

# GULFPORT AT A *GLANCE*

Where City employees get their news



## Mayor's Note

*Robert J. Curry Public Safety Center*

Last week's opening of the new Robert J. Curry Public Safety Center served as a symbol for many things.

The Curry Center stands as a sign of our community's resolve and our will to rebound from the most devastating natural disaster in our nation's history.

In addition, this magnificent building is an imposing sign of our city's commitment to public safety and the swift execution of fair justice.

In America, we choose the peace of community over the uproar of chaos, and the Curry Center is a great example of that choice.

In terms of volume, the Gulfport Municipal Court is the largest of its kind in Mississippi, and during last week's unveiling of the Public Safety Center we celebrated the completion of a court overhaul that began several years ago.

This makeover of the Gulfport Municipal Court included the hiring of additional prosecutors and judges, the implementation of new electronic filing systems, and new and innovative ways to collect court fines.

Today, Court Administrator Odell Thompson oversees the efficient operation of a court that prosecutes rather than persecutes; that administers justice vigorously but fairly.

Police Chief Alan Weatherford and his staff have taken the most progressive and community-focused approach to law enforcement in our city's history.

*Continued on page 2*

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2011

City News



**Benefits Buzz: 3**

What's new with Benefits



**In the Spotlight: 4**

Purchasing Department



**4 Questions: 4**

Connie Debenport answers your questions



**Lights & Sirens: 5-6**

Fire & Police News



**Municipal Court: 7**

Moving on UP



**Retirees: 8**



**Milestones: 9**



Because of these efforts, the crime rate in many categories has dropped or leveled out, and in those few areas where the rate has risen, the Gulfport Police Department is fighting back with creative strategies and the most advanced technology available.

The Police Department and the Municipal Court have accomplished a great deal in recent years, and they have done all of this while holding court in an elementary school and investigating cases out of temporary trailers and sub-par, pre-storm headquarters.

Our society cannot survive without rules that tell us what is right and what is wrong, what is prescribed by our freedom, and what is prohibited so that freedom may reign.

It is the law that allows us to live together and maintain order rather than mayhem. But if one man's rights are denied, then the rights of all of us are in jeopardy. In America, the courts have a great responsibility to preserve these rights.

The time has finally arrived when the brave men and women who are sworn to keep the peace in the City of Gulfport have a first-class facility to see that our children grow old under the rule of law.

As employees of this great city, we should all celebrate our renewed commitment to public safety and the administration of justice in a capable and compassionate manner.

Sincerely,

George Schloegel

*Mayor*

# Benefits Buzz

By Lynn Hill

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*What is a Wellness Program? It is a program promoting a healthier lifestyle. A way of living that encourages good physical and mental health. It is a balanced lifestyle that includes an emphasis on the body, mind and soul.*

## 2011 Wellness Program

To date, sixty five (65) employees have taken a positive step toward improving their health by enrolling in the 2011 Wellness Program. The program entailed having a Health Risk Assessment completed by your Physician or the Nurse Practitioner at Medical Analysis Clinic, receiving feedback, then enrolling in the class or classes identified for your health category. Yes, it is as simple as 1-2-3.

Not only will you receive valuable information to help you improve your health, but if you complete all program requirements, you will receive a discount off of your health insurance premium, beginning in July . Congratulations for taking this big step in becoming more knowledgeable about your health.

Wellness information can be accessed by visiting the Human Resources website under the Workplace Wellness area.

## The Truth About Lifestyle and Heart Disease

The truth is, drugs won't cure **heart disease**, though they can certainly help control it. That means your lifestyle does matter -- a lot.

For starters, it's likely that some aspects of your lifestyle may have put you at risk for heart disease. These are called risk factors. Here's a list of common risk factors for heart disease:

- Having diabetes.
- Being physically inactive.
- Being over 55 years old for men and over 65 for women.

- Having family members who had heart disease or a heart attack early in life: under 55 for father or brother; under 65 for mother or sister.

Some heart disease risk factors you can't control, such as your age or health problems of your parents. However, some risk factors are related to your lifestyle, such as smoking, being overweight, and having an unhealthy diet. These lifestyle factors may have helped contribute to your heart disease and these same risk factors will continue to make your heart disease get worse.

