



Gulfport Community Update

January 8 - 14, 2017

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Monday, January 16 in observance of **Martin Luther King Day**. The sanitation schedule will not be affected.

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Fire Chief Marenkovic would like to remind Gulfport residents that **free smoke detectors are available to elderly and low income households within Gulfport City limits**. Call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

Upcoming Events:

The Third Annual **Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service** takes place on Saturday, January 14, 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Groups are encouraged to plan their own project, and individuals will be provided with a project that fits their talents. Every day is a day for giving, but this event marks a special holiday for a great man who dedicated his life to public service. Visit www.mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice/ and scroll down to register, or follow along at www.facebook.com/MLK2017DayofService/?ref=ts. For more information call 893-1118.

The next monthly **Gulfport Neighbors Beach and Area Cleanup** is Saturday, January 14, 9 - 11 a.m. Volunteers meet at Gulfport beach shelter #4. If you're looking for an activity where you can make a difference and at the same time get outdoor exercise and meet interesting people while reducing the pollution in our waterways and litter in our community, this event is for you! A few picker/grabber tools will be available; if you have one, please bring it. Gloves, sun protection and comfortable footwear are also recommended. Water will be provided.

Visit the 49th Street South Business Association (So49) weekly **SoTangerine Market** on the Tangerine Greenway every Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The market focuses on locally made items, but So49 will consider others in an effort to meet the needs of the community. For more information call 439-0164 or email jsrtraining@aol.com.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

Join us at 5 p.m. Tuesday, January 17 for the **grand opening ceremony of the new City of Gulfport Municipal Marina building**. Located at 4630 29th Avenue, the Municipal Marina renovation included new flooring, ceilings, a reconfiguration of the sales area, exterior paint, and a laundry area with washers and dryers. The expansion building includes an elevated 2,018 square feet on the second floor, 748 square foot day room, two restrooms with two showers each, open balcony area and Harbormaster office. For more information call Marina Director Denis Frain at 893-1104.

Everyone is invited to share their commitment to environmental stewardship during the **Arbor Day Tree Planting** celebration in Veterans Park at the corner of 54th Street & 31st Avenue at 3:30 p.m. Friday, January 20. Call 893-1118 for more information.

Gulfport voters are invited to **Meet the Candidates** running in the March 14 Municipal Election. Facilitated by the League of Women Voters, the forum will allow the public to present questions on topics important to Gulfport on Thursday, February 2 beginning at 7 p.m. at the Catherine A. Hickman Theater, at 5501 27th Avenue. Candidates for office: Ward II - Christine Anne Brown and Linda Bailey; Ward IV - Bobby L. Reynolds, Michael Fridovich, Richard Fried and Ernest

Stone. The forum will be broadcast live on the City of Gulfport Television Station, Channel 640 on Spectrum Cable and online at www.mygulfport.us. For more information call 893-1012 or 893-1013.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	127
Self-initiated calls for service	484
Offenses	37
Arrests	3
Traffic citations	99
Ordinance violations	61

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

A pickup truck veered off the road in the 5600 block of 15th Avenue on January 5, and crashed into a tree, injuring the driver. A dog in the vehicle was unharmed. The driver was in possession of an unknown substance rolled into cigarettes, so a driving under the influence investigation was initiated. A subsequent blood draw from the driver was sent to the lab to determine if he was under the influence of narcotics.

A resident brought a wallet found by a juvenile on 15th Avenue to the station. The owner was contacted and advised it had been taken during an unlocked vehicle burglary in St. Petersburg but never reported.

A resident in the 5000 block of 8th Avenue reported a former coworker forged his name on a contract in 2009 for an auto loan after a collection agency informed him he owed \$9000. The crime was committed in Pensacola, and the case was forwarded to the Pensacola PD.

A woman reported that a male subject reached into her convertible and stole her cell phone. The suspect was last seen running east on Newton Avenue towards 49th Street. His image was captured on video surveillance from a nearby residence.

Officer Sigsbee solved a window peeping case, identifying the suspect as local resident Billy Moore. Moore admitted to going onto his neighbor's property and looking into her windows over several months. He was arrested on January 6 and charged with stalking.

A scooter was reported stolen from a residence in the 4900 block of 18th Avenue. It was later recovered in St. Petersburg and returned to the victim.

Officers responded to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 2500 Block of 49th Street. The car had also been stolen the week prior and the suspect still had the key. It was located by the PCSO.

Employees at the Family Dollar reported on January 7 that a subject stole three cases of beer and fled north on 49th Street in a light blue older model Toyota Camry.

