

DECEMBER, 1988 EDITION

THE CITY IN REVIEW



IT'S BEEN A BUSY YEAR

We are fast approaching 1989. We will leave 1988 behind with many happy memories, some sadness, and good feelings about our accomplishments.

Councilmember Judy Tonkin will be missed and remembered by us all.

Our Council meetings have addressed many issues throughout the year. Your voice in our government was heard. There will be new issues before Council in 1989, and we want to continue to hear from you.

Our City general election will soon be upon us. I have requested that a referendum be placed on the ballot. The referendum will be your mandate to your elected officials.

"Do the citizens of Gulfport wish to change the density cap from 10 units per acre to 15 units per acre?"

I encourage each of you to consider the referendum carefully and mark your ballot in the way that best reflects your belief.

I wish you a very happy and successful New Year.

Very Sincerely,

Bert Williams
Mayor

CITY COUNCIL ACTIONS

AN OVERVIEW

The City Council has work sessions on the Thursday before the regular Council meeting. The regular Council meetings are held on the first and third Tuesday of each month. At the work session items will be discussed for placement on the Agenda of the regular session for discussion.

Ordinances are laws of the City. There are two public readings of each ordinance and a public hearing is held on the second reading. The title of the ordinance is published in the legal section of the newspaper 10 days prior to the public hearing. The following represent an overview of the ordinances approved by Mayor and Council since our last newsletter of September 1988.

ORDINANCES:

Approved 88-9, An ordinance changing the schedule of charges for permit fees for building permits. This ordinance also raises the registration fee for occupational permits for businesses based outside of the City limits, and sets fees for home occupational license applications and site plan reviews.

Approved 88-10, An ordinance setting the millage rate for the ad valorem tax at 4.3 mills.

Approved 88-11, An ordinance establishing the budget for fiscal year 1988-89.

Approved 88-12, An ordinance establishing higher charges for bad checks in the City. These charges are now the same as set in the Florida Statutes.

Approved 88-13, An ordinance raising the water, sewer and sanitation rates. These rates were changed to reflect higher charges from the City of St. Petersburg who supplies the City of Gulfport with water and sewer treatment. The sanitation rates reflect the actual cost to operate the service.

Approved 88-14, An ordinance requiring

residents to obtain a permit in order to cut down certain trees in the City.

Approved 88-15, An ordinance granting a non-exclusive franchise to Paragon Cable T.V. to operate a cable television station in the City of Gulfport.

Approved 88-16, An ordinance setting crime prevention requirements for any convenience store operating the City.

Approved 88-17, An ordinance setting crime prevention requirements for any teen dance club operating in the City.

Approved 88-18, An ordinance setting crime prevention requirements for any amusement center operating in the City. This Ordinance also limits children under 16 from playing video games in the amusement center during school hours.

Approved 88-19, An ordinance adding certain restrictions to the locations of taverns, cocktail lounges and package stores in relation to teen dance clubs and amusement centers.

Approved 88-20, An ordinance adding as a conditional use building heights over 25 feet and under 45 feet if they meet the conditional use criteria and additional drainage and variance criteria in R-3 Zoning.

Approved 88-21, An ordinance defining dwelling unit and a hotel/motel unit.

If you need a copy of any of these Ordinances, the City Clerk's Office can provide one to you at a minimal charge. The Gulfport Library has a copy of our Charter and Ordinances after Codification for your review.

BOARD OF ADJUSTMENT:

From October 1987 through September 1988, granted ten variances and denied three.

PLANNING & ZONING BOARD:

From October 1987 through September 1988, approved twenty-eight home occupational licenses and denied two. Eighteen site plan reviews were approved and two were denied.

THIRTY YEARS OF PUBLIC SERVICE

COUNCILMEMBER YAKES

COMPLETES TAPING

SESSION



Oliver Barney White was born and raised in Gulfport, Florida. Ollie, as he is affectionately known by one and all, started working for the City, January 2, 1959! As of January 2, 1989 he will have completed 30 years of service to this community.

