



Gulfport Community Update

January 22 - 28, 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.

Roy Thompson was remembered during the City's *Arbor Day celebration* on January 20. Mr. Thompson, a veteran known as "Uncle" Roy by those who knew him, gave Veterans Park its name. He passed away in 2016. The tree behind the Thompson family (photo below: grandson Roy, son Jamie, Jamie's wife Cheryl and granddaughter Brittany) is a Sweetgum tree planted in his memory.



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:

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.

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 49th Street South on Saturday, January 28, 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 and register your bike. We're also looking for volunteers to donate two hours to help with this fun event. For more information email Gulfport_Neighbors@yahoo.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 Councilmember Yolanda Roman for coffee and conversation during **Coffee Chat** at the Gulfport Grind, 4928 Gulfport Boulevard on Saturday, January 28, 10 - 11 a.m.

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.

Meet artist Dawn Marie, a professional artist for 30 years and instructor for 23 during our **First Friday Opening Art Reception** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue 6-8 p.m. Friday, February 3. Tapas, live music, cash bar. Free admission. For more information call 893-1118.

Shop original art work, choose your favorite cuisine and enjoy live music during **First Friday Art Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district 6 -10 p.m. Friday, February 3. For more information call 322-5217.

Stroll through the mini market, and view cars from the past during the **49th Street Business Association 5th 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.

The **13th Annual Gulfport Get Rescued** event is Saturday, February 25, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. This popular FREE ADMISSION event has evolved from a handful of animal rescue groups into a popular and festive event representing rescue groups from throughout the region. Gulfport Get Rescued is one of the largest animal rescue events in the state. Stay for **Tails at Twilight**, with dancing and live music, catered hors d'oeuvres, cash bar, festive décor, auctions, raffles and more at the Gulfport Casino from 6 until 10 p.m. Tales at Twilight tickets are available at Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard and the Gulfport Welcome Center at 3101 Beach Boulevard, online at www.gulfportsgetrescued.com or email lacement18@gmail.com. Proceeds from both events will benefit participating non-profit rescue groups.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	142
Self-initiated calls for service	381
Offenses	42
Arrests	2
Traffic citations	59

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 5100 block of 9th Avenue reported on January 19 that someone entered a shed in his backyard and stole power tools.

Officers were dispatched to the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard after a man and a woman had an argument over a parking space. The woman reported that the man spat on her and chest-bumped her. He denied the claim and there were no independent witnesses.

Tracy Oden was arrested on January 20 for driving on a suspended license and giving a false name to law enforcement after Sergeant Parks stopped her for a traffic violation. Oden provided him with a Louisiana driver license, but an on-scene computer search revealed her true identity, suspended Florida license and four prior convictions for driving while license suspended.

A cell phone was stolen from an unlocked truck belonging to workers installing a sprinkler system at a residence in the 5400 block of 18th Avenue. A male got out another vehicle entered the truck and took the phone.

A handgun was reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked at a gun store in the 4900 block of 9th Avenue.

A resident in the 5100 block of 9th Avenue reported on January 21 that sometime in the two previous days, someone burglarized her truck and stole small change. Her lawn mower was also taken from a shed in her yard.

Steven Stroud was arrested for DUI on January 22 after a caller reported that he appeared to be intoxicated, and was preparing to drive away from a pizza shop. Officer Carter located Stroud in his car in the 5800 block of 23rd Avenue. Stroud refused to provide a breath sample.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a fight in progress at a bar in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard. When they arrived they spoke with two people who had significant facial injuries. Both went to the hospital.

A resident in the 5600 block of 14th Avenue reported on January 23 that someone entered his unlocked vehicle and stole a dash cam, GPS and money clip.

Four vehicles were reported burglarized in the northeast section of the City on January 24. All had been left unlocked.

A resident in the 5200 block of 18th Avenue reported that a person with a court-ordered no-contact had been to his home in violation of the order.

A resident in the 5100 Block of 15th Avenue reported that a woman attempted to run over her adult daughter with a vehicle.

A resident in the 2500 block of 50th Street reported on January 25 that a bogus tree trimmer scammed her out of more than \$1800.

A contractor working at a residence in the 6500 block of Mockingbird Way left his truck unlocked, and someone entered it and stole a bag of personal items.

A resident in the 2100 block of 59th Street reported that his car was stolen from his front yard. He advised the vehicle was locked and all keys accounted for. It was later recovered.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	13
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0

Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	9

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham attended active shooter and officer down training this week.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case and an auto theft; assisted PCSO Detectives with attempting to locate a fraud suspect, and; attended a Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) meeting and active shooter and officer down training.

School Resource Officers Motte and Langston counseled seven students this week, and met with the parents of two students.

