

**GULF BREEZE CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

SEPTEMBER 7, 2010
TUESDAY, 6:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS

1. Roll Call
2. Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Minutes of August 16, 2010 (Regular Meeting)
Approval of Minutes of August 16, 2010 (CRA Meeting)
4. **CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:***
 - A. Discussion and Action Regarding South Santa Rosa Utility Board Recommendations.
 - B. Discussion and Action Regarding Repair of Damaged Police/Fire Boat
 - C. Discussion and Action Regarding Annual Request for Funds by Gulf Breeze Area Chamber of Commerce.
 - D. Discussion and Action Regarding Brush Chipper Bid (FEMA Alternate Project #12)
 - E. Discussion and Action Regarding Housekeeping Services Bid.
 - F. Discussion and Action Regarding Flood Plan Management Status Report.
 - G. Discussion and Action Regarding Approval of Acquisitions and Procurement Regarding the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill (Ordinance 07-07)
 - H. Discussion and Action Regarding Renewal of Health Insurance Program for City Staff.
 - I. Discussion and Action Regarding Appointment of Advisory Park Board Member.

***These are items considered routine in nature and will be considered by one (1) motion. If any citizen wishes to voice an opinion on one of the items, you should advise the Council immediately.**

5. ACTION AGENDA ITEMS:

- A. Discussion and Action Regarding Contract with Bay Design, Architectural and Engineering Services, Expansion and Renovation of the Recreation Center.
 - B. Discussion and Action Regarding Work Order Amendment for Tetra Tech due to Rebid Process.
 - C. Discussion and Action Regarding Proposed Amendments of the City's Personnel Manual (1) Premium for Health Insurance for Tobacco Users and (2) Prohibition of Hiring Tobacco Users.
 - D. Discussion and Action Regarding Payment of "Bonus" to City Staff.
6. New Business:
7. Open Forum
8. Adjournment

**COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
SPECIAL MEETING**

- A. Discussion and Action Regarding Replacement of Air Conditioner, Chamber Building.
- B. Discussion and Action Regarding Driftwood Subdivision Request.
- C. Discussion and Action Regarding TEAM Santa Rosa Membership.

If any person decides to appeal any decisions made with respect to any matter considered at this meeting or public hearing, such person may need to insure that a verbatim record of the proceedings is made, which record includes the testimony and any evidence upon which the appeal is to be based.

The public is invited to comment on matters before the City Council upon seeking and receiving recognition from the Chair.

**AUGUST 16, 2010 MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF THE
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GULF BREEZE, FLORIDA**

The 1,158th regular meeting of the Gulf Breeze City Council, Gulf Breeze, Florida, was held at the Gulf Breeze City Hall on Monday, August 16, 2010 At 6:30 p.m.

Upon call of the roll the following Councilmen were present: Dana Morris, J. B. Schluter, Joseph Henderson and Mayor Beverly Zimmern. Councilman Richard Fulford was out of town.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Councilman Schluter moved for approval of the minutes for the regular meeting held on Monday, August 2, 2010. Councilman Morris seconded. The vote for approval was 4 - 0.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the following Consent Agenda Items:
A, B, C, D, and E.

- A. SUBJECT: **DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING AMERICAN DIABETES ASSOCIATION SPECIAL EVENT REQUEST FOR AN ANNUAL BIKE RIDE - SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2011, 6:30 A.M. TO 2:30 P.M.**

Reference: City Manager memo dated July 27, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the request from American Diabetes Association Special Event for their annual 42 and 62 mile family fun bike ride to be held on Saturday April 2, 2011, 6:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

- B. SUBJECT: **DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL TO PURCHASE POLICE VEHICLES**

Reference: Deputy Police Chief memo dated August 5, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the low bids and authorize the purchase of the following two vehicles: 1 Chevrolet Tahoe Police Pursuit Vehicle (Garber Fleet Sales) - \$39,127.42 and 1 Ford Crown Vic Police Pursuit Vehicle (Bartow Ford) \$34,993.00 for a total of 74,120.42.

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FOR THE COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

A meeting of the Board of Directors for the Community Redevelopment Agency, Gulf Breeze, Florida, was convened at the Gulf Breeze City Hall on Monday, August 16, 2010, at 7:10 p.m. Upon call of the roll for the Community Redevelopment Agency meeting the following Board members were present: Councilmen Dana Morris, J. B., Schluter, Joseph Henderson, and Mayor Beverly Zimmern. Councilman Richard Fulford was out of town.

The purpose of the meeting was for the Board of Directors for the Community Redevelopment Agency to consider the following items:

A. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING PEDESTRIAN OVERPASS FENCING

Reference: City Manager memo dated August 12, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council meet Monday, August 16, 2010, as the Board of Directors, of the Community Development Agency and enter into agreements in the amount \$24,275 with Fence Masters for replacing the fencing on the pedestrian overpass to be paid from CRA funds.

