

# GULFPORT AT A *GLANCE*

Where city employees get their news



## Mayor's Note

Inside this edition of ***Gulfport At A Glance*** you will see there are many exciting things happening in our City, and many achievements by our employees that we can all be proud of.

This month's "5 Questions" section features our new Harbormaster, **George Manemann**. George and his wife, Tracey, left the Coast following the storm in 2005, but he is thrilled to be back home overseeing one of Gulfport's most important projects.

The Small Craft Harbor officially opened on July 25th and the number of slip rentals is growing fast. Jones Park is on pace to be completed by May. Together, the park and harbor will make up one of the finest public facilities along the Gulf of Mexico.

You will notice on page seven (7) that **Lieutenant Phil Kincaid** was named Officer of the Month for May 2011. Among his many duties, Lieutenant Kincaid serves as the Officer in Charge of Special Events, and he and his team played a tremendous role in ensuring our first Gulfport Music Festival was a successful and safe event. Thank you Lieutenant Kincaid!

Also, on page six (6), you will see that our own Reggie Sims, Center Coordinator, is leaving this month for a year-long deployment in the Middle East. This will be his third deployment since 2003. The City of Gulfport is proud of you, Reggie. We wish you Godspeed and a safe return.

Together we are accomplishing great things in Gulfport, and I believe our City's best days lie ahead. Thank you for your commitment and dedication.

Sincerely,

*George Schloegel*

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2011

CityNews



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Health and Wellness Information



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George Manemann  
Answers your questions



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AUGUST

SEPTEMBER 2011

At A Glance

August 1st-31st

Children's Eye Health  
and Safety Month  
([www.preventblindness.org](http://www.preventblindness.org).)

National  
Immunization  
Awareness Month

September 1st-30th

Leukemia & Lymphoma  
Awareness Month  
([www.lls.org](http://www.lls.org))

Fruit and Veggies-  
More Matters Month  
([www.fruitandveggiesmorematters.org](http://www.fruitandveggiesmorematters.org))

Further Information

*Open enrollment  
details will be  
communicated within  
the next 30 days*

## Exercise and Heart Disease

### The Facts

According to the American Heart Association, heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States. There are many risk factors, including having an inactive lifestyle, that can increase your chances of developing heart disease. While there are factors such as genetics that are out of your control, there are steps you can take to prevent heart disease and/or lower your risk. One important step is incorporating regular exercise into your daily routine. Visit [www.heart.org](http://www.heart.org) for more details.

### Maintain a Healthy Weight

Being overweight is a major risk factor for developing heart disease. People who are overweight tend to have higher levels of low-density lipoprotein that's been linked to increased risk of heart disease. Aerobic exercise includes activities such as brisk walking, running, swimming and biking, and if done at a moderate pace, aerobic exercise burns calories. In order to lose weight, you must burn off more calories than you consume. If you combine 40 to 45 minutes of aerobic exercise every day along with watching your caloric intake, you will lose weight and reduce your risk of heart disease. Losing even just 5 percent of your current weight can make enormous changes in the health of your heart.

### Reduce Your Blood Pressure

Having high blood pressure means that your heart is working harder than it needs to. Extra stress on the heart puts you at a high risk for serious problems. Your heart is a muscle and just like any muscle in your body, when it is exercised it gets stronger. A stronger heart can pump more blood with less effort. Some patients can lower their blood pressure. See the following link for more information: [www.mayoclinic.com/health/high-blood-pressure/HI00024](http://www.mayoclinic.com/health/high-blood-pressure/HI00024)



### Lower Your Cholesterol Levels

Researchers from the University of Texas Cardiology Program believe that exercise helps to promote the activity of the enzymes that remove low-density lipoproteins (LDLs, or the "bad" cholesterol) from the blood and the blood vessel walls. These enzymes transport the LDL's to the liver where they can be removed from the body. They also found that exercise increases the size of specific proteins that carry and transport cholesterol through the blood, giving it a lesser chance of building up in the body. The recommended amount of exercise to help lower cholesterol is at least 40 minutes of moderate exercise at least 5 days per week. See the link below for more information:

