



Gulfport Community Update

October 16 - 22, 2016

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Friday, November 11 in observance of **Veterans Day**. The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

A light rain and comfortable weather brought in 66 volunteers who collected 318 pounds of trash during the **Clam Bayou International Coastal Cleanup** cosponsored by Keep Pinellas Beautiful, the Gulfport Neighbors and the City of Gulfport (photos below). Thank you to everyone who participated. See you at the next Clam Bayou Cleanup scheduled for March 11, 2017!



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.

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.

The **Florida Safe Haven Law** is a safety net for newborn infants and their mothers. A Safe Haven for Newborns began in response to the tragedy of infant abandonment in Florida. We see and read about abandoned babies all too often and it is heart breaking. Instead of abandoning a newborn to an almost certain death, the law allows mothers, fathers or whoever is in possession of an unharmed newborn **seven days old or less** to leave them at a Safe Haven facility: any hospital, staffed 24/7 Fire Rescue station, or staffed 24/7 Emergency Medical Service station with no questions asked, totally anonymous, free from fear of prosecution - a compassionate approach that is saving lives.

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.

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.

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 49th 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 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 28th Avenue, or online at 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.

Join the **Gulfport Merchants Inaugural Gulfport Extravaganza Crawl** 9 a.m. - 9 p.m. Friday & Saturday, November 4 & 5. Many businesses between 4900 & 5800 Gulfport Boulevard will be participating along with additional vendors, offering food, gifts, prizes and discounts - *Look for the blue balloons and lights along the strip!* The Gulfport Trolley will transport patrons throughout the event. For more information call 851-2167.

Join Gulfport resident, Historical Society Board member and author Cathy Salustri for a visual perspective of old Florida during the **Back Roads of Paradise Reception and book signing** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue 4 - 6 p.m. on Friday, November 4. Cathy's book is available at Amazon.com. A portion of book sale proceeds will benefit the Gulfport Historical Society. For more information call 893-1118.

Ken Brady will perform with The Impacs during the **First Friday Sock Hop** at the Gulfport Casino on Friday, November 4. Doors open at 6 p.m. Tickets: \$15 or 2 for \$25, available at the Casino and Beach Bazaar. Limited tables of ten are available in advance for \$110.00; reserve at the Casino. Call 893-1070 for more information.

It's not too early to start holiday shopping at **First Friday Gulfport Art & Gallery Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District November 4, 6 - 10 p.m. Enjoy live music while you peruse art & craft vendors, then stay for dinner at one of Gulfport's many unique dining establishments. For more information call 322-5217. FREE Admission.

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 Friday, November 4. Fill out a form at City Hall, 2401 53rd Street or the Gulfport Public Library, 5501 28th Avenue, email gbiro@mygulfport.us with your Gulfport address, or register online at www.mygulfport.us/city-wide-yard-sale (one address per registration). For more information call 893-1118.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	121
Self-initiated calls for service	420
Offenses	30
Arrests	11
Traffic citations	88
Ordinance violations	67

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers were dispatched to the 5100 block of 25th Avenue on October 13 after a caller reported two males burglarizing his neighbor's car. Both juvenile suspects were arrested.

Steven Maye was arrested for robbery on October 14 after he stole a cell phone and Bluetooth headset at knifepoint. A SPPD K9 tracked Maye to the 5000 block of Tangerine Avenue, where he was found hiding under a truck.

Officer Randazzo discovered several palm trees and brush on fire in the 5300 block of 31st Avenue on October 15. The fire appeared to have been set long before officers arrived. GFD extinguished the blaze.

A resident in the 2600 block of 44th Street reported that her son's blue Murray bicycle was stolen from her backyard.

Robert Longboat was arrested for battery after he struck another person on the head with a beer bottle during an altercation at an establishment in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard.

A resident in the 1300 block of York Street reported on October 16 that sometime overnight her vehicle was burglarized, and her purse, wallet and phone were stolen.

Sergeant Vandenberg stopped a vehicle for speeding on Gulfport Boulevard and smelled a strong odor of marijuana coming from the car. The driver admitted that the 15 year old

passenger had marijuana on him. The juvenile was cooperative and retrieved the drugs from his underwear. He was arrested for possession of marijuana and turned over to his father.

Officers responded to a report of a reckless driver in the 2600 Block of 57th Street. When they arrived they saw a pickup truck illegally parked on the side of the road (wrong wheel to curb). Driver Michael Kidwell appeared to be very intoxicated, and was arrested following a DUI investigation. His breath alcohol content was .384/.379.