Councilman Henderson moved for approval of the project. Councilman Schluter seconded. The vote for approval was 4 - 0.

B. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING CHANGE ORDER - INSTALLATION OF DECORATIVE FENCE

Reference: City Manager memos dated August 12, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council set Monday, August 16, 2010, as a Special meeting of the Community Redevelopment Agency and approve the change order request from Biggs-Green in the amount of \$4,363 to be paid from CRA funds. Santa Rosa County School Board will pay \$2,247 of the Change Order costs.

RECOMMENDATION:

Councilman Morris moved for approval. Councilman Henderson seconded. The vote for approval was 4 - 0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

CITY CLERK

MAYOR

Councilmen Present: Dana Morris, J. B. Schluter, Richard Fulford, Joseph Henderson
and Mayor Beverly Zimmern

ACTION AGENDA ITEMS:

**A. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING SOUTH SANTA ROSA
UTILITY BOARD RECOMMENDATIONS**

Reference: Assistant Public Services Director memo dated August 25, 2010

INTERIM TAP FEE PAYMENT POLICY:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve Interim Tap Fee Policy for residential subdivisions that allows developers to pay 25% down payment for impact fees, another 25% when the system is placed in service and the remaining 50% to be paid by the builder prior to a building permit being issued.

TAP FEE DESIGNATION POLICY:

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council authorize the Director of Finance to dissolve the previous tap fee designated fund against the liability created by SSRUS expenditures and establish a new policy where all tap/impact fees are established in a designated reserve and can only be released by recommendation of the Board and approval of the City Council with the exception of being subordinate to debt covenants. An allowance for emergency situations should be made for the City Manager to authorize temporary uses of the designated funds pending approval or repayment.

DUMP TRAILER PURCHASE:

That the City Council approve the purchase of a dump trailer per the quote process for \$5,295 from CARSPensacola.

GRAND POINTE LIFT STATION DRIVEWAY:

The City Council approve award of the Grand Pointe Lift Station Driveway Construction to B & W Utilities, inc., for the amount of \$1,850.

B. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING REPAIR OF DAMAGED POLICE/FIRE BOAT

Reference: Deputy Police Chief memo dated August 19, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the repairs to the City Boat in the amount of \$7,007.94.

C. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING REPLACEMENT OF AIR CONDITIONER, CHAMBER BUILDING

Reference: City Manager memo dated August 26, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council determine that a meeting of the Board of the Community Redevelopment Agency be set for Tuesday, September 7, 2010, and that an expenditure of \$3,560 be approved for replacement of the air conditioner at the Chamber building by All Seasons. The City Council approved the Chamber getting started on the replacement immediately.

D. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING ANNUAL REQUEST FOR FUNDS BY GULF BREEZE AREA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Reference: Assistant City Manager memo dated August 26, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the amount of FY 2010 TDC funds budgeted to the Gulf Breeze Area Chamber of Commerce in the amount of \$6,000.

E. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING DRIFTWOOD SUBDIVISION REQUEST

Reference: Assistant Public Services Director memo dated August 25, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council determine that a meeting of the Board of the Community Redevelopment Agency be set for Tuesday, September 7, 2010, and that an payment be authorized in the amount of \$5,000 to the developers of the Driftwood Subdivision for water main improvements beyond the minimum requirement for their development.

F. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING BRUSH CHIPPER BID (FEMA ALTERNATE PROJECT #12)

Reference: Community Services Director memo dated August 17, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council authorize staff to accept Vermeer Southeast Sales and Services bid of \$35,997 for a BC1200XL brush chipper (Alternate Project #12) and authorize staff to submit the expenditure for reimbursement under PW 3817.

G. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING HOUSEKEEPING SERVICES

Reference: City Manager memo dated

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council authorize a contract with Gulf Coast Enterprises, for the provision of routine housekeeping services, in the amount of \$34,944.00 per year.

H. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING TEAM SANTA ROSA MEMBERSHIP

Reference: Assistant City Manager memo dated August 25, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council meet on Monday, September 6, 2010 as the Board of Directors of the Community Redevelopment Agency and that the CRA Board authorize payment to TEAM Santa Rosa of \$5,000 for 2010 membership dues.

I. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING CONTRACT WITH BAY DESIGN, ARCHITECTURAL AND ENGINEERING SERVICES, EXPANSION AND RENOVATION OF THE RECREATION CENTER

Reference: City Manager memo dated August 26, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the City's standard contract for architectural services with Bay Design for design of the expansion and renovation of the Recreation Center for a base fee of \$287,00 plus these added services: (1) Soils Testing - \$3,500; (2) Surveys - \$4,950; (3) Civil Engineering - \$17,500; (4) Voice Data - \$22,500; (5) LEED design - \$30,000; (6) Reimbursable Items - \$1,000.

J. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING FLOOD PLAN MANAGEMENT STATUS REPORT

Reference: Community Services Director memo dated August 5, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council accept this annual status report on the City's flood plan management.

K. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING APPROVAL OF ACQUISITIONS AND PROCUREMENT REGARDING THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL (ORDINANCE 07-07)

Reference: Assistant City Manager memo dated August 25, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve expenditures to date.

L. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING WORK ORDER AMENDMENT FOR TETRA TECH DUE TO REBID PROCESS

Reference: Finance Director memo dated August 26, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the amended scope of work for Tetra Tech to include managing the rebid process for the deconstruction of the Gulf Breeze Fishing Bridge and approve the proposed work order reflecting costs not to exceed \$8,800.

M. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING RENEWAL OF HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM FOR CITY STAFF

Reference: City Manager memo dated August 24, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the proposal by Blue Cross Blue Shield to renew the City's employee health insurance plan #3559 for an increase of 5.43% over the current rate and that HSA Plans #3166 and 3167 be eliminated.

N. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS OF THE CITY'S PERSONNEL MANUAL (1) PREMIUM FOR HEALTH INSURANCE FOR TOBACCO USERS AND (2) PROHIBITION OF HIRING TOBACCO USERS

Reference: City Manager memo dated August 26, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve the following concepts to be added to the City's Personnel manual: (1) That current City employees that smoke or use tobacco products be charged a premium for participation in the City's employee health policy; and (2) That future applicants for positions with the City must not be tobacco users. (If the Council approves one or both of these concepts, staff and the City attorney will draft amendments to the Personnel Manual for consideration by the City Council.)

**O. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING PAYMENT OF
"BONUS" TO CITY STAFF**

Reference: City Manager memo dated August 26, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council approve a one time payout to non contractual staff of 3% of annual salary in September, 2010 for a total amount not to exceed \$120,000 with funding from Gulf Breeze Financial Services.

**P. SUBJECT: DISCUSSION AND ACTION REGARDING APPOINTMENT OF
ADVISORY PARK BOARD MEMBER**

Reference: Parks and Recreation Director memo dated August 25, 2010

RECOMMENDATION:

That the City Council appoint Mrs. Laura Colston to the Advisory Park Board for a term of two (2) years.



City of Gulf Breeze

TO: Edwin A. Eddy, City Manager
FROM: Ron Pulley, Director of Parks and Recreation
SUBJECT: Recommendation - Housekeeping Services
DATE: August 30, 2010

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ron Pulley", is written over the "FROM:" line of the memo.

In accordance with Council's direction, we solicited and opened competitive bids for the provision of housekeeping services at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, August 26, 2010.

These following bids provide for routine housekeeping services in City Hall, Public Works, the Police and Fire Departments, and the Recreation Center:

1. Miracle Janitorial Services, Mobile, AL - \$37,440.00 per year (\$3,120.00 per mo)
2. Gulf Coast Enterprises, Pensacola, FL - \$34,944.00 per year (\$2,912.44 per mo)
3. The Southern Touch, Inc. Gulf Breeze, FL - \$137,577.44 per year (\$11,464.78 per mo)

Additionally, The Southern Touch, Inc. offered an alternate bid for an abbreviated scope of work, in the amount of \$60,845.20 per year or \$5,070.43 per month.

All three firms presented excellent references, are appropriately licensed and insured.

Gulf Coast Enterprises is the largest private employer of persons with disabilities in Northwest Florida.

Recommendation

That Council authorize a contract with Gulf Coast Enterprises, for the provision of routine housekeeping services, in the amount of \$34,944.00 per year.



City of Gulf Breeze

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Memorandum

To: Mayor and City Council

From:  Edwin A. Eddy, City Manager

Date: 9/3/2010

Subject: Visit to Santa Rosa County by Federal Officials

A group of federal officials visited Santa Rosa County August 16-20. We offered to host them in Gulf Breeze on Thursday, August 19th. The purpose of the visit was to determine the impact of the oil spill on this area. Attached is a list of the people who attended. Ed Gray arranged for a tour of the Andrews Institute. We took a tour of AppRiver and Meg Peltier from the Gulf Breeze Chamber provided the group with the attached information about the impact of the oil spill on this area. Councilman Morris met the group at Andrews.

We either convinced them that we have some of the tools in Gulf Breeze to help lift the area economically or we gave them the impression we don't need any help. Time will tell.

Thanks to Ed Gray and Meg Peltier for pulling this off with very short notice.