[www.webmd.com/cholesterol-management/features/exercise-to-lower-cholesterol](http://www.webmd.com/cholesterol-management/features/exercise-to-lower-cholesterol)

# BENEFITS BUZZ

## Health and Wellness Information



### Continued: Exercise and Heart Disease

#### Open Your Arteries

Your arteries provide a passageway for the blood to flow through your body. Your arteries are elastic. As the blood is pumped through them they expand; as the blood passes through they relax. If you have a build up of plaque in your arteries, the passageway narrows, which means less blood and oxygen get through and your heart pumps faster and harder to deliver the same amount of blood as it did before the arteries narrowed. When you do aerobic exercise, you make your heart pump harder to deliver the needed oxygen and blood to the body. As the increased volume of blood is pushed through the arteries, your arteries expand to create the needed room. With time and an appropriate level of exercise, the arteries will expand and widen permanently.

#### Increase the Number of Capillaries

Since aerobic exercise makes your heart pump harder to deliver needed oxygen and blood, your body responds by creating more passageways. Capillaries carry the blood from the arteries and veins and deliver it throughout the body. Regular exercise actually increases the number of capillaries in the body. With more capillaries, your heart does not have to work as hard to pump the blood through the body. Visit the following website for additional information: [http://www.ehow.com/how-does\\_4744183\\_exercising-prevent-heart-disease.html](http://www.ehow.com/how-does_4744183_exercising-prevent-heart-disease.html).

*"Those who do not find time to exercise will have to find time for illness."*

Earl Derby



### MATTERS OF THE HEART



#### TEA

#### Health Benefits

Tea, whether hot, cold, or infused into foods, has the power to keep hearts healthy. Studies have shown that regular tea consumption has a long list of benefits. It helps prevent cancer and heart disease; it may reduce the risk of stroke, obesity, arthritis, and diabetes; and has antioxidants that protect the body from the effects of aging. It may also protect against tooth decay and osteoporosis.

### Benefit Reminder

You can check your health insurance claims online through the Select Administrative Services website at [www.selectadministrativeservices.com](http://www.selectadministrativeservices.com). Just click on the "View Explanation of Benefits" link next to the claim ID number after registering your user name and password. If you have misplaced your information, please call or e-mail Lynn Hill in Human Resources at 868.5831 or [lhill@gulfport-ms.gov](mailto:lhill@gulfport-ms.gov).



### Work/Life Services

#### EMPLOYEE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Just when you think you have it all figured out, along comes a challenge. Whether those challenges are big or small, your Life Assistance and Work/Life Support Program is available to help you and your family find a solution and restore your peace of mind. Assistance is available 24/7 and is confidential. Call us at 800.538.3543 or reach us online at: [www.cignabehavioral.com/CGI](http://www.cignabehavioral.com/CGI).



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## In the Spotlight:

Department of Leisure Services  
The Voice of George Manemann  
868.5881/gmanemann@gulfport-ms.gov

### 5 QUESTIONS



#### How does it feel being back on the Gulf Coast?

As was the case with many others after Katrina, my wife Tracey and I made the very difficult and heart-wrenching decision in early 2006 to relocate to St Petersburg, FL. With me being a Biloxian for the past 47 years, and Tracey equally as long a resident of Gulfport, we can both surely say there is absolutely no place like home! We are simply thrilled to be back and neither of us can imagine ever leaving this wonderful Gulf Coast again. And to be able to come back home to such an amazing

employment opportunity is almost beyond words, and certainly a dream come true if folks believe in that kind of thing.

As a kid, I spent most of my days either on or in the Biloxi Back Bay area, and then worked every summer when school was out on the charter boats running out of the Broadwater Marina. Speaking from experience, and no matter what people say, there is no other body of water that can compare with our Sound and our Gulf right here off our own coastline. In a nutshell, “it just don’t get no better than this”!