Officers were dispatched to the 4900 Block of Gulfport Boulevard after a caller reported that his car's convertible top was cut and a leather jacket was stolen from inside the vehicle.

A resident in the 5800 Block of 20th Avenue reported that someone stole her car from her driveway. It is believed that the car was unlocked and her purse, which contained a key fob, was inside. The suspect left a bicycle at the scene, and the car was later recovered at 46th Street & Emerson Avenue with several flat tires.

Benjamin Kimsey was arrested on January 9 after he struck a light pole and fled the scene. A witness described the vehicle, and Officer Hutsko located it at a Gulfport residence. Kimsey, who has a suspended license for DUI admitted striking the pole.

A business owner in the 2300 block of 49th Street reported on January 10 that a bullet had apparently fallen from the sky and punctured the gutter at his business. It appeared to be the result of New Year's Eve celebratory gunfire.

A resident in the 2700 block of 49th Street reported that someone used his bank account to charge several thousand dollars' worth of merchandise delivered to a Colorado address.

Officers from the Alpha Squad, detectives from the Criminal Investigative Section and Commander Farrand assisted Boca Ciega High School resource officers maintaining a presence around the school when rumors circulated that a fight or other attack might take place. The rumors stemmed from a possible desire to retaliate against those who participated in a fight the day before. There were no reported incidents.

A male attempted to rob a resident at gunpoint in the 4900 Block of 9th Avenue, with a small semi-automatic handgun on January 11. The resident didn't have any money and the suspect fled the area.

A resident in the 2700 Block of Beach Boulevard reported fraudulent activity on her credit card.

The marine unit taken for regular maintenance and will be out of commission for a few days.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	21
Cases assigned:	5
Cases suspended-no leads:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	5
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	18
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	14

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a grand theft auto and a fraud case; assisted SPPD Narcotics with a search warrant detail at Joy Foods, and; reviewed videos for assigned cases.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a grand theft auto case; attended a 2-day social media investigations class; assisted SPPD narcotics with a search warrant detail at Joy Foods; attended a crime watch meeting, and assisted patrol with an armed robbery.

School Resource Officers Motte and Langston wrote five police reports this week, and counseled 8 students.

Officer Motte broke up a fight in which the students involved received school consequences; assisted Officer Langston with an altercation that occurred off campus; evaluated a student for a Baker Act, but the student did not meet the criteria and was referred to Suncoast Mental Health, and; provided security for two basketball games.

Officer Langston recovered two missing juveniles at the school; responded to two disturbances, and; provided security for a basketball game.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano tabulated the 2016 annual UCR report; completed the December 2016 PCSO call out report, and compiled and submitted quarterly seat belt citation data to DHSMV.

Records

Reports reviewed	27
Supplements reviewed:	42
Public Records requests:	32
Background checks:	14
Bike registrations:	19
Fingerprints	9
Subpoenas processed:	17
Citizens assisted:	34

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, January 3, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga*.

Tuesday, January 3, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*.

Tuesday, January 3, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*.

Tuesday, January 3, 4 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*.

Tuesday, January 3, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, January 4, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers*.

Wednesday, January 4, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*.

Wednesday, January 4, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, January 4, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, January 5, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, January 5, 4 p.m. - *Adult Coloring Program*.

Friday, January 6, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, January 7, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, January 17, 3 p.m. - *Tween Tinker Lab*: The group meets on third the Tuesday of each month for hands-on exploration and experimentation. Preregistration required. See Cailey in Youth Services to sign up or call 893-1074.

Thursday, January 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams. Visit the Circulation Desk to borrow a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1073.

Thursday, January 19, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*: Maya would love to hear one of your young reader's favorites. She visits our children's area on the third Thursday of every month.

Saturday, January 21, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: For movie title, call 893-1074.

Monday, January 23, 5 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop*: First in a series of monthly instructional sessions led by an expert.

Thursday, January 26, 7 p.m. - *Meet 2017 Poet Laureate Sam Henderson*: The Poet Laureate's works are shared during specific Gulfport events. Outgoing Poet Laureate Peter Hargitai will share a few words with attendees. For more information call 893-1074.

Monday, January 30, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic*: Open to all comedians, singer-songwriters, poets, storytellers, musicians, jugglers and stage magicians. For more information call 893-1073.

Saturday, February 4, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: Selections intended for adults only to enjoy more complex and challenging films in a quiet and relaxed atmosphere. For movie title, call 893-1074.

Monday, February 6, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*: Presented by Jennie (Gilmore) White of Ode to Pluto Astrology. For more information email jennie@odetopluto.com or call 207-332-0787.