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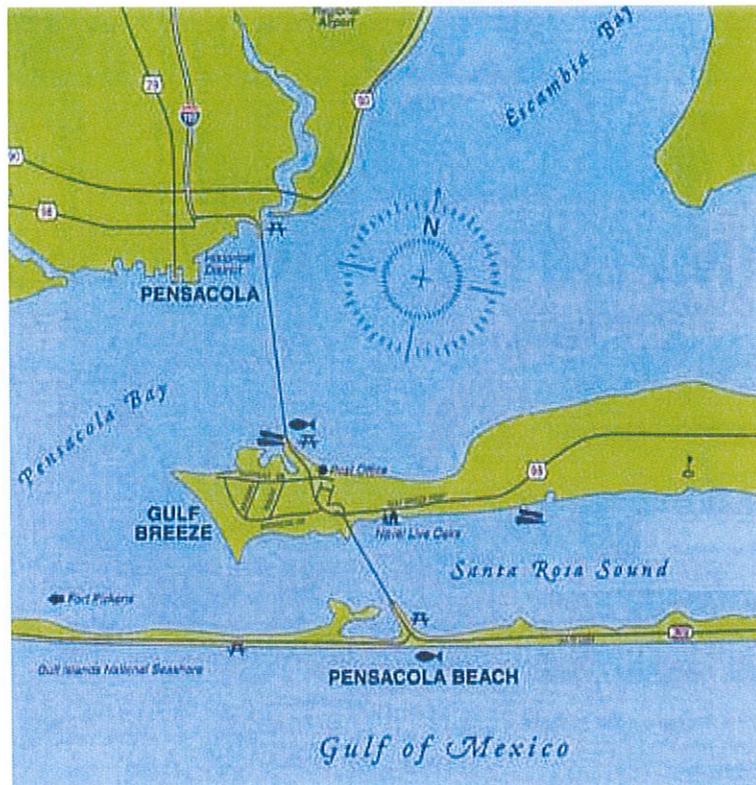
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August 19, 2010

Where is Gulf Breeze, Florida?



Gulf Breeze is situated in the southwest portion of Santa Rosa County, between Pensacola and Navarre. At the tip of a peninsula, three of Gulf Breeze's borders are defined by water. The Pensacola and Escambia Bays separate Gulf Breeze from its nearest neighbors, Pensacola and Milton, while the still, shallow waters of Santa Rosa Sound lie between Gulf Breeze and Pensacola Beach on Santa Rosa Island. The abundance of water and recreational activities provides an enviable lifestyle for Gulf Breeze residents.

The Gulf Breeze Area Chamber of Commerce consists of approximately 450 business members in the City of Gulf Breeze and surrounding areas. 60% of the total memberships' business addresses are in the Gulf Breeze area (32561 incorporated & 32563 unincorporated zip codes) and the remaining 40% of member businesses are located either in Pensacola & Pensacola Beach (Escambia Co.) or Navarre (Santa Rosa Co.) The membership consists of 87% small businesses (employees of 15 or less) and 13% large businesses (16 or more employees). Gulf Breeze Area Chamber is one of five chambers serving Santa Rosa County.

In July 2010, the Gulf Breeze Area Chamber staff conducted an internal telephone survey contacting every business member in the chamber. The goal of the survey was to make direct one-on-one contact with the members to ascertain an informal overall assessment of the economic impact from the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico to businesses in the Gulf Breeze area.

Please note that the results of the survey are informal based on phone conversations with staff. Chamber members were assured that their individual participation would remain confidential. Therefore businesses have been identified in "general" business categories. Comments were added by staff as a direct result of the phone conversations and have not been modified since the initial contact. The general overall findings are below and detailed results are attached.

At the time of the survey, 86% of the total membership was called. (356 business members out of 412) Government agencies, officials, etc. were not contacted.

Of the 356 businesses called: 276 businesses (78%) were reached.

Of the 78% reached:

- 51 % - Business not affected by the BP oil spill.
- 36% - Business affected by the BP oil spill.
- 9% - Business not affected, but, anticipate possible future negative affect.
- 4% - Business has increased or grown since April 20, 2010.

11 businesses have filed claims with BP, approximately 4% of total businesses reached or one-third of the 36% of businesses affected.

Respectfully submitted,



Meg Peltier
 President/CEO
 Gulf Breeze Area Chamber of Commerce
 Gulf Breeze, Florida
 August 19, 2010

