

## MILESTONES

### WELCOME ABOARD NEW HIRES!

Gregory Hayes	Animal Control Officer
Joshua Broman	Patrol Officer
Sean Campbell	Center Coordinator
Elizabeth Payne	Community Policing Assistant
Jeffrey Harbour	Code Enforcement Officer
Jeremy Monneyham	Patrol Officer
Andrew Dedeaux	Firefighter Recruit
Kerry Hall	Animal Control Officer

Michael Connick	Patrol Officer
Robert Thompson	Beautification Coordinator
James Byrd	Recreation Aide PT
Paula Payne	Assistant Alarm Coordinator
Christian Oatis	Patrol Officer
Sherri Edwards	Administrative Assistant
William Angley	Mechanic II
Robert McBeth	Recreation Aide

### CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR PROMOTION!

Bryan Watson	Patrol Officer 2	John Bennett	Patrol Officer 2
Donald Ison	Patrol Officer 2	Ahsly Ruiz	Patrol Officer 2
John Stachura	Patrol Officer 2	Thomas King	Patrol Officer 2
Charles Pettway	Patrol Officer 2	Jason Vincent	Patrol Officer 2
Robert Matue	Firefighter I	Jess Traina	Firefighter I
Michael Guynes	Patrol Officer 2	Chandra Moore	Operations Court Clerk
Darren Vedros	Patrol Officer 2	Martha Carson	Chief City Prosecutor
Jason Auge	Patrol Officer 2	Jeffrey Bruni	City Attorney
Amanda Evelyn	Patrol Officer I		

### HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

#### December

- Denise Waizenegger
- Curtis Saucier, Mark Bridenbeck & Windell Johnson
- Barbara Lazerio & Lester Coleman
- James Lovitt & Richard Breece
- Brittany Whitten & Gregory Peleaz
- William Racz, Ashly Ruiz & Brent Necaize
- Steve Decelle & Monica Johnson
- Tonya Laville & Mark Quintero
- Oneila Byrd & April Shavers
- Ronda Cole, Albert Stachura & Mae Medina
- Gary Joffrion, Bryan Rowe & Douglas Galloway
- Kevin Jackson, Joseph McCormick, Michael Edwards & Neil Clark
- Brenda Reed
- Wade Beesley & Scott Gregory
- Kenneth Edwards & Elfren Acosta
- Richard Ryan, David Scarborough, Christopher Langenbach & Jeffrey Necaize
- Timothy Holliman, Joseph Brown, Angela Barnes & Keith Walker
- Wanda McCormack, Heather Johnson, Walter Brightman, Jacob Smith & Michael Liles
- David Faul, Coleen Oatman, Keith Rhodes & Everett Compston
- Ryan Carter & Patrick Sullivan
- Mark Peduzzi, Elizabeth MacMillan & Gregory Hayes
- Alfred Sexton & Herbert Hickman
- Scotty King & Glenn Parker
- Katherine Zanders & Bradley Worthington
- Antoinette White, Meredith Meadows, Max Ramon, John Fletcher, Kevin Lundy & Brandon Bang

#### January

- Gary Fitzpatrick & Mark Burns
- William Bullen & Jesse Vincent
- Richard Smith
- William Walkinshaw
- Debra Malley
- Paula Payne & Kenneth Bishop
- Johnnie Magee
- Garry Green
- Robert Matue & Tammy Knight
- Naiem Bordeaux
- Richard Tell & Ronald Smith
- Rickey McCaskill
- Paul Podlin, Olivia Roland, Robert Parker & Kristan Rich
- Phillip Kincaid, Drew Robinson & Bradley Barta
- Denis Davidson
- Arthur Platts
- Robert Turner & Frank Moraway
- Paula Doyle & Steve Martin
- Kelley Clark
- Carl Washington, David Montague & Mark Joseph
- Anthony Wallace
- Allen Johnson, Julia Verchinski & Timothy Ishee
- Mickey Wallis
- Jackson Smith
- James Nix & Bryan Turgeon
- Roger Etheridge & Steven Kelly