When asked, Ollie said, "The City always treated me right and I would do it all again." His brother told everyone he would only last 3 months, "but I fooled them all".

During the early years there was only Public Works with no division of jobs. The City had a total of about 40 employees. Everyone had to do everything. This involved a lot of hard work without today's equipment. He received \$51.00 per week.

Ollie also served on the Volunteer Fire Department for 22 years, and feels the best thing the City has added is the Paramedic division.

If you had a child, that was involved with the Gulfport Lions Little League during the 25 years Ollie volunteered his time as coach, you will find they all thought he was the greatest.

At the National League of Cities 1988 Congress of Cities and Exposition, Councilmember Yakes did complete the video taping much needed by the City.

The U. S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration provided this service at no cost to public officials.

The production crew was kept busy throughout the conference for taping the Public Service Announcements.

Councilmember Yakes brought back the video, and the City will be working with our cable company for broadcasting the Public Service Announcement.

Mr. Yakes feels that some people do drink at parties or establishments, but there must be a sensible approach to drinking.

The Public Service Announcement viewed will carry the following message: Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk... Those few words can save a life. Drinking and driving is a risk we don't have to take. Be a real friend, make sure that only a sober driver gets behind the wheel of the car. If someone you know has had too much to drink, don't let them drive. Call a cab or drive them yourself. And remember to wear your safety belt... It's your best defense against a drunk driver.

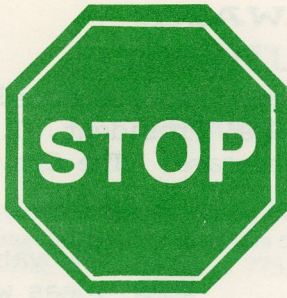
Highway safety is not new to Councilmember Yakes. He is the state-wide Safety Program Administrator for the Department of Transportation. Some of his responsibilities include Safety Programs, and Awareness for over 54 plaza facilities. He is also responsible for seven regional toll areas state-wide.

Mr. Yakes is also Chairing the Committee on Traffic Circulation, Sanitary Sewer, Solid Waste, Drainage, and Potable Water under the City of Gulfport's Comprehensive Land Use Plan.

CITY PROPERTY CLASS AND TAXABLE VALUE BY OWNERS

The property appraiser's offices supplies the City with a list of taxable value of properties in Gulfport. The following is a recap of the land use as of October 1,1988.

<u>TYPE OF PROPERTY</u>	<u>TAXABLE VALUE</u>	<u>TOTAL VALUE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>
Vacant Residential	\$ 10,911,200	\$ 10,917,400	400
Single Family Residential	79,990,780	148,498,829	3,712
Mobile Home	764,800	2,743,122	128
Multi-Family Less Than 10 Units	5,840,000	7,176,100	27
Condominia	60,508,410	87,099,602	1,577
Cooperatives	18,400	18,400	1
Retirement Homes	57,700	57,700	4
Multi-Family Greater Than 10 Units	20,015,960	24,471,900	437
Vacant Commercial	5,298,700	5,298,700	27
Improved Commercial	16,454,780	16,688,900	115
Vacant Industrial	93,000	93,000	5
Improved Industrial	3,386,900	3,436,900	33
Institutional	2,364,460	11,001,400	32
Government	21,100	12,329,000	31
Miscellaneous	64,100	64,100	5
TOTALS	\$205,790,290	\$329,895,053	6,534



STATE MANDATES

The following letter was sent to each President at Town Shores by Councilmember Kirby Rohrer:

November 8, 1988

Dear President:

As your elected official and your representative for the Florida League of Cities, I am asking for your help.

Since May of this year, I have attempted to advise all citizens in our community of the seriousness concerning the issue of state mandates. The state legislature can make laws which the City must follow. These laws cost the City and the City taxpayer's money to implement. As the law reads now, the City would have to pay the increase for the mandated service. We would have no control over our own budgets, and in time this could increase your property taxes.