A resident in the 4900 block of 28th Avenue called from out of town on October 17 to report that his neighbor discovered his home had been burglarized. The resident advised that an iPad and a large container of change was taken, and stated that someone who claimed to have bought the iPad called him because the device was locked and they believed it was stolen. The victim would not provide officers with the name of the person who called him about the iPad.

An O'Maddy's patron opened a tab with his credit card on October 18 and ordered several drinks, then left without closing his tab or retrieving the card. When employees attempted to charge the card the next morning, it was declined.

A taxi driver reported she drove a young male to an address in the 1100 Block of 51st Street and was told he would return after he retrieved the money from inside the residence. However, the owner of the residence stated that no one entered the residence. Officers circulated the area but were unable to locate the suspect.

A resident in the 5800 Block of 13th Avenue reported that her unlocked bicycle was stolen from a stairwell in front of her apartment building. She was unable to provide a serial number or the make of the bicycle.

An officer received a report that a student did not return home from school on October 19. School police confirmed the juvenile was on campus for half of the school day, and he was entered into FCIC/NCIC as a runaway.

The marine unit was not on the water this week.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	18
Cases assigned:	6
Cases suspended-no leads:	6
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	4
Supplements received:	19
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared	1
Cases still active:	12

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case, a theft, and a cyber-stalking. He also spent the majority of the week investigating a late-reported fraud that occurred over the last four years.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a robbery case, a home invasion, and a hit and run; assisted the victim of a home invasion with

a composite of the suspect; interviewed a suspect in a fraudulent check case and arrested the suspect for uttering a counterfeit check, and; conducted Facebook research in attempt to identify a robbery suspect.

School Resource Officer Motte made 1 police report this week. He also distributed flyers for the upcoming GAAP (Gaining Appreciation by Adjusting Perspectives) event.

School Resource Officer Langston made 1 police report and counseled 2 students this week. She also assisted school staff with a disruptive student in the hallway.

Margaret Palmisano distributed cancellations to two bulletins in which the suspects had been identified and arrested; updated an analysis regarding suspicious fires occurring in Gulfport, and started an analysis for Officer Mills, looking for any patterns or trends regarding businesses in the 49th Street corridor.

Records

Reports reviewed	8
Supplements reviewed:	104
Public Records requests:	15
Reports disseminated:	27
Background checks:	4
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	6
Subpoenas processed:	21
Citizens assisted:	45

Policy Review and Development

The following policies are in the review process: 204 - Mission Statement; 412 - Rotation Wreckers, and; 800 - Central Records Privacy and Security.

The following policies were updated and distributed to personnel: 105 - Arrest and Transport Procedures, and 520 - Raids.

Accreditation Activities

Cmdr. Stone is building files related to the new version of the accreditation manual (version 5).

Training Coordination

Five members completed a four hour training block regarding their issued patrol rifles this week.

Officer Lavigne and Officer Ross completed 32 hours of a 40 hour training program on Crisis Intervention Team Training. Both graduated from the course on October 21.

Officer Timothy Carter completed a 16 hour training course and became certified as a breath test operator.

Applicant Screening

Nine Police Officer applications are being processed.

Other Activities

A minority recruitment plan was developed and submitted to Chief Vincent. Members of the professional standards section have attended 15 recruitment events to date.

Cmdr. Stone provided a brief presentation on the newly enacted Adult Pre-arrest Diversion Program to the City Council this week; completed and submitted two employee evaluations;

coordinated physical agility testing for two applicants and a current GPD officer, and; attended the Strand Neighborhood Watch meeting.

49th Street Community Resource Officer Activities

Officer Mills contacted an absentee owner to have a dilapidated sign removed from a vacant business on 49th Street. He also met with the new Wells Fargo bank manager, advised him of an armed robbery that occurred Friday night and asked him to notify the police department if he comes across any issues. Additionally, Officer Mills provided a presentation on traffic crash investigations to the Strand Neighborhood Watch group.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, October 10, 3:15 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Monday, October 10, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program.*

Tuesday, October 11, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, October 11, 1 p.m. - *Healthy Mind/Healthy Body Book Club meeting.*

Tuesday, October 11, 3 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, October 11, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, October 12, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

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

Wednesday, October 12, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout.*

Wednesday, October 12, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, October 13, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, October 13, noon - *Lunch & Learn Succession Planting.*

Thursday, October 13, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night.*

Friday, October 14, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, October 15, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day.*

Upcoming Events:

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@mygulport.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.

