



Gulfport Community Update

January 1 - 7, 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:

Meet Artist Rose Caballes at the Catherine Hickman Theater on Friday, January 6, 6 - 8 p.m. for a reception showcasing her bold mix of styles ranging from abstract to weathered and organic. Rose is known for her large-scale commissioned murals throughout St. Petersburg and the Gulfport Arts District. Light tapas and cash bar will be offered in the theater lobby. For more information call 893-1118.

Start your New Year off right with **Gulfport Art and Gallery Walk** on Friday, January 6, 6 - 10 p.m. Peruse the works of many artists and crafters, enjoy live music and explore numerous dinner options along Beach Boulevard. For more information call 322-5217.

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 7th **Annual J West 8K Prostate Cancer Run and Health & Fitness Fair** is Saturday, January 7. The run begins at the Gulfport Casino at 8 a.m. Free prostate screenings. Registration fee: \$35 at www.active.com/jwestProstatecancer8k. Call Mike at 638-2389 for more information.

The topic for the Monday, January 9 **Tangerine/Tomlinson Neighborhood Watch** is *Humanimality*, presented by the SPCA Tampa Bay. The meeting takes place at 7 p.m. at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street. For more information call 893-1022.

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.

The St. Petersburg Police K-9 unit will provide a demonstration during the 7 p.m. January 11 **Marina District Neighborhood Watch** at the Gulfport Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive. For more information call 893-1022.

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.

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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	137
Self-initiated calls for service	460
Offenses	30
Arrests	2
Traffic citations	117
Ordinance violations	36

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 2600 block of Beach Boulevard reported on the morning of December 29 that sometime overnight someone broke a mirror off of his vehicle while it was parked in front of his residence.

A resident in the 2500 block of 56th Street reported that sometime overnight someone ransacked his unlocked vehicle and stole approximately \$10 in quarters.

Officer Priest stopped Edmund Borowczyk for speeding on 49th Street and discovered his license had been revoked multiple times for drug violations. Borowczyk was arrested for driving while license suspended/revoked.

Someone entered an unlocked vehicle in the 900 block of 55th Street on December 30, and stole a small box containing roughly \$25 in change and small bills.

A resident in the 5100 block of 13th Avenue reported that she left her car door open while she unloaded her car and carried items inside her home. When she returned she discovered her purse and phone missing.

Officer Ross stopped Richard Daignault for driving on a rim, causing damage to the roadway in the 5500 Block of Gulfport Boulevard. Daignault appeared to be intoxicated and became uncooperative during the DUI investigation. He was arrested and while in the back of the police car he began kicking and hitting his head on the rear door window.

A resident of Beachway Mobile Home Park reported on the morning of December 31 that her bicycle was stolen from under her carport sometime overnight.

A car reported stolen in St. Petersburg was recovered in the 3000 block of 49th Street. The manager of a nearby apartment complex observed a male drop off a car and leave in another vehicle.

Officers made contact with a juvenile on the Boca Ciega High School campus and discovered she was listed as a runaway. They transported her home and released her to her mother.

A resident in the 2300 block of 52nd Street discovered a small dent his car on the morning of January 1. The dent appeared to be from a bullet that fell from the sky, apparently from New Year's Eve celebratory gunfire.

A resident came to the police station to report a purse was stolen from an unlocked vehicle while it was parked in the 1400 block of 49th Street. No activity was reported on the credit cards that were in the purse.

Officers were dispatched to a report of gunshots heard the 5100 block of Tangerine Avenue. It was determined that the shots originated in St. Petersburg.

A resident in the 5200 block of 6th Place reported on January 2 that her bicycle was stolen from her driveway.

A Gulfport parent discovered that his 11-year-old daughter had been sent explicit pictures over the internet and had sexual contact with the sender in Pinellas Park in the recent past. The responding Gulfport Police officer contacted the Pinellas Park Police and an investigation was initiated which resulted in the arrest of the 28-year-old suspect.

A vehicle passed several residents out walking their dog in the 2800 block of 58th Street twice, both times throwing a firecracker in their direction. There were no injuries and no tag number was obtained for the vehicle which fled the area.

A resident in the 1400 block of 56th Street reported he left his car running while he went inside his residence to put away groceries and when he returned someone was driving it away. It was recovered in St. Petersburg later in the evening.

A man reported on January 3 that he had left his Mercedes at a business in the 1800 block of 49th Street to get it repaired. The vehicle was parked there for nearly a year, and when he went to pick it up he discovered the registration decal had been stolen from the tag.