Officer Motte instructed the Explorer post in Baker Acts and domestic violence, and took an explorer shooting at the range this week; covered two after school events providing security coverage, and; investigated a false fire alarm pull, however it was determined to be an accident.

Officer Langston provided security for events and attended active shooter/officer down training.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano completed a check of property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure all items were entered into FCIC/NCIC; competed pawn checks on 20 cases with a known serial number, named suspect or a searchable property description; submitted 2016 annual UCR data to FDLE; assisted in compiling data for the annual report; presented the monthly crime analysis briefing at the staff meeting; compiled monthly officer activity information, and; created and distributed a bulletin for Ofc. Carter in an attempt to ID a vehicle burglary suspect.

Records

Reports reviewed	16
Supplements reviewed:	138
Public Records requests:	27
Background checks:	9
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	4
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	31

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, January 17, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

Tuesday, January 17, 3 p.m. - *Tween Tinker Lab.*

Tuesday, January 17, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, January 17, 4 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, January 17, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, January 18, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers.*

Wednesday, January 18, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, January 18, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Wednesday, January 18, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, January 19, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, January 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams.

Thursday, January 19, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws.*

Thursday, January 19, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop.*

Friday, January 20, 9 a.m. - *OLOC Oral Herstory Project Training.*

Friday, January 20, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, January 21, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day.*

Upcoming Events:

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 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:* Who are we and where are we headed... an astrological perspective of the U.S.A. for 2017. Together we will explore the ancient practice of mundane astrology as it relates to the United States. Just as you, as an individual, have a birth chart, so do countries. In this presentation, we will begin to explore the chart of our nation and look at the energy impacting us in the year ahead. Presented by Jennie (Gilmore) White of Ode to Pluto Astrology. For more information email jennie@odetopluto.com or call 207-332-0787.

Tuesday, February 14, 10:30 a.m. & Thursday, February 16, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop:* Cohosted by Gulfport Neighbors and the Library. Learn about the services available through the City and 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.

Thursday, February 16, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Cat's Cradle* by Kurt Vonnegut. Visit the Circulation Desk to borrow a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, February 16, 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, February 18, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, February 21, 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.

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 15 - 21, 2017:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,503	738
Sun. 1/15	Library closed	
Mon. 1/16	Holiday - Library closed	
Tue. 1/17	373	146
Wed. 1/18	259	130
Thu. 1/19	380	161
Fri. 1/20	241	146
Sat. 1/21	242	134

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or 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. 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.
- Sent February calendar to printer, and updated February web calendar.
- Created site plan and preparations for upcoming Junk in the Trunk event.

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.

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 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 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.

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.

All you need is LOVE (and Snacks and a Movie)! Be our guest as we celebrate Valentine's Day at the Catherine Hickman Theater on Tuesday, February 14. Appetizers will be served at 2 p.m., and the movie begins at 3. Complimentary tickets will be available at the Senior Center on January 31; limit 2 per person.

The Pinellas County Property Appraiser will assist Gulfport seniors with completing applications for the **Low Income Senior Exemption** 9 a.m. - noon Wednesday, February 15.

Staying safe is not an accident. Be proactive by attending a **Personal Safety Tips** presentation offered by the Gulfport Police Department at 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 15. Learn safeguards that you can easily take to reduce your risk of becoming a victim at night, at home and while traveling.

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 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** is February 23.

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.

The Seasoned Sowers Garden Club meets on the 1st & 3rd Tuesday of Every Month at 9:30 am. Get down & dirty with one of America's favorite past-time hobbies. No experience needed! Natural-born green thumbs & first-time gardeners welcome.

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 15 7 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 33)

Tuesday, January 17 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 70)

Wednesday, January 18 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 19)
6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 331)

Thursday, January 19 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 27)

Friday, January 20 6:30 p.m. - Impacs Sock Hop (Turnout 190)

Saturday, January 21 6 p.m. - Quinceanera (Turnout 148)

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

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

Sunday, January 15 2 p.m. - *The Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present Parfumerie* (Turnout 112)

Thursday, January 19 8 p.m. - *GCP presents Parfumerie* (Turnout 105)

Friday, January 20 8 p.m. - *GCP presents Parfumerie* (Turnout 106)

Saturday, January 21 2 p.m. - *GCP presents Parfumerie* (Turnout 105)
8 p.m. - *GCP presents Parfumerie* (Turnout 102)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Saturday, January 28, 7:30 p.m. - *The Rat Pack: Together Again*: A thrilling night of great music and song. Experience Frank, Dean, and Sammy performing a wonderful mix of song, comedy, sketches and brilliant musical arrangements. Tickets \$25, available at the Gulfport Casino and Beach Bazaar.