# Gulfport at a GLANCE



The City of Gulfport, Mississippi

November/December 2008

*Dear City Employees,*

*Merry Christmas to each of you.*



*What an amazing year we have had as a city and the countless achievements and successes we have had because of you. I know the journey we have been on these past three and a half years has been challenging but your perseverance continues to push our city farther and farther down the road to recovery. Our community is coming back and Gulfport is again a place we can all be thankful to come home to.*

*The Christmas season is upon us, so many of you will have children come home from college or family members come home to celebrate with you. I hope that they all recognize the heavy lifting you have done to make our city "home" again for them. There's not one facet of our community that hasn't rebounded bigger and better than it was before.*

*We have been fortunate to have had so many come from around the country to help us with our journey. They have seen a sense of faith and belief in you that made them want to come back again and again to share in this recovery with us. I hope that you will continue to keep these tireless volunteers in your prayers as they continue to keep each of you in theirs.*

*During this holiday season, I pray that each of you will be surrounded by those you love the most and that Christmas is always celebrated in honor of Him. We have so many things to be thankful for.*

*God bless each of you,*

**Brent**



**Our Mission:** 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, and creating a better community.

# IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU: Benefits & Wellness

## BENEFITS

### FML Reminder

Employees who are out of work due to surgery or other illness should remember to request Family Medical Leave (FML) through the Human Resources Benefits Administrator. Employees should apply for FML thirty days in advance of taking the leave if at all possible. An employee must have worked 1,250 hours (approximately 24 hours/week) and have been employed for one year with the City of Gulfport to qualify for FML. Your paid sick leave can be partnered with FML if you meet these requirements. Should an employee not meet the FML qualifications but have sick leave, the employee's

Supervisor/Manager will make the final decision whether to grant time off.

### New Hospital in the First Choice Network

As of December 1, Garden Park Hospital is officially in the First Choice Network. Even though City employees were able to go to the Garden Park facility prior to December 1 under a separate contract through Benmark, Garden Park and their participating doctors will officially be in the First Choice Network. We look forward to working with them as they offer our employees more healthcare choices.

## WELLNESS

### Staying Healthy This Flu Season

The holiday season is a social time and we'll soon begin preparing for parties, dinners, and other special times with family & friends. But it's also the time of year when flu season reaches its peak, possibly putting a halt to your holiday plans. The CDC estimates that 5-20% of the U.S. population will get the flu this season. More than 20,000 people will be hospitalized due to complications of the virus. But a few sensible precautions will help lower your risk.

### Useful Tips

- **Wash your hands!** The CDC identifies proper hand washing as the single best way to prevent the spread of illness. Wash before meals, after visiting the bathroom, touching something many others have touched (gas pump, cash, shopping carts, etc.), and before preparing food.
- **Eat well, sleep well.** In order to stay healthy, you need to continually refuel your body. Part of this refueling involves eating good, vitamin-rich foods and getting a restful night's sleep.



Deputy Building Inspector Gary Anderson gets his flu shot.

- **Avoid sick people.** If you know someone has been sick, don't feel bad about delaying a visit until they're feeling better. No one wants to spread their germs and ruin another's holidays. The same holds true if you've been sick.
  - **Get a flu shot.** If you're over 65, have a chronic health condition, a weakened immune system, have a respiratory or heart illness, go and get a flu shot. They're also recommended for children between six months and five years.
- If you've caught the flu, find some relief at our Wellness Clinic! Call 248-0031 for an appointment.**



## ANGEL TREE TIME

The spirit of giving to those less fortunate is such a big part of Christmas. While there are many wonderful charities that focus on children in need here on the Coast, many times the elderly are forgotten and left alone during the holiday season.

Last year, City employees adopted the residents of Driftwood Nursing Center and helped to make a Merry Christmas for its 75 residents and we're continuing this tradition this year for 133 residents.

Help us make sure everyone has a happy holiday! Stop by the Human Resources office and choose an angel from our tree. Then purchase, wrap & return your gift by December 19th. Contact **Lauren Germany** or **Denise Waizenegger** in Human Resources (x5831) for more information.



