



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *October 9 - 15, 2016*

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

**The beach parking lot remains closed for construction.** Parking is available at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard. Beach pavilions are not available for rent during construction, but are available on a first come basis. Call 893-1089 for more information.

**Hurricane Implementation Guides** are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library and Fire Station. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits. The Atlantic basin Hurricane season began June 1 and ends November 30.

**Pinellas County Mosquito Control** technicians continue to aggressively treat known breeding areas by ground and by air. Residents who would like to request additional mosquito spraying in their area are asked to call 464-7503. The City of Gulfport advises residents to dress wisely, use a good mosquito repellent, and drain standing water around their homes. For more information, visit [www.pinellascounty.org/resident/mosquito\\_control.htm](http://www.pinellascounty.org/resident/mosquito_control.htm).

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 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).

Enjoy artisans and live music, and discover your new favorite Gulfport dining spot during **First Friday Art & Gallery Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District October 7, 6 - 10 p.m. For more information, call 322-5217. FREE Admission.

The City of Gulfport, Keep Pinellas Beautiful and the Gulfport Neighbors will host the **Clam Bayou Cleanup** in partnership with the Ocean Conservancy on Saturday, October 15, 9 a.m. - noon. This is a perfect opportunity to include your group, family members & neighbors and enjoy a beautiful morning at Clam Bayou. Sign up next to the Coast Guard Station, 3120 Miriam Street. Cleanup supplies and light morning snacks will be provided; please bring reusable water bottles. For more information call Technical Events Specialist Gail Biron at 893-1118.

Looking to dispose of your old stuff and don't know where to start? Join the City of Gulfport and the Gulfport Neighbors at the community **Junk in the Trunk or on a Truck** event at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday, October 22, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Swap, trash or give away old furniture, appliances, tires, and other bulk items for free. Please no firearms, drugs, liquor, paints, chemicals or batteries. Meet for Java with Zack and Josh and chat about the Gulfport Police Department. Kids, get your bike registered and receive a free helmet. We will be collecting bags of nonperishable foods, toiletries and pet food for the Gulfport Senior Center Food Pantry. The first 25 donators will receive a 3 gallon crepe myrtle. If you are available to

donate two hours to help with this fun event email [Gulfport\\_Neighbors@yahoo.com](mailto:Gulfport_Neighbors@yahoo.com) or call 343-8428.

Join us for **Jazz by the Bay** behind the Gulfport Recreation Center 1 - 10 p.m. Saturday, October 22. Tickets; \$20, available at Domain, 3129 Beach Boulevard, the Gulfport Historical Society, 5301 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, or online at [www.gulfportcitylimits.com](http://www.gulfportcitylimits.com). Proceeds benefit the Historical Society.

The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation & Town Shores Masters Association will host the **Third Annual Monster Mash** at the Gulfport Casino on Saturday, October 29, 7 - 11 p.m. Start planning your creative costume for the contest and have fun with music, dancing, raffle prizes, and an opportunity to win a Caribbean Cruise. Tickets: \$15, available at the Beach Bazaar, Town Shores office or the Gulfport Casino. For more information call 893-1244.

Whether you served in the military or serve on the volleyball court, join in the City of Gulfport and VETsports **Heroes Weekend** on Sunday November 6. The **Veterans Parade** begins at 11 a.m. on Beach Boulevard and heads south, with a stop for the ceremonial **ribbon cutting at the newly renovated Gulfport Beach parking lot** at approximately 11:30 a.m. Opening ceremonies for VETsports on Gulfport Beach begin at noon, followed at 1 p.m. by a musical celebration with the **New Horizon Band of Gulfport** inside the Casino.

Dust off your unused stuff, clear out the clutter and sign up for the permit-free **Gulfport Citywide Yard Sale** scheduled for Saturday, November 12 (rain date, Sunday, November 13). Deadline to sign up your address for this year's brochure is November 4. Fill out a form at City Hall, 2401 53<sup>rd</sup> Street or the Gulfport Public Library, 5501 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, email [gbiron@mygulfport.us](mailto:gbiron@mygulfport.us) with your Gulfport address, or register online at [www.mygulfport.us/citywide-yard-sale](http://www.mygulfport.us/citywide-yard-sale) (one address per registration). For more information call 893-1118.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Patrol**

Dispatch calls for service	128
Self-initiated calls for service	454
Offenses	43
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	106
Ordinance violations	68

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers were dispatched to a report of shots fired and vehicles fleeing the area of 51<sup>st</sup> Street & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue on October 6. They were unable to locate victims, and several juveniles nearby did not provide any information. Later that evening, a resident in the 4900 Block of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that a bullet had struck his van and lodged in the rear doors.