#### What do you think about your new position as Harbor Master?

Having been given the charge of overseeing the operation of the new Small Craft Harbor is, in my opinion, a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that I will never take lightly. It is on one hand very humbling in that I have enormous shoes to fill as the long-term Harbor Master D.J. Ziegler follows another path that life has presented him with. I wish him well and sincerely appreciate his heartfelt guidance and welcoming demeanor throughout my transition into the Harbor environment. As boaters often say to one another, D.J. certainly deserves “fair winds and following seas” in the times that lay ahead of him.

And on the other hand, I still pinch myself daily to be sure this isn’t all a dream – albeit a good one! Let there be no doubt, being an integral part of the Coast’s premier docking facility is, in my world, about the most exciting thing that could ever happen to someone. The fact that so many people – the City leadership, the designers, the architect, the contractors, and certainly D.J. – have put their heart and soul into this project leaves me with the sincerest feelings of appreciation and admiration. I have, quite frankly, found myself surrounded by a remarkable facility and an equally remarkable group of people. My hat (and my thanks) is off to everyone who put the Harbor back together again after the storm. It is surely the gem of the Gulf Coast, and one that the City of Gulfport can be extremely proud of for many years to come.



**Where did you come from and what did you do there?**

While finding suitable employment in Florida was a bit of a challenge, I was very fortunate to have been hired by the City of St. Petersburg to work at the Municipal Marina there. I started that position first as a part-timer and ultimately became the Dockmaster and Marina Supervisor of their 662 slip marina. In that position, I was responsible for the daily operation of the marina, fuel dock, marina store, and a staff of about 16 associates including Maintenance, Security, and Marina Operations.

During my time in St. Pete, I learned everything I could about the “job” side of operating a marina, but more importantly, I learned about the “people” side of boats, boaters, and the individuals who make their living running a City-owned and operated marina. Great folks, all of them, and surely they are the ones who made my time there so rewarding, day in and day out. Not a single day went by there when I did not wake up looking forward to going to work! I expect I’ll feel the same way here.

**What is the primary difference between the St. Petersburg Marina and the Gulfport Small Craft Harbor?**

There are several differences that come quickly to mind. First, of course, is the fact that the St. Pete Marina has more than twice as many slips as Gulfport. In comparison on that note, however, Gulfport’s slips and piers are literally brand new while St. Pete is an aging marina, now nearing 50 years of glorious service to that city. Another prime difference is the degree of “hardening” that is in place here compared to St. Pete. Being as storm savvy as we are here on the Mississippi Coast – in stark contrast to those on Florida’s west central coast (they’ve not seen a major hurricane since the 1920’s) – it makes complete sense to “overbuild” a harbor facility and that is exactly what has taken place. The power distribution points (you’ve seen the towers I presume) are built above Katrina’s surge level and the decks, docks, sea walls, piers, and pilings are all about as stout and properly engineered as one can imagine when building to mitigate the impacts of future hurricanes. While we all know we can’t make anything “hurricane proof”, I truly believe the Harbor facility will withstand future storms with a survivability rate much greater than we could ever have imagined in the past.

**Is the Small Craft Harbor yet open for business?**

Yes, the Harbor opened on July 25th, and boats are coming in. As of this writing, we have about 15 boats in slips and at least another 25 or so waiting in the wings for the appropriate time to make their move here. While I realize that’s only 40 slips filled out of a total of 318, we are nonetheless heading solidly in the right direction. Surely, it will take a while to get things going at full steam, but there is a lot of interest and the phone is ringing off the hook. The Harbor is now staffed by a great team of newly-hired Harbor Assistants who are on site 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Chad, John, Luke, DeArius, and Mike are going out of their way every day to be sure anyone visiting the Harbor for the first time – or even the hundredth time – is greeted with a warm smile, a big hello, and a heap of information. Those guys are the best and I know they will be a huge asset as we bring more and more boats into the Harbor.

