
GULFPOR**T** AT A *GLANCE*

Where city employees get their news

BIG Changes

Newsletter gets new look, new features



Like our style? In addition to a new look, our employee newsletter will have new features including:

- 5 Questions – submit your questions for an executive, director, manager or council member to answer
- Employee, Department, or Division Spotlight
- Milestones
- Classifieds

Committee Contacts

The Newsletter Committee has some new members! If you have an idea for a story, let us know...

- Fire Department: Donna Ladner, Natasha Tate
- General Administration: Bill Fulks, Lauren Germany, Lynn Hill, Ryan LaFontaine
- Leisure Services: Kerri Jones
- Municipal Court: Colby Combs, Jennifer Jones Snaer
- Police: Mike Saucier
- Public Works: Mona Ervin
- Urban Development: Nett Alexander, Isaac Williams

MAY/JUNE 2010

CityNews



GEM Awards: 2

Six employees named as GEMS



Mayor's Report: 2

Mayor Schloegel discusses the City's role in the BP Oil Spill



In the Spotlight: 3

IT Division on the cutting edge of law enforcement technology



Lights & Sirens: 6

Fire & Police News



Benefits Buzz: 10

What's new with Benefits



Graduates: 12



Milestones: 12

Six of Gulfport's Best Win GEMS

GEMS are easily recognized. They are the employees who consistently choose to achieve a higher level of performance and productivity by going beyond expectations of their regular job responsibilities; they work hard to provide exceptional service to internal and external customers; and/or they volunteer their time to make the City of Gulfport a better place to live, work and play.

From the eight nominees this quarter, six were selected to receive the award. They are: **Denis Davidson**, Fire; **Don Galster**, Urban Development; **Charles Pitts**, Public Works; **Elizabeth McMillan**, Leisure Services; **Lark Bennett**, Police; and **Steven Ramsey**, Police.

Due to technical issues, there is no picture available at the time of publication. GEMS will be pictured in the August newsletter.

Mayor's Report



So many of our city employees, along with the dedicated men and women at the County Courthouse, the state Capitol and the White House are working diligently around the clock to ensure that our response to the oil spill is done aggressively and effectively.

All of us are well aware that we are dealing with a potentially unprecedented environmental disaster. We understand that such a disaster could dramatically affect the lives of thousands who live along the Gulf.

While we are in constant contact with the White House, the governor and county leaders, we also are working closely with officials at BP.

City Hall has worked with BP to find a location downtown for a claims office, which opened last month. The company tells us they plan to open claims offices in each of the three coastal counties.

We know that many of our citizens, and even many of you, are understandably growing frustrated. Unlike a hurricane, which we are all too familiar with, the current situation in the Gulf is difficult to forecast. We do not know what to expect, and that uncertainly is difficult to live with.

Back on shore, with the help of so many dedicated city employees, and county and state officials, we have launched an intense effort to stage skilled workers on site to be ready to respond with vacuum trucks and other equipment the instant oil should reach our coastline.

In addition, in recent days we have witnessed the strength of character that thrives on our Coast in the thousands of brave souls who have stepped forward, volunteering their time and effort to protect our natural resources.

Who's Next?

The deadline for second quarter nominations is **July 15th**.

Download an nomination form from the GEM Award section on the HR web page.

Any employee can submit a nomination; and employees may nominate an individual in another department.

In the Spotlight: IT – Turning Police Cars into Mobile Work Stations

by Bill Fulks



Gulfport's IT department underwent its largest post-Katrina project with the installation of Panasonic Toughbook computers in nearly all Police vehicles. The project gave the department over 200 additional computers to support, as well as new software to maintain. The police car computers - called MDT's for Mobile Desktop Terminal - are networked in a way unlike any other computers in the city.

The MDT's tie into the City's network using a wireless system installed on top of the numerous water towers in the city. The Officer's computer can get connectivity from inside the vehicle - even while it is moving.

Senior Systems Analyst, **Mike Morgan**, regularly travels the City in 'Old Blue' - the nickname for the vehicle given to the IT department for testing and monitoring the wireless network performance. It's just one part of the on-going maintenance of this new system that has nearly doubled the department's workload since implementation.