Officer Priest located Ronnie Wilson at his mother's home in the 5200 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue and attempted to arrest him for an outstanding warrant for failure to appear on a charge of filing a false police report. Wilson was uncooperative and refused to unlock the door. Officers convinced his mother to open the door, and he was arrested.

A resident in the 1200 block of Fremont Street reported on October 8 that his home was broken into and several items stolen. The victim suspected a former tenant of the burglary and evidence was obtained indicating his suspicions were probably right.

A resident in the 5500 block of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that his roommate attacked him with a Katana sword after being told that he needed to move out. The victim sustained minor a minor injury to his back but did not wish to prosecute if the suspect agreed to move out.

A car backed into another car in the Family Dollar parking lot on October 9 and left the scene. A witness provided police with the tag number, and the suspect was located at his residence and issued a summons to appear in court for leaving the scene of a crash.

A boater reported on October 10 that someone stole the license plate from his trailer while it was parked in the Marina parking lot.

Someone pulled the screen off the window at Mostly Mopars in an apparent attempt to enter the business, but failed to gain full access.

A tow truck dropped a disabled vehicle at Gulfport Garage, leaving it partially on the sidewalk. Someone scratched the paint and left a note detailing their displeasure with the way it was parked.

Officers contacted a resident in the 2800 block of 48<sup>th</sup> Street who may have been a victim of a lottery winnings scam under investigation. A detective from Columbia County discovered multiple victims across the United States, including a Gulfport resident who was a victim of the scam in 2012 and still sending money over the last 4 years to Jamaica. They documented the incident and the Secret Service will be handling the investigation.

For the second day in a row the owner of Mostly Mopars reported that someone damaged a side window in the business in an unsuccessful attempt to enter. Nothing was taken.

Vladmir Lepsky was arrested for DUI after he struck the rear of a vehicle stopped for the traffic light at 58<sup>th</sup> Street & Gulfport Boulevard. Lepsky refused field sobriety tests and a breath test.

A resident of Pasadena Yacht & Country Club awoke on October 12 to find a man standing in her bedroom. He grabbed her purse and escaped through the garage. The resident discovered her garage door open, likely in an attempt by the subject to steal the vehicle. There were five other vehicle burglaries reported through the day in the same area. SPPD K-9 attempted a track but there was too great due to a delay in reporting the incident.

A resident in the 5300 Block of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that a male cut the screen on his front door and entered his home. The suspect then entered a bedroom and while holding a knife demanded money. The victim gave him some money and the suspect fled on foot.

The marine unit was on the water for 5 hours this week. Four contacts were made and 2 citations issued. Marine unit officers participated in training with Florida Fish & Wildlife officers.

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

New cases:	19
Cases assigned:	4
Cases suspended-no leads:	12
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	10
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	5

## **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a missing juvenile case, a dealing in stolen property case, theft, a fraud, a stalking and a burglary; located a juvenile who stole a bicycle from Boca Ciega High School during a football game; recovered a runaway who had been missing more than three weeks, and; developed probable cause for a suspect involved in a vehicle burglary. Physical contact was made with the suspect but the victim did not wish to prosecute, and the suspect was released.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for three death investigations, a burglary and a fraud case; attended a child abuse/sex crimes meeting; attempted to interview a suspect at the Juvenile Detention Center, but he refused, and; interviewed a person of interest in a hit and run case at the Pinellas County Jail.

School Resource Officer Motte taught the explorer post firearms safety and proper gun control for competitive shooting during the Monday night explorer meeting. There were no arrests at school this week, but Officer Motte counseled four students and met with one parent.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled and submitted the quarterly seat belt citation data to DHSMV; recreated the officer activity log into a fillable pdf format; compiled and distributed open case lists; created and distributed a bulletin for Detective Crowson in an attempt to locate a suspect wanted for uttering a counterfeit check; conducted pawn checks on 12 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description, and reviewed property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper entry into FCIC/NCIC.