A resident in the 2600 block of 46th Street reported that his car's driver side rear window appeared to have been shot with a BB.

A resident in the 2600 Block of 59th Street reported on January 4 that he saw a male who appeared to be intoxicated, kick his neighbor's light which caused the glass cover to fall off and crack. The suspect was not located.

Sergeant Burkhart conducted marine unit testing with Officers Marshall and Ross this week. Both officers passed, and are now members of the marine unit.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	19
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	16
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	1
Cases still active:	6

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a grand theft auto case, a petit theft, a credit card fraud, and a burglary.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for three fraud cases, an auto theft, and a burglary.

School Resource Officer Motte counseled 1 student this week, and met with Pinellas County School Board staff to discuss camera outages on campus.

School Resource Officer Langston counseled one student and met with the parent of a student this week. She also conducted a mental health assessment on a student who did not meet the criteria for Baker Act.

Margaret Palmisano reviewed e-mails and reports, and started the tabulation process for the Uniform Crime Reporting report.

Records

Reports reviewed	17
Supplements reviewed:	26
Public Records requests:	3
Reports disseminated:	10
Background checks:	4
Bike registrations:	4
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	12
Citizens assisted:	22

Professional Standards Section

Policy 310 - Mutual Aid Agreements is in the review process.

The following policies are awaiting the Chief's signature: 408 - Traffic Law Enforcement; 120 - Infectious Diseases Exposure Control Plan, and; 509 - Investigative Files.

The following policies have been distributed to personnel: 117 - Victim/Witness Rights, and 417 - Domestic and Dating Violence

Accreditation Activities

Commander Stone is building files related to new Accreditation Manual Version 5.

Applicant Screening

Twelve Police Officer applications are being processed.

Other Activities

GPD is accepting applications for the upcoming citizen's police academy, scheduled for January 19 through April 4.

Cmdr. Stone and Richard Grimberg attended the Citywide Neighborhood Watch meeting on January 4.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, December 27, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, December 27, 4 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, December 27, 4 p.m. - *Tween Tinker Lab.*

Tuesday, December 27, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, December 28, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, December 28, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, December 29, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Friday, December 30, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, January 7, 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, January 9, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program:* This month's topic is Astrology and the Four Elements; The Building Blocks of our Temperament. Have you ever wondered why some of us make decisions quickly, and others take ages to act? Why is one person an extrovert and another an introvert? Understanding the balance of elements in our birth charts can reveal these answers and more. Curious and courageous volunteers are welcome to call ahead with their date and time of birth, and as time allows, we will take peek at your charts. Presented by Jennie (Gilmore) White of Ode to Pluto Astrology. For more information call 207-332-0787 or email jennie@odetopluto.com.

Tuesday, January 10, 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, January 10, 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.

Wednesday, January 11, 2 p.m. - *Home Organization Made Simple:* Dani Brahm explains how it's done.

Thursday, January 12, noon - *Lunch & Learn presents Florida History/Maria Velazquez:* She came to our shores in 1528. Elizabeth Neily of First Florida Frontiers presents her story while dressed for the period. Funded by a grant from the Gulfport Merchants Association.

Thursday, January 12, 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, January 17, 3 p.m. - *Tween Tinker Lab:* The group meets every third Tuesday of the month for hands-on exploration and experimentation. 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.

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@mygulfpport.us for more information.

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@mygulfpport.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. - *Gulfpport Writers meeting*.

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfpport Toastmasters*. Email contact@gulfpporttoastmasters.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 December 25-31, 2016:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,255	607
Sun. 12/25	Library closed	
Mon. 12/26	Holiday - Library closed	
Tue. 12/27	290	126
Wed. 12/28	205	118
Thu. 12/29	297	120
Fri. 12/30	277	120
Sat. 12/31	171	108

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfpport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfpport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfpport.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.
- Continued planning for MLK Day.
- Commenced preparation of February calendar.
- Submitted Tree City application.

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, 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.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is January 9. 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 January 9.

Want to join a band? If you have never played a musical instrument or did in the past but are out of practice now, here is your opportunity to join the **New Horizons Band of Gulfport**. The New Horizons program is designed for musicians or “would be” musicians over 50 years of age. Its message is simple: “You’re never too old to learn to play a musical instrument.” Founder Dr. Roy Ernst discovered that performing music improves health and quality of life, and that for many band members, the weekly rehearsals have become welcome social events. The band meets weekly for instruction and group rehearsal. An informational meeting will be held during our Tuesday, January 10 rehearsal. Beginning band rehearses at 5 p.m. and the intermediate band rehearses at 6. We’ll have a question and answer period and a chance to sign up. Visit www.newhorizonsmusic.org for further information.

