

MILESTONES

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

February

- 1 James Byrd, Nathan Caudill, Pamela Kennedy, Kevin Kuehling & Paul Rhodes
- 2 Daniel Coleman, Colby Combs & Laurence Jones
- 3 James Donlin, Justin Hayes, Kimberly Isabell, Charles Lopez & Shireka Reed
- 4 Shawn Penny
- 6 Richard Ritchie
- 7 Adam Gibbons, Kenneth Northington, Richard Thorsten & Bobby Todd
- 8 Joshua Broman, James Matthews & Terry Rogers
- 9 Prentice Ferrill & William Payne
- 10 Stanley Butler
- 11 Vera Edwards & James Sieber
- 13 Stephen Murray
- 14 Damon McDaniel & Reginald Robinson
- 15 Matthew Nault & Richard Thompson
- 16 Jason King & William Riddle
- 17 Donald Knox
- 18 James Allen, Pamela Andrus, Matthew Faul & Donald McMurphy
- 19 Shantel Williams
- 20 Raymond Brooks & David Wilder
- 21 Amelia Bordeaux & Sherry Dulaney
- 23 Richard Cook
- 24 Jeffry Doukas
- 26 William Brown
- 27 Aaron Fore & Helen Harry
- 28 Jeffrey Bruni



March

- 1 Michael Guynes
- 2 Christopher Lopper & Wayne Smith
- 4 Charles Schultz & John Stegall
- 5 Pamela Heiter, Jason Johnson & Ramona Reid
- 6 William Dubuisson & Malcolm Thomas
- 7 Frank Price
- 8 Jeremy Bennett & Bryan Pryor
- 9 James Clark, Shaun Sebring & Thomas Whitman
- 10 Jason Davis & Shannon McKeown
- 11 Juanita Barlow, John Barnes & Patricia Musgrove
- 12 Earnest Carpenter, Mary Collins, James Johnson, Robert Long & Nicholas Olds
- 15 Gregory Griffin
- 16 Mark Ballman
- 17 Jeremy Hayes, Robert Locke, Quiana Purdy & John Thomas
- 18 Rebecca Butler & Willye Chapman
- 19 Michael Hauler & Jennifer Jones-Snaer
- 20 Carrie Falconer & Jeremy Mooneyham
- 21 Christopher Werner
- 22 Jose Briones & Christopher Keckler
- 23 Karen McCarty & Damas Salas
- 24 Melvin Bullock & Michael Mullins
- 25 Carey Bundt, Michael Jenner & Michael Necaie
- 26 Gary Anderson, Billy Bennett & Donald Pierson
- 27 Frank Mazzola, James Morgan & Sheri Pannell
- 28 Steven Conner & Lee Floyd
- 30 Anthony Bishop, Darlene Cooley & Jason Vincent
- 31 Constance Debenport

WELCOME ABOARD NEW HIRES!

Elizabeth Pribyl	Administrative Assistant I
Chelsea Brannon	Asst. City Attorney/Case Manager
Rebecca Butler	Administrative Assistant I
Brock Reynolds	Community Service Tech
Felicia Burkes	Asst. City Prosecutor
Brenda Blount	Dispatcher
Nancy McCutchan	Dispatcher
Matthew Dillon	GSE I Traffic
Colby Combs	Deputy Court Clerk I
Ryan Lafontaine	Public Information Officer
Laurie Kranz	Police Clerk
Robert Long	GIS Analyst
Tara Busby	Police Dispatcher
Kimberly Hager	Administrative Assistant II
Craig Wiggins	Code Enforcement Officer
Frances Hall	Deputy Court Clerk

PROMOTION CONGRATULATIONS!

James Halliday	Assistant City Attorney
Kevin Arnett	Patrol Officer I
Luis Garcia	Patrol Officer I
Steven Ramsey	Patrol Officer II
Paul Rhodes	Patrol Officer I
Ian Murray	Firefighter II
Bradley Barta	Patrol Officer I

CONGRATULATIONS!

Mark Quintero (Leisure Services) and wife **Katie** welcomed son **Eli Ramsey**, on December 23.



Matt Lopez (Fire Department) and wife **Christine** welcomed daughter **Abigail Grace** on January 5th.