## **Records**

Reports reviewed	26
Supplements reviewed:	135
Public Records requests:	27
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	1
Subpoenas processed:	17
Citizens assisted:	33

## **LIBRARY**

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

Monday, October 3, 3:15 p.m. - *K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Club.*

Tuesday, October 4, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga*

Tuesday, October 4, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, October 4, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

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

Tuesday, October 4, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, October 5, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, October 5, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, October 5, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout.*

Wednesday, October 5, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, October 6, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Friday, October 7, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Saturday, October 15, 10 a.m. - *Literacy Council of St. Petersburg Focus Group meeting*: open to the public.

Saturday, October 15, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, October 18, 4 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, October 20, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Lord of the Flies by William Golding*. Visit the Circulation Desk to borrow a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, October 20, 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.

Thursday, October 20, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop*: Learn about the services available through the City and the Library. Find out how you can participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization.

Tuesday, October 25, 7 p.m. - *Poet Laureate Poetry Reading*: Presented by Peter Hargitai, Gulfport's current and first Poet Laureate.

Thursday, October 27, 11 a.m. - *Community Play Date*: Follows Toddler Storytime every fourth Thursday of the month, a great opportunity to meet other parents and caregivers in a supportive environment and introduce your little one to new sights, sounds, toys, and new friends.

Thursday, October 27, 3:30 p.m. *Kids Yoga*: Meets every fourth Thursday of the month.

Thursday, October 27, 7 p.m. - *Juniper Concert*: Performance by Florida's own, a blend of Celtic and alternative folk music. Open to all ages. Call 893-1074 for more information.

Monday, October 31, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night*: Open to all comedians, singer-songwriters, poets, storytellers, musicians, jugglers and stage magicians. For more information call 893-1073.

Tuesday, November 1, 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.

Saturday, November 5, 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, November 8, 1 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).

Monday, November 14, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*: Release your Cosmic MOJO as we explore the ancient practice of astrology as it relates to your modern life. For more information on the next topic call 207-332-0787 or email [jennie@odetopluto.com](mailto:jennie@odetopluto.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 [robynfeatherstonesq@gmail.com](mailto:robynfeatherstonesq@gmail.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 October 2 - 8, 2016:**

#### **Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,237	582
Sun. 10/2	Library closed	
Mon. 10/3	180	84
Tue. 10/4	183	100
Wed. 10/5	157	77
Thu. 10/6	253	112
Fri. 10/7	215	86
Sat. 10/8	245	111

## **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 2016-2017 events list and First Friday Art Reception schedule & contracts.
- Continued accepting registrations for Yard sale and Heroes Weekend Parade
- Continued preparation of November Calendar.
- Posted City Council meeting, Planning & Zoning and Board of Adjustment meetings on

City website.

- Uploaded October 12 Board of Adjustment meeting video, and rebroadcast on GTV640.
- Updated Human Resources, Finance, Events, City Clerk & Recreation Center pages on City website.

## **Multipurpose Center**

The Gulfport Multipurpose 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).

**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 Multipurpose 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 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for more information.

Learn the basic functions of the Apple iPad during **Tech Talk** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, October 19. Bring your iPad and passwords. Call 893-5657 to register.

Take a historic tour of **Safety Harbor Resort and Spa**, one of America's oldest and finest spa resorts and learn the rich history the resort was built upon on Thursday, October 20. Lunch will be served in the resort's Fountain Grille Restaurant following the tour. GEMS members \$15/ nonmembers \$17 for round trip transportation & guided tour. Lunch is on individual tabs.

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 October 21. Call 582-7480 to schedule an appointment.

Gulf Coast Legal Services, Inc. provides quality **legal advice and services** to Gulfport Senior Center participants 10 a.m. - noon every fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is October 24.