If you, your neighbors, friends, or families have any questions at all about the Harbor, please call Liz MacMillan or me at 868-5881. You may also email me at [gmanemann@gulfport-ms.gov](mailto:gmanemann@gulfport-ms.gov). We have slips ranging in size from 19’ up to 64’ and many are still available. The cost is \$5.50 per foot per month with some nominal fees added to cover the costs of lighting, pumpout, electricity, and dock-boxes. Boaters who elect to make their payment annually in advance will receive a 5% discount. And coming soon – hopefully around the first of September – will be a full service fuel dock offering non-ethanol (90 octane) gasoline and marine-grade diesel, both of which will be pretreated with the industry-leading ValvTect fuel additive.

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## ***Happenings in Leisure Services***

By Liz MacMillan

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### **Pee Wee Flag & Tackle Football**



The Department of Leisure Services Pee Wee Flag & Tackle Football program is ready to begin. You may register at the Gaston Hewes Recreation Center, Herbert Wilson Recreation Center and the Lyman Community Center on Tuesday, August 16th through Thursday, August 18th from 12:00 pm - 7:00 pm. The Flag Football (co-ed) program is for children ages 6-12. The Tackle Football program is for children ages 10-12.

The registration fee is \$15.00. All first year participants must bring a copy of their birth certificate.

### **Off to Serve Our Country...**

Reggie Sims, Program Coordinator for the Community Centers, will be leaving this month to serve our country in the Middle East for the next year. He is a member of the Army National Guard Troop 1108<sup>th</sup> TASM-G out of Camp Shelby in Hattiesburg. This is his third deployment. His first deployment was with the 890<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion from February 2003 through April 2004 where he served in Iraq. His second deployment was with the 1107<sup>th</sup>/1108<sup>th</sup> AVCARD from August 2005



through December 2006 where he served in Kuwait. While his troop was preparing to deploy, Hurricane Katrina struck and changed plans. Instead, he had to help in recovery operations after the storm and then they deployed with the 1107<sup>th</sup> out of Springfield, Missouri. Reggie has been a dedicated employee with the Department of Leisure Services and the City of Gulfport since 1996. Reggie, we want to say "thank you" to you and all the brave soldiers who sacrifice for our freedom. We will miss you, Reggie.

### **Activities for Senior Citizens at the Senior Center**

The Charles L. Walker Senior Center located at 4008 8<sup>th</sup> Street provides activities for Senior Citizens. The Center is open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 8:00 am to 2:30 pm; and Thursday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Seniors can enjoy many activities on a daily basis such as, playing cards and games, ceramics, sewing and quilting, and pottery. The Senior Center is equipped with computers and if someone doesn't know how to use one, the staff will gladly assist. They even have special activities planned such as playing bingo and watching movies. If anyone knows a senior citizen that would enjoy these activities plus many more, please tell them to stop by. If you have any questions, please contact Brenda Salloum at 575-4535.

LIGHTS & SIRENS: Fire & Police News  
POLICE DEPARTMENT  
by Mike Saucier

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## Civilian Employees of the Month



**Tritter Hinson** (pictured first) was recognized as Civilian Employee of the Month for **May 2011**. She is currently the Administrative Assistant in the Operations Department. She strives each day to improve the organizational and operational capabilities of her office. She is relied upon to coordinate special event orders submitted to the Commander's office, facilitate grant driven activities, and special events, as well as key enforcement details. Her ability to multi-task and coordinate issues has risen to a level of accomplishment only attained by a few employees. She enjoys her job and the people she works with, and looks forward to coming to work each day.

**Deana Norton** was recognized as Civilian Employee of the Month for **June 2011**. Deana's experience is invaluable, her dedication to the Gulfport Police Department for the past 15 years and her high level of professionalism is deserving of this recognition. Mrs. Norton currently serves as the Administrative Assistant assigned to the Training and Planning Division of the Police Department. She consistently performs her duties to the highest level of proficiency and professionalism. She is always ready to perform any task given to her and is a pro-active problem solver. It is civilian team members such as Deana who perform their duties to a level and caliber that makes the Gulfport Police Department a flawless operation.