Monday, November 7, 5 p.m. - *Adult Coloring Program*: We provide the artwork and supplies for participants to embellish while they relax and listen to soothing music.

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.

Thursday, November 10, noon - *Lunch and Learn iPad Class*: Learn to get the most out of your device. Bring your Apple iPad and passwords, and lunch. Drinks will be provided. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library.

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.

Thursday, November 14, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: New monthly event! Free popcorn and bottled water provided. Sponsored by the LGBTQ Resource Center. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, November 15, 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, November 17, 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, November 19, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Call 893-1074 for movie title.

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@mygulport.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 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 9 - 15, 2016:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,182	584
Sun. 10/9	Library closed	
Mon. 10/10	178	73
Tue. 10/11	187	77
Wed. 10/12	122	86
Thu. 10/13	266	100
Fri. 10/14	186	105
Sat. 10/15	237	123

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 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.
- Organized and assisted with Clam Bayou Cleanup.
- Uploaded October 18 City Council meeting to City website and rebroadcast on GTV640 the following day.
- Attended G291 Joint Information Center/Joint Information System class in Manatee County.
- Updated Events, Library & 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.

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 27th Avenue South for more information.

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.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games & more at 3 p.m. Friday, October 28. Sponsored by Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance.

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.

The Gulfport Quilters will return on November 1 at 10 a.m. All levels of experience are welcome. Come learn if you are a beginner or share your ideas and knowledge if you are experienced. Most importantly, make new friends while doing something you love.

SHINE will offer an overview of **2017 Medicare Open Enrollment** changes and benefits on Wednesday, November 2 at 2 p.m. SHINE provides health insurance information and free, unbiased, and confidential counseling assistance to all current and prospective Medicare beneficiaries, their families and caregivers.

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.

Breathing in second hand smoke and air pollution can cause/irritate many conditions including Asthma, Cancer, COPD, Diabetes, Gum (Periodontal) Disease, Heart Disease and Stroke. Join Todd Ringeisen, BS, RRT at 2:30 p.m. Monday, November 7 for **HCA Doc Talk: Breathe Easy - Protect Yourself Against Second Hand Smoke and Environmental Exposures**.

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 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 November 18. Call 582-7480 to schedule an appointment.

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

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 9	Noon - Wedding reception (Turnout 175) 7 p.m. - Ballroom Fusion dance with Swingtime (Turnout 67)
Tuesday, October 11	9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 22) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Luigi (Turnout 17) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 54)
Wednesday, October 12	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 13) 6:30 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime & live band (Turnout 213)
Thursday, October 13	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 17) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 11)
Friday, October 14	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan (Turnout 15)
Saturday, October 15	1 p.m. - Peace Love & Women Music Festival (Turnout 125)

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

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

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Saturday, October 22, Noon - Little Miss Pink Pearls Pageant: Ages 1-17 compete in formal wear & costume categories for cash, crowns & trophies. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door. For more information visit www.littlemisspinkpearls.weebly.com.

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

Sunday, October 9 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 16)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, October 10 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 21)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, October 13 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 24)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

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

Every Tuesday 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

Sunday, October 9 9 a.m. - Calvary Christian Assembly church services (Turnout 10)

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

Monday, October 10 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 18)

Tuesday, October 11 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)
6 p.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 11)

Thursday, October 13 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 8)

Friday, October 14 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)

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 was reserved 3 - 7 p.m. Saturday, October 15 for a baby shower with fifty five in attendance.

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 24th. 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. Seventeen Tot Time participants and fifteen parents visited the Pumpkin Patch in St. Petersburg on Friday.

Sixteen 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

John Lapham used the school bus to transport seventeen Tot Time Program participants and fifteen parents to the Pumpkin Patch in St. Petersburg on Friday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Teen Council meeting on Friday.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

Five **Teen Councilmembers** attended the meeting on Friday. Topics discussed: advisor report, upcoming special events, Old Business and New Business.

Teen Councilmembers Phoebe Carrazco, Sarah Eisenbaum, Katelyn Latragna and Robert Wolf attended the City Council meeting on Tuesday evening to present an overview of group activities this year.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 42 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fire
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 2 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 14 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-Inspections
- 2 C.O.'s
- 3 Site Plan Reviews

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, November 17 at Gulfport City Hall.

Gulfport firefighters are having their photos taken for the Pinellas County Fire & EMS commemorative album. The last book was published in 1994. Balfour Studios, the creator of the book has trained Lt. Grady to use the required photo software.

The Gulfport Fire Departments EMT's and Paramedics have received their State Certifications from the Florida Department of Health. The renewals are valid for two years.