Tuesday, February 7, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Thursday, February 9, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: Free popcorn and bottled water provided. Sponsored by the LGBTQ Resource Center. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, February 14, 1:30 p.m. - *Healthy Mind/Healthy Body Book Club meeting*: If you have interest in understanding the relationship between our thoughts and their influence on the physical body this club is for you. For more information email klane@untieyourwings.com.

Every Monday, 3:15 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club*: We try a fun new activity every week, explore engineering through building with Legos, and meet other young scientists and engineers in the community! Parents get to join in on the fun too! Call Cailey at 893-1074, or email cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Every Monday - Wednesday & Friday, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*: Bring a bag lunch and a dictionary. A different language group meets each weekday: Monday - French; Tuesday - Italian; Wednesday - Spanish; Friday - German. For more information call Mel Donovan at 893-1074.

Every Tuesday, 3 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*: Enjoy conversing in a relaxed atmosphere. This is our most popular language group so far!

Every Tuesday, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 360-9069.

Every first & third Tuesday, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*: Everyone is invited to join Allen Goldenson for some strummin' fun!

Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*: Games and activities for teens and tweens.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. Email contact@gulfporttoastmasters.com for more information.

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area. Cailey leads the group in singing songs, playing instruments & networking with other caregivers in our community.

Every Friday, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*. For more information call 893-1073.

Library Services/Statistic January 1 - 7, 2017:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation: 1,505 661

Sun. 1/1	Library closed		
Mon. 1/2	Holiday - Library closed		
Tue. 1/3		335	134
Wed. 1/4		210	105
Thu. 1/5		294	129
Fri. 1/6		300	138
Sat. 1/7		359	129

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulport.us/gtv-640. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list, and assisted with updates to social media pages.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued daily updates and enhancements to mygulport.us and social media sites.
- Continued preparation of 2017 events list and First Friday Art Reception schedule & contracts.
- Continued planning for MLK Day.
- Continued preparation of February calendar.

Multipurpose Senior Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and Fridays, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at www.mygulport.us.

The **City of Gulfport Telephone Reassurance program** is much more than a morning wake-up call. This free service offers Gulfport residents 50 years or older - and their families comfort, security, and peace of mind. Volunteers provide daily phone calls to registered members. If the member cannot be reached, the volunteer follows specific procedures to confirm there are no major concerns. Registration is simple and free. If you or someone you know could use this service, please call 893-2237 or stop by the Gulfport Senior Center at 5501 27th Avenue.

Gulfport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS) offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65 plus \$2 per ride. GEMS also offers transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital and the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** program, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or to lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Senior Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Monday & Thursday for qualified Gulfport residents 50 & older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **many volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South for more information.

Experience the **Mustang Flea Market**, a staple attraction in Pinellas County since the mid-1960s, during our Wednesday, January 18 GEMS Getaway. Find many garage sale and used items, collector's items, new tools, hand carts and other hardware items, and a massive produce section stocked full of unique and exotic fruits and vegetables. After the flea market we'll stop by **The Cajun Café on the Bayou** for lunch where you can find authentic Louisiana Cuisine. Space is limited. Advance reservations required. Round trip transportation & parking: GEMS members \$6/nonmembers \$8.

The Community Law Program provides **free legal assistance** at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. the third Friday of every month. The next meeting is January 20. Call 582-7480 to schedule an appointment.

Treatment for gallbladder disease may include lifestyle changes and medication. If your symptoms get worse, your doctor may recommend surgery to remove it. Join Matthew Couch, MD at the next **HCA Doc Talks** on Monday, January 23 at 2:30 p.m. and learn about how Robotic Assisted Surgery can help. Presented by St. Petersburg General Hospital.

Enjoy an ethnic dining experience with the **Out-to-Lunch Bunch** on Tuesday, January 24 as we travel to *Gateway to India* where you'll be surrounded by the culture, environment and ambiance of India. Space is limited; seats must be reserved in advance. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$4/nonmembers \$6. Meal is separate.

Join Financial Advisor Scott O'Berry for a discussion of current events, the economy & investing over coffee & donuts during **Coffee Club** at 10 a.m. Tuesday, February 7.

It is important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, February 9.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is February 13. By appointment only; call 893-5657 to schedule.

Enjoy a healthy snack as Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance Services presents **Fruit for Thought** at 10 a.m. on the second Monday of every month. The next meeting is February 13.

The **FUNDamentals of Watercolor** class meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. This basic class uses a limited palette which emphasizes watercolor techniques including color selection, color mixing, blending and glazing, and use of the color wheel to choose a personal palette. No prior drawing or painting experience is necessary. Registration is required.