## Officer of the Month

Lieutenant Phil Kincaid was recognized as Officer of the Month for May 2011. He has been serving the Gulfport Police Department since 2002. Lieutenant Kincaid is a Negotiator team member, Officer in Charge of the Reserves, and Officer in Charge of Special Events. Lieutenant Kincaid always asks what else he can do for the agency, while requiring little in return. He is a dedicated, professional employee who is first and foremost a student of the profession and a community servant. He exhibits what is best in justice and in the profession.



## Recent Achievements

On June 10, 2011, 246 law enforcement officers graduated from the FBI National Academy Program at Quantico, Virginia. The 245<sup>th</sup> session consisted of men and women from 48 states, the District of Columbia, 22 international countries, three military organizations, and two federal civilian organizations.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy Program, held at the FBI Academy, offers 10 weeks of advanced investigative, management, and fitness training for selected officers having proven records as professionals within their agencies.

Lieutenant Craig Petersen was one of two officers chosen to represent the State of Mississippi in the 245<sup>th</sup> session. Lt. Petersen stated, *"This program was the most rewarding experience in my law enforcement career. The opportunity to interact with and learn from other law enforcement professionals from all over the world is an experience I will never forget."*



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## LIGHTS & SIRENS: Fire & Police News

By Fire Chief Mike Beyerstedt  
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The **Gulfport Fire Department** is currently training eight firefighter recruits by putting them through our own twelve week fire academy in conjunction with the Mississippi State Fire Academy. The Gulfport Fire Department is running its own academy in order to have enough firefighters to staff Station 7 on Cowan-Lorraine Road when it opens in September. The recruits are currently in the ninth week of a twelve week training program. The normal State Fire Academy is six weeks of ten hour days, but we have added a few extra things to ensure our firefighters are fully prepared when we put them on one of our fire trucks. Following the twelve week training program we hold certifications in CPR, Medical First Responder, and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1001-I-II certifications. These are the firefighting certifications they must have before they are allowed to respond to emergencies as firefighters. Our recruits have already successfully completed their CPR and First Responder certifications and are working on the NFPA 1001-I-II certification.



The Mississippi State Fire Academy recently changed the format for the NFPA 1001-I-II Field Delivery program. Gulfport's recruit class is the first group of firefighters in the State to take this new format. The program is broken into four separate modules, with a trip to Jackson for testing after each module. Recruits are given both practical and written tests while they are at the academy. Failure means dismissal from the Gulfport Fire Department, so they are under a lot of pressure while completing their training. The first module they tested on was hazardous materials and the State reported that their scores were higher than any NFPA Field Delivery program in the last six years. They have completed three modules and will start the fourth and final module on August 12<sup>th</sup>. The recruit class will be graduating on August 30<sup>th</sup>.



**Municipal Court**  
by Jennifer Jones Snaer  
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Well, it's that time of year again! For some of us, it seems like the summer went by way too fast. For others, it wasn't fast enough. There are a lot of mixed emotions during this time of year. For kids, the summer pleasures of sleeping in late and staying up late is over and it's time to get back to the rigorous routine of waking up early to go to school. Some Harrison County schools started on August 4<sup>th</sup> while others began on August 8<sup>th</sup>. Nonetheless, the time has come to be on the lookout for those big yellow buses and especially the children in and around them.

Here are a few tips for a safe back-to-school time and a successful school year:

- Watch out for school zones. You should always obey the posted speed limits in school areas.
- Do not text while driving or talk on your cell phone. Simple distractions could hurt more than just you.
- Do not follow closely behind school buses. They always stop at railroad crossings.
- Communication is key! Make sure your child knows what to do and where to go after school.
- Teach! Remind your children not to talk to strangers or get in the car with people they do not know. Make sure your little ones know their address and phone number.
- Quality time is important. Get involved with your child's school work to make sure they succeed.