Luckily, the opposite is true as well. Adopting a heart-healthy diet and a healthier lifestyle can improve your health, even if you already have high blood pressure or other forms of heart disease.

## How to Combat Heart Disease: Eating a Heart-Healthy Diet



Heart disease is the number one killer of both men and women in the United States. If you are worried about heart disease, one of the most important things you can do is to start eating a heart-healthy diet. Changing your diet can help stop or even reverse heart disease.

At first, it may seem like there is a lot to learn. But you don't have to make these changes all at once. Start with small steps. Over time, making a number of small changes can add up to a big difference in your heart health.

### To Have a Heart-Healthy Diet:

- Eat more fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and other high-fiber foods. Choose foods that are low in saturated fat, trans fat, and cholesterol.
- Limit salt (sodium).
- Stay at a healthy weight by balancing the calories you eat with your physical activity.
- Eat more foods high in Omega 3 fatty acids, such as fish.

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# In the Spotlight: The Purchasing Department Voice

by Connie Debenport  
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The Purchasing Department ensures the efficient and economical expenditures of the taxpayers' dollars through an open and competitive procurement process. We follow fair and ethical purchasing practices as mandated by the MS

Code for all city departments. It is simply our job to make sure to the best of our ability and knowledge that all purchases are prudent and within the local, state and federal laws.

We have been moving toward a "completely" centralized procurement department within the past year which changes the method that most employees have become accustomed to.

For example, we have a contract for office supplies now that each department uses and we order twice a month instead of processing several purchases in a week. All RFP's now go thru this department as well.



## QUESTIONS:

*Connie Debenport, Purchasing Manager*

### **1. Describe the department method of procurement.**

The Purchasing Department has the sole responsibility to ensure that local, state and federal procurement laws and regulations are followed. There are dollar limits that dictate what method of procurement regulation is followed. For example, for any commodity or equipment purchase over \$5,000 but under \$25,000 we are required to obtain two

informal written quotations. Also, the funding source will often dictate what "method" of procurement we are to follow. For the most part, the stricter of any regulation that is involved in the purchase is followed.

### **2: When is a request for proposal needed?**

An RFP is used when the requirements are not clearly known, are qualitative rather than quantitative, or when the procurement official is looking for a solution to a problem, and/or the selection of a supplier is being made not only on price but a combination of non-price factors.

### **3: Is it difficult to manage a purchasing department?**

Generally speaking, it is not difficult to manage the Purchasing Department. Having the responsibility of ensuring that local, state and federal laws and guidelines are followed, can make it a bit more difficult than other departments.

### **4: What are your hobbies or what do you like to do with your free time?**

I enjoy working in my yard, camping and spending time with family and friends.

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# LIGHTS & SIRENS: Fire & Police News

## FIRE DEPARTMENT

### Water Rescue Boat

by Donna Ladner, Administrative Assistant III  
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We would like to thank several local businesses for their generous donations of monetary or professional services, making it possible to letter our rescue boat. A big "THANK YOU!" goes out to: West Marine Sales, Accurate Edge, Lewis Marine Supply, Fastenal Company, Neo Fabrics, Donovan Marine, Bayou Marine Electronics, Blue Water LED and Clay's Print Shop.



## LIGHTS & SIRENS: Fire & Police News POLICE DEPARTMENT

by Mike Saucier, Sergeant Patrol  
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**Officer Luis Garcia** was named Officer of the month for October 2010. Officer Garcia is a three year veteran of the Gulfport Police Department. Officer Garcia is credited with going the “extra mile” during the month of October. Officer Garcia initiated drug arrests. His coworkers and supervisors state completed 21 arrests with several of those being self that he always maintains a positive attitude in the face of adversity, and has a sense of humor that tends to lift the spirits of those around him.



**Officer Shaun Sebring** was nominated as Officer of the month for November 2010. Officer Sebring is a five year veteran of the Gulfport Police Department. Officer Sebring was recognized for his outstanding devotion and dedication to removing criminals from the streets of Gulfport. His devotion has enabled him to develop a working knowledge of criminals within his area of assignment. Using this knowledge he has been instrumental in the identification of criminal activity.



**Community Service Technician Lon Booker** was recognized as employee of the month for December. Lon has been a Community Service Technician for three years. Lon is credited with the distribution of more than 28,000 “lock your door” stickers throughout the city. These stickers are issued by hand and are done on foot as he walks the area. Lon is also responsible for answering calls for service at the same time. His ability to accomplish this task shows his dedication and time management skills.