Officers use the MDT to access the dispatch system from their vehicle and can see, in real time, all current calls and who is assigned to them. GPS hardware also lets them use mapping software to see where other vehicles are located throughout the city; gives patrol units the ability to quickly run car tag numbers and write tickets electronically. While inside their vehicle, an Officer can also access their e-mail, work files, and other crucial information.

The City of Gulfport's IT Department is trailblazing for the rest of the state when it comes to computer systems and how the Police Department uses them in the field. In fact, IT representatives from other municipalities such as the City of Hattiesburg have contacted us to learn more about how everything was put together.

5 QUESTIONS:

Paul Schroeder,
IT Manager



1. What is the difference between IT & GIS?

GIS stands for Geographic Information Systems. They are responsible for maintaining all the map data within the City of Gulfport. GIS uses very precise GPS data to know the exact locations of property lines, fire hydrants, water pipes, and more.

IT stands for Information Technology and it covers basically everything there is to do with computers. We maintain the computers as well as the servers that host & applications; run the cabling for networking; maintain the phone systems; and maintain the City's website.

2. How many computers/users does the City have?

We maintain and support over 550 computers & 34 servers for approximately 640 different users - and we do it with 7 people.

Continues on Page 5

PERS Rate Increases

By Lauren Germany



Employees will soon see an increase on their PERS contribution rates.

Since 1991, members of the Public Employees Retirement System (PERS) have contributed 7.25 percent of their pre-tax earnings toward their retirement. During a special session called by Governor Barbour in April, legislation was passed to increase that rate by 1.75 percent, bringing employee contributions to 9.00 percent.

The rate increase is effective on July 1 and employees should expect the change reflected on the July 15th paycheck.

Currently, the employer contribution to PERS is 12.0 percent.

For more information on your retirement system, visit pers.state.ms.us.

Mayor's Report:

Continued from Page 2

The people of South Mississippi have proved time and time again that we are survivors, and together, we will survive this crisis.

Sincerely,

George Schloegel

SAVE YOUR SKIN WHILE HAVING FUN IN THE SUN

By Lauren Germany

Flip-flops, days at the beach and endless hours in the sun are typical staples of summertime, but we should take special care of our skin when it comes to sun exposure. If you've ignored years of warnings of how the sun's UV rays can cause skin cancer, wrinkles & eye damage - there's good news: Almost 80% of total sun exposure occurs after the age of 18...so it's never too late to start saving your skin!



Sunscreens – the American Academy of Dermatology recommends using sunscreen that will protect from both UVA and UVB rays. Apply a half hour before going outdoors and reapply every hour, and use at least ½ a teaspoon of sunscreen on your face.

Hats – facial skin is the first place most people show their age. Wear a wide-rimmed hat while outdoors to add an extra layer of protection for the skin, scalp, hair and eyes.

Protective Clothing – wear a lightweight, top to protect the arms, shoulders, chest and back from the sun. White and other light colored clothing reflect the rays and can help keep the body cool.

Sunglasses – not only do UV rays cause damage to the skin, it can take a toll on the eyes as well. According to the American Optometric Association, the sun contributes to the formation and worsening of cataracts, excess tissue growth around the eyes, and skin cancer on the eyelids. Wear sunglasses that block a minimum of 95% of UV rays. The lenses should be wide enough to block the sun from the entire eye area, including the sensitive tissue underneath.

Misc. – take extra caution if you are on blood pressure medications or antibiotics...they can make you more sun sensitive to the sun and more likely to burn. Citrus drinks that accidentally spill can also make your skin more sun sensitive and lead to burns.

Although summer is associated with sun, these tips will help protect your skin year-round.

Public Works: Preparing for Hurricane Season

By Mona Ervin

June 1 marks the start of the dreaded Hurricane Season. While Public Works begins preparing for the threat of a storm, Assistant Director **Ron Smith** & Maintenance Shop Manager **Richard Thorsten** share tips on making your home ready for lost power.

- Determine what size generator you will need based on your power demands. A typical house with all power demands on will require about 20 to 25 KW to operate
- Hire a licensed electrician to install your generator and a “safety double throw switch” next to your power panel
- Under no circumstances should you run the generator in your home or garage. Generators produce carbon monoxide that CAN KILL in confined spaces!
- Use the operator’s manual to learn how to properly operate and maintain your generator
- Use only heavy duty “UL approved” power cords

To read Ron & Richard’s complete article, click [HERE](#).