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

Sunday, January 15 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 16)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, January 17 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 29)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, January 19 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 32)

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 16 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 16)

Tuesday, January 17 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 30)

Thursday, January 19 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 17)

Friday, January 20 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 19)

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

The multipurpose room was reserved 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, January 21 for a workshop with ten in attendance.

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. Three children from the School Year Child Care Program participated in the City's Annual Arbor Day Celebration on Friday afternoon, reading excerpts and a poem.

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.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting and a Budget discussion meeting on Wednesday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport School Year Child Care Program participants to the City's Annual Arbor Day Celebration at Veteran's Park on Friday afternoon.

Tony Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday morning.

Teen Councilmembers Cameron Althaus and Phoebe Carrazco participated in the City's Annual Arbor Day Celebration by handing out cookies and punch to all the people that attended the event.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 56 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fire
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Fires Outside Structure

Life Safety:

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

The Gulfport Community Response Team (CERT) meets monthly. The next meeting will take place at 7 p.m. Thursday, February 16 at the Gulfport Senior Center, 5501 27th Avenue South.

Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association meeting and the Data Drive Focus Group meeting. The topic of discussion was funding for the EMS System.

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

Inspector Lundh attended the PARCO meeting for Pinellas County Fire Inspectors/Arson Investigators on January 24, and the Pinellas County Fire marshals meeting in Oldsmar on January 26.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Disposed of wooden brochure rack from City Hall.
- Replaced urinal in Casino men's restroom.
- Repaired A/C unit at Library
- Repaired exterior doors at Casino.
- Cleared blocked toilet in break room at Public Services building.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Set up chairs & equipment in preparation for Arbor Day celebration.
- Pressure washed fence and sidewalk at Chase block.
- Moved picnic tables to marina.
- Dragged and prepped volleyball courts for tournament.
- Continued marking baseline and sprayed at Hoyt & Little League fields.
- Set concrete pads and sleeved lines for drinking fountains at the beach.
- Hung new signs at Dog Park.
- Replaced swings and hardware at beach playground.
- Assembled exercise equipment at Tomlinson Park.
- Repaired gate at Hoyt Field.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League field, beach, and outside casino.
- Oiled bench swings at beach.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Marina planter beds, Lions Club green spaces and 55th Street medians, hand raked around benches and pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Mowed City Complex, Library, Senior Center, Clymer, Veterans & Caldwell Parks.
- Repaired irrigation at Marina & Chase Block.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- 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, and restocked recycled mulch.
- Straightened and leveled street signs along Beach Boulevard.
- Removed and disposed of debris from Lincoln Cemetery.
- Removed low branches at 12th Avenue & 62nd Street and at 1025 60th Street.
- Removed debris from Lincoln Cemetery.
- Replaced sidewalks on Beach Boulevard between 28th & 31st Avenues, 52nd Street between 29th & 31st Avenues and Gulfport Boulevard at 57th Street.
- Removed seaweed from Public Beach and Golden Sands Condominium following storm.
- Mowed drainage area at Beachway Mobile Home Park.
- Barricaded hole in road at 15th Avenue & and 53rd Street.

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 # 45, 46, 47 & 48 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 25 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 3 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 82 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 8 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 2 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 mainline valve at 25th Avenue & 52nd Street.
- Capped off 1.5" water line at 52nd Street to make room for construction of proposed new storm drain along 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.

Stormwater

- Constructed new curb inlet at 5614 27th Avenue to enhance drainage.
- Repaired 36" storm drain line at 54th Street & Newton Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Repaired hydraulic leaks on vehicle #29.
- Replaced window regulator on vehicle #37.
- Replaced brakes on vehicle #18.
- Repaired engine on vehicle #22.
- Replaced steering hoses on vehicle #36.
- Repaired suspension on vehicle #02 and vehicle #102.
- Performed quarterly DOT inspection on vehicle #11.
- Replaced fan belt tensioner on vehicle #45.
- Replaced cab fans in vehicle #40.
- Replaced antenna on vehicle #42.
- Replaced radiator in vehicle #43
- Service vehicle #02 oil change.
- Changed oil on vehicle #46 and repaired hydraulic valve.
- Replaced hydraulic cylinder and hopper camera in vehicle #31.
- Performed or various tasks and duties as required

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.

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.

Beginning in February Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 4 of the City, also referred to as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49th Street to 58th & 59th Streets. To review Code Enforcement activities documents for more detailed information and a map of Code Enforcement areas visit the Special Documents section at www.mygulfport.us.

February 8, 2017 Board of Adjustment:

V17-01; 5614 27th 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 24th 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.