Join us at 2 p.m. Wednesday, October 26 for **Parkinson's Disease: Fact or Myth?** Parkinson's is a neurodegenerative brain disorder or motor system disorder that can make walking, talking, and other everyday tasks difficult. Learn the signs, symptoms and treatment options available Provided by Fusion Health Care.

The Senior Center offers free blood pressure and health screenings at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Flu shots will be offered during our next **Monthly Mini Health Clinic** on October 27. Bring your insurance card and photo ID.

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, November 1.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles, and many other goodies during **First Friday Flea Market** on November 4, 9 a.m. - noon.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is November 14. 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. the second Monday of every month. The next meeting is November 14.

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.

Volunteers for the **Telephone Reassurance Program** call Gulfport seniors every Monday through Saturday between 7:30 & 8:30 a.m. To sign up for this program visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

**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 third Tuesday of every month at 9:30 a.m. to spruce up the Senior Center Patio with therapeutic herbs and beautiful flowers. No experience needed! Natural-born green thumbs and first-time gardeners are 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, October 2    | 7 p.m. - Ballroom dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 15)  |
| Tuesday, October 4   | 9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 22)<br>Noon - Ballroom lessons with Luigi (Turnout 13)<br>7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 95) |
| Wednesday, October 5 | 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 13)<br>6:30 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime & live band (Turnout 216)                     |
| Thursday, October 6  | 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Marge Grudzinski (Turnout 14)<br>6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 6)                             |

Friday, October 7            11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan (Turnout 12)  
7 p.m. - Sock Hop with the Impacs (Turnout 25)

Saturday, October 8        6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 210)

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

Most Sundays            6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson  
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$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

Saturday, October 15    1 p.m. - *Peace Love & Women Music Festival*: \$40 all day general admission passes at Casino, Beach Bazaar & Gulfport Welcome Center, VIP passes available at [www.gulfportwomensmusic.com](http://www.gulfportwomensmusic.com)

Monday, October 31      7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance Members \$5/nonmembers \$8

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

Friday, October 7, 6 p.m. - Gulfport Historical Society Calendar Art reception (Turnout 24)

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

Sunday, October 2        9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 10)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, October 3      10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)  
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, October 6      10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 16)

**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*)**

Sunday, October 2 9 a.m. - Calvary Christian Assembly church services (Turnout 11)

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

Monday, October 3 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 28)

Tuesday, October 4 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 12)  
6 p.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 9)

Thursday, October 6 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 16)

Friday, October 7 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)

### **Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):**

Every Sunday 9 am - Calvary Christian Assembly church services

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

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

### **Recreation Center**

The multipurpose room is reserved 3 - 7 p.m. Saturday, October 15 for a baby shower.

Ready to get into the spooky spirit? Show off your scary creations during this year's **Halloween Decorations Contest**. Stop by the Gulfport Recreation Center or City Hall to pick up an application. The deadline to enter is noon on Monday, October 24. No one knows what time the hearse will travel through the City of Gulfport, but please be ready by 6:30 p.m. on the 24<sup>th</sup>. There are three theme categories: General for single homes; haunted house for single haunted houses, and; commercial for single business or professional locations, including home occupations. A plaque & certificate will be presented to one winner for each category during the City Council meeting at 7 p.m. Tuesday, November 1.

Get your kids and costumes ready for the **Spooktakular Halloween Bash** at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard on Monday, October 31. Festivities will begin at 6 p.m. and will include Trunk-or-Treat, a frightful Haunted House, Boo-Room for tots and carnival games with prizes. The Haunted Snack Shack will sell hot dogs, "potion", chips & popcorn. The Costume Contest begins at 7 p.m. Winners will be chosen from eight age categories: 0-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-12, 13-17 and Family. There will be three awards given in each age category. Plan to be there, as we are "dying" to see you!

### **Programs, Classes & Activities**

Seventy two 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.

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

Fourteen teens have been 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, Karate, Pickle ball, Table Tennis, Tennis and Watercolor.

### **Staff Activities**

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Calls for Service:**

- 37 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Structural Collapse
- 1 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 2 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Wires Down

#### **Life Safety:**

- 15 Fire Inspections
- 3 Re-inspections

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** trains volunteers in disaster preparedness for hazards that may impact their area, and in basic disaster response skills such as fire safety, light search & rescue, team organization and disaster medical operations. The group meets monthly. The next meeting is 7 p.m. Thursday, October 20 at Gulfport City Hall.

