at 49th Street & Del Rio Way, and boards at 15th Avenue & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Removed debris from beach area.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system.
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters.
- Completed 7 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 119 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 5 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Continued locating water mainline valves throughout City.
- Replaced 3 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced old 3 water meters with new electronic meters.
- Installed 2” wet tap for new water line in alley near Wood Ibis Park.
- Installed new water service at 5518 14th Avenue.
- Replaced 1” backflow at 5728 Gulfport Boulevard.

Sewer

- Daily rainfall 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.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 2616 48th Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Removed lift cylinder in truck #38.
- Reinstalled turn signal assembly on car #54.
- Replaced heater hose in car #12.
- Pushed forklift from road and reinstalled fork.
- Replaced tires on truck #78, truck #38, truck #44 and truck #47.
- Replaced bucket cylinder on truck #29.
- Replaced propeller shaft on Parks Department mower.
- Resealed bucket manifold on truck #29.
- Replaced escape hatch on Gems bus #93.
- Transported truck #46 to Tampa crane for arm replacement.
- 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, many are electing to do these projects themselves. Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, or for an explanation of code requirements.

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

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at (727) 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.

- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

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

Code Enforcement activities continued this week in Section 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26th Avenue to the water and east from 49th Street to the City boundaries. Beginning in January, 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.

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.