I support the petition drive which is sponsored by the Florida League of Cities as does our Mayor and all Councilmembers. I have attached the Florida League of Cities statement of position and a copy of the petition. I need your support to get as many of the petitions signed in opposition to state mandate to enable us to notify the legislation when it convenes.

I will be willing to speak to your association and explain further at your associations convenience. I need your help in determining the best method of getting these petitions signed.

I can be reached at City Hall, 321-1158. If I am not in the office, I will receive your message and get back to you.

I'm thanking you in advance for any assistance you can render.

Very sincerely,

Kirby Rohrer
Councilmember

The Florida State Advisory Council on Intergovernmental Relations has reported there were 223 unfunded mandates placed upon cities and counties in Florida since 1980. "Unfunded mandates" are governmental actions required of cities and counties by state law without adequate funding resources. Such actions have been described as similar to the "state writing checks out of the city/county checkbook".

We prefer the flexibility of the legislative process, but we are equally committed to the petition process and will pursue both options with equal vigor in order that Florida citizens will have an opportunity to evaluate and vote on this issue in the 1990 general election.

As citizens we must join forces and unite against the Legislative body and let it be known that they cannot dictate to us through the process called "Mandates".

Enclosed in this issue of the "City in Review" is a petition concerning this matter. Please complete the petition and return it to City Hall.

Remember, this affects us all!

MAYOR ACCEPTS OUR AWARD

The City of Gulfport, represented by Mayor Bert Williams, was presented with a Certificate of Appreciation by the Florida League of Cities' President, J. Larry Durrence, for its participation in the Innovations Showcase. The City of Gulfport submitted the R S V P/CEM-COM Program.

The presentation took place during the League's 62nd Annual Convention at the Hyatt Orlando near Kissimmee.

The Innovations Showcase featured fifty-one Florida municipalities and one charter county, in response to the League's request for its members to share their



innovative ideas which solved problems or met needs in their communities. One hundred ninety-eight innovations were submitted covering a wide range of local government activities. The programs were organized into

five categories: Administration, Community Development, Community/Public Relations, Public Safety and Public Works. These innovations were featured in the September and October issues of the League's monthly publication, Quality Cities '88, as well as in a special publication distributed at the convention.

The Innovations Showcase was a proposal of the League's Task Force on Florida's Future: Quality Cities. The goal of the showcase was to provide an opportunity for the promotion and sharing of ideas among Florida cities.

CEM-COM

(ALIVE AND WELL)

Our CEM-COM Committee is our Citizen, Employee, Management and Communications Committee. The CEM-COM Committee, all volunteer, has been rotating every six months. They have identified alleged code violations and other problems.

Through Committee consensus, lists have been compiled of perceived code violations. These lists have included abandoned vehicles, lots in need of mowing, work performed without proper permitting, and stop signs and street signs in need of repair, etc.

The lists have been forwarded to the proper departments for handling. This has resulted in many letters sent to citizens, and in some instances, citations.

This has been a very active Citizen Committee, and since its start up in April of '88, over 800 perceived violations have been addressed.

WATER AND SEWER CONTRACT RENEGOTIATED WITH ST. PETERSBURG

The City of Gulfport buys water and sewer treatment from the City of St. Petersburg under a sales purchase agreement entered into in 1974. The water purchase agreement was set to expire in 1989 and the sewage treatment agreement was to expire in 2004. These agreements set rates at rates from the previous year and provided that actual cost would be charged after the audit. For the last four years Gulfport has had to pay the City of St. Petersburg additional monies at the end of the year based on the actual cost of treatment. This meant that we could charge less than the actual cost of the treatment for up to 18 months before the real costs surfaced, making large rate increases necessary to customers.