**REMEMBER...YOU ARE YOUR CHILD'S FIRST TEACHER**



**Urban Development News**  
by Craig Wiggins

Congratulations to **Krystal Hamburgers** for breaking their company's sales records during their grand opening in Gulfport!

**Hobby Lobby** is planning to move into the old Kroger building on Highway 49 and Dedeaux Road in the very near future.

## Promotions

*Congratulations for all your hard work...*

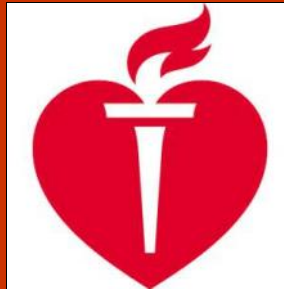
Darin Corrie	Police	Lieutenant
Ted Molesworth	Urban Development	Building Inspector I
Tony Alves	Police	Sergeant
Ian Barna	Fire	District Chief
Marlin Champagne	Police	Patrol Officer I



### August

- 1-Henry Levins, Larry Davis, Anthony Stewart
- 2-Elvin Stewart
- 3-John Alexander, Richard Hophan
- 4-Charles Saussy, William Brand, Bradley Walker
- 6-Steven Chamberlain
- 7-Brandon Dearman
- 8-Brittany Dyess, Frederick Fountain, Gus Wesson, Jarred Fore
- 10-Odell Thompson, Cassie Necaie, Christian Oatis, Verlina Odom
- 11-Louis Palmer, James Cowan, Leslee Curry
- 12-Andrew Dedeaux, Danny Meadors
- 13-Bruce Griebel
- 14-Brenda McKay
- 15-Daniel Castillo, Carl Gannon
- 16-Bill Fulks, Adam Dye
- 17-Max Igich
- 18-Lance Ransonet
- 19-James Jenkins, Doris Schultz, William Collins
- 20-Christopher Henderson
- 21-Charles Hanson, Branden Boomer, Ronald Kirkland, Anthony Michael, Robert Beugez
- 23-Charles Koewers, Glen Hughes
- 24-Kathy Johnson, Devonte Harris, Gregory Lott
- 25-Lonnie Necaie
- 26-Tommy Wallace
- 28-Joanne Fayard
- 29-Kenneth Casey
- 30-Jacob Burnett

### Giving Back to Our Community



**Heart disease is the #1 KILLER of Mississippians and the #1 Killer of Americans as a whole.**

**Did You Know?  
For every 1 woman  
dying of breast cancer,  
5 are dying of heart disease?**

**The City of Gulfport  
is committed to giving back  
to our community,  
and shedding light  
on heart disease.**

**We are sponsoring a  
City-wide Garage Sale  
on Saturday, August 27  
from 7:00 a.m. to noon  
at the VFW Post 2539.  
For further information visit the  
City of Gulfport's website.**

**Brittany Dyess**, Program Coordinator for Leisure Services, is the Company Coordinator for our fund-raising efforts.

Team Captains are:

Lynn Hill - General Administration and Urban Development

Merlissa Lewis - Police Department

Emily Holloway - Southwest Water

Please join the City of Gulfport employees in reaching our goal of \$5,000 for the Gulf Coast American Heart Association's Heart Walk, and participating in the walk which is scheduled for Saturday, October 1st. For further details, please contact a Team Captain listed above.



## September

1-Michael Beyerstedt, Bryant Seymour  
2-Tera Hall, Matthew Boone, Kenneth Adams  
3-Andrew Capiola  
4-Ryan Bennett  
6-Duane Merrill, William Stover  
7-Charlie Pope, Bryan Yates, Ashlee Campbell  
Rodney Ladner  
8-Ella Holmes-Hines, Ian Barna, Walter Jenkins,  
Kevin Beech, Isaac Williams  
9-Merriman McCaleb, Nancy Chisholm  
10-Belinda Head  
11-Heather McCarty, Brian Deming  
12-Deana Norton, George Ray, Bryan Watson  
13-Richard Dombrowski, Cathy Williams  
14-Christopher Smith, Michael Shaw  
15-Donna Ladner, Luis Garcia  
16-James Johnson, Dale Wicks  
17-Kenneth Payne, Debra Williams  
19-Thomas Regan, John Edwards  
21-Jeremiah Fortenberry, Benjamin Clark,  
Howard Irgang  
23-Barry Oakes, Randall Slocum  
24-Sonny Bond, Luke Davidson, Eric Dedeaux,  
Andrew Taylor  
26-Robert Bunch, Robert Langlois  
28-Melvin Evans  
30-Kathy Hale, Amber Moran