# IT'S ALL ABOUT YOU: Benefits & Wellness continued

## BEAT THOSE HOLIDAY BLUES *Submitted by Lauren Germany*

More shopping, decorating, cooking, cleaning... more...more...more! It's no wonder people feel incredibly stressed this time of the year! But for some, stress can turn into something much more – a feeling of depression known as the 'holiday blues.'

The holiday blues last for a brief period of time usually beginning around Thanksgiving, continuing to New Year's Day. According to a study by the American Psychological Association (APA), three main factors contribute to the onset of the holiday blues.

### Relationships

Some people feel alone or isolated during the holidays for a variety of reasons, including separation from loved ones or the loss of a family member. And for others, being around family during the holidays intensifies problems brings unwanted conflict.

### Finances

The added expenses of buying gifts, traveling and attending parties can put a heavy strain on your wallet. Along with worries about our struggling economy, the housing market and the uncertainty of gas prices, added financial expectations during the holiday season can really ratchet up the stress this time of year.

### Physical Demands

It's easy to ignore healthy habits by indulging in high-calorie holiday foods,

skipping regular exercise routines, and not getting enough rest and sleep.

### FAST FACT

The study shows that women are more prone to holiday blues than men. Why? According to the APA study, "Men depend on wives and moms to do most of the holiday preparation."



### COPING

Help manage seasonal stressors by:

- Eating a healthy diet and if drinking alcohol, doing so in moderation
- Exercising and getting plenty of rest
- Making a reasonable budget and sticking to it
- Asking for support of family and friends
- Relaxing and letting others share responsibilities of holiday tasks

If the holiday blues are too much to handle, use our Employee Assistance Program (EAP). The EAP is a free and confidential service available to all City employees. It's designed to help us deal with life problems such as holiday stress, marriage & family issues, grief & loss support and financial troubles. For more information, or to use the EAP, call their 24-hour hotline at (800) 624-5544, or visit the benefits section of the Human Resources web page.



### PROGRESS REPORT

The renovation of City Hall is currently underway and scheduled to be complete in February, 2009. The Hardy Building's completion date has been re-scheduled for the end of December.



In a tree lighting ceremony held December 10, Fire Department personnel filled their parade truck with canned goods for the Feed My Sheep organization.

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWSLETTER CONTACTS

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

Fire Department	Donna Ladner	868-5954	<a href="mailto:dladner@ci.gulfport.ms.us">dladner@ci.gulfport.ms.us</a>
General Admin/Council/Legal	Lauren Germany	868-5831	<a href="mailto:lgermany@ci.gulfport.ms.us">lgermany@ci.gulfport.ms.us</a>
Leisure Services	Kerri Jones	868-5881	<a href="mailto:kjones@ci.gulfport.ms.us">kjones@ci.gulfport.ms.us</a>
Municipal Courts	Chandra Moore	868-5866	<a href="mailto:cmoore@ci.gulfport.ms.us">cmoore@ci.gulfport.ms.us</a>
Police Department	Mike Saucier	868-5900	<a href="mailto:msaucier@ci.gulfport.ms.us">msaucier@ci.gulfport.ms.us</a>
Public Works	Yolanda McArthur	868-5741	<a href="mailto:ymcarthur@ci.gulfport.ms.us">ymcarthur@ci.gulfport.ms.us</a>
Urban Development	Isaac Williams	868-5710	<a href="mailto:iwilliams@ci.gulfport.ms.us">iwilliams@ci.gulfport.ms.us</a>

# POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS continued



## GRADUATES

Congratulations to **Officers Tonya Laville** and **B. J. Smith** for successfully completing **D.A.R.E.** Officer Training. Extra kudos go to Officer Laville who graduated at the top of her class and was recognized as the "Most Outstanding Graduate" of her team! Officers selected for **D.A.R.E.** training undergo 80 hours of intensive instruction in such areas

as child development, classroom management, teaching techniques and communication skills. **Officer Laville** 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 Smith** presents the program at Bel-Aire Elementary and Orange Grove Elementary and works as a school resource officer assigned to the Harrison County School District.



Officer Tonya Laville



Officer B.J. Smith

# FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS *Submitted by Donna Ladner*

## FEEDING THE NEEDY

The Thanksgiving event at Bayou View Middle School for **Feed the Needy** went very well. Thank you to C-Shift personnel for helping to deliver meals! Said **Fire Chief Pat Sullivan**, "Helping those who can't help themselves is a natural instinct of our firefighters in the Gulfport Fire Department. It is a natural extension of our mission to give back to the community in this way."

## SCOUTS' HONOR

On October 14, the Gulfport Fire Department Fire Prevention Bureau and A-Shift Engine 5 conducted a fire extinguisher class and fire safety talk with 19 members of **Boy Scout Pack #374**. **Inspectors Randy Johnson** and **Richard Ritchie**, **Lieutenant Ian Barna**, **Engineer Guillermo Guiterrez** and **Firefighter Wayne Kuehling** were present. The scouts learned how and when to use fire extinguishers, general life & fire safety and earned badges, too! The boys were also shown how a responding firefighter looks and sounds, as well as the equipment on the truck.



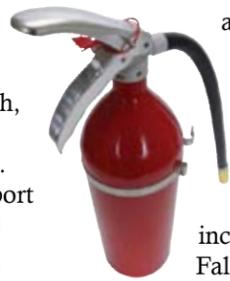
## FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

**Eric Dedeaux** was selected as the Gulfport Chambers' FireFighter of the Year at an Early Bird Breakfast, December 3. Said **Chief Sullivan**, "Eric is a person we can always count on. You can give him a project and just get out of the way because you know it will be done with quality. He's the type of employee that you'd want 100 more of. He consistently goes above and beyond what's expected of him and willingly volunteers within the community." **Congratulations, Eric!**

## Busy October

Not only is October National Fire Safety Month, but its second week is devoted to Fire Prevention. Not surprisingly, the Gulfport Fire Department had an extremely busy month!

The Fire Prevention Bureau, Engine Companies or both conducted 58 safety programs reaching a total of 3,688 persons. 140 people attended a total of six fire extinguisher classes at locations including Suprema Industries, Island View Casino and MS City United Methodist Church. Additionally, 350 people took part in fire drills at the Bank Corp South, U.S. Department of Labor, an IRS office, Bel-Aire Baptist Church, U.S. Marine Inc. and Northwood Christian School. To help get the word out about fire safety, **Inspector Richard Ritchie** worked with WLOX on a public information release



and spoke at an Exchange Club luncheon.

We also took part in several festivals, including Fall Around Downtown,

Jonestoberfest and the Leisure Parks Fall Festival.

While all this was going on, the Fire Prevention Bureau performed 420 inspection/re-inspections, 51 plans reviews, 30 fire flows and 14 fire investigations. Also, Fire Prevention Bureau personnel received 72 hours of training. Much of that training was a CPR Instructor class, as we are now offering free CPR classes to the public.

**To schedule a CPR class, fire drill or fire safety talk, please call the Gulfport Fire Department at 868-5950.**

# GEM AWARDS ANNOUNCED For 3<sup>rd</sup> QUARTER

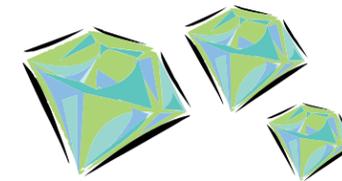
*Submitted by Lauren Germany*

The second GEM Awards luncheon celebrated employees who Go the Extra Mile and make extraordinary contributions in the workplace or community. On December 1, recipients received a \$50 gift card donated by Sunbelt Fire and enjoyed a luncheon at C&G Grille sponsored by Island View Casino.



*From left: Natasha Tate, Pam Heiter, Matilda Welch, Mayor Warr, Merlissa Lewis, Reggie Simms*

## CONGRATULATIONS GEM WINNERS!



- OUTSTANDING SERVICE:
- COMMUNITY SERVICE:
- COMMUNITY SERVICE:
- OUTSTANDING SERVICE:
- OUTSTANDING SERVICE:
- OUTSTANDING SERVICE/COMMUNITY SERVICE:
- HUMAN RELATIONS/COMMUNITY SERVICE:

- Ian Clark**
- Pam Heiter**
- Merlissia Lewis**
- Danny Meadors**
- Reggie Simms**
- Natasha Tate**
- Matilda Welch**

- Fire Department
- Municipal Court
- Police Department
- General Administration
- Leisure Services
- Fire Department
- Urban Development

Said **Cheryl Millender**, Human Resources Manager, "Gulfport is blessed with so many exceptional employees! Our new GEM Awards program is the perfect vehicle to acknowledge the talent and dedication of our co-workers. Remember, anyone can submit a nomination and you can nominate an employee from any City department."