The Last Word - Writing an Obituary is offered at the Senior Center at 4:30 p.m. every third Monday. Learn the ins and outs of writing and placing an obituary in the local press from local writer, editor and instructor Diane Craig. Call 893-5657 to register.

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every third Tuesday of the month. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

Recycle your old cell phone, General Mills Box tops, Campbell's labels, can tabs and eye glasses at the Senior Center. Staff forwards these items to the proper organizations for reuse, recycle or education.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater, Neighborhood Center & Scout Hall

Casino (last week's events):

- Tuesday, January 3 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Marge Grudzinski (Turnout 23)
 Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 24)
 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 73)
- Wednesday, January 4 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 39)
 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 329)
- Thursday, January 5 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 19)
 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 20)
- Friday, January 6 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan (Turnout 18)
 6 p.m. - Sock Hop with The Impacs (Turnout 63)

Casino (upcoming events):

- Most Sundays 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson
 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8
- Every 4th Friday 7 p.m. - USA Dance ballroom dance Members \$5/nonmembers \$8
- Every Tuesday 9 a.m. - Tai Chi
 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8
 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons with Kathleen & Steve Prucher
 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8
- Every Wednesday 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn/Joyce Bloom
 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8
- Every Thursday 9 a.m. - Tai Chi
 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
 8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8
- Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan
- Friday, February 3 6 p.m. - Sock Hop with The Impacs. Tickets: \$15

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events):

- Friday, January 6 6 p.m. - Art Reception featuring the works of Rose Caballes (Turnout 35)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Thursday-Saturday, January 12-14 & 19-21, 8 p.m. and Sunday, January 15 & 22, 2 p.m. - The *Gulfport Community Players* present *Parfumerie*, a comedy in 3 acts by Miklos Laszlo, adapted by E.P. Dowdall: An old-fashioned, romantic Christmas tale set in 1937 Budapest. Tickets: \$18 in advance, available at Beach Bazaar or online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org, and \$20 at the door within one hour of performance, cash or check only.

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (*last week's events*):

Sunday, January 1 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 25)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, January 3 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 19)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, January 5 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 23)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every first - third Sunday 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - Bible study

Every Tuesday 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

Monday, January 2 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 8)

Tuesday, January 3 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 25)

Thursday, January 5 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 10)

Friday, January 6 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 24)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday 6 p.m. - Meditation class

Every Tuesday & Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class

Recreation Center

Programs, Classes & Activities

Seventy nine children are registered for the **2016/17 School Year Child Care program** for children who will be entering Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents

and \$188 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Nineteen children have been registered for the **2016/17 Tot Time program/VPK**, a hands-on preschool program for children ages 3-5, that aims to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten.

Twenty four teens are registered for the **2016/17 Teen Night Program**, a great hang out for teens in grades 6-12. Teen Night provides recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects.

Contractual classes: Bootcamp, Hoop Jam, Karate, Pickleball, Powder-Puffs Cheerleading, Table Tennis, Tennis, Watercolor, Yoga and Zumba.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 41 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarm
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Outside Structure Fire

Life Safety:

- 4 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.

The Gulfport Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meets monthly. The next meeting is 7 p.m. Thursday, January 19 at Gulfport City Hall. CERT will also participate in the MLK Day of service on January 14.

The Gulfport Fire Department continued their Online January 2017 CME through Target Solutions this week. This month's topics are Clinical Decision Making with High Risk Chief Complaint, Chest Pain and Shortness of Breath patients, and First Responder Wellness/Stress First Aid for field personnel.

Gulfport Fighters participated in monthly training at the Pinellas County Drill Grounds. This month's topic was Forcible Entry into a Structure.

Firefighter/Paramedic Hernandez and Firefighter/EMT Campbell staffed Special Rescue 17 for the 8k J. West Prostate Cancer Foundation Run on January 7.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired lock and door closer on Senior Center room #106.
- Rehung toilet paper holder, and cleared blocked toilet in ladies restroom at City Hall.
- Rekeyed lock for gun locker at Police Station.
- Repaired alarm box on Exit door at Library.
- Repaired door handle on Public Works Department office.
- Removed chairs at Theater to allow for additional handicap seating.
- Replaced faucet and waterline in restroom at Parks Division Shop.