Join Dr. Cate McCarty, PhD, ADC at 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 11 for **Healthy Aging with Dr. Cate**, an interactive seminar applying aging research to a brain-healthy lifestyle. This month’s topic is *The Benefits of a Mediterranean Lifestyle*. Dr. Cate will also discuss how to balance sun, fun and diet, reduce stress, and enhance heart and soul to strengthen cognition.

Join us on Thursday, January 12 for our next **Gulfport Getaway** to the Jon Hair Monumental Sculpture Museum. Space is limited; reserve your seat in advance. Round trip transportation & admission: GEMS members; \$14/nonmembers; \$16.

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, January 12.

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.

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.

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, December 27 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Marge Grudzinski (Turnout 15)
Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 19)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 82)
- Wednesday, December 28 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 28)
6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 318)
- Thursday, December 29 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 8)
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 28)
- Friday, December 30 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan (Turnout 11)
6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 98)
- Saturday, December 31 8 p.m. - Gulfport Chamber of Commerce New Year's Eve Gala
(Turnout 375)

Casino (upcoming events):

- Friday, January 6 6 p.m. - Sock Hop with The Impacs. Tickets: \$15
- Saturday, January 7 8 a.m. - J. West Prostate Cancer Foundation 8K and Health Fair Free admission; cash bar
- 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 (upcoming events):

- Friday, January 6 6 p.m. - Art Reception featuring the works of Rose Caballes. Free admission, tapas and cash bar

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

Sunday, December 25 Noon - Wilson Christmas party (Turnout 47)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, December 27 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, December 29 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 11)

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, December 26 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 8)

Tuesday, December 27 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 25)
6 p.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 10)

Thursday, December 29 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 9)

Friday, December 30 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 18)

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 three 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, Mat Pilates, Pickleball, Powder-Puffs Cheerleading, Table Tennis, Tennis, Watercolor, Yoga and Zumba.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez and Nicole Latragna interviewed 1 Staff Assistant II applicant on Wednesday, and one on Thursday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 40 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alerts
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 5 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Vehicle Fire
- 2 Outside Structure Fires

Life Safety:

- 14 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O
- 1 Smoke Detector

The Gulfport Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) meets monthly. The next meeting is 7 p.m. Thursday, January 19 at Gulfport City Hall.

The Gulfport Fire Department started their Online January 2017 CME through Target Solutions. 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.

Lt. Burford taught a CPR course on December 31.

The Final Draft of the 2017 Medical Operations Manual has been distributed to all Paramedics. This final draft incorporates corrections that update the new protocols.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Completed semi-annual hood inspection in Senior Center & Little League kitchens.
- Installed new angled mirror inside Library.

- Replaced numerous boards on exterior of Historical Society Building.
- Cleared blocked toilet in Dog Park ladies restroom.
- Walked through City buildings with new janitorial services provider.
- Repaired toilet handle in restroom at City Hall.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Inspected course for 8K run.
- Removed vines from fence at Little League field.
- Sanded and sealed picnic tables.
- Sanded and prepared drinking fountains for repainting.
- Tilled clay areas and marked baselines at Hoyt & Little League fields.
- Mulched 49th Streetscape.
- Continued aerating and seeding ball fields.
- Installed reflective tape on bollards at beach parking lot.
- Replaced and welded chains to gates at Hoyt Field.
- Marked reclaimed Water line location for Duke Energy.
- Assisted garage with installation of new hydraulic cylinder on forklift.
- Oiled bench swings at beach.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched City Complex, Neighborhood Center and Veterans Park.
- Mowed Pasadena entrance area, 56th Street drainage area, Caldwell Park and 14th Avenue medians, and bush hogged Tangerine Greenway.
- Repaired irrigation at Senior Center, Clymer Park, Recreation Center & beach parking lot.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, picked up truck at dealership, replaced carbonator on stick edger, and pull starts on back pack blower and line trimmer.
- 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.

- Removed and disposed of debris from Lincoln Cemetery.

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).
- Disconnected water service at 38 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 9 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 98 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 6 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.
- Replaced 1 water meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 1 old water meter with new electronic meter.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.

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 sewer mainline in 2800 block of Upton Street.

Stormwater

- Constructed storm water inlet structures in alley at 5417 & 5418 17th Avenue.
- Cleaned and televised storm line on 27th Avenue between 56th & 57th Streets.

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 and 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.
RECOMMEND APPROVAL