Chief Marenkovic and Firefighter/EMT Brain Campbell attended the Gulfport Firefighter's Pension Fund meeting on October 20.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Installed water cooler at Marina.
- Performed Fire Alarm inspection at Library.
- Assembled coat rack and repaired a/c unit at City Hall.
- Replaced hinges on "trap door" at Casino.
- Replaced toilet paper holder in Neighborhood Center restroom at Neighborhood Center.

- Unclogged toilet in upstairs restroom at Public Services Building.
- Provided interim janitorial services for all City buildings before new contracted janitorial company starts.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Set up registration table and trash bins for Clam Bayou Cleanup, and commenced construction of Recreation Center Halloween Bash Haunted House.
- Hand watered new grass at Pasadena entrance area.
- Trimmed branches away from fence, removed dead palm and shelled paths at Wood Ibis Park.
- Sprayed little league bleachers and building for wasps and ants.
- Cleared blocked toilet and replaced toilet seat at Dog Park.
- Remove dead palm at Neighborhood Center.
- Mowed City complex, Senior Center, Library, Beach & Recreation Center green spaces, Tangerine Greenway, Tomlinson, Clymer & Wood Ibis Parks, trail spur and Clam Bayou.
- Trimmed, weeded & cleaned Library, Senior Center & Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced battery on mower.
- 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 49th Street holding area.
- Provided additional trash containers for Coastal Cleanup.
- Continued automated curbside street sweeping.

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 #31, 32, 33, & 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 16 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 1 non-pay recheck to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 94 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 11 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.
- Repaired water breaks at 6000 Gulfport Boulevard & 5417 17th Avenue.

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.
- Replaced 10' section sewer lateral 1209 58th Street.
- Inspected sewer mainline inverts and connection points to manholes for 49th Street Outfall Project.
- Replaced section of sewer lateral and installed clean-out at 1107 56th Street.
- Repaired sewer mainline at 62nd Street & 12th Avenue.

Stormwater

- Excavated depression area next to sidewalk at 58th Street & 20th Avenue; discovered 4 joints of pipe leaking. Repaired with hydraulic cement and backfilled area.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced fuel pump in Police vehicle #9.
- Replaced ruptured hydraulic lines and steering pump on Sanitation vehicle #41.
- Assigned departments to inventory for Finance Department.
- Investigated electrical “non-start” problem in Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Charged batteries to restart Sanitation vehicle #43.
- 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 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.

Business Tax Receipts

Business License renewal notices have been mailed. A license is good from October 1 of the current year through September 30 of the following year. If the license is not renewed by October 1 a 10 percent penalty will be applied for the month of October and a 5 percent penalty for each month thereafter until paid. If you have paid your fee but continue to get a request for payment, let us know so we can ensure your account is corrected. Call Lisa Giddens at 893-1063 for more information.

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 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

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.

Planning and Development

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

Consideration of an ordinance providing for the addition of drive-through facilities as a conditional use in the CL-1 (Commercial Limited) zoning district. COUNCIL APPROVED ON FIRST READING.

Consideration of an ordinance providing for the establishment of standards for drive-through facilities. COUNCIL APPROVED ON FIRST READING.

October 12, 2016 Board of Adjustment Results:

V16-17; 4640 27th Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the side yard setback requirement by 6 feet, from 6 feet to zero feet to allow for the proposed construction of a wooden deck with a 9 foot by 20 foot pergola on the west end of the proposed deck. APPROVED.

V16-18; 2820 Skimmer Point Drive South; Variance request to reduce the right-hand one-third setback requirement by 8.9 feet, from 26.4 feet to 17.5 feet to allow for the construction of a new

catwalk to service a proposed new wet slip. APPROVED.

V16-19; 5719 29th Avenue South; The following variance requests to the required setback distances result from a proposal to raze an existing detached living unit and proposed construction of a new, attached replacement dwelling unit to create a duplex structure:

1. To reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 17 feet, from 25 feet to 8 feet;
2. To reduce the side yard setback requirement by 3.21 feet, from 6 feet to 2.79 feet; and
3. To reduce the required separation distance between a principal structure and an existing accessory structure by 2 feet, from 12 feet to 10 feet. ALL APPROVED.

V16-20; 908 Hull Street South; The following variance requests to required setback distances are due to an existing, unpermitted 12' x 16' shed:

1. To reduce the side yard setback requirement by 1.2 feet, from 6 feet to 4.8 feet; and
2. To reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 4.6 feet, from 15 feet to 10.4 feet. ALL APPROVED.