- Repaired toilet in ladies restroom at Recreation Center.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Set up registration tables and trash/recycle bins in preparation for 8K run, and removed following event.
- Sanded and sealed picnic tables.
- Tilled clay areas and marked baselines at Hoyt & Little League fields.
- Continued aerating and seeding ball fields.
- Posted NO PARKING signs along Beach Boulevard in preparation for restriping of road and parking areas.
- Graded and sodded around new exercise pad at Tomlinson Park.
- Shelled around benches at City Complex, Wood Ibis Park, Senior Center, and along Beach Boulevard.
- Continued marking out baselines at Hoyt & Little League Fields.
- Sanded Graffiti off pavilion at Wood Ibis Park.
- Oiled bench swings at beach.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Senior Center and Scout Hall green spaces.
- Mowed City Complex, Chase Block, Recreation Center, Tangerine Signage area, Neighborhood Center and Dog Park.
- Repaired irrigation at Senior Center, Clymer Park and Recreation Center, beach parking lot and Hoyt & Little League fields.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, cleaned equipment and replaced carburetor on Toro Workman.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged ball fields.

Streets & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Cleaned and removed debris from beach, storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways, alleyways & sidewalks.
- Cleaned debris, cans and trash following Tuesday Market.
- Restocked recycled mulch pile in Neighborhood Center parking lot.
- Removed several loads of debris from 49th Street holding area.
- Straightened and leveled signs on 28th Avenue between Beach Boulevard & 58th Street.
- Completed asphalt patchwork at Gulfport Marina ramp, and 58th Street terminus.
- Cut and removed vehicle obstructions in roadway at 60th Street & 11th Avenue.

- Restriped center lines, parking spaces, crosswalks, and side-street stop bars on Beach Boulevard from 28th Avenue to Shore Boulevard.
- Removed and disposed of seaweed and debris from Beach.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (Includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes # 23, 24 25, 26 and 27 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 20 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 12 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 108 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 12 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Installed new water main line on south side of Gulfport Boulevard, so that water line can be removed on north side of Boulevard. This is in preparation for future storm line to be installed by Pinellas County.
- Replaced water service lines at 2201 53rd Street, and at 5210, 5214, 5220 & 5226 Gulfport Boulevard.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 & 2.
- Daily rain fall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations 1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Cleared sewer mainline stoppage at 52nd Street & 29th Avenue.

Stormwater

- Replaced storm water pipes at 58th Street & Newton Avenue, and at 58th Street & 13th Avenue.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at www.pced.org/entrepreneurs or call 464-7723. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

Building Division staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on do-it-yourself projects. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, many are electing to do these projects themselves. Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call

at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, or for an explanation of code requirements.

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

The Pinellas County Communications Department offers the following information when looking for qualified contractors:

The Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board helps guide homeowners in hiring a licensed contractor for home improvements.

Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

"Do your homework and follow the guidelines and resources provided to you by the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board," said Executive Director Rodney Fischer. "Why take a chance with your money and safety?"

The function of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board is to regulate construction and home improvement contractors practicing in all Pinellas jurisdictions.

The licensing board can tell you if a contractor has a license. They must be licensed by the board or the state of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and be registered with the board. Licensed contractors have passed a competency exam and perform electrical, plumbing or structural work in compliance with the building codes.

The state requires licensed contractors to have workers' compensation and liability insurance and the board monitors their insurance coverage. Without these, if a worker gets injured on the job or damages property, the homeowner is liable. Many insurance policies will not pay claims if an unlicensed contractor was doing the work.

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.
- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.

- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.
- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit www.pcclb.com.

Thinking of starting a new business? Visit the “City of Gulfport New Business Checklist” page at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section. Call Lisa Giddens at 893-1063 for more information.

For more information, including a number of workshops on starting a new business visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at www.pced.org/entrepreneurs or call 464-7332. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

Code Enforcement activities have moved to Section 3 of the City, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58th & 59th Streets to the City Limits.

There were 112 cases for November and 123 cases for December. The fiscal year-to-date total number of cases is 366. The number of citizen complaints for November was 12 and 15 for December, making a fiscal year-to-date total of 46. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 12.6 percent. The number of code enforcement cases for the last fiscal year was 2,094. The number of citizen complaints was 156. The ratio of complaints to total number of cases was 7.4 percent.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous. E-mail correspondence is considered a public record, so if you wish to make a complaint using e-mail, please understand that such communications are not anonymous.

To review Code Enforcement activities documents for more detailed information and a map of the Code Enforcement areas visit the Special Documents section at www.mygulfport.us.

January 4, 2017 Planning and Zoning Board results and January 17 City Council/CRA meeting:

C16-01; 2901-2903 and 2905-2907 Beach Boulevard South; Conditional use request with a site plan for a proposed mixed-use development consisting of retail, residential, and office uses.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL