



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *January 15 - 21, 2017*

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Monday, February 20 in observance of **Presidents Day**. The sanitation schedule will not be affected.

### **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

Approximately 200 participants assisted with 22 projects during the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual MLK Day of Service** on January 14. Following opening ceremonies (photo below) volunteers went their project locations throughout Gulfport & Pinellas County before meeting up later for a cookout sponsored by Gulfport CERT. Music was provided by the New Horizons Band of Gulfport. A BIG thank you to all volunteers involved in this heartfelt community project.



Mayor Henderson and the Gulfport City Council participated in a ribbon cutting ceremony (photo below) and toured the new amenities during the **Gulfport Marina Grand Reopening** on January 17. The Ship Store and Marina Director's quarters were renovated, and the space was expanded to include a conference room and upper deck.



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:**

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

Visit the 49<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.gulfportma.com), call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto:FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com).

Looking to swap, trash or give away your old stuff and don't know where to start? **Junk in the Trunk** is back and offering even more ways for Gulfport residents to recycle and green the City! Join the Gulfport Neighbors and the City of Gulfport at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street South on Saturday, January 28 from 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. and swap, trash or give away old furniture, appliances, tires and other bulk items for free. Please no firearms, drugs, liquor, paints, chemicals or batteries. Have Coffee with a Cop, register your bike and get a free helmet for kids. Register for a smoke detector and home safety inspection with the Fire Department. We're also looking for volunteers to donate two hours to help with this fun event. Call 343-8428 or email [Gulfport\\_Neighbors@yahoo.com](mailto:Gulfport_Neighbors@yahoo.com) 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.mygulfport.us). For more information call 893-1012 or 893-1013.

Stroll through the mini market, and view cars from the past during the **49<sup>th</sup> Street Business Association 5<sup>th</sup> Annual So Classic Car Show** on Saturday, February 4. Gates open at 8 a.m. and judging begins at 11 a.m.

The **2Cool Art Show** returns to the beautiful Gulfport Casino 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday & Sunday, February 4 & 5. Now in its fifth year, this show is relatively small in size with just 38 exhibitors, but is packed with award-winning artists from around Tampa Bay and the State of Florida. Painting, fiber arts, glass, photography, jewelry, sculpture and mixed media work is all represented at this inviting show. FREE admission.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Patrol**

Dispatch calls for service	122
Self-initiated calls for service	437
Offenses	47
Arrests	5
Traffic citations	111
Ordinance violations	55

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers were dispatched to a report of juveniles involved fighting in the front yard of a residence in the 5400 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue on January 12. The group was uncooperative, and their parents did not want to pursue charges. They were returned to BCHS and released to the SRO.

Employees at Advance Auto reported that a man entered the store and stole a \$200 car battery and fled the area in a white Jeep Commander. The suspect was located at his home in St. Petersburg, and charges will be forwarded to the State Attorney's office for prosecution.

A resident in the 2800 block of 51<sup>st</sup> Street reported on January 13 that a suspicious vehicle had been parked in the same spot at his apartment complex for several days. A check of the tag revealed the vehicle had been reported stolen in Clearwater several days prior.

A resident in the 2900 Block of Beach Boulevard reported her car's window was smashed and her purse was taken from the vehicle.

Officer Novak observed a man smash a glass bottle in the street outside O'Maddy's in the early morning hours of January 14. To avoid a citation for littering he cleaned up the mess and O'Maddy's staff requested he be issued a trespass warning barring him from the property.

Officers were dispatched to the 2800 block of 51<sup>st</sup> Street after two men were observed throwing items out of a car onto the street and into a dumpster. They left prior to officers' arrival and the items were determined to be from a stolen vehicle matching the same description. St. Petersburg Police collected the items as evidence.

A resident in the 5600 block of Shore Boulevard reported someone crashed into his car while it was parked in the beach parking lot the night before and left without leaving a note, as required by law when an unattended parked vehicle is hit.

A Boca Ciega High school student reported that her cell phone was stolen in class the week before.

Sergeant Parks was flagged down by a citizen at Walgreen's on January 15, who pointed out a man sitting in a vehicle that had been driving recklessly in the area, hitting curbs. The complainant suspected the man of driving under the influence. When officers made contact with him, he appeared to be having a medical issue. Paramedics responded and confirmed the man was having a medical emergency, requiring him to be transported to the hospital.

Sergeant Burkhart observed a man identified as Michael Zarillo sleeping on a bench on Gulfport Beach. Zarillo had an active warrant from Pasco County for aggravated battery, domestic related. Officers discovered during a search that he had marijuana in his possession. Zarillo was transported to the Pinellas County Jail, and during a second search, deputies found a bag of marijuana in his clothing. He was also charged with introducing contraband into a jail facility.

Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 4800 block of 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue after a female visitor got into a verbal altercation with a female resident. The visitor bit and punched the woman before being removed from the property by another resident.

Officers were dispatched to the 1800 block of 54<sup>th</sup> Street after a caller reported a hawk with a broken wing on the sidewalk. Officers contacted the Owl Sanctuary and the bird was taken to their rehabilitation center.

A resident in the 4900 block of 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on January 16 that his unsecured bicycle was stolen by two people walking by.

Officers followed up with an employee of a business in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard regarding a theft case. The employee identified Steven O'Neill in a photo lineup. O'Neill is currently in jail on a theft charge, and is facing additional charges for felony theft.

Officers responded to a car crash in the 5000 block of 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue. St. Petersburg Police were on scene and advised the vehicle was involved in a hit and run crash involving a pedestrian in

their jurisdiction. The vehicle crashed into an oak tree while trying to elude St. Pete units causing minor damage. Driver Sean Jackson was taken into custody by St. Pete police.

Disorderly conduct/fleeing and eluding: 5100 Block of Gulfport Boulevard.

The manager at McDonald's called police on January 17 to report a disorderly person in the drive thru. Officer Ross made contact with the driver who fled the scene when he was told to park his truck. The rental truck the suspect was driving was later found crashed and abandoned in St. Petersburg.

A resident in the 5300 block of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on January 18 that sometime overnight someone entered her vehicle and stole her dog tags, sunglasses, and a speaker.

A resident in the 5100 Block of Newton Avenue reported someone entered his two unlocked vehicles and stole a GPS and a radar detector from one, and small change from the other.

### **Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)**

New cases:	23
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	15
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	5
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	4

### **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case, an armed robbery, a grand theft auto, and a hit & run. He also assisted Detective Crowson with the arrest of a subject for uttering forged checks.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for three fraud cases, and two auto thefts and a theft; interviewed and arrested a suspect in a fraud case, and; interviewed a suspect in an auto theft case.

School Resource Officers Motte and Langston wrote 4 police reports, arrested a student, referred an arrest referral to the SAO, counseled 7 students, met with the parents of 6 students, and initiated a Baker Act.

Officer Motte provided security for a basketball game and a soccer game; assisted patrol with a rollover crash involving Boca Ciega High School students, and; assisted Officer Embry in identifying a burglary suspect.

Officer Langston investigated a bike theft and provided security at a basketball game.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano compiled the CIS December monthly report and 2016 Annual UCR data; sorted, logged and distributed 110 case agent evidence review forms; created and distributed an attempt to ID bulletin in a vehicle burglary case; created and distributed an attempt to ID bulletin in an armed robbery case; completed an analysis of traffic crashes for Sgt. Vandenberg, and; compiled officer activity information for the annual report.

## **Records**

Reports reviewed	17
Supplements reviewed:	133
Public Records requests:	34
Background checks:	5
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	9
Citizens assisted:	34

## **LIBRARY**

### **Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, January 9, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program.*

Tuesday, January 10, 10:30 a.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop.*

Tuesday, January 10, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, January 10, 1:30 p.m. - *Healthy Mind/Healthy Body Book Club meeting.*

Tuesday, January 10, 4 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, January 10, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, January 11, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers.*

Wednesday, January 11, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, January 11, 2 p.m. - *Home Organization Made Simple.*

Wednesday, January 11, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, January 11, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, January 12, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, January 12, noon - *Lunch & Learn presents Florida History/Maria Velazquez.*

Thursday, January 12, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night.*

Friday, January 13, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, January 14, 9 a.m. - *MLK Day of Service art activity.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

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, 6 p.m. - *Time to Get Organized:* Part two of our organization series. Do you constantly feel like you're chasing the clock but not getting anything accomplished? Whether you're a corporate executive, self-employed, or a stay-at-home mom, you're responsible for managing numerous tasks every day. Balancing priorities can be very difficult without a system that supports your goals and fits your lifestyle. This presentation will offer organizing tips and tactics to help you effectively manage your time, make better decisions, and shift your mindset to increase productivity. Hosted by the Gulfport Public Library and Dani Brahm of Simply Refreshing.

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.

Beginning February 3: Every Monday, 9:30 - 2 p.m., and every Friday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance*: TAXPAYERS MUST BRING SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS FOR ALL PERSONS LISTED ON THEIR TAX RETURNS, A PICTURE ID, AND ALL PERTINENT RECORDS SUCH AS W2'S, 1099'S, other income & credits, and a copy of last year's return if available. Free Electronic filing is available at all sites. 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.

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](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.us) for more information.

Thursday, February 9, 4 p.m. - *Adult Coloring Program*: We supply the artwork and supplies for you to embellish as you relax and listen to soothing music.

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.

Monday, February 13, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*: Presented by Jennie (Gilmore) White of Ode to Pluto Astrology. For more information email [jennie@odetopluto.com](mailto:jennie@odetopluto.com) or call 207-332-0787.

Tuesday, February 14, 10:30 a.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop*: Cohosted by Gulfport Neighbors and the Library. Learn about the services available through the City and the Library, and how you can participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization.

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](mailto:klane@untieyourwings.com).

Every Monday, 3:15 p.m. - *K-5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 8-114, 2017:**

	<b>Items Circulated</b>	<b>Patrons</b>
Weekly Circulation:	1,689	695
Sun. 1/8	Library closed	
Mon. 1/9	208	82
Tue. 1/10	314	86
Wed. 1/11	313	124
Thu. 1/12	350	131
Fri. 1/13	229	133
Sat. 1/14	266	127

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport) to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at [www.mygulfport.us/gtv-640](http://www.mygulfport.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 mygulfport.us and social media sites.
- Continued preparation of 2017 events list and First Friday Art Reception schedule & contracts.
- Reviewed site plan with Parks Supervisor, and provided technical coverage for MLK Day of Service.
- Prepared programs and set up a/v equipment for Marina Ribbon Cutting.
- Uploaded video and links of January 17 City Council & CRA meeting to City website, and rebroadcast on GTV640.
- Met with February's featured artist at Hickman Theater to discuss exhibit setup.
- Commenced preparation of Arbor Day event programs.
- 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.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.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, call 893-2237 or stop by the Gulfport Senior Center at 5501 27<sup>th</sup> 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 Multipurpose 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 for more information.

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.

Mark Brady from OsteoStrong will offer free **Bone Density Tests** on Wednesday, January 25 at 2 p.m. He will also discuss the importance of keeping your bones strong.

The Senior Center offers free blood pressure and health screenings at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Our next **Monthly Mini Health Clinic** January 26.

**Happy Birthday to You!** Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, January 27. Sponsored by Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles, and many other goodies during **First Friday Flea Market** on February 3 at 9 a.m.

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 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 February 17. Call 582-7480 to schedule an appointment.

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):**

Sunday, January 8	6 p.m. - Soul Night with Swingtime (Turnout 143)
Tuesday, January 10	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Marge Grudzinski (Turnout 24) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 23) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 57)
Wednesday, January 11	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 20) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 292)
Thursday, January 12	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 12) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 27)
Friday, January 13	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan (Turnout 23) 7:30 p.m. - Silver Threads show and dance (Turnout 255)
Saturday, January 14	2 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 148)

#### **Casino (upcoming events):**

Most Sundays	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8
Every 4 <sup>th</sup> 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

Sunday, January 25      7 p.m. - USA Ballroom Dance    Members \$5/nonmembers \$8

Friday, February 3      6 p.m. - Sock Hop with The Impacs. Tickets: \$15

**Catherine Hickman Theater (*last week's events*):**

Thursday, January 12    8 p.m. - *The Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present Parfumerie*  
(Turnout 56)

Friday, January 13      8 p.m. - *GCP presents Parfumerie* (Turnout 72)

Saturday, January 14    2 p.m. - *GCP presents Parfumerie* (Turnout 66)  
                                 8 p.m. - *GCP presents Parfumerie* (Turnout 68)

**Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):**

Thursday-Saturday, January 19-21, 8 p.m. and Sunday, January 22, 2 p.m. - *The Gulfport Community Players present Parfumerie: An old-fashioned, romantic Christmas tale set in 1937 Budapest.* Tickets: \$18 in advance, available online at [www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org](http://www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org) or at Beach Bazaar, and \$20 at the door within one hour of performance, cash or check only.