Jerry Cook (Leisure Services) married **Heather Peterson** on January 30.

CONDOLENCES

Our thoughts and prayers go out to

Joanne Fayard (Permitting Manager), whose sister, **Carol Fayard**, passed away January 3.

Daryl Necaie (Deputy Fire Chief), whose daughter-in-law **Magen Necaie**, passed away January 12.

Friends and co-workers of **John Ladner, Sr.** (Superintendent of Building Maintenance) who passed away on February 4. Said **Mayor Warr**, "Gulfport will forever be grateful to him and we should all be thankful for having known a man like Johnny Ladner. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers at this most difficult time."



Gulfport at a GLANCE



The City of Gulfport, Mississippi

January/February 2009

Dear City Employees,

We are just a few months into 2009 and already, with your hard work and dedication, we have accomplished so many exciting things.

We have started construction on Grass Lawn and the historic courthouse on Courthouse Road, where Jefferson Davis gave his final speech. Here he called for unity and pled with the South's young men to set aside their ill will to become part of the inevitable glory of the United States.

My administration made a commitment back in August of 2005 to do whatever we could to reclaim those important pieces of heritage that were swept away, and with your help we are doing just that. If we fail to resurrect those visible reminders of our past, then we permanently cut the ties to who we are as a people and where we have come from.

These buildings are too important to our city for us to turn our backs on now. These facilities are stunning symbols of our recovery – of just how far we've come together.

In addition, we have opened several new community centers and recreation facilities, including the Gaston Hewes Recreation Center just recently. These centers will give our residents a place to come together again for parties and meetings, and they will be vital to creating a sense of unity within our individual communities and neighborhoods.

Every one of you can now take advantage of our new employee wellness center now relocated to the renovated Armory building. Also, we will be opening a new wellness (workout) facility in the few weeks.

I hope that each of you has time to visit the city's new website, www.gulfport-ms.gov. I want to thank Bill Fulks, Ryan Merrill, Paul Schroeder and others for their hard work and time spent developing this new look.

The new site is more user friendly than ever before, and it will give residents easier access to their local government. Users of the site will be able to stay up to date on the many activities of city agencies, departments and commissions. In addition, the city will post up to the minute news releases that will keep residents informed of current news and events. Residents can sign up for email updates from City Hall. Eventually we hope to broadcast a weekly web address from my office.

Gulfport truly is in a period of rebirth. We have come a long way in just four short years. But make no mistake – we still have a long way to go. Each of you has what it will take to get us to the finish line in this recovery marathon. Thank you for your hard work and commitment to Gulfport. I look forward to working with you in the weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely,

Mayor Brent Warr

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

TAKE A LOOK AT VSP – YOUR VISION INSURANCE

According to the American Academy of Ophthalmology, if detected early, many sight-threatening diseases can be cured or treated to prevent, or slow, the progression of any vision loss. Vision insurance has become a valued part of an employee benefit package. The City of Gulfport has partnered with VSP, an industry leader



in vision benefits, to provide our employees with access to vision care, local providers and eyewear at an affordable price.

VSP has a comprehensive website where employees can view their personalized benefits summary and find other valuable resources including specific coverage information, a provider directory and eligibility dates for frames, lenses, exams and more. Visit www.vsp.com and register today!

WELLNESS

Wellness/Fitness Center Opening in March!

The Wellness Center has relocated to the old Armory building at the corners of 17th St. & 33rd Avenue. Updated information will be sent out via the City's e-mail system.

FUN OPEN TO ALL

The Francis X. Collins Center and Pool is open to all Gulfport employees. Location: 2204 Swetman Blvd. in Gulfport. Hours: Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. – 3 p.m. Facilities: Picnic areas, Lighted Walking Track, Playground Module, Pond with Gazebo and Fountain, Swimming Pool, Exercise and Fitness Room with Life Fitness Equipment, and Programmed Activities. Visit http://www.gulfport-ms.gov/leisureservices/Facilities/community_&_recreation_centers.htm for more information and directions.



Healthy Restaurant Dining From The American Cancer Society



Eating out occasionally doesn't have to wreck your commitment to eating healthy. Just remember the following tips!