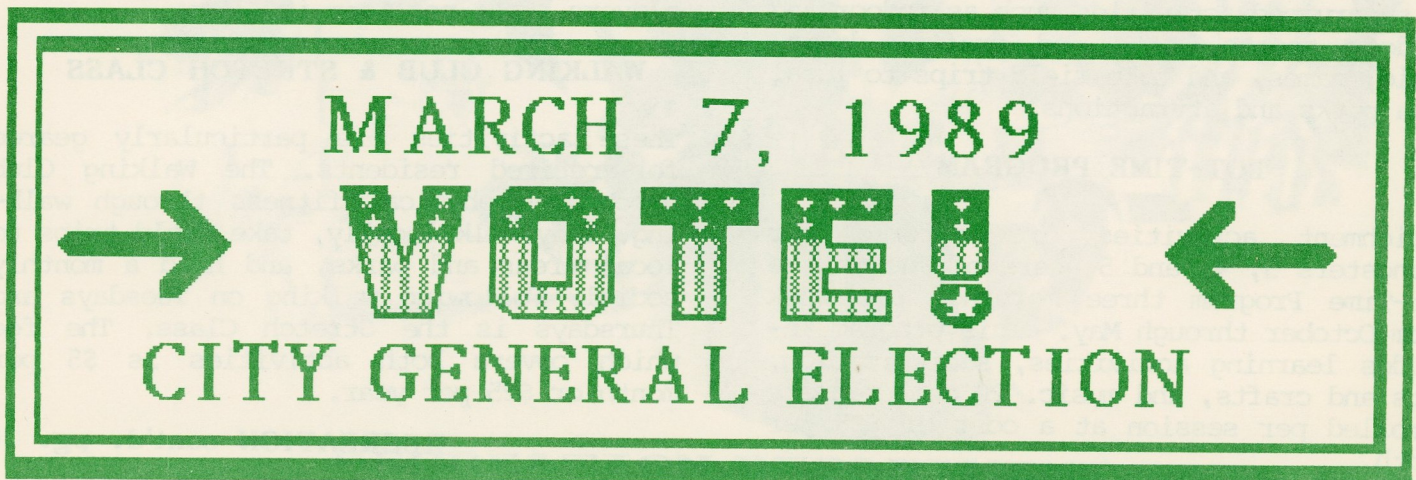
The Council recognized this problem and renegotiated the contract so that the City of St. Petersburg could give us current estimates before we set the water and sewer rates for the year. This allows a more realistic charge on a yearly basis to the customers.

Water purchase and sewer treatment are expensive and getting more expensive every year with new State and Federal regulations and the expansive growth in Florida. The City is making every effort to keep these costs as low as possible while insuring that fresh, clean water is available and sewer treatment is non-polluting.

CRIMINALS PAY FOR NEEDED POLICE EQUIPMENT

The Florida law allows the police to confiscate property used in the commission of a felony. The City can use the funds or the item after the Court has acted to use the item or to sell the items, and use the funds to purchase equipment in the Police Department.

This year the fines and forfeitures account paid for a new radar gun so that the Police can cite speeders on residential streets. The Police also use a confiscated T-Bird automobile that has been repainted for the School Resource Officer's car.



RECREATION DEPARTMENT

"DID YOU KNOW"

This column is dedicated to City Department functions. For this edition, we have chosen the Recreation Department. We want to give you an idea of what services are provided. Here is what it looks like.

The Recreation Department serves residents from 6 months to 90 years in a variety of leisure activities. Last year, 2650 residents used our facilities or enjoyed our special events.

YOUTH PROGRAMS

AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM

This program serves 85 to 115 youths daily between the ages of 5 to 11 years. Transportation is provided from three area schools. Supervision is provided until 5:30 p.m. each school day at a cost of \$25 per month for residents.

SUMMER PROGRAM

For eight weeks during the summer 200 children, ages 5 through 13, attend summer recreation from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily. Free lunch is provided to each child through the Pinellas County Summer Food Program. Cost is \$60 for the first child and \$40 for each additional child per family.

Each of these youth programs provide an opportunity for City youths to participate in supervised activities such as indoor and outdoor sports, arts and crafts, drama, music, games, and take field trips to local area parks and attractions.

TOT-TIME PROGRAM

Enrichment activities are offered for youngsters 3, 4, and 5 years of age in the Tot-Time Program three mornings per week from October through May. This program includes learning activities, socialization, arts and crafts, and music. 20 children are enrolled per session at a cost of \$35 per month.

CLASSES

Throughout the year, classes are offered in baton, gymnastics, karate, drama, and dance.

TEEN PROGRAM

Teen activities include Teen Nights, Dances, and the Teen Volunteer Program. The Community Center is open on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. 62 teens are registered to attend. Teen Nights give teens the opportunity to socialize and enjoy leisure activities in a supervised environment. Field trips are taken to local skating rinks, fun centers, and local attractions. Teen Dances are held three times year.

Teens may apply to the Teen Volunteer Program for either the After-School Program or the Summer Program. This program affords the opportunity for building responsibility and pre-job training. Teens pay \$5 yearly to attend Teen Nights.

ADULT PROGRAMS

In addition to its youth programming, the Recreation Department offers many adult classes and activities.

MEN'S SOFTBALL

Each fall a league is offered. This year's league consisted of 6 teams with registered players. Cost per team is \$185.

WALKING CLUB & STRETCH CLASS

These activities are particularly geared for retired residents. The Walking Club encourages physical fitness through walking. They walk locally, take field trips to local areas and parks, and hold a monthly social. Following walking on Tuesdays and Thursdays is the Stretch Class. The fee which covers both activities is \$5 per month or \$25 per year.

RECREATION cont'd. pg. 10

TEENS

TOTS



RECREATION DEPARTMENT IN ACTION

CLASSES

Classes in art, sewing, karate, ballroom dance, ceramics, and clogging are offered to adults during the September to May season.

For families, the Recreation Department plans and produces special events throughout the year. These include the House, the Annual Arts and Crafts Show, Christmas Tree Lighting, and Christmas Decorations Contest. New this year were several special events made possible through co-sponsorship. Barnett Bank was co-sponsor for a Bocci Ball Tournament that drew senior citizens. The musical for children, Pinocchio, was presented during the summer in cooperation with the St. Petersburg Beach Recreation Department.

The First Annual Youth Sidewalk Art Contest and the children's musical, The Fabulous Fable Factory, was made possible through the sponsorship of nine local businesses: The Gulfport Gabber, Caldwell Realty, The Country Connection, Gulfport Consignment, Beach Pub, The Gulfport Chamber of Commerce, First Gulf Bank, C.J.M. Electronics, and Bay Breeze Beauty Salon.

The Recreation Department is led by two full time employees, Jan Vance the Recreation Supervisor, and Mary Jo Love the Recreation Specialist. 4 to 9 part-time Recreation Aides are on staff depending on the season. This Department works hard so that residents can enjoy their leisure time. Their goal is to continue to offer youth services and enriching leisure activities for the whole community.

CITY OF GULFPORT NEWSLETTER

Published by the City Of Gulfport
Kathy S. Rice, City Manager/Co-Editor

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321-1158 Extension 118

OUR SENIORS & CRIME PREVENTION

The Police Department received a Federal Grant for \$25,400. This money was strictly earmarked for crime prevention. Our Senior Citizens actively requested Crime Prevention Assistance programs.



A Crime Prevention Council was established comprised of major civic groups and high-rise condominium developments. A part-time Victim Advocate was hired. The Victim Advocate coordinates victim assistance and assists in crime prevention education. Several of our citizens are volunteering as crisis intervention counselors under the direction of the Victim Advocate. A crime Prevention van was also purchased through this grant. This has allowed for a great deal of mobility for our full time Crime Prevention Coordinator.

Our Crime Prevention Coordinator is a Police Officer who is also actively involved in Home Crime Prevention surveys. Public speaking at civic organizations and local schools has been increased through this program. Activity among the Crime Watch groups has intensified.

Call
327 HELP
(327-4357)



We Want To "Zero" In
On Your Concern!

"We'll be pleased to respond to your concern", R S V P. The R S V P Help line has been successful since its beginning.