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

Sunday, January 8            9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 20)  
                                 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

Thursday, January 12      10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 24)

**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 9 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 28)

Tuesday, January 10 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 29)

Thursday, January 12 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 15)

Friday, January 13 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 20)

**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**

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:**

- 48 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires

- 1 Fire Alarm
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 3 Fires Outside Structure

### **Life Safety:**

- 5 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-inspections
- 1 C.O.

Gulfport firefighters continued their online January 2017 CME through Target Solutions this week. They also reviewed new medication changes to the system.

Chief Marenkovic and Firefighter/EMT Brian Campbell attended the Gulfport Firefighter's Pension meeting on January 19.

Inspector Lundh attended the Pinellas County Fire Inspectors monthly meeting on January 19.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Hauled 40 recycling bins from Police Station to City yard.
- Primed replacement wood at Historical Society Museum in preparation for painting.
- Cleared blocked toilet in ladies restroom at City Hall.
- Repaired doors in Recreation Center gym and art room.
- Completed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Met with Allied Roofing to discuss Public Services building roof repair.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks**

- Replaced locks on dog park rear gates.
- Removed cone and flex sticks at beach parking lot.
- Remove old benches from behind Scout Hall.
- Rebuilt Casino stage.
- Picked up bus in Tampa following repairs.
- Dragged and prepared volleyball courts for tournament.
- Continued aerating & seeding and marking out baseline at Hoyt and Little League fields.
- Cleaned up leaves and debris at Clymer Park & Greenway.
- Hung new signs at dog park
- Oiled bench swings at beach.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Marina & Lions Club green spaces, hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Mowed City Complex, Chase Block, Recreation Center, Tangerine sign area, Dog Park and Neighborhood Center.
- Repaired irrigation at City complex.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, cleaned equipment and replaced brake and choke linkage on the 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 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area.
- Straightened and leveled street signs along Beach Boulevard.
- Removed and disposed of debris from Lincoln Cemetery.
- Removed broken sidewalk in preparation for new sidewalk installation on 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue between 49<sup>th</sup> & 52<sup>nd</sup> Streets, and on 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue from 52<sup>nd</sup> Street to Beach Boulevard.
- Sodded work area at 54<sup>th</sup> Street & 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.
- Filled and graded cuts in Marina parking lot.

### **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 # 31, 32, 33 & 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 22 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 8 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 90 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 4 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 3 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 7 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Replaced water service lines at 3120 Clinton Street. 4925 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue and at 1819 49<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **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.

- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral 57<sup>th</sup> Street & 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue.
- Replaced sewer service at 5002 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at [www.mygulfport.us](http://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](http://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](http://www.pcclb.com).

**Thinking of starting a new business?** Visit the “City of Gulfport New Business Checklist” page at [www.mygulfport.us](http://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](http://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 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets to the City Limits.

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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

#### **January 17 City Council/CRA meeting results:**

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.  
APPROVED

**February 8, 2017 Board of Adjustment:**

V17-01; 5614 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Variance request:

- 1) To recognize the existing encroachment into the front yard setback by the principal structure by 6.3 feet, from 25 feet to 18.7 feet; and
- 2) To reduce the front yard setback requirement by 12.5 feet, from 25 feet to 12.5 feet to allow for the proposed razing of the existing single front steps, and the construction of two new entry doors with two new open porches and steps for an existing duplex structure.

V17-02; 5004 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Variance request:

- 1) To reduce the rear yard setback by 14 feet, from 25 feet to 11 feet for a proposed addition to the existing house;
- 2) To reduce the rear yard setback by 8 feet, from 25 feet to 17 feet for the proposed construction of an attached 7 foot x 11 foot new wood deck; and
- 3) To reduce the rear yard setback by 7 feet, from 25 feet to 18 feet for the proposed construction of an attached 15 foot x 20 foot new wood deck.