5 QUESTIONS:

Continued from Page 3

3. Are there plans to develop an intranet?

Yes, it’s actually on our to-do list. We are planning to develop the site for sharing HR-related information, departmental news, and so on.

4. What is the most common problem the IT Department solves ?

Every day is different and problems tend to be specific to departments. With Police, it’s most commonly dealing with cameras in the vehicles. With Public Works, it’s templates used for citizen work orders. All across the city, we regularly deal with BlackBerry issues.

5. Has the IT department’s work load changed since Katrina?

The period of time following Katrina was crazy for us downtown. While people were moving into trailers, we were running cables in buildings to deliver phone and network service to everyone. We had to rebuild the entire network from scratch, then make changes each time someone moved to a new location. When Police and Courts moved to the 28th Street location, we ran several miles of network and phone cable in those buildings. Not long after, we began work on installing MDT’s to police vehicles. And we’re already looking ahead to the next Police & Court move to the Municipal complex.

COMING IN AUGUST:



Mike Necaie, the Director of Finance & Administration will take your questions in the August edition.

To submit a question for Mike to answer in the next issue, send via email to: lgermany@gulfport-ms.gov

Submissions must be received by June 30th.

Coming in October

Downtown is growing fast, and among the exciting things to do in the district is Fall Around Town. Learn what goes into making the festival such a success and find out what’s new this year.

LIGHTS & SIRENS: Fire & Police News
POLICE DEPARTMENT

by Mike Saucier

**Gibbons Named
Officer of the Year**

Sergeant **Adam Gibbons** is instrumental in the success of the Gulfport Uniform Neighborhood Improvement Team. As the unit supervisor, **Gibbons** lead the team in facilitating the reduction of all types of crimes within the City, resulting in crime reduction for 15 continuous months.

**Officer of the Month:
February**

Detectives Hugh Frazier, Chris Langenbach and Steve Carlson were jointly recognized as Officers of the Month for February. They are credited with solving a high profile murder case after months of intensive work.

**Officer of the Month:
March**

Detective Jason Gouin was recognized as Officer of the Month for March. While investigating recent vehicle burglaries, Gouin not only identified a suspect for the case he was assigned but developed suspects for several other unsolved cases as well.

**POLICE WEEK:
Remembering Those Who Made the
Ultimate Sacrifice**



In 1962, President Kennedy designated May 15th as Peace Officers Memorial Day and the week in which that date falls as "Police Week".

On May 14th the Police Department held its annual service to recognize the eight officers who made the ultimate sacrifice for the City of Gulfport. Several hundred people gathered at the Police Memorial to remember and honor and the lives they led as fathers, brothers, sons and friends.

During his closing remarks **Deputy Chief Leonard Papania** reminded the audience about the dangers of police work, "Yes, it is part of their job. Yes, they knew it when they became a Police Officer. However, it does not change the fact that each day the only thing officers want is to do their job and make it back to their families at the end of the shift."

Above: **Patrol Officer Benjamin Bentz** pays respects at the Police Memorial.

Police news continues on page 7



Sgt. Adam Gibbons



Det. Hugh Frazier



Det. Steve Carlson



Det. Chris Langenbach



Det. Jason Gouin

LIGHTS & SIRENS: Fire & Police News

FIRE DEPARTMENT

by Donna Ladner & Natasha Tate



Lieutenant Donnie Pierson Retires: Over 20 Years of Service

On November 21, 1988, **Donald "Donnie" Pierson** came to work for the Gulfport Fire Department as a "Hoseman/Fire Recruit", and became a second generation Fire Fighter.

Eventually, **Pierson** rose to the rank of Lieutenant as a result to his hard work and dedication to continuous training.

Pierson also works as an Assistant Manager at Hinkle Metal, but will no doubt have a little extra time to spend with his wife, Donna and his two daughters Brandy and Amber.

Thank you, **Donnie** for your 21 years of dedicated service to our City.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Continued from page 6

Officer of the Month: April

Officer Joshua Broman was named as Officer of the Month for April 2010 and recognized for his proactive job performance during the month of March.