Gulf Breeze Area Chamber Member Oil Survey - July 2010

Member	Message	Affected	Affected	Future	Business	Claim	Comments
Travel Agency		X					PHONES NOT RINGING. MOVED BUSINESS HOME TO SAVE OVERHEAD.
Closet Renovation		X					SALES SLIGHTLY DOWN
Real Estate		X					ADVERSE AFFECT
Skin Care		X					SOME IMPACT
Music Store		X					DROP OFF IN MUSICIANS
Furniture Store		X					3 WEEKS BUSINESS HAS BEEN SLOW
Advertising Agency		X					THINKING ABOUT BRIDGE LOAN
Bar - Pensacola Beach		X					BUSINESS DOWN
Real Estate - Beach Rentals		X					
Ice Cream Shop - Gulf Breeze		X					DOWN \$500 PER DAY
Hotel - Gulf Breeze		X					30% CANCELLATIONS
DJ Services		X					DEFINITE NEGATIVE AFFECT
Promotional Products		X					LOSING HOTEL BUSINESS
Pest Control		X					A FEW CANCELLATIONS, BUT NOTHING SUBSTANTIAL YET
Bar & Grill - Pensacola Beach		X					BUSINESS DOWN
Fitness Center		X				X	NEGATIVE IMPACT, FILED CLAIM, ALREADY GOT PAID
Tanning Salon		X				X	BUSINESS DOWN, PUT IN CLAIM WITH BP
Tutoring Company		X					CLIENTS HAVE CUT BACK ON SPENDING
Real Estate		X					
Real Estate		X					
Real Estate		X					
Real Estate		X					
Real Estate		X					
Real Estate		X					
Hotel - Pensacola Beach		X					RESERVATIONS DOWN
Men's Clothing Store - Pensacola		X					BUSINESS IS DOWN BUT NOT SURE IF IT IS ALL THE OIL SPILL.
Environmental Firm		X					
Title Service		X					A SMALL IMPACT AT THIS TIME, BUT POSSIBLE TO INCREASE IF OIL CONTINUES.
Real Estate		X					
Real Estate		X					
Children's Entertainment		X					COUNTING ON TOURIST, JUST OPENED BUSINESS IN MAY 2009, BUSINESS DOWN
Business Supplies		X					THE HOSPITALITY CLIENTS ARE NOT SPENDING AS USUAL
Restaurant - Gulf Breeze		X					DECREASE IN BUSINESS, NO TOURISTS
Beverage (Alcoholic) Store		X					HAS 3 BUSINESSES, ONE IN NAVARRE DOWN, OTHERS STABLE NOW.
Floor Coverings Store		X				X	IMPACTED BUILDERS IN GULF BREEZE
Beverage (Alcoholic) Distributor		X					DEFINITELY IMPACTED BY TOURISM
Graphic Design Company		X					BUSINESS TO CARRY UNTIL BUSINESS IMPROVES.
Electrician		X					BEACH MAINTENANCE IS DOWN
Eye Care/Optomertist		X					
Children's Entertainment		X					
Hospital		X					
Newspaper		X				X	FILED CLAIMS ALREADY
Rental Services		X				X	
Hotel - Pensacola Beach		X					
Restaurant - Pensacola Beach		X					
Hotel Corporation		X					
Hotel - Pensacola Beach		X					

Gulf Breeze Area Chamber Member Oil Survey - July 2010

Member	Message	Affected	Affected	Future	Business	Claim	Comments
Basket Company		X					CLIENTS, REALTORS, CONDOS, HOTELS, SLOWED DOWN ORDERS.
Tree Services		X					BUSINESS DOWN ABOUT 35%
Insurance Agency		X					HIS INSURANCE RATES BASED ON SALES ON BEACH.
United Peninsula Association		X					HE GETS CALLS REGARDING OIL SPILL, WHAT WHERE, AND WHEN.
Hurricane Shutters/Renovation		X					REAL ESTATE HAS DEFINITELY BEEN SLOWER.
Total		99				10	

Gulf Breeze Area Chamber Member Oil Spill Survey - July 2010

Member	Left Message	Possible Future Affect	Filed Claim	Comments
Insurance Company		X		POSSIBLE IN FUTURE
Web/Email Services		X		WILL EMAIL ANY FUTURE ISSUES
Insurance Company & Financial Services		X		TRICKLE DOWN EFFECT SOON, BUT NOT AFFECTED YET.
Insurance Company & Financial Services		X		
Storage Facility		X		
Childrens Entertainment		X		
Beverage (Nonalcoholic) Wholesale Company		X		NOT YET, BUT POSSIBLE TRICKLE DOWN IF PEOPLE LOSE THEIR JOBS.
Childcare		X		
Bank		X		
Courier Services		X		NOT NOW, BUT POSSIBLE TRICKLE DOWN LATER
Construction Company		X		ALL ROOFING MATERIALS PETROLEUM BASED AND WILL INCREASE JOB COST.
Weight Loss		X		TALKED WITH JANIS COOK
Gifts		X		
Karate		X		OK FOR NOW BUT COULD HAVE FUTURE AFFECT
Hypnosis		X		IMPACT IS MINIMAL, JUST OPENED IN APRIL SO IT IS HARD TO DOCUMENT.
Floor Company (Stone)		X		BUSINESS IS SLOW, BUT HARD TO SAY IF IT IS COMPLETELY OIL SPILL OR ECONOMY, BUT HOPES THINGS WILL GET BETTER.
Sports Team		X		HOPING TO FILL MORE JOBS.
Online Job Service		X		
Concrete Coatings		X		
Insurance Company		X		
Heating & Air		X		WAITING TO SEE WHAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN.
CPA		X		
Salon/Spa		X		NO DECREASE YET STILL HAVE LOCAL BUSINESS
Total		24	0	