## October

1-Jonathon Bratton, Thomas King, Natasha Tate  
2-Clayton Fulks, Douglas Hicks, Jess Traina,  
Blake Tucker  
4-Randall Johnson  
5-Lon Booker, Charles Davis  
6-Joseph Barker, Jennifer Johnson  
7-Patrick McCann  
8-Ian Murray  
9-Lonnie Bobinger, Jr., Helen Chapman,  
Richard Farris, Carl Gangemi, Donald Myers,  
Randy Necaise  
10-Jennifer Krump, Dereck Ladner, Ryan Wangerin,  
Jacqueline White  
12-Christopher Celentano, Chandra Moore  
13-Don Ernst  
14-Jonathan Bounds  
16-Theresa Northington  
17-Jeffrey Scafide  
18-DeArius Welch  
19-Brenda Chapman, Cindy Reid  
22-Bran Bishop, Marshal Hilley, Gregory Holmes



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# ***New Hires***

***Welcome Aboard to Our Great City!***



Chad Elmore	Harbor Assistant
Luke Fletcher	Harbor Assistant
John James	Harbor Assistant
Michal Mazzoli	Harbor Assistant
Attila Urban	Harbor Assistant
DeArius Welch	Harbor Assistant
George Manemann	Harbor Master
Andrew Brennan	Patrol Officer
Brad Sumrall	Patrol Officer
Gary Clark	Fire Fighter
Seth Coleman	Fire Fighter
Charlene Holliman	Fire Inspector
Greg Whitfield	Center Coordinator
Brand William	GSE I
Andrew Powe	GSE I
Angela Necaie	Deputy Court Clerk I
Christina Hutton	Deputy Court Clerk I
Susan Swear	Police Grant Writer



## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

By: Ramona Ervin and Doug Hicks

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### SAFETY INFORMATION

#### WATER SAFETY FACTS AND TIPS

This is a beautiful picture of our beaches but, dangers lie only inches deep in these and all waters.

Unplanned and devastating events can and do happen. Prevention planning can be the difference between life and death.

The tragic drowning of two children on our coast recently should make us all aware of the dangers of such accidents. To help prevent these horrible deaths and injuries we need to remain informed and teach safety rules to children and teenagers, then reinforce them in both our and their daily activities.



#### **FACTS from the *Center of Disease Control and Prevention* about accidental drowning.**

- Non-fatal drowning can cause brain damage that may result in long-term disabilities including memory problems, learning disabilities, and permanent loss of basic functioning (e.g., permanent vegetative state).
- Children ages 1 to 4 have the highest drowning rates. In 2007, among children 1 to 4 years old who died from an unintentional injury, almost 30% died from drowning. Fatal drowning remains the second leading cause of unintentional Injury related death for children ages 1 to 14 years.
- Participation in formal swimming lessons can reduce the risk of drowning by 88% among children aged 1 to 4 years.

#### **FACTS from *Safe Kids Worldwide* (these statistics are staggering)**

- Children ages 4 and under have a drowning death rate more than three times greater than other age groups and account for 80% of home drowning.
- More than 10% of all childhood drowning occurs in bathtubs; the majority occur in the absence of adult supervision.
- Children can drown in as little as one inch of water and are therefore at risk of drowning in wading pools, bathtubs, buckets, diaper pails, toilets, spas and hot tubs. Since 1984, more than 327 children, 89% between the ages of 7 months and 15 months, have drowned in buckets containing water or other liquids used for mopping floors and other household chores. It is estimated that 30 children drown annually in buckets.