- Don't show up with an empty stomach or you might empty the bread basket! Have a healthy late afternoon snack, such as half a sandwich or handful of nuts.
- Limit your alcohol. It's high-calorie and nutrient poor and will weaken your willpower.
- Menu alert! Words like pan-fried, sautéed, battered, au gratin, cheesy, creamy or buttered mean hidden calories. Look for words like steamed, broiled, tossed and poached instead.
- Try ordering smaller portions. Consider sharing a meal and ordering an extra side salad. Or order an appetizer as your main course!
- Ask the server if the cooks can use lighter preparations: grill the chicken, steam the vegetables and serve the sauces & dressings on the side.

ANGEL TREE AIDS DRIFTWOOD CHRISTMAS PARTY

The holidays are such a special time of giving and sharing. And we are fortunate to have extraordinary employees who care so much about their City – and each of its citizens. Thanks to your generosity, donations from City employees helped to make a very happy Christmas to each of the 133 residents of Driftwood Nursing Center. Their gifts were delivered by Santa (Officer Josh Skaggs) during their annual Christmas party and brought smiles, laughter, and even happy tears to the faces of the residents.



POLICE DEPARTMENT NEWS continued

GET YOUR KICKS & HELP KIDS TOO!

Kicking For Kids Adult Kickball Tournament Saturday, March 7

Looking to have a little post-Mardi Gras fun? Field a team for the 3rd annual **Kicking for Kids Adult Kickball Tournament**. Kickball is the one sport where anybody can be a champion! Best of all, every dollar raised benefits the Gulfport Police Athletic League (P.A.L.). The Gulfport P.A.L. program sponsors activities that enhance children's quality of life such

as after school programs, academic tutoring, summer programs and athletic events.

Players must be at least 18 years old. Every team must have at least four female players. Every team is guaranteed two games. The tournament will be held at the Clarence Johnson Memorial Sports Complex on Three Rivers Road. Registration for a team of 13 players is only \$125. Give us a call at **868-5814** or visit the website at HYPERLINK "http://www.gulfportpal.com" www.gulfportpal.com.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE CHAPLAIN SERVICES UNIT

Chaplain Services is a new unit comprised of experienced volunteer representatives of different religious denominations. They provide spiritual help, guidance and counseling to the public and members of the Gulfport Police Department and their families. They stand ready to assist with memorial services, award ceremonies, graduations and funerals. Chaplains are also available to accompany officers during death and serious injury notifications and visit sick and injured department personnel.



Chaplain Services member Brother Coy Rice

FIRE DEPARTMENT NEWS *Submitted by Donna Ladner*

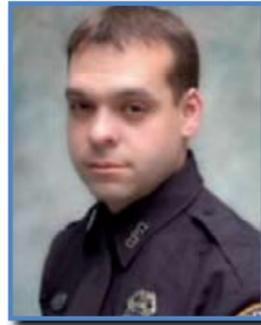


On January 27, a Fire Extinguisher Class was given to 30 employees of the Humane Society. Inspectors **John T. Johnson** and **Randy Johnson** are shown giving this informative class.



On January 12th, **Inspectors Richard Ritchie** and **Randy Johnson** conducted a fire safety talk and extinguisher class to 16 members of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP). The meeting was held at Golden Corral where all aspects of fire/life safety were reviewed and fire extinguisher training was held. Participants were grateful, with several expressing interest in having classes at various churches and civic groups. Schedule a class by calling **Donna** at **868-5950**.

GULFPORT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE NAMES POLICE OFFICER OF THE YEAR



Officer Adam Gibbons

Congratulations to eight-year veteran **Officer Adam Gibbons** recognized as 2008 Officer of the Year! In June of 2008, the Street Crimes Unit was reactivated and tasked with augmenting patrol enforcement efforts by targeting specific issues found to be the source of criminal activities and diminished quality of life. **Officer Gibbons** was assigned as the field supervisor of this four-man unit. Using creativity and innovation, they have exceeded expectations with statistics to date of 684

arrests, 955 answered calls for service and 625 traffic citations.



Officer Gibbons's leadership of this unit has had a positive effect on the City's crime enforcement efforts. According to his supervisor, "His efforts are clearly motivated by what is best for the department. He is a student of law enforcement and continually stays abreast of relevant case law and issues in law enforcement."

NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR EFFORTS



On December 6, the Gulfport Police Department received national recognition for its efforts to achieve state accreditation

from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Standards. **Deputy Chief Alfred Sexton** and **Sgt. Luke Thompson** attended the CALEA conference in Tulsa, Oklahoma to receive the recognition from CALEA **President James O'Dell**. The national recognition was awarded after an

intense review by a committee made up of law enforcement professionals from across the United States. Said **Chief Alan Weatherford**, "Accreditation is a coveted award that symbolizes professionalism, excellence and competence for the citizens of Gulfport."

OFFICERS OF THE MONTH

Congratulations to **Officer Steven Ramsey**, nominated as Officer of the Month for September, 2008. He has been with the Gulfport Police Department since December of 2007. **Officer Ramsey** is credited with locating a runaway juvenile from Ohio while investigating a shoplifting complaint. Using good interview skills, **Officer Ramsey** determined her true identity. He also developed additional information that could assist in locating another runaway in the area. According to his supervisor, **Officer Ramsey** is diligent in his daily assignments and is known for his ability to work with juveniles.



Officer Steven Ramsey

10-year veteran **Lieutenant Eddie Lovitt** was recognized as Officer of the Month for October, 2008. He is the Officer in Charge of the Airport Division. **Lt. Lovitt** was recognized for his work on enhancing the Airport Division's ability to maintain a safe port of entry for those who use the Gulfport/Biloxi International airport. Through his efforts, officers now regularly patrol the airport and its grounds with bicycles and all terrain vehicles. He has also increased cooperative efforts and training with T.S.A. and other federal agencies. Congratulations!



Lieutenant Eddie Lovitt

Congratulations to **Detective Windell Johnson**, nominated as Officer of the Month for November, 2008. **Detective Johnson** is a 17-year veteran of the Gulfport Police Department and has been assigned to the narcotics unit for the last five years. His investigative efforts during the month of November led to the arrest of two known drug dealers and the seizure of two pounds of marijuana and close to five ounces of cocaine. These significant arrests also led to the seizure of three handguns and over \$15,000 dollars in cash. According to his supervisor, "**Detective Johnson's** stellar performance and dedication as a professional law enforcement officer reflects great credit upon himself, the Narcotics Unit and the Gulfport Police Department."



Detective Windell Johnson

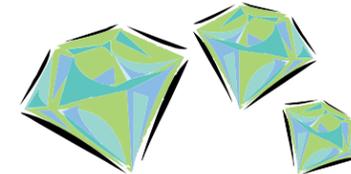
4th QUARTER GEM AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Submitted by Lauren Germany

The GEM Awards luncheon celebrated employees who Go the Extra Mile and make extraordinary contributions in the workplace or community. February 11, recipients received a \$50 gift card donated by Sunbelt Fire and enjoyed a luncheon at C&G Grille sponsored by Island View Casino.

CONGRATULATIONS GEM WINNERS!

OUTSTANDING SERVICE:
HUMAN RELATIONS:
COMMUNITY SERVICE:
OUTSTANDING SERVICE:
COMMUNITY SERVICE:



Steve Murray	Engineering
Shane Ogbum	Fire Department
Denise Waizenegger	Human Resources
Reggie Robinson	Leisure Services
Josh Skaggs	Police Department

Said **Cheryl Millender**, Human Resources Manager, "Gulfport's GEM program highlights the achievements of our most talented and dedicated employees. Please take the time to nominate a co-worker who really does Go The Extra Mile and deserves the recognition! And remember, anyone can submit a nomination and you can nominate an employee from any City department."

If you know of an employee who is a gem, nominate him or her for a GEM Award! Forms & guidelines can be found on the HR web page. The deadline for 1st quarter of 2009 awards is April 15.

PERFORMANCE APPRAISALS

Our new Performance Appraisal System allows your contributions to be made very clear to you and your supervisor! Throughout the process you will know exactly what you need to do to make Gulfport a better place to live and to work.

Based on the Management By Objectives (MBO) System, its philosophy is that **it takes all employees working together to achieve the City's vision**. City leaders have used the MBO System for 2 ½ years to aid in planning Gulfport's rebuilding efforts. Our Managers and Supervisors have been properly trained to administer this management tool.

This new performance appraisal system includes annual goals and is better for several reasons.

- It is fair and fact-based – you get a chance to discuss clear, specific expectations of your performance with your supervisor before you are held accountable for them.

- Asks for your opinion on your own annual goals which support the annual goals of your department.
- Maintains a written track record of your good performance.
- Sets aside pre-scheduled times for you and your supervisor to plan strategies to help you improve performance and aid your further career development.
- Gives you the opportunity to share any new ideas or improved methods.
- Improves communication between you, your supervisor and his/her supervisor.
- Is motivational – you get to see your progress against measurable expectations and goals.

By now, all employees have met with their supervisors for the *Initial Performance Meeting (IPM)*. The purpose of the IPM was to discuss the new system, the City's vision and mission and your department's annual goals. It set

clear performance expectations and annual goals for you, supporting your department's annual goals.

The next steps

In March and April, all managers & supervisors will attend training on how to conduct an effective performance appraisal.

Between early April and June 31, your supervisor will hold a **mid-year review** with you, reviewing the expectations and goals you both set this fall. You will have the opportunity of evaluating yourself as well. This is called a **self-evaluation**.

Next year, we will add **year-end reviews** to the process. Here you and your supervisor will discuss your progress toward pre-set expectations and goals. Once again, you will have the opportunity of a self-evaluation.

If you have any questions or concerns about our new Performance Appraisal System, feel free to speak to your Supervisor or call Human Resources at **x5831**.

LEISURE SERVICES UPDATE Submitted by Kerri Jones

After School Recreation Programs Now Open

After School Recreation Programs at the Katie Booth and Willie Locke Community Centers allow children to expand their educational and recreational skills in a fun and safe environment. The program uses city facilities as host sites. We have a vast variety of games, arts & crafts and other materials to keep our children busy and stimulate their social and educational growth. Weekday after school homework assistance and tutoring is available. Field trips and guest speakers are planned. We will attempt to provide volunteers from the various civic clubs and organizations.

Black History Month Program

Reflections of African-American Culture through Art, Movement, & Music, Thursday, February 26, 2008 – 6 p.m., Katie Patterson Booth Community Center
Join us for a celebration of the diversity, culture, and visual and performance arts of the Gulf Coast's African-American community. You'll enjoy a display

of local artists' work, music by 11th Hour Jazz Band, a live art performance by artist Reggie Ford, a liturgical dance and a step performance by the Pink Pearls Youth Organization. Rip Daniels of WJZD will also speak.

Keep Her In Your Prayers

Community Center Staffer **Augustine Scott** had triple bypass and open heart surgery in mid-January. Please keep her and her family in your prayers.

Registration

Register for Summer Day Camp, Summer Swim & Hershey Track & Field, Tuesday, April 21 and Wednesday, April 22 from 6 a.m.-7 p.m. at the Handsboro Community Center



Easter Egg Hunts

Saturday, April 4, 11 a.m.
Westside Park, Gulfport,
Hwy 90 W. of Island View Casino
Thursday, April 9, 6 p.m., Gulfport Sportsplex

SENIOR SERVICES Submitted by Robert Locke, Senior Citizens Program Coordinator

NEW SENIOR CENTER:

We will be opening our new Senior Center at the former site of the Mississippi Highway Patrol Office in West Gulfport at 4020, 8th Street. Outdoor activities will include art & writing classes, morning exercise classes, storytelling, parties & birthday celebrations and just plain sitting and enjoying the beautiful surroundings. Other classes will include dance & fitness, ceramics, table games, computers and foreign languages. The park will host walking and exercise program, birthday parties and other out-of-doors activities and events. For information, call **Brenda Salloum** at **868-5882** or **Robert Locke** at



297-6598.

TEMPORARY SENIOR CENTER:

Located at 3521 18th Street directly south of St. Terese Catholic Church. Activities for seniors and classes are offered daily.

THE MISSISSIPPI GULF COAST SENIOR GAMES:

Embarking on its 3rd year of Olympic style competition, April 22-25. Registration forms will

be sent to several thousand households with an expected attendance of 300 participants. The games include bocce ball, table tennis, volleyball, horseshoes, a golf tournament, dance contests and track and field events. Contact **Lucy Bickham** at **896-5683** or **Cheryl Bell** at **435-6296** for information.