Broman's ambition to reduce crime in his assigned areas is evident in his work product and emulates the department's motto of "Police Helping People".

Special Olympics Torch Run

On May 14, 2010, Officers **Justin Amacker, Walter Brightman, Daniel Castillo, Jeff Clark, Ahmed Elalighe, Aaron Fore, Shawn Penny, Kenneth Thomas, April Thompson, Joey Wuest**, and Sgt. **Bradley Walker** assisted in the annual Special Olympics held in Biloxi, by running the ceremonial torch through the City.



Kinsey Nichol Jenkins
April 23rd

District Chief
Jamie Jenkins



Allie Elizabeth Andres
June 4th
Firefighter
AJ Andres



Officer Joshua Broman



Officer Jeff Clark

JUST FOR FUN; JUST FOR YOU

EMPLOYEE ACCOLADES

Thanks to our **Beautification Crew** for making Gulfport the "Scenic Community of the Year" as awarded by the MS Forestry Council!

Public Works Assistant Director **Ron Smith** recently contributed to the Spring 2010 edition of Government Matters Magazine. To read his article, click [HERE](#).

The City of Gulfport was featured in the opening session of AZTECA/CITYWORKS - 2010 USER'S CONFERENCE in St. George, Utah. **Public Works** was showcased in a video presentation and showed how Cityworks helped Gulfport in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

If you have an accolade to share, e-mail the info to your newsletter rep or to lgermany@gulfport-ms.gov.



Kiss the Cook(s): Southwest Water's Jason English is assisted by David Ornsby. On 5/10, SWW hosted a cookout for the Public Works Department.



One Happy Camper: A Summer Camper enjoys playtime at Three Rivers.



Christal Adams & Anna Vu,
Municipal Court



**Jennifer Jones Snaer, Quiana Purdy
& Chandra Moore,**
Municipal Court

JUST FOR FUN; JUST FOR YOU

You Oughta Be in Pictures!

Want to see more employee pics? Send them to us! Send your "fun" or "busy" pictures to your department's newsletter rep or to lgermany@gulfport-ms.gov.

Deadline for next edition is August 1.

So You Like "Glance"...

Last month employees voted on choosing a new name for our newsletter or keep its current name. 40% of all responses liked the name as is. See the results at right.

Gulfport at a Glance	40%
City Views	14%
Employee Folio	18%
Growing Gulfport	2%
Gulfport's in the Know	2%
Employee Insider	24%

Thanks to all those who voted!



Gary Anderson,
Urban Development:

Who says red-heads can't wear pink?



Nellie Henry,
Urban Development



Jason Pryor,
Urban Development

CLASSIFIEDS

Four Wheeler
2005 Polaris Sportsman 800 EFI 4x4
330 miles, 30" Mudlite tires, winch, camo
\$3800. Steven Conner 601-528-4050

1973 Formula 23ft C/C Boat
w/ 2001 225 Yamaha OX66 outboard motor
\$15,500 OBO. Brandon Dearman 228-328-3066

Town house
for rent in Long beach \$650/mo.
Jamie Jenkins 228-493-2503

Classified space is provided at no charge to the first four submissions, or as many as space permits.

Ad space is limited to 20 words, 3 lines, no pictures.

All ads for the upcoming edition must be e-mailed to lgermany@gulfport-ms.gov and must be received by August 1, 2010, and must include item description, employee name and personal phone number. Incomplete or late submissions will not be accepted.

Submissions may be revised or denied without prior notice.

The City of Gulfport is not involved in any sale transaction and does not accept liability for any loss incurred by the sale of items listed.

Benefits Buzz

By Lynn Hill



Changes to Anesthesia coverage for services provided at Memorial

Anesthetix, the anesthesia group at Memorial Hospital **is no longer** in the First Choice or Select Administrative Service's network.

This is significant to employees or dependents that elect or require surgery at Memorial Hospital as the **Anesthesia services will be considered out of network**. Although Select Administrative Services (SAS) will process the anesthesia claim as **in network**, the anesthesia group can balance bill the patient.