Gulfport Fire Department EMTs and Paramedics are preparing for renewal of their Florida Department of Health State Certifications.

GFD participated in Mid-County multi-company performance on working fires training at the St. Petersburg drill grounds.

The Gulfport Fire Department is participating in the "Cares Enough to Wear Pink Campaign" to support women with breast cancer. They are wearing Pink T-Shirts during the month of October

October is **National Fire Prevention Month** and it serves as an excellent time to examine your preparedness. Do you have a home fire escape plan? Have you changed smoke-alarm batteries within the last year? Prepare and practice your fire escape plan twice a year with everyone in your household, including children and people with disabilities.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Met with new janitorial service.
- Performed final inspection of new a/c units in City Manager's office & at Casino
- Repaired roof at Senior Center.
- Replaced toilet seat in Dog Park men's restroom.
- Cleared blocked urinals in PD men's locker room and City Hall men's room.
- Performed monthly pest control at all City buildings.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks**

- Set up tables, chairs & bins in preparation for Chefs' Table event.
- Repaired water line at Scout Hall.
- Obtained quotes for replacement of flagpole hardware.
- Removed ashtray dispenser at Library, and ordered replacements.
- Shelled paths at Clam Bayou.
- Sprayed wasps and ants at little league bleachers and building
- Cleared blocked toilet in City Hall restroom.
- Ordered trees for Junk in the trunk event.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed Clymer Park, City Complex, Senior Center, Library, Beach area, Recreation Center, Tangerine Greenway, Tomlinson Park, Wood Ibis Park, Pinellas Trail Spur, Clam Bayou.
- Trimmed, weeded & cleaned Library, Senior Center, removed dead trees from Wood Ibis Park.
- Replaced irrigation valves along Beach Streetscape
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades, and tuned up small equipment.
- 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 daily.

### **Streets, Stormwater & 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.
- Assembled & delivered new residential and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- 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.
- Delivered garbage/recycling bins to Casino in preparation for volleyball tournament, and removed following event.
- Removed road obstruction at 57<sup>th</sup> Street & 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Disposed of curbside debris at PYCC.
- Reset parking blocks at Library.
- Removed boat from Marina.

## **Water**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (Includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 14 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 3 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 104 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 14 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 usage.
- Replaced 3 old water meters with new style meters.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Repaired water breaks at Gulfport Historical building and at 56<sup>th</sup> Street & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Repaired leaking shower at beach restrooms.

## **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.
- Bypassed pumping sewer line at 5708 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue and repaired line.
- Replaced 10' section sewer lateral in at 1209 58<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Inspected newly installed sewer mainline at 49<sup>th</sup> Street Outfall project.

## **Stormwater**

- Repaired hole in 24" storm line at southwest corner of Beachway Mobile Home Park.
- Inspected void around storm structure at 12<sup>th</sup> & 58<sup>th</sup> Street, and advised City Administration entire structure needs to be replaced.
- Excavated depression area in parking near volleyball court and found old curb inlet had been paved over; removed old box.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced front tires on car 19.
- Replaced headlight on truck 85.
- Replaced refuse tarp on truck 88.

- Replaced battery in Parks Groundsmanager mower.
- Inspected suspension on car 1.
- Tightened solenoid connection on trolley.
- Straightened rim and inspected undercarriage of car 17.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles.

## **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).

**Code Enforcement** activities continued this week in Section 5 of the City, also referred to as the Marina District which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26th Avenue to the water and east from 49th Street to City boundaries.

The number of code enforcement cases for September was 217. The fiscal year-to-date total number of cases is 2,094. The number of citizen complaints for September was 15, making a fiscal year-to-date total of 156. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

#### Planning and Development

##### **October 5 Planning and Zoning Board Results & October 18 City Council/CRA meeting:**

Consideration of an ordinance providing for the addition of drive-through facilities as a conditional use in the CL-1 (Commercial Limited) zoning district. P&Z recommended approval.

Consideration of an ordinance providing for the establishment of standards for drive-through facilities. P&Z recommended approval.