Gulf Breeze Area Chamber Member Oil Spill Survey - July 2010

Member	Left Message	Increased Business	Filed Claim	Comments
Tanning Salon		X		POSSIBLE BUSINESS MAY PICKUP IF PEOPLE CAN'T GO TO BEACH
Movie Theatre		X		POSITIVE AFFECT, BUSINESS UP
Employment Service		X		MORE PEOPLE LOOKING FOR EMPLOYMENT
Appraiser		X		HOPING THAT THIS WILL GIVE THEM MORE BUSINESS
Hotel - Pensacola		X		DOING GREAT NUMBERS ARE UP
Business Supplies		X		MORE SUPPLIES ARE BEING PURCHASED.
Museum		X		THEY HAVE MORE BUSINESS THAN USUAL.
Retail Shopping - Warehouse Club		X		SERVICING NEW PEOPLE WORKERS FROM BP IN ESCAMBIA CTY.
Storage Facility		X		INCREASE BUSINESS BECAUSE OF PEOPLE LEAVING AREA.
Auto Mechanic		X		BUSINESS INCREASED WITH OUTSIDE VEHICLES, WORKER OF OIL SPILL.
Non-Profit		X		6 OR MORE CALLS A DAY ABOUT OIL SPILL
Advertising		X		JULY WAS A RECORD MONTH
Bank		X		BANNER YEAR EXCEEDED GOALS FOR YEAR.
Total		13	0	

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CNN.com

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In Gulf oil disaster, cameras can't capture the human toll

By Jessica Ravitz, CNN

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Forget about oil, wildlife, the economy and environment; think about people, communities
- Early signs show rise in depression, domestic violence, substance abuse and more
- "Corrosive communities," marked by distrust, emerge from manmade disasters, expert says
- Stops along Gulf show how residents cope, or fail to, and what insiders say people need

Along the Gulf of Mexico (CNN) -- The family business has closed, and the couple can't work -- for themselves or for BP, it seems. Their neighbors and community leaders, she says, are showing a kind of greed she's never seen before. They aren't the people she thought they were.

"Everyone's out for themselves," says the woman, who like many in her small Alabama town has a lot to say but won't say it except anonymously. "I was telling my husband the other night that I'll be glad when the Lord calls me home. I'll be glad to leave this place."

For a moment, forget about saving wildlife. Think not about the oil, the well, the sullied waters. Put aside any blame of corporations or government and dismiss projections about what will happen to the economy or the environment. Plenty of experts, officials with impressive titles and everyday people in the Gulf Coast and around the country are losing sleep over these matters.

Think instead of another tragedy-in-the-making, fallout from the oil disaster that can't be seen by cameras and is not easily measured by scientists with fancy equipment.

It's the sort of effect that may not be felt or discussed openly until long after the boom and skimmers disappear and the media trucks pull away. It is the emotional and social toll on individuals, the price families may pay and how communities are bound to suffer if residents don't take care of each other.

From the front steps of his home in Orange Beach, Alabama, no more than 400 yards from the Gulf of Mexico, **J. Steven Picou** peers into the future.

The environmental sociologist has spent decades studying the human impact of manmade or technological disasters. For 21 years, he's tracked the residents of Cordova, Alaska, whose community was deeply wounded by the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. And while every disaster and every community is different, he can't ignore the signs of what's to come.

"It's like the table is set," he says. "And now we're going to be served with this 15- to 20-year-course meal of problems."

Among the woes to be dished out: depression, marital problems, family violence, crime, substance abuse and suicides.

Those personal and social ills rise when disasters of this kind rock communities, according to extensive studies conducted by Picou, a professor at the University of South Alabama, and colleagues like him.

The good news, he and others say, is that the Gulf Coast -- no stranger to disaster -- has shown resilience before. Time and again, residents here have banded together to rebuild. Many of the resources and organizations mobilized to help after hurricanes are already in place.

But this time around, the disaster is different, and it comes when the wounds of Hurricane Katrina remain fresh. It was avoidable, not a machination of Mother Nature.

Blame can be heaped on thick, passed around and debated. There's no end in sight, no guarantees that life will return to what it was. And the questions of what's to come loom, like anvils.

How bad things can get

Just a few miles from Picou's home, a boat named "Rookie" sits idle in the marina at Zeke's Landing. It is a symbol of how bad things can get. On June 23, charter fishing boat captain William Allen "Rookie" Kruse, 55, shot and killed himself.

Kruse, who'd taken a job with BP's "Vessels of Opportunity" cleanup program, didn't leave a note, but family and friends say the disaster devastated him.

"He honestly thought we would not have the Gulf of Mexico anymore. He would not see it to fish in it again," says Tom Steber, the marina's general manager, who knew Kruse going back to high school.

But suicide? That should have never been an option, Steber says, and what happened to his friend should serve as a lesson.