Over the past four months, First Choice and SAS have attempted to negotiate an agreeable discount agreement on our behalf. Unfortunately, all attempts at negotiations have been unsuccessful. SAS and First Choice will continue to work with the Anesthesia group in order to resolve this issue.

ER Docs at Garden Park: Out-of-Network

Hospitals and physicians choose whether to participate in an insurance network or not. Many times doctors who practice at an in-network facility may not necessarily be in-network providers. This is the case at Garden Park's Emergency Room.

Garden Park Hospital is an in-network provider in our First Choice network, but the Emergency Room doctors who are on staff are independent contractors and not in the First Choice Network.

While employees may use any healthcare provider, you will see the greatest cost-savings benefits by staying in-network. To prevent unexpected out-of-pocket costs by using an out-of-network provider, *always* check with First Choice prior to visiting a physician or hospital.

First Choice can be reached at 800-763-0380 or on the web at www.firstchoicems.com. Should you have any questions or concerns please call Human Resources at x5831 or Select Administrative Services at 865-0514.



HATS OFF TO OUR GRADUATES

*"What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters
compared to what lies within us."*

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

Courtney Beesley, daughter of **Wade Beesley**, Fire Dept – Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

Matthew Bierschenk, son of **Mark Bierschenk**, Urban Development – University of Mississippi

Kevin Cole, son of **Rhonda Cole**, City Council – Harrison Central High School

Tiffany Collins, daughter of **Mary Collins**, General Finance - William Carey University

Ryan Dailey, son of **Matt and Heather Dailey**, Police Department – Harrison Central High School

Jacob Daquioag, son of **Lori Guardia**, Police Department – Gulfport High School

Amanda Donlin, daughter of **Jimmy Donlin**, Fire Dept – Mississippi College

Steven Fore, brother of **Aaron, Jarred, and Clint Fore**, Police Department –
Harrison Central High School

Christy Fulks, wife of **Bill Fulks**, Information Systems – University of Southern Mississippi

Jolene Johnson, City Hall – Ashford University

Joshua Johnson, son of **Wendell & Heather Johnson**, Police Dept - Santa Fe High School

Harrison Kajdan, son of **Rebecca Kajdan**, City Hall – Gulfport High School

Amy Ladnier, sister of **Cheree Cuevas**, Water Department – Hancock High School

Audria Lewis, daughter of **Merlissia Lewis**, Police Department – Harrison Central High School

Candace Lewis, daughter of **John Cuevas**, Police Dept – Long Beach High School

Julianne Molesworth, daughter of **Ted Molesworth**, Urban Development –
Mississippi State University

Rachel Oatman, daughter of **Renee Oatman**, Public Works – East Central Community College

Emmanuel Parkman, son of **Chandra Moore**, Municipal Court – Harrison Central High School

Ashley Roe, daughter of **Ronald Roe**, Police Dept – Pass Christian High School

Brittany Rodgers, daughter of **Wade Beesley**, Fire Dept - Mississippi Gulf Coast Community College

Daniel Scarborough, son of **Charles Scarborough**, Public Works – D'Iberville High School

Bianca Smith, daughter of **Dwight McNair**, Public Works – Long Star College

Meghan Smith, daughter of **Brian K. Smith**, Police Dept – Pleasant Hill Baptist Academy

Kyle Stover, son of **Bill Stover**, Police Dept – D'Iberville High School

Ashley Wesson, wife of **Gus Wesson**, Public Works – University of South Alabama

Infanta White, daughter of **Antoinette White**, City Hall – Mississippi State University

Anniversary Milestones

20 YEARS

Lonnie Bobinger, Sexton, Leisure Service

15 YEARS

Carrie Bundt, Housing Programs Coordinator, Community Development

10 YEARS

James Clark, Patrol Officer, Police Department

Mike Saucier, Sergeant, Police Department

Malcolm Thomas, Detective, Police Department

5 YEARS

Leon Joyce, Parts Room Attendant, Public Works

New Hires

Jerry Birmingham, Patrol Officer, Police Department

Promotions

Marcus Oster Patrol Officer II, Police Department

Bradley Worthington, Patrol Officer II, Police Department

Christopher Werner, Patrol Officer II, Police Department

Michael Anthony, Patrol Officer II, Police Department