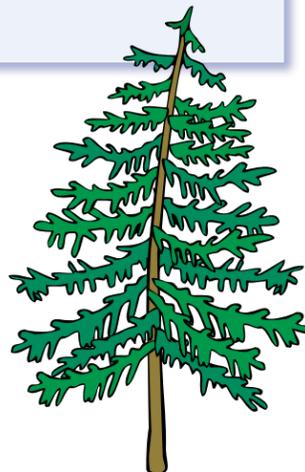
Chair exercise classes are being held at Handsboro Community Center, Willie Lock Community Center, the Senior Center and Association for Retarded Citizens, Gulfport. **Spread the word!**

ARBOR DAY Submitted by Horticulturalist Bruce Griebel, Public Works

Nothing signals the coming of spring like Arbor Day! In honor of Arbor Day 2009, approximately 8,000 free trees were given to the public at Jones Park and the Gulfport Sportsplex.

Funding for the trees was secured in the 2008 legislative session by the Coast delegation with a commitment to replant the more than 25,000 trees destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

The trees were provided by Replant South Mississippi, a partnership of the Sun Herald and the Land Trust for the Mississippi Coastal Plain. Their purpose is to restore the tree canopy greatly damaged by Hurricane Katrina, work together to enhance the public view-shed and diversify the urban forest across the six southern counties of Mississippi.



LEGAL & URBAN DEVELOPMENT NEWS

NEW LEGAL TEAM IN PLACE Submitted by Gloria Byrd

After the retirement of **Harry Hewes**, Director of the Legal Department for many years, many changes have taken place in the legal department. Assistant City Attorney **Jeff Bruni** was selected fill the position of Director. He has hard shoes to fill, but is up to the task and doing a fantastic job.



With an overwhelming demand on the department, **James "Jim" Bailey Halliday** and **Chelsea H. Brannon** were added to the City Attorney's Office. Jim moved from the part-time City Prosecutor position and is now full-time

Assistant City Attorney. Formerly Special Counsel to the Secretary of State, **Chelsea** brings legislative experience and expertise to the department.

Additionally, **Martha Carson** has been promoted to Chief Prosecutor. **Felicia Dunn Burke** has joined the team as City Prosecutor. **Rebecca ("Becky") Butler** has returned to the City Prosecutor's Office. Our most recent new hire is **Elizabeth ("Lizzy") Pribyl**. **Becky** and **Lizzy** are doing a great job in their capacity as Administrative Assistants. We are also excited about the return of **Kathy Miller**, who will serve as an Administrative Assistant to the City Prosecutor's Office.

WELCOME

New Public Information Officer **Ryan LaFontaine** joined the City team in early January. His experience includes six years as a staff writer for the Sun Herald as well as Program Director for Mississippi Media and Production Assistant at WLOX. **Mayor Warr** said **Ryan's** role as public information officer is "to communicate the progress of the city to the residents of Gulfport. We constantly hear that people don't know the good things going on in our city," said **Warr**. "We're thrilled to have someone like **Ryan** with his communication skills."

URBAN DEVELOPMENT NEWS Submitted by Isaac Williams

On January 18th, New York University graduate student **Andrea Perkins** reached out to the Planning and Zoning Division to assist in their research for their MCJ Capstone project. **Greg Holmes**, Deputy Planning Administrator, and **Isaac Williams**, Planner, met with the students to answer general questions regarding development in the City. The students are scheduled for graduation in spring, 2009.

Urban Development Director **Larry Jones**, Deputy Planning Administrator **Greg Holmes** and Planner **Thomas Lane** attended a SmartCode training session January 28-31. The session consisted of seminars and field visits concerning the function and administration of Smart Code communities.

Plans Review Inspector **Lee Floyd** has been certified as a Residential Building Inspector. (And congratulations on the birth of his 14th grandchild: **Averie Abetya!**)

Urban Development welcomes new grant employees **Jeff Harbour** (Code Enforcement) and **Craig Wiggins** (Code Enforcement).

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	dladner@ci.gulfport.ms.us
General Admin/Council/Legal	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	Yolanda McArthur	868-5741	ymcarthur@ci.gulfport.ms.us
Urban Development	Isaac Williams	868-5710	iwilliams@ci.gulfport.ms.us