If you know of an employee who deserves special recognition, nominate him or her for a GEM Award! Forms & guidelines can be found on the HR web page. The deadline for 4th quarter awards is Monday, January 5, 2009.

# BABIES ON BOARD!



David Blakeney (Code Enforcement) & Kristi Tillet welcomed daughter Jaxyn Alyssa Blakeney on November 8.



William Angley (Public Works) and wife Elizabeth welcomed daughter Deanna Elizabeth Angley on November 11.

## CORRECTION

In our last issue, the photos of new arrivals Gavin Sutherlin & Addison Stegall were inadvertently switched. We apologize for the error and are happy to reprint the pictures of these beautiful babies!



Pat Sutherlin (Fire Dept) and wife Nancy welcomed son Gavin Michael Sutherlin on September 19.



Holden Stegall (Fire Dept.) and wife Brandi welcomed daughter Addison Elizabeth Stegall on September 15.



## KATIE PATTERSON BOOTH COMMUNITY CENTER RE-OPENS



[From left: Josephine Donald (Recreation Aide), Jesse Fitzgerald (Center Coordinator), Dr. Kelly, Edmond Salloum (Director of Leisure Services), Mayor Warr, Magnolia Grove Resident John Adams, Ella Holmes-Hines (Councilwoman – Ward 3), Paula Bradshaw (Center Coordinator), John Tillis (Recreation Aide) and Larry Jones (Director of Urban Development)]

On November 3, City of Gulfport officials and area residents officially re-opened the **Katie Patterson Booth**

Community Center which serves the Magnolia Grove Community. The Center was damaged during Hurricane Katrina and has been closed since the storm. Required repairs included roof, ceiling, flooring and interior utility work. The small ceremony and ribbon cutting was followed by an open house with the remainder of the afternoon filled with residents coming by to see the facility.

The center honors the life and achievements of **Katie Patterson Booth**, a civic leader and trailblazing scientist from the Magnolia Grove Community. Graduating from Thirty Third Avenue High School

in Gulfport, she went on to earn degrees in education and industrial chemistry. **Booth** was one of the first women to work in the field of chemical weaponry during World War II. She later went on to explore treatments for sickle cell anemia and took an active interest in prenatal and children's health. She also helped establish Bethune-Cookman College. **Booth** returned to the Coast in the 1990s, actively serving as an advocate and mentor for children into her nineties. **Ms. Booth** died on August 26, 2006. The **Katie Patterson Booth** Community Center honors her life and legacy of achievement.

## TECHNOLOGY LEARNING CENTER PROVIDES CITY WITH SPECIALIZED GOLF CART

With the help of the Technology Learning Center at The University of Southern Mississippi and the city of Gulfport's Department of Leisure Services, the Bayou Vista Golf Course now has a SoloRider golf cart available to people with special needs who want to play golf. It is designed to benefit golfers who have spinal cord injuries, chronic fatigue, heart problems, arthritis or pulmonary disorders.

The Technology Learning Center and Gulfport's Recreation and Leisure Department have developed a collaborative partnership as a way to bring programs, special events and specialized equipment to individuals with disabilities. Said **Mayor Warr**, "When partnerships like the one between the Technology Learning Center at



Photo used with permission of Charmaine Williams

Southern Miss and the city of Gulfport Leisure Services develop, citizens are the ones who benefit the most... The SoloRider golf cart allows elderly citizens and persons with disabilities the opportunity to learn how to play golf or continue a sport they have always enjoyed."

The Technology Learning Center has three SoloRider golf carts. Golf carts are available on loan for clients to take to the golf course of their choice. The center also loans other adapted recreation equipment for tennis, swimming or fishing.

