



Gulfport Community Update

October 2 - 8, 2016

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Two hundred participants from Gulfport & St. Petersburg collected over 800 lbs. of trash and recyclable materials during the **Third Annual Mayors Cleanup** on October 1 (photos below). Many thanks go out to the City of Gulfport, the Gulfport Neighbors, the City of St. Petersburg, the Childs Park Neighborhood Association, Keep Pinellas Beautiful, Adopt a Block, Chart 411, Local Shops 1, Island Flavors and Tings, Gulfport Realty, Pepos, So49 Association, JSR Training, Gulfport Cycling Coalition, Gulfport Teen Council and the Gabber. Donation thanks go out to Manatees by the Bay, Beach Bazaar, Funky Town Boutique, Smokin' Js, Art and Soul Art, Gulf Coast Seafood, Save on Seafood, Casey's Corner, Wine Madonna, Visa V Skin Care, Tampa Bay Beach Bums, Blue Bird Book Bus, JJ Wax Hands and the amazing volunteers! Check out the video of the day at www.youtube.com/watch?v=3UeFALv5DtQ.



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.

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.

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 Gulfport Historical Society's 2017 calendar will be showcased with larger than life images during at a **reception at the Catherine Hickman Theater** 6 - 8 p.m. Friday, October 7. The calendar and show, both titled *Presenting Gulfport's Past* will juxtapose images of present-day Gulfport with vintage photographs from the Society's collection. Calendars will be available for purchase. Light refreshments will be served, and a cash bar will be available for beer and wine purchases. Visit www.facebook.com/GulfportHistoricalSociety for more information.

Bring your group, friends or family to volunteer the **Gulfport Beach Cleanup** Saturday, October 8, 9 - 11 a.m. Volunteers will meet at Gulfport Beach Shelter # 4. For more information email Gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com.

Due to the potential threat from Hurricane Matthew the **Gulfport Chefs Table** event has been postponed to Monday, October 10, 6 - 10 p.m. Participants with existing reservations have priority on the new date. Questions regarding existing reservations may be directed to the restaurant with which reservations were made. A few seats are still available with participating restaurants that have not yet sold out.

The topic for the 7 p.m. Monday, October 10 **Tangerine/Tomlinson Neighborhood Watch** meeting is *Animal Abuse and Neglect*. The meeting takes place at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center. Scott Riley from SPCA Tampa Bay is our scheduled guest speaker. Call 893-1022 for more information.

The topic of the Wednesday, October 12 **Marina District Neighborhood Watch** meeting is is *I.D. Theft* with Vince DiStefano. The meeting begins at 7 p.m. at the Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive. For more information call 893-1022.

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 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.

Jazz by the Bay will perform behind the Gulfport Recreation Center 1 - 10 p.m. Saturday, October 22. Visit www.gulfportcitylimits.com for a list of performers or purchase tickets for \$20. Tickets are also available at Domain, 3129 Beach Boulevard and the Gulfport Historical Society, 5301 28th Avenue. Proceeds will 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 53rd Street or the Gulfport Public Library, 5501 28th Avenue, email gbiron@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	129
Self-initiated calls for service	408
Offenses	47
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	96
Ordinance violations	60

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 1900 block of 52nd Street reported on the morning of September 29 that her car's license plate was stolen overnight while the vehicle was parked in front of her home.

A Dollar General customer asked for a carton of cigarettes and fled the store without paying for them.

A man who was issued a written trespass warning from Walgreens entered the store and attempted to buy a pack of cigarettes. The manager made him leave and called police, but declined to prosecute.

Members of the Church of Christ on 49th Street reported that someone broke in through a window and left muddy footprints inside. However, nothing was stolen.

Officers were dispatched to a business in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard after a woman attempted to purchase gas and merchandise with a fake \$100 bill. She left in a gray Volkswagen before police arrived.

Sergeant Parks pulled over a driver in the 4600 block of 22nd Avenue before sunrise on September 30 for driving with one operational headlight, and determined driver Brittany Jenkins had a suspended license and two prior convictions for driving while her license was suspended. She was arrested for felony DWLSR.

A derelict vessel drifted into Clam Bayou and ran aground before being towed and impounded at the Gulfport Marina. Officer Nicita is investigating and will consider issuing a city ordinance violation citation following his investigation.

Officers are attempting to locate a suspect who intentionally struck two pedestrians in the 5600 block of Shore Boulevard with her car and fled the scene.

Officer Marshall stopped Jessica Diaz for running a stop sign at 28th Avenue & Beach Boulevard on October 1. Diaz performed poorly on field sobriety tasks and was arrested for driving under the influence. She refused to provide a breath sample.

Officer Carter made contact with Michael Vrona who was on the beach after midnight. Vrona had a small amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia in his pockets, and was arrested.

Officers responded to the 800 block of 49th Street on October 2 after a Honda Civic struck a vehicle in a church parking area, and a building at King Marine. Two black males fled the car and were last seen running through the alley. The vehicle was one of five reported stolen from Creel Motors on 66th Street after an employee forgot to remove the keys at closing time on Saturday. Two other vehicles were recovered by SPPD at hit and run crashes.