"Go talk to somebody. Don't get down to the point where you think you got to do that," he says. "You got all kinds of friends everywhere."

Just go talk to them."

The first suicide in Alaska known to be connected to the Exxon Valdez disaster came four years after the spill when the former Cordova mayor, Bob Van Brocklin, ended his life. Kruse's death was 65 days into the Gulf's oil disaster.

"We almost have Exxon Valdez fast forward here along the Gulf of Mexico," Picou says.

Concern about communities sends Picou on an 80-mile drive west to Bayou La Batre, a small fishing town on the opposite side of Mobile Bay. He's traveling around the Gulf Coast to where people are hurting -- to start conversations, impart what he's learned and teach people how to listen to each other. It's a response modeled after programs devised in Alaska.

"Unlike a natural disaster where you have a therapeutic community emerging to help you rebuild, we know that in Alaska a corrosive community emerged," he says. "All of a sudden you have this incredible collapse of community capital."

He describes how people may self-isolate to cope and how their distrust of others will grow and likely spread. Cynicism about BP, he says, will move on to the federal government, the Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency, local governments, neighbors. Even family.

He recalls the "spillionaires," those who profited by leasing out their boats to help with the the Alaska cleanup and how they were "also called Exxon whores by their cousins, brothers and fathers."

"Communities are disrupted" by the strangers who come in after a technological disaster, Picou says.

When Picou first went to Alaska in 1989, he was 45 and his knees were good. His legs, at 65, now bear scars from replacement surgeries. He looks out toward the Gulf and shares details about some of the dreams he's been having about oil. One left him covered in the stuff after he fell off a bridge while hiking and landed in water.

"I probably won't see the end of this one," he says of the Gulf oil disaster and the toll he expects it to take. "Essentially we are in a marathon, and I would say that the gun has just gone off."

Signs of corrosion appear

Spanish moss hangs from trees that line the main road in Bayou La Batre, a town of 2,300 with a welcome sign calling it the "Seafood Capital of Alabama." There are homes that go back generations, a boarded-up motel and what appears to be more places to pray than there are to eat. A pile of shells from shucked oysters stands more than 30 feet high along the bayou that is the town's namesake, and broken shells can be found mixed with gravel in driveways.

In this place, plenty of people won't talk on the record. At the crowded city docks and along Coden Bayou, two launching sites for the "Vessels of Opportunity" program, not one will speak to media.

"I'd love to talk to you, but BP won't let me," one woman calls out from a ramshackle boat, after looking around to make sure no officials are in earshot.

But visit people on their porches at dusk, talk to them in hushed tones in corners or through fences and signs of Picou's "corrosive community" begin to appear.

It's the kind of place where people are familiar, where the police captain might be seen helping out in the kitchen or answering a phone at the Lighthouse Restaurant after his shift is over. Fishermen whose granddaddies knew each other gather at Donna's Grocery at dawn, grabbing coffee and catching up before heading out to work for BP. A cafe owner sits down with guests as if they're visiting her home.

Is this sense of community sustainable, though?

On a porch that runs the length of his house, a skeptic sips an iced-cold soda at sunset, surrounded by his family. He shares his distrust of the state and local government. A business owner down the road a ways talks about the "crack-heads" who are raking in cash and crashing cars. People mutter about fraudulent BP claims and neighbors who are scheming for dollars.

And though changes have been made to make the situation more equitable, those who've worked these waters for a living still complain about the doctors, lawyers and people rumored to be from as far away as Minnesota and Maine who swooped in with their recreational boats and snagged BP cleanup jobs they say should have been theirs from the get-go.

At the Bayou La Batre Police Department, the 14-man team is stretched thin. Not only do they serve the town, which has been a magnet for outsiders, but their jurisdiction covers an additional 10,000 people living outside it. Behind his desk, Chief of Police John Joyner Jr. says he doesn't know when he'll find time to run reports and know exactly how crime is changing here.

He can say, however, that the daily population in Bayou La Batre has just about doubled. Outside contractors, visiting officials, BP command post workers and others have flooded the place. Over the past few months, calls for service -- seeking security detail for dignitaries, simple driving directions or responses to crimes and fender benders -- have gone up 100 percent.

Increased cash flow means there's been a dip in property crimes, but drug and alcohol use has bumped up by about 20 to 30 percent, Joyner guesses.

The bigger problems, he predicts, will come later -- after the BP jobs dry up and if the water remains contaminated.

From his office down the hall, Capt. Darryl Wilson agrees. Right now, he says, "Some guys are making more in a week than they'd make in a month."

When these paychecks, which aren't having taxes withheld, stop and the IRS comes knocking, he says, there's no telling what havoc will unfold.

"Why you need outreach"

Bayou La Batre is just one stop along the Gulf, one sliver of land and life amid the coastline states where oil and all it portends has come ashore and threatened futures. Going from place to place, one can find other harbingers of the way people cope or fail to.