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## MUNICIPAL COURT

### Moving On Up

by Jennifer Jones Snaer

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Gulfport Municipal Court has finally moved to the new Robert J. Curry Public Safety Center at 2218 15th Street.

The ribbon cutting ceremony was held on Thursday, February 17, 2011, with a great number of governmental officials, dignitaries and citizens in attendance to celebrate this historic occasion. Regular court sessions resumed Monday, February 28, 2011.

## The Robert J. Curry Public Safety Center

**The building is  
78,690 sq. ft.  
and 3-stories tall**

The new municipal complex is designed to meet hurricane force winds of 200-mph, which complies with FEMA 361 requirements. It will also serve as an emergency shelter for first responders in case of a hurricane or other emergency preparedness situation. If the need arises to serve as an Emergency Operations Center (EOC), there is a backup generating system which allows the building to be self-supporting in the event of a power failure. The building's electrical system, climate control system, and sewer service will function for up to thirty six (36) hours independently.



There are two large municipal courtrooms, which will house arraignments and trials on separate floors. The courtrooms will have computer monitors on the walls, which will display important information for customers. Some of the special features in the building include wood paneling and wood trimming. It is a state of the art building and will provide plenty of modern use for years and years to come.

## Retiree:

### Thank you for Your Service, Dedication, and for Sharing Your Experience With Us...

By Richard Thorsten, Equipment Manager

**Bryan "Steve" Dodge**  
May 1988-February 2011



**Best  
Wishes !**

Steve began working for the City first at the Gulfport Police garage as a mechanic. Then he moved to the Public Works maintenance shop garage when it was a small shop with only three bays doing mainly light vehicle brake repairs. Prior to coming to work for the City, he worked with his father at a shop in downtown Gulfport for over 22 years. He started his career working on old style vehicles. Steve says "old style" because technology has advanced so much in the past twenty years. Cars now have on-board mini computers that control just about everything. He has seen a lot of changes in the mechanic business during his 46+ years and had to adapt to the many changes technology has made in the automobile industry. In the past year alone Steve completed over 180 preventive maintenance services on everything from push lawnmowers to light/medium trucks, plus countless other repairs. When Steve first started working with the City, and still to this day, he holds a passion for repairing all sizes and types of bicycles. He collects, refurbishes and sells old bikes in his home shop and has been known to donate them to needy families, especially during the holiday season.



While at Public Works Steve could often be seen on his lunch hour riding a bike around the shop or the side streets behind the shop.

24 Years of Service

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## *MILESTONES*

### *Congratulations on Your Promotion*

Robert Brown	Police Officer	Police Department
Phillip Kincaid	Lieutenant	Police Department
Jason King	Sergeant	Police Department
Brandon Clark	Sergeant	Police Department
Christopher Parrish	Sergeant	Police Department
Ronald Kirkland	Sergeant	Police Department
Malcolm Thomas	Sergeant	Police Department
Christopher Ryle	Lieutenant	Police Department
George Chaix	Patrol Captain	Police Department
Justin Hayes	Sergeant	Police Department
Josef Smith	Patrol Officer 2	Police Department
Jeffrey Duffield	Patrol Officer	Police Department
Robert Enochs	Lieutenant	Police Department
Jess Traina	Fire Fighter 2	Fire Department
Brandon Necaie	Fire Fighter 2	Fire Department
Steve Decelle	GSE III	Leisure Services

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### *New Hires*

Heather Boney	Police Clerk	12/27/2010
Nathaniel Streetman	Police Dispatcher	12/27/2010
Carolyn Carson-Collins	Human Resources Generalist	12/27/2010
Ginnie Hem	Finance Manager	01/10/2011
Stefany Cadigan	Deputy Court Clerk 1	01/10/2011
Michael Beyerstedt	Fire Chief	01/11/2011
Jennifer Krump	Patrol Officer	01/24/2011
Robert Coleman	Patrol Officer	02/22/2011
Orlando Green	Equipment Specialist	02/22/2011
Claton Fulks	Patrol Officer	02/28/2011

*Congrats!*

*Bravo!*

*Well Done!*

## 2010 FOURTH QUARTER GEM RECIPIENTS



We are proud to announce our 2010 fourth quarter GEM Award recipients. Pictured left to right are: Randy Johnson, Building Inspector, Urban Development; Pamela Kennedy, Purchasing Assistant, General Administration; Lynn Hill, Benefits Administrator, General Administration; Joey Shaw, Engineer, Fire Department; Kyle McCaleb, Engineer, Fire Department; Brenda Chapman, Planning Technician, Urban Development; Cindy Reid, Recreation Aide, Leisure Services Department; and Valeria Seldon-Ray, Deputy Court Clerk, Municipal Court. Presenting the awards to our employees was Dr. John Kelly, Chief Administrative Officer (center).

The GEM awards recognizes employees who *Go The EXTRA Mile*. Our recipients were treated to a luncheon on March 23, 2011. We would like to thank our generous sponsors ; Island View Casino Resorts, who provided a scrumptious luncheon and Roy Anderson, who provided gift cards to our employees.

*If you know of any employees who qualify for this prestigious award, please complete and forward to Human Resources as a nomination form, which can be found on the City's website.*

## Say WHAT???

Each department has their own language...acronyms, phrases, and abbreviations that may confuse the rest of us. But the next time you hear one of these words, you'll know what they mean:

.....  
**The Flood Plain  
Division of Urban  
Development:**

CRS-Community  
Rating System

NFIP-National Flood  
Insurance Program

FIRM-Flood  
Insurance Rate Map

DFIRM-Digital Flood  
Insurance Rate Map

EC-Elevation  
Certificate

BFE-Base Flood  
Elevation

SFHA-Special Flood  
Hazard Area

LOMA-Letter of Map  
Amendment

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*What's Going on in Gulfport*  
By Carolyn Collins, Human Resources Generalist  
868.5831/ccollins@gulfport-ms.gov



*Laissez Les Bon Temps Rouler*  
" Let the Good Times Roll"

Mardi Gras started a very long , long time ago in different places, based upon religious traditions. Rich with history and tradition, Mardi Gras remains a thriving force on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. It is celebrated in Gulfport each year with many festivals and parades.

Mardi Gras is commonly known for excessiveness; excessive beads, excessive eating, excessive parties. It is a time to come together, enjoy, and indulge; it is a time to go a little crazy and step out of the box-all in good fun!

Mardi Gras is an entire season of king cakes, beads, elaborate balls, royal courts, and parades, all ending on Fat Tuesday, the day before Ash Wednesday.

*Parades In Gulfport*  
By Brittany Dyess

*Krewe of Gemini Day Parade*  
Saturday, March 5, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

*Krewe of Gemini Night Parade*  
Tuesday, March 8, 2011 at 5:30 p.m.

*Sheninagans (Quota International Club) St. Patrick's Day Parade*  
Sunday, March 20, 2011 at 2:00 p.m.

**Easter Egg Hunt, by Kerri Jones**



Come early for free pictures with the **Easter Bunny!** Prizes and lots of fun for kids of all ages!

*Gulfport Sportsplex Soccer Fields*

Thursday, April 14, 2011 at  
6:00 p.m.

*Westside Park*

Saturday, April 16, 2011 at  
12:00 p.m.

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## Think Before You Click

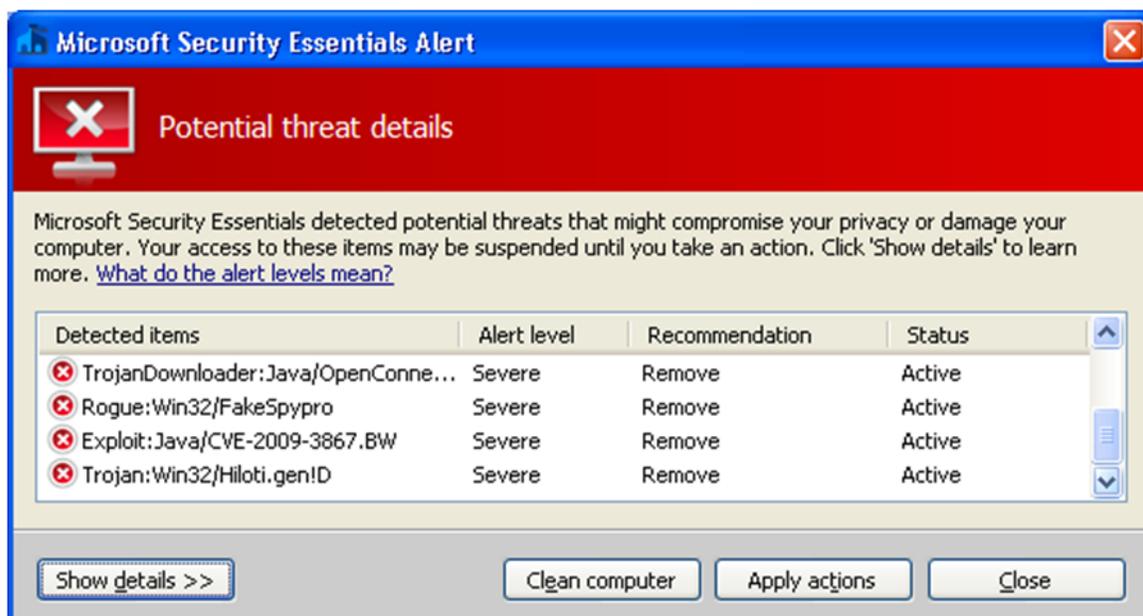
By Bill Fulks, IT Department

The IT Department deals with virus or malware infections at least once a week. Sometimes we can knock out the problem in a few minutes, and other times it takes hours. In some rare cases, we've had to completely wipe the hard drive and reinstall all the software, meanwhile the user goes without a computer until we rebuild their system.

We have security software that is updated daily and we have a firewall in place that filters all the network traffic coming and going through our system. The problem is that the crooks and con artists putting out viruses and malware are constantly updating their malicious software to circumvent all the security measures currently in place, hence the need for daily updates.

Virus and malware preventions begins with the user. No matter how many layers of security we put into place, all it takes is a single click of the mouse to set off an infection that may take hours to remedy. The threats will most likely come in the form of a spam email designed to look like it came from someone familiar, or you'll get a pop-up ad on a website or while doing a Google search. When your computer is infected, you will be bombarded with message windows full of warnings and often find that your web browser has been hijacked with advertisements for pornographic websites.

Below is an example of some of the infections we found on one PC. This user got a single pop-up window and responded to it, resulting in several different virus/malware infections:



*Continue on page 13*

In the past several months, I have personally dealt with at least a dozen different types of malware, and most of them are fake virus scanners. They start out looking like a genuine Windows system alert that says your PC is infected. When you get one of these pop-ups, the absolute worst thing you can do is click on them. If you click that alert to have it scan your PC or remove the infection, there is a very good chance that you're actually allowing it to install the malicious software.

If you are on any computer within the City and get a virus or malware alert of any kind, please contact the IT Department immediately. Do not click on the window or attempt to diagnose or disinfect the computer in any way, because this only makes things worse. If it is after regular office hours and you think that your computer may be infected in some way, unplug the power from the back of the machine. Do not restart, shut down, or log it off as this may upload the virus back to the server that hosts your user profile, and then it will spread to another machine if you login somewhere else.

For every infected PC we encounter, our department has been collecting information to report back to our security software vendors so that they can document the incident and issue protective measures as soon as possible. Please help us prevent a catastrophe and report any issues or abnormal computer behavior as soon as they arise.

The IT Department is available Monday through Friday from 8am to 5pm and our office phone number is 868-5734. You may also email us any time at [is@gulfport-ms.gov](mailto:is@gulfport-ms.gov).

Share your Views, Pictures and Announcements with Gulfport At a Glance Contact info below:

- Fire Department: [Donna Ladner](#)
- General Administration: [Bill Fulks](#)
- General Administration: [Carolyn Collins](#), [Ryan LaFontaine](#),
- Leisure Services: [Elizabeth MacMillian](#)
- Municipal Court: [Colby Combs](#) , [Jennifer Jones Snaer](#)
- Police: [Mike Saucier](#)
- Public Works: [Mona Ervin](#)
- Urban Development: [Craig Wiggins](#)

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## Announcements

Fire fighter Andrew Dedeaux's baby boy



Andrew Jace Dedeaux

Born November 29th at 02:55

9lbs 9oz & 21-1/2 inches...



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## The Last Glance...

Ryan Merrill  
Systems Analyst