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## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

### Continued: Safety Information

#### **KNOWING WHAT TO DO, AND WHEN, IS THE BEST PREVENTION FOR ACCIDENTAL DEATHS**

There are thousands of websites about accidental drowning, causes and prevention. Most give the same safety measures for prevention:

- Never leave children unattended around water, whether it is a mop bucket, the ocean or anywhere in between.
- Never allow children to play in flooded areas, streets, ditches or yards. Unseen debris can cause falls, injury and/or drowning.

#### **SWIMMING POOL SAFETY:**

- Pools and spas should be fenced a minimum of 5' high all the way around and should have a self locking latch located higher than children can reach. Never leave covers partially open; remove completely or keep locked in place.
- Keep any furniture, tools, and equipment away from fences that may enable a child to climb on it.
- Keep pool chemicals away from the pool side and locked in a dry cool place. These can explode and catch fire.
- Keep life vests close at hand for adults and children. Anyone who is not a strong swimmer should wear a life vest at all times, in and around the pool. Keep a rescue pole (10-12 feet long) and a ring buoy with attached line within reach.
- For extra safety, use a sub-surface pool alarm to alert you if someone falls into the pool.



#### **BOATING SAFETY TIPS:**

- Always wear life jackets when on board any type of boat.
- Check weather conditions and be aware of water levels.
- Travel at safe speeds. If not familiar with the area, be extra aware of possible dangers such as submerged reefs and sand bars.
- Always take a weather radio and a two-way radio in case you need emergency assistance. Remember, there are no cell towers in the Gulf.
- Tell someone (who is not boating with you) where you plan to boat; what general area or waterway. Let them know when you expect to return.



## IT DEPARTMENT

By: Bill Fulks

868-5734/bfulks@gulfport-ms.gov

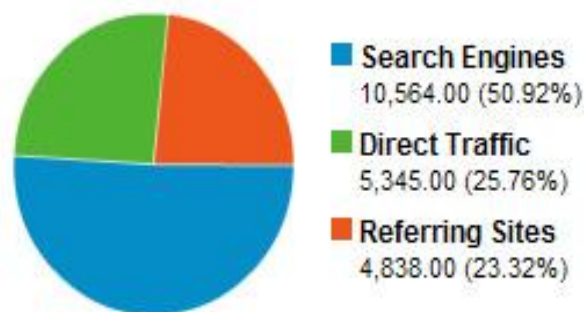
### Making the Most of the City's Website

Did you know that every month, thousands of people are looking up information about the City of Gulfport?

The IT Department has been tracking the number of visitors to the City of Gulfport's website. We do not collect any kind of personal information on these visitors, so we don't know who they are. Instead, we see how many pages they view, how long they stay on the site, and what search engine terms they used to reach us. All of this is done through a free service called Google Analytics.

In July 2011, for example, the City's site (Gulfport-ms.gov) received over 20,000 visits and served up more than twice that in page views. This means that, on average, every visitor to our site looks at two pages before they leave. Loading up the home page of the site counts as one page view, then our visitors look up other information like employment opportunities, boil water notices, council meeting agendas, department contact information and more.

Over 60% of the visitors to our site are new, meaning that they have not visited the City's site in that month. This accounts for over 12,500 hits just in the month of July. More than half of that Internet traffic came from search engines like Google and Bing, and the majority of those hits came from people searching for terms like 'Gulfport MS', 'Gulfport Mississippi', or 'City of Gulfport'.



If you have any suggestions and/or updates for the website, please send them to: [webmaster@gulfport-ms.gov](mailto:webmaster@gulfport-ms.gov).

# The Last Glance...



## PAL KICKBALL FUNDRAISING EVENT

### Pictured:

City Employees, Mayor and City Council Members having fun raising money for the Police Department's PAL Fundraising Event.



The Gulfport Gladiators played Judge Melvin Ray's Hooter's Team.



The Gulfport Gladiators won 10-5.

**Go  
Gulfport!**