At a coffee shop in Foley, Alabama, a 39-year-old member of the Gulf Coast chapter of Alcoholics Anonymous hates to think about what she'd be doing if she didn't already have nine years of sobriety.

"Alcoholics are always looking for an excuse to drink," she says. What's happening in the Gulf "would have given me a great reason to drink. I would have rode this one pretty darn hard."

Two states over, Beth Meeks, executive director of the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence, shares tales of shelters filling up, of lost funding and growing daily calls to hot lines.

An out-of-work shrimper's wife says her husband is angry all the time. The wife of a laid-off oil-rig worker, who's used to him being away for weeks at a time, can't get a reprieve. The abuse is getting worse for one woman, but she feels more trapped than ever because there's no income for her and the kids, and she already feels she overstayed her welcome with friends and relatives after Katrina.

It's not that the oil disaster is creating abuse where it didn't exist before, Meeks says. But given heightened stress levels among offenders who are home more than before, it's no wonder the state hot line has seen a greater than 20 percent uptick in calls -- the bulk coming from the southern part of the state closest to the Gulf. And a shelter in Lafayette, an inland city heavy with oil workers, got 200 more calls in the eight weeks after the oil disaster started than it did in the eight weeks before.

If the people in this region are anything like those in Alaska, and Picou thinks they are, the sociologist doesn't think they're the types that will immediately seek out help.

"These are independent, hard-working people, who feel that they do not need to go to a shrink," Picou says. "That's why you need outreach."

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals sent a request to BP in late June, seeking \$10 million to provide mental health services to the state's residents. That request was denied.

Catholic Charities, affiliated with the Archdiocese of New Orleans, applied for a separate \$12 million grant from BP -- one that would bolster their response work, as well as the work of 27 other nonprofit agencies. About \$1.2 million of that would be earmarked for crisis counseling. As of Friday, BP had not responded to the application.

This struggle to find buy-in for mental health needs makes Liz McCartney smirk and shake her head in exasperation.

She is the co-founder of St. Bernard Project, a New Orleans-area nonprofit established after Katrina that's dedicated to helping families rebuild their lives, physically and emotionally. People have been "re-traumatized" by the oil disaster, she says, which is why her agency recently launched a peer-to-peer counseling program to train and empower community members so they can reach out to their own and de-stigmatize the need for mental health services.

After already giving \$20 billion for lost jobs, McCartney says, BP has a great and relatively cheap opportunity to help affected communities by answering requests for counseling support.

"It's such a quick win," she says. "It's such an easy way for BP to demonstrate to people that they care not only about fixing the environment and making sure wildlife is taken care of but that people matter."

Less than 15 miles away from McCartney's office, Larry Carbo sits in large wooden rocking chair. It features carvings of the phrase "Who Dat" and multiple fleur-de-lis symbols, meant to honor the Super Bowl championship-winning New Orleans Saints. He's on a porch beside St. Bernard Catholic Church, and the din of chirping crickets surround him.

Since mid-May, the retired New Orleans fire captain has been serving as one of Catholic Charities' six mental health crisis counselors responding to the oil disaster. It's the kind of work he began doing after Katrina, when firefighters from New York -- who'd done response work after Sept. 11 -- taught him the importance of listening and being there for others.

He's heard it all. Kids are acting up. Couples are fighting. Men are hitting the bottle or the ones they love. A fisherman who can't stand not working admits he's thinking about suicide.

"Just by talking, just by us listening to them, it's a great relief. Most people will tell you right now that they don't have anybody to listen to them," Carbo says. "I'll keep doing this as long as they need me. I'll be here."

"Not a happy camper"

Raymond Barbour, 55, sits in his humble office on a quiet street named Faith. Junior Barbour Seafood in Coden, Alabama, outside Bayou La Batre, is the business he began with his daddy, whom he watched die working in the place.

Next door is his new house, raised high on cinder-block pylons. The original home he was born in was carried away by Hurricane Frederic in 1979; the next one by Katrina five years ago.

Ask him how he's doing, and Barbour will talk about his crabmeat and oyster business. He'll tell you what he's losing each month. He'll wonder if he'll have to shut down and worry about his 50 workers. He'll add kind words about officials looking out for folks and let you know that he still gets his gas at BP because he likes the product.

But ask him if he's sleeping or how his marriage is going, and Barbour opens up.

If he's lucky, he gets two hours of sleep a night. The Ambien a doctor prescribed isn't doing a thing. And his relationship with his wife of 37 years? Well, like his business, he sometimes worries whether it'll survive the oil disaster.

"I'm probably not a happy camper to be around at times. It just affects you that way. It takes a little bit of something that makes you go off, and it's not right to her. And I know that," he says. "When it's all said and done, I'll probably need to be on one of those couches with one of those doctors trying to find out what all this has done to me."

He says this with a laugh. He doesn't want people to worry about him. And minutes later, Barbour is on the phone, back to trying to save his business.

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