

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS (continued)

FIRE DRILLS – THEY JUST MAKE SENSE!

On Wednesday, March 12, Inspector **Richard Ritchie**, along with Rescue 9's **Tim Holliman** and **Pat Sutherlin** and Engine 8 crew of **Lt. Henry Levins**, **Nick Decoranado** and **Randall Slocum**, conducted a fire drill for 600 Orange Grove Elementary School students.

Drills such as this one highlight areas needing improvement and give students a better understanding of first responders' actions. Participating will show why

everyone must obey officials' orders to prevent their inadvertently interfering with search & rescue or fire fighting efforts.

Did you know that all schools are required to conduct a fire drill every month they are in session?

They must also hold an additional drill within the first 30 days of reopening. The Gulfport Fire Department wants to be involved in a minimum of four drills a year to gauge, and if necessary correct, student and teacher response.

Businesses should hold a minimum of four yearly drills to

be prepared for an emergency.

The Fire Prevention Bureau will help any business set up fire drills. They'll conduct them and share their professional insight on how to improve performance. If you are interested in setting up a fire drill or safety class, please call the Gulfport Fire Department at **(228) 868-5950**.



MILESTONES

WELCOME ABOARD NEW HIRES!

Clay Anderson	Community Service Tech	John Ladner, Jr.	Equipment Specialist
Samantha Cotton-Taylor	Clerk I	Nicholas Olds	Patrol Officer
Devonte Harris	General Service Employee I	Gregory Paleaz	Patrol Officer
Jennifer Jones-Snaer	Admin. Assistant I	Wanda Temple	Clerk/Deputy Court Clerk
		Melissa Wangerin	Police Dispatcher

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April 1	John Ladner	April 1	John Ladner
April 2	Mark Headrick, Stephen Akers, Brent Lyons & Tamara Mills	April 2	Mark Headrick, Stephen Akers, Brent Lyons & Tamara Mills
April 3	Keith Bennett & Daniel Ziegler	April 3	Keith Bennett & Daniel Ziegler
April 4	Adam Cooper, Donna Fox & Craig Petersen	April 4	Adam Cooper, Donna Fox & Craig Petersen
April 5	Kenneth Miller	April 5	Kenneth Miller
April 8	April Thompson, Hugh Frazier, Bradrick Fisher & Edward Agent	April 8	April Thompson, Hugh Frazier, Bradrick Fisher & Edward Agent
April 9	Ted Molesworth, Kevin Goveia & April Lizana	April 9	Ted Molesworth, Kevin Goveia & April Lizana
April 10	Jay Dearman, Nahoma White-Webb & Robert Riemann	April 10	Jay Dearman, Nahoma White-Webb & Robert Riemann
April 11	Kevin Hicks & Steven Kerns	April 11	Kevin Hicks & Steven Kerns
April 12	Robert Culpepper	April 12	Robert Culpepper
April 13	Kennth Thomas	April 13	Kennth Thomas
April 14	Jimmie Lott, Ian Clark & Jason Payne	April 14	Jimmie Lott, Ian Clark & Jason Payne
April 15	Merlissia Lewis & Timothy Lawton	April 15	Merlissia Lewis & Timothy Lawton
April 16	Josephine Donald & George Payne	April 16	Josephine Donald & George Payne
April 17	Cathy Remus & Ray McDaniel	April 17	Cathy Remus & Ray McDaniel
April 18	Helen Fasler	April 18	Helen Fasler
April 19	Wayne Payne	April 19	Wayne Payne
April 20	William McConnell & Darrel Bell	April 20	William McConnell & Darrel Bell
April 21	Amanda Schmitt	April 21	Amanda Schmitt

Gulfport at a GLANCE



The City of Gulfport, Mississippi

March/April 2008

WE'RE BUILDING THE FUTURE – TODAY!

In his State of the City Address, **Mayor Brent Warr** declared 2008 “The Year of Bricks and Mortar.”

With bidding on almost \$52 million for projects beginning, his words are becoming reality! In the following excerpts from the Mayor's historic address, he discusses current projects.

“This administration has worked diligently to secure funding and now we are taking those plans and turning them into reality. Bidding, permitting and construction are all under way. We have drawn on experience from residents, dedicated directors, contractors and city employees...”