A resident reported that someone entered her unlocked vehicle while it was parked in the 900 block of 49th Street, and stole a Michael Kors fanny pack.

Amber Buckner was arrested on a violation of probation warrant issued by Pasco County after she was involved in a disturbance in the 2700 block of Miriam Street. During a search at the Pinellas County Jail, methamphetamine was found in her possession and she was charged with felony introduction of a controlled substance into a county jail and possession of methamphetamine.

A Sunoco employee reported on October 3 that a female put 2 bottles of wine in her purse and attempted to pay for an iced tea. When she was confronted about the wine she fled the store.

A resident in the 6300 block of 11th Avenue reported on October 4 that someone injected some kind of epoxy into his door locks, causing damage. The victim suspected a neighbor with whom he stated he had problems.

A resident in the 5100 block of 12th Avenue reported that his brother illegally obtained a power-of-attorney over him in order to take possession of his belongings. An investigation was initiated to determine the validity of the power-of-attorney order.

A resident in the 5300 Block of 14th Avenue reported that she received a phone call from a male pretending to be her grandson told her he had been arrested for driving under the influence and needed her to send money to bond him out. The resident knew the subject was not her grandson, and he hung up after she did not fall for the scam.

A resident in the 5400 block of 14th Avenue reported on October 5 that her bank notified her that someone had used her personal information in an attempt to acquire credit cards.

The marine unit was not on the water this week. Training has been scheduled with Florida Fish & Wildlife and follow up was conducted on derelict vessels.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	14
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	3
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	9
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	9

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a dealing in stolen property case, a theft, a fraud, and a missing juvenile; visited several locations in an attempt to locate a missing juvenile; visited several locations in an attempt to locate a suspect involved in a vehicle burglary, and; covered SRO duties at Boca Ciega High School for one day this week.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two vehicle burglary cases, three auto thefts, a fraud and a death investigation; conducted Facebook research and assisted Detective Pham in attempting to locate a missing/runaway juvenile, and; interviewed a robbery suspect at the Pinellas County Jail.

SRO Officer Motte investigated a battery and assault on a school board employee, arrested the student and referred charges to the State Attorney's office; scheduled Campus Police drug & gun K9s to sweep the school (no contraband was located); counseled three students; met with the parents of three students, and; hosted a safety meeting.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano completed pawn checks on 14 cases with stolen property with a known serial number, a named suspect or searchable property description; reviewed cases with stolen property with a known serial number to ensure entry into FCIC/NCIC, and created a bulletin in an attempt to ID a suspect in two retail thefts with similar suspect description and M.O.

Records

Reports reviewed	18
Supplements reviewed:	73
Public Records requests:	19

Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	3
Subpoenas processed:	38
Citizens assisted:	38

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

- Monday, September 26, 3:15 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club*.
- Monday, September 26, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night*.
- Tuesday, September 27, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*.
- Tuesday, September 27, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*.
- Tuesday, September 27, 3 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*.
- Tuesday, September 27, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.
- Wednesday, September 28, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.
- Wednesday, September 28, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*.
- Wednesday, September 28, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*.
- Wednesday, September 21, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.
- Thursday, September 29, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.
- Thursday, September 29, noon - *Lunch and Learn presents The Remarkable Robert Green Ingersoll*.
- Friday, September 30, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.
- Saturday, October 1, 10 a.m. - *Paying for College seminar*.
- Saturday, October 1, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*.

Upcoming Events:

- Monday, October 10, 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.
- Tuesday, October 11, 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, October 13, noon - *Lunch and Learn, Succession Planting*: Learn to maximize your garden's yield and get the most out of your crop. Presented by Michael Behnke of the Gulfport Community Garden. Bring your lunch, if you like, drinks are provided. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library.
- Thursday, October 13, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: Don't miss the launch of our exciting new monthly series! Free popcorn and bottled water provided. Sponsored by the LGBTQ Resource Center. For movie title, call 727-893-1074.
- 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 pm. 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, 3:30 p.m. *Kids Yoga*: Meets every fourth Thursday of the month.

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 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.

Every Monday, 3:15 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club*: We try a fun new activity every week, explore engineering through building with Lego's, and meet other young scientists and engineers in the community! Parents get to join in on the fun too! Call Cailey at 893-1074, or email cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Every Monday - Wednesday & Friday, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*: Bring a bag lunch and a dictionary. A different language group meets each weekday: Monday - French; Tuesday - Italian; Wednesday - Spanish; Friday - German. For more information call Mel Donovan at 893-1074.

Every Tuesday, 3 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*: Enjoy conversing in a relaxed atmosphere. This is our most popular language group so far!

Every Tuesday, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 360-9069.

Every first & third Tuesday, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*: Everyone is invited to join Allen Goldenson for some strummin' fun!

Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. Email 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 September 25 - October 1, 2016:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,477	688
Sun. 9/25	Library closed	
Mon. 9/26	165	84
Tue. 9/27	247	67
Wed. 9/28	258	95
Thu. 9/29	359	134
Fri. 9/30	237	155
Sat. 10/1	209	143

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.
- Updated GTV640 and calendar on City website with October information.
- Assisted with Mayors Cleanup and oversaw production of event video.
- Continue accepting registrations for Yard sale and Heroes Weekend Parade
- Commenced preparation of November Calendar.
- Met with JWest 5K coordinator to discuss upcoming event.
- Posted City Council meeting, Planning & Zoning and Board of Adjustment meetings on City's website.
- Uploaded October 4 City Council Meeting and October 5 Planning & Zoning meeting videos, and rebroadcast meetings on GTV640.
- Added event pages to the City's website, updated Library website and Human Resources page.

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.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Monthly Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is October 10. 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 October 10.

Did you know you can improve your brain health without medicine or supplements? No matter your current age or health, there are key components to not only maintain your brain but to improve your satisfaction with life. Join Dr. Cate McCarty, PhD, ADC for **Prescription for a Healthy Brain**, an interactive seminar applying aging research to a brain-healthy lifestyle at 2 p.m. Wednesday, October 12.

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center on Thursday, October 13 at 10:30 a.m.

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.

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.

Gulfcoast 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.

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 **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, September 25	3:30 p.m. - Contra Dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance (Turnout 71)
Monday, September 26	7 p.m. - USA ballroom dance (Turnout 70)
Tuesday, September 27	9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 21) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Luigi (Turnout 17) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 65)
Wednesday, September 28	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 9) 6:30 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime & live band (Turnout 248)
Thursday, September 29	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Marge Grudzinski (Turnout 13) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 16)
Friday, September 30	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan (Turnout 15)

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

Friday, October 21 6 p.m. - Third Friday Sock Hop with the Impacts

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

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Monday, September 26, 7 p.m. - Gulfport Merchants mixer (Turnout 24)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Friday, October 7, 6 p.m. - Art reception featuring the Gulfport Historical Society's calendar photography

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

Sunday, September 25 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 27)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

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

Thursday, September 29 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

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, September 25 9 a.m. - Calvary Christian Assembly church services (Turnout 11)

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

Monday, September 26 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 22)

Tuesday, September 27 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)
6 p.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 12)

Friday, September 30 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 2 - 6 p.m. Saturday, October 8 & 3 - 7 p.m. Saturday, October 15 for baby showers.

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

Sixty one 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, Pickleball, Table Tennis Tennis and Watercolor.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Mayors Cleanup on Saturday and the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

Teen Councilmembers Cameron Althaus and Robert Wolf handed out City brochures, hand sanitizer, coolies and head visors during the Mayor's Cleanup on Saturday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 43 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Structural Collapse
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 8 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 14 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspection
- 1 Fire Alarm Test

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.

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

Chief Marenkovic and the City Manager have participated in multiple Response Operation Committee meetings with Pinellas County Emergency Management during Hurricane Matthew. The County EOC is monitoring the storm. Please have a plan and keep hurricane supplies stocked.

Lt. Scott Burford on the "B"-Shift is the preceptor for a ride-along student.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced several ballasts and lamps at Library.
- Cleared blocked toilets in dog park ladies' restroom.
- Replaced door kick at Scout Hall.
- Replaced lock on Casino a/c area.
- Set up Council Chambers for meeting.
- Replaced toilet handle in upstairs restroom at Public Services building.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Set up registration table and bins in preparation for Mayors 49th Street Cleanup.
- Removed bees from playgrounds and trash cans in City Parks.
- Repaired fountain in Tangerine pond.
- Repaired lights and replaced wire feed on Williams Pier.
- Replaced power pole at beach.

- Repaired lattice on Historical building.
- Replaced sod at pocket park located at 60th Street & 20th Avenue.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed City Complex, Library, 28th Avenue sign area, Clymer, Veterans, Clam Bayou, Wood Ibis & Tomlinson Parks, Senior Center & Recreation Center green spaces, trail spur, Tangerine Greenway & 56th Street drainage area.
- Trimmed, weeded & cleaned 49th Streetscapes.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades, and repaired air seat 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 and Mayors Cleanup.

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 #9, 10, 11 & 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 34 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 3 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 11 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 12 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 2 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.
- Fueled all generators and vehicles to be ready for storm.

- Repaired water breaks at 6505 Gulfport Boulevard and at 5133 Preston 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.
- Cut roadway, compacted subgrade, and installed base material ready for asphalt patch at 1520 54th Street, 2805 48th Street, 2830 48th Street & 5200 31st Avenue.
- Bypassed pumping sewer line at 5708 26th Avenue until repair on sewer is complete.
- Inspected newly installed sewer mainline at 49th Street outfall project.

Stormwater

- Repaired storm structure on northwest corner of Freemont Street & and 15th Avenue.
- Inspected outfall structure, line and seawall penetration at 49th Street Outfall Project.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced front brakes on Sanitation vehicle #40.
- Replaced front tires on Water vehicle #20.
- Replaced hydraulic cylinder on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced rear tire on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Replaced brake master cylinder, and brake caliper on Parks Division's vehicle #52.
- Delivered Police vehicle #102 to dealership for electrical problems.
- 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.

Code Enforcement have moved to 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.

Planning and Development

October 12, 2016 Board of Adjustment:

V16-17; 464 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.