## COLLECTIONS GETS TOUGH

*Submitted by Jennifer Jones-Snaer*



At the Municipal Court, an arrest warrant was issued for Zelda the Witch by **Judge Atchison** and **Prosecutor Martha Carson**. Zelda was charged with an injunction not to trick but only treat Gulfport residents this Halloween. **Pay up or this can happen to you!**

## URBAN DEVELOPMENT

*Submitted by Isaac Williams*

A Permit Technician seminar was held on October 25 providing professional training and knowledge on the purpose and administration of building codes. The seminar also offered the opportunity to earn an International Code Council Certificate and Continued Education Units. Attending were **Gary Joffrion, Jim Sieber, Nellie Henry, Joanne Fayard, Anthony Bishop, Ernie Carpenter, Bill Racz, Jason Pryor, Anita Petty, Jeff Harbour, Randy Beaugez, Terry Northington, Candace Seymour, Amanda Schmitt, Thomas Lane, Gary Anderson, Alcenette Alexander and Cecelia McCaffery.**

**Charles "Charlie" A. Molesworth**, son of **Ted Molesworth** (Sign Enforcement), will graduate from Marine Corp boot camp on December 12.

## GULFPORT ACHIEVES ACCREDITATION



From left: Chaplain Coy Rice, Mayor Warr, Deputy Chief Alfred Sexton & Chief Alan Weatherford

The Gulfport Police Department received its accreditation award from the Mississippi Law Enforcement

Commission in a ceremony held November 21. Guest speakers included **Mississippi State Treasurer Tate Reeves, Mayor Brent Warr** and **Accreditation Commission Chairman Billy Sollie**. They spoke to a packed house extolling the benefits of accreditation not only to the police department but to the citizens of Gulfport. The Gulfport Police Department is now one of only four

police agencies state wide to receive this distinction!

**Chief Alan Weatherford** told the crowd how every individual within the department played a pivotal role in achieving this goal; it took a concerted effort from everyone to bring about this hard earned award. He also reminded them that **Lt. Rob Curry**, killed in the line of duty on August 14, played a role in reaching the goals of accreditation.

Accreditation signifies that the Gulfport Police Department meets specific levels of excellence in management, training and department procedures.

## MEDAL OF MERIT FOR SKAGGS

Congratulations to **Officer Josh Skaggs**, awarded the Medal of Merit. The two-year veteran of the Gulfport Police Department is assigned to the School Resource Division. On June 6, **Officer Skaggs** responded to Dedeaux Park for a missing child complaint. **Officer Skaggs** began searching the area along with other members of the Gulfport Police and Fire Departments. While searching near the river bank, he observed a man pulling a child from under the water. **Officer Skaggs** and **Firefighter Kyle McCaleb** entered the water and retrieved the motionless child.

They brought him to the beach and immediately began performing CPR. **Skaggs' and McCaleb's** quick assessment and response gave the child every possible chance for survival. **Officer Skaggs** has certifications in CPR/First Aid, lifeguard and dive rescue. According to his supervisor, "**Officer Skaggs** is diligent in his daily duties and has always shown great concern for the welfare of children. He is an asset to the City of Gulfport."



## OFFICER OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to **Officer Jason A. Vincent**, Officer of the Month for August, 2008. **Officer Vincent** is a two-year veteran of the police department assigned to the patrol division. He was recognized for his work in arresting four subjects for grand larceny. Through good observation skills and interview techniques, **Officer Vincent** was able to complete a field investigation leading not only to the arrest of the suspects but the return of \$4,000 worth of items to the victim. According to the supervisor at the scene, "**Officer Vincent** reflects superior dedication of service to the public."



## GRADUATE

Congratulations to **Lieutenant Kevin Raymond** on his graduation from the Southern Police Institute at the University of Louisville. He was a member of the 120th class to participate in the Administrative Officer Course. It was designed to develop informed, effective and ethically and technically competent law enforcement managers capable of assuming positions of leadership in their respective agencies. **Lt. Raymond** completed his three month session with an overall grade point average of 96, placing him at the top of his class. Said **Raymond**, "Attending the Southern Police Institute was by far the most challenging training I have received in my 18 years as a police officer."