We will break ground on the state-of-the-art Public Safety and Municipal Building (pictured) that will be at least 57,000 square feet, at a budget of \$21 million, over half of which is funded by FEMA and insurance...

We are 100% funded and scheduled to start construction in June of this year on the \$24.8 million redevelopment plan for Gulfport's Small Craft Harbor...

We have a lot in our city to be proud of. We will be remembered by what we have created out of a disaster... As a city, we can point to investment and projects city wide, well in excess of \$1.3 billion. I believe that in



10, 20, 30 years our children won't remember the year or two it took to get it out of the ground, they are going to look at the product.

In the world of carpentry the saying goes “measure twice and cut once” – be deliberate and careful with your resources. And so we have. We have been deliberate in our work, we have planned and solid foundations for the future have been laid.

Rebuilding our city is underway... We are “building a better Gulfport” and our possibilities are endless. This is the year of bricks and mortar – Bricks and mortar done right!”

REPAIR PROJECTS

City Hall Annex – William Hardy Building (Housing the Urban Development, General Finance, General Administration and Civil Service Departments), **Jones Building** (Housing the Water Billing and Information Systems Departments), **19th Street Recreation Center, Centennial Museum Interior Renovation, City Hall**

NEW PROJECTS

Leisure Services Building, Bulkhead – Small Craft Harbor Piers, Utilities & Dredging, Boardwalk & Pavilion, Small Craft Harbor, Fire Station #7 (Cowan Road, south of the tracks), **Jones Park Redesign & Rebuild, Charles Walker Community Center, Harbor Services Facility, Municipal Complex, Grasslawn Museum**

IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU: Benefits & Wellness

In 2006, **President George W. Bush** declared the month of April as National Cancer Control Month with a proclamation. It reads in part, "Cancer survival rates are increasing, with approximately 10 million survivors in the United States. New understanding of diseases, better diagnostic tools and innovative treatments help provide hope and healing to those who have been diagnosed with cancer. Across our country, cancer patients are living longer and fuller lives.

Despite these advances, cancer is still the second leading cause of death in our country, and some cancers, such as breast, prostate, lung, leukemia, and melanoma, continue to be too prevalent. By increasing public awareness and encouraging people to take appropriate steps to protect themselves, we can help prevent certain types of cancer. I also encourage all Americans to get regular preventive screenings and speak with a health care provider about additional ways to reduce the risk of developing cancer."

The American Cancer Society believes that early detection examinations and tests can help save lives and some types of cancer can be found early by self examinations or by lab and/or imaging tests. Using the early detection method, the survival rate is about 82%.

NO CO-PAY FOR WELLNESS!

The City also recognizes the importance of early detection and has designed wellness benefits to follow the American Cancer Society's recommendations.



Our medical insurance has a wellness & preventative care benefit that covers routine & preventative exams and screening assessments such as PSA tests and Pap Smears. Our plan has an \$800 Calendar Year maximum with no co-pay for wellness.

Medical Analysis, the City's employee clinic, also offers these services free of charge for employees and dependents two years old and up. Call **(228) 248-0031** for an appointment. Don't put it off. The life you save may be your own!

DEPARTMENTAL NEWSLETTER CONTACTS

Have some news? Let us know! Send your digital pictures, JPGS and other electronic files to

City Council	Rhonda Washington	868-5847	rwashington@ci.gulfport.ms.us
Fire Department	Donna Ladner	868-5954	dladner@ci.gulfport.ms.us
General Administration	Lauren Germany	868-5831	lgermany@ci.gulfport.ms.us
Leisure Services	Kerri Jones	868-5881	kjones@ci.gulfport.ms.us
Municipal Courts	Chandra Moore	868-5866	cmoore@ci.gulfport.ms.us
Police Department	Mike Saucier	868-5900	msaucier@ci.gulfport.ms.us
Public Works	Sherry Beavers	868-5741	sbeavers@ci.gulfport.ms.us
Urban Development	Isaac Williams	868-5715	iwilliams@ci.gulfport.ms.us

POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE (continued)



Sgt. Damon McDaniel



Officer Todd Wallis



Officer Adam



Officer Roger Gibson



Officer Julian Slaughter



Officer Gregory Anderson

TRAFFIC SAFETY ENFORCEMENT ACHEIVEMENT

On March 13, six members of the Gulfport Police Department were recognized by the Department of Public Safety, Division of Public Safety Planning, Office of Highway Safety for their efforts and commitment to maintaining public safety through enforcement of child restraint and seatbelt laws.

Officer Todd Wallis was third in the state for seatbelt enforcement and was also recognized for child restraint enforcement. Sgt. Damon McDaniel and Officer Adam Dedeaux were recognized for seatbelt and child restraint enforcement and Officers Roger Gibson, Julian Slaughter and Gregory Anderson were recognized for seatbelt enforcement.

GULFPORT P.D. PLACES FIRST IN STATE-WIDE CHALLENGE!

The Gulfport Police Department was named top department in the "Law Enforcement Challenge." This program was sponsored by the Office of Highway Safety to encourage law enforcement agencies across the State of Mississippi to improve motorist safety.

The department was recognized for its innovative and aggressive enforcement of child restraint, seat belt, DUI laws and public education. With the first place status comes funding to purchase a fully equipped traffic enforcement vehicle. Chief Weatherford said, "I am proud of these officers for their commitment to the safety of the city's roadways and protecting the lives of the motoring public."

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS

FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR NAMED

Engineer Mark Hilley received Firefighter of the Year in recognition of his outstanding service & dedication from the Gulfport Rotary Club. **Hilley** serves on the A shift at Fire Station #9. He has been with the Gulfport Fire Department for almost eight years. Congratulations!

The A shift of Gulfport's Fire Department Engine 9 gave the Easter Bunny a lift to Garden Park Hospital for an Easter egg hunt on March 15. Escorting the guest of honor are Mark Hilley and Tim Holliman. Also attending were Don Knox, Wade Beesley and Scotty Anderson.



SENIORS LEARN FIRE SAFETY FROM THE BEST

Almost 80 senior citizens attended a fire extinguisher and fire safety class held on March 27 at the Community Center on 19th Street. The Gulfport Fire Prevention Division's Joe Ing, Mike Liles, Randy Johnson and Richard Ritchie along with Fire Station #2's Gabe Dickens, Terry Johnson and Wayne Kueling assisted in this important class.



POLICE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

OFFICERS HONORED



Detective Stephen Carlson

DECEMBER 2007 OFFICER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to **Detective Stephen Carlson** for being recognized as Officer of the Month for December 2007. **Detective Carlson** is a five-year veteran of the Gulfport Police Department and worked for four years on patrol prior to working in the Detective Division. According to his supervisor, "**Detective Carlson** has the drive and commitment to motivate and instill confidence in those around him." He was recognized as Officer of the Month for his work on a hit and run fatality. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene and there were no know witnesses to the accident. Using good investigative techniques, **Detective Carlson** located a suspect by following up on information he received. He obtained a confession from the suspect and recovered physical evidence of the crime. Thanks to his dedication, the responsible party was arrested.



Officer Jason Payne

JANUARY 2008 OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to **Officers Jason Payne** and **James Griffin** for their joint recognition as Officers of the Month. They are assigned as School Resource Officers at Gulfport High School. Officers Payne and Griffin are credited with the arrest of two individuals for vehicle burglary at Gulfport High School. By quickly following up on an anonymous complaint and compiling information from an eyewitness they were able to develop suspects in the crime. Most importantly, both officers used diligence, good common sense and their training to bring the case to a positive conclusion. According to their supervisor, "Officer Griffin consistently exhibits high standards of conduct and job performance and regularly goes the extra mile. Officer Payne constantly exhibits positive proactive police techniques to maintain a safe and crime free learning environment at Gulfport High School and is well thought of by the students."



Officer James Griffin

GRADUATES DARE TO CARE!

Congratulations to Officers J.D. Lott and Josh Skaggs for successfully completing D.A.R.E. Officer Training in Orange Beach, Alabama. **Lott graduated in the top of his class and was recognized as the "Most Outstanding Graduate" of his team.**

Officers selected for D.A.R.E. training undergo 80 hours of intensive instruction in areas such as child development, classroom management, teaching techniques and communication skills. Officer Lott presents the D.A.R.E. program at Gaston Point Elementary and Central Elementary and works as a school resource officer assigned to the Gulfport School District. Officer Skaggs is currently assigned to the patrol division.

D.A.R.E. students learn about the dangers of drugs and gain self-confidence by acting out problem situations in a classroom setting. They are taught to keep their bodies healthy and to control their feelings when angry or under stress. Students are also taught how to respond when a friend pressures them to use alcohol or drugs and to recognize the various forms of influence from peers, parents, and the media. They learn to choose positive activities instead of just "hanging out" on the streets.



Officer J.D. Lott



Officer Josh Skaggs

POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATES

In the state of Mississippi, a police recruit has to attend a state sanctioned academy within two years of their hire date. The Mississippi Board of Minimum Standards and Training oversees the academies. The Academy certifies an officer with enforcement powers of state and local laws. The course of instruction at the academy runs 10 weeks in length and includes classroom instruction as well as practical application of law enforcement skills in a scenario type setting. The first class of 2008 graduated on Friday, March 7 and included seven officers from the Gulfport Police Department. Their Class Motto was "Protecting those who can not protect themselves." Congratulations to the following officers for successfully completing their certifications: Patrolmen Kevin R. Arnett, Rachel Evelyn, Luis D. Garcia, Lisa M. Lane, Patricia A. Musgrove, Kristan Rich and Andrew R. Thompson.

HUMAN RESOURCES ROUND UP

RELAY FOR LIFE REPORT

The relay will be held on **May 2 at 6 p.m. at the Gulfport Sportsplex**

Relay for Life, the American Cancer Society's signature event, is a fun-filled overnight experience designed to bring together those who have been touched by cancer. At Relay, people from within the community gather to celebrate survivors, remember those lost to cancer and to fight back against this disease.

Relay participants help raise money and awareness to support the American Cancer Society in its lifesaving mission to eliminate cancer as a major health issue. During Relay for Life events, teams of people gather and take turns walking or running laps. The events are held overnight to represent the fact that cancer never sleeps.

We've already exceeded our goal of \$7500 and we're not finished yet! With several weeks to go, all departments are still working hard to recruit walkers and raise funds.

All walkers who raise \$150 will receive a Relay for Life t-shirt. In addition, participants who raise \$175 or more will be eligible for some amazing prize incentives including a Video iPod!



The General Administration team will hold a Fish Fry Fundraiser on April 25! Details will be e-mailed soon.



Team captains are
Natasha Tate & Billy Bragg – Fire
Merlissa Lewis & Mike Shaw – Police
Anita Jones – Municipal Court
Vicki Parkhill, Reggie Sims & Jenny Hardy – Leisure Services
Carolyn Bobinger & Donna Farris – Engineering/Public Works
Lauren Germany & Denise Waizenegger – General Administration/City Council/Legal/Urban Development

Employees who are interested in participating in the Relay can see their department's team captain. **Lauren Germany** (HR) is serving as the city's event chair. Employees looking for additional information are asked to call her at **x5831** or e-mail lgermany@cigulfport.ms.us.

VISION

Gulfport, MS is a picturesque beachfront city on the Gulf of Mexico where everyone feels welcome and at home. Its diverse culture and safe family oriented neighborhoods are supported by a progressive economy.

MISSION

Our mission is to provide efficient, effective and openly responsive municipal services to all citizens while promoting responsible economic development, preserving our heritage and enhancing our quality of life.

LEISURE SERVICES

LEISURE SERVICES ON A ROLL AT EASTER!

Leisure Services celebrated Easter by hosting two Easter Egg Hunts in March. Over 1,100 residents attended fun-filled events in 28th Street Park and the Gulfport Sportsplex. Area children hunted for eggs containing prize tickets. Prizes were toys, baskets, stuffed rabbits, Mp3s and video games. Along with the Easter Bunny, clowns and face painters added to the fun.

Special accommodations were made for children with disabilities. This was the first time that Leisure Services held a handicapped accessible hunt – and it was a BIG hit! A modified hunt for children with visual impairments was held with beeping eggs. Plus, wheelchair-bound children were able to roll up to tables to hunt for eggs hidden in hay bales!

Kerri Jones, Program Coordinator, told us, “I love being able to plan and execute programs that bring a smile to the faces of the children in our community. Some of my fondest childhood memories are from participating in community events such as Easter egg hunts; it makes me feel good to have a hand in creating this type of leisure opportunities for kids and their families.”

Special thanks go to the Gulfport Police Department, Harrison Central BETA Club, Gulfport Pink Pearls Youth Service Group and Gulfport Kappa League for their help and support.



SUMMER DAY CAMP REGISTRATION

- WHEN:** Monday, April 21 – Thursday, April 24 from 6 a.m. – 7 p.m.
WHERE: Handsboro Community Center, Switzer Road. (Right off Cowan Lorraine; the same street as Jeff Davis Community College.)
WHAT TO BRING: Please bring a copy of each child's birth certificate. If the child does not attend an accredited school in Mississippi, you must bring a 121 form (immunization form).

Parents ARE allowed to choose which camp their children attend.

Registration fee: \$15 per child

Camp fees: \$35 per week/ per child due the beginning of each week of camp.

Camp Locations

Bayou View Elementary (5-8 years)

Harrison Central Elementary (5-8 years)

Three Rivers Elementary (5-12 years)

Herbert Wilson Community Center (9-12 years)

Anniston Elementary (9-12 years)

FLASH, a Special Needs Camp, will be held at the 19th Street Community Center

Camp lasts eight weeks. (Will not meet Friday, July 4.) Campers take two field trips every week. Lunch is served to campers through the Free Lunch Summer Program.

*From the Desk of Larry Davis, Athletic Coordinator
Gulfport Department of Leisure Services*

Pee Wee Basketball Final Report

The Gulfport Department of Leisure Services Basketball League came to an end for the six teams that made it to the championship games on Saturday, March 10. The 54-team league started with an approximately six hundred and forty-eight participants. On Saturday, 72 of those athletes participated in the closing ceremony at the Harrison Central 9th grade School.

All our teams performed very well. The winning teams were rewarded with a team trophy, t-shirts and individual trophies and the losing teams were also rewarded with a team trophy and individual trophies.

Results of the 2008 Pee Wee Basketball Championship Weekend

In the 7-8 year old girls age division, **The Bel-Aire Bobcats** defeated **The Pass Road Panthers** and in the 7-8 year old boys division, **The Gaston Point Sharks** defeated **The West Cobras**.

In the 9-10 year old girls age division, **The Three Rivers Tigers** defeated **The Central Pirates** and in the 9-10 year old boys division, **The Gaston Point Sharks** defeated **The West Cobras**.

In the 11-12 year old girls age division, **The Orange Grove Wildcats** defeated **The Gaston Point Sharks** and in the 11-12 year old boys division, **The Anniston Tigers** defeated **The Bel-Aire Bobcats**.

I would like to thank all the coaches for volunteering their time and energy to help make this program as successful as it is. A special thank you for the support of all the Gulfport Department Leisure Services staff and Gulfport Police Department who had a hand in this wonderful program.

If you or your child is interested in participating in any sports program in our community, please contact me at **(228) 868-5889**.

Cemetery Records Office Open

The Cemetery Administrative Records Office is up and running. It is managed by **Vicki Parkhill**, Program Coordinator. This is the first professional office for the Cemetery Department.

LOCATION: 3908, 28th Street, PHONE: 214-3601



Project Completions

The Urie jetty and pier construction projects are complete. The pier is located in Gulfport Harbor now ready for fishing and crabbing. All it needs is you!

IT'S ALMOST HERSHEY'S TRACK AND FIELD GAMES TIME

FREE For boys & girls ages 9-14 (born 1994-1999)!

REGISTRATION: April 21 - April 24, 6 a.m.-7 p.m., Handsboro Community Center

LATE REGISTRATION: April 25 - May 2, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Gulfport Sports Complex Softball Fields Office located on the west side of the Gulf Islands Water Park. For details, call **Larry Davis** at **(228) 831-0153**.