Over 200 calls have been received and handled. The majority of the citizens utilizing the R S V P line have often identified over-grown lots and litter strewn about.

By providing one centralized location for citizens to report their concerns there is less frustration for the citizens. The program has been effective and well received by the community.

WE HONOR OUR COMMUNITY

Gulfport was incorporated October 12, 1910. At that time it was indicated that Gulfport might be the largest town, territorially speaking, in Florida. Mr. Samuel J. Webb became the first City Clerk.

Samuel Webb was born in Luten, England. He was 16 years old when he arrived in the United States. He lived in Massachusetts where he met his wife Abbey. Soon after, Samuel and Abbey moved to the Bear Creek area and began raising a family.

Samuel supported his family as a machinist and became interested in real estate. He moved his family to Beach Blvd. and became active in the community. He soon opened a real estate office with Earl Wintersgill.

Samuel Webb served as Gulfport's City Clerk during the initial incorporation. His real estate office flourished. His six children were all educated in our local schools. He served as Mayor from November 1930 to October 1931 when he died in office.

His great grand-daughter, Rose Domke, loves working for the City of Gulfport. Rose is responsible for the City's R S V P Help line. She and her husband are raising twin sons who are the fourth generation of students at Gulfport Elementary School. They are very active in the community. When asked if she would like to be the Mayor of Gulfport someday, she replied, "No, I just love working for the City, but I'm proud that my great grandfather served as the City's Mayor."

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION



The City Clerk's Office will be taking homestead exemption applications January 4 through March 1 each Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday morning from 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. Please contact the City Clerk's Office if you need information on filing requirements.

VOTE MARCH 7, 1989 ELECTION INFORMATION



Nominating petitions and acceptance forms for seats on Gulfport's City Council may be obtained from the City Clerk beginning at 8:30 a.m., Friday, January 6, 1989. Nominating petitions may be filed for the seat of Mayor, Councilmember Ward 2, Councilmember Ward 3, and Councilmember Ward 4.

Any qualified elector of the City, who has been for a period of at least two years continuously next prior to nomination a resident of Gulfport and holds no other public office, may be nominated for the position of Mayor by a petition of not less than ten registered voters within any ward of the City, or for the position of Councilmember by a petition of any ten registered voters from the ward in which they reside. There is no filing fee and the deadline for filing is Thursday, January 26, 1989 at 4:00 p.m.

The general election will be held on Tuesday, March 7, 1989. If no candidate receives, in the race for which he/she runs, a majority of the votes cast, a run off election will be held on Tuesday, March 21, 1989.

The incumbents are Bert Williams, Mayor; Kirby Rohrer, Councilmember Ward 2; James O'Reilly, Councilmember Ward 3, and Michael Yakes, Councilmember Ward 4.

MANAGEMENT REPORT AVAILABLE

The City Manager has submitted her Annual Management Report for fiscal year 1987-88 to the Mayor and City Council. The focus this year is on the achievements of the Council and Manager. If you wish a copy of the report, please contact the office of City Manager, at 321-1158. You may also request a copy of the report by calling the R S V P line 327-4357.

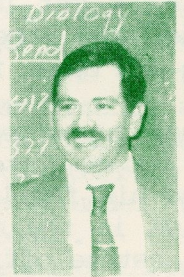
MS. PAONESSA



AND

MR. O'REILLY

During American Education Week, Ms. Barbara Paonessa, Principal of Boca Ciega High School, and her staff hosted a back to school day for the Mayor and Council. Councilmember O'Reilly was a student at Boca Ciega High School and remembered those days well. Since attending "Bogie", Mr. O'Reilly was the Recreation Supervisor at the City of St. Petersburg Beach, and, during that time, he was the Chairperson for the Planning and Zoning Board for our City. In their discussion, Councilmember O'Reilly recognized the impact of all the teachers at Boca Ciega High School on his life. When talking to some of the students that day, he reminded them of the importance of education and that it was the best investment for their future.



Seasons Greetings

**TO ALL
FROM YOUR CITY
EMPLOYEES**