



Gulfport Community Update

November 13 - 19, 2016

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 24 & 25 in observance of **Thanksgiving**. Thursday's sanitation routes will be collected on Wednesday, November 23, Friday's routes will remain on schedule, and there will be no Wednesday yard waste pickup.

For twenty five years the Gulfport Police Department has sponsored **Operation Santa**, collecting cash, unwrapped toys and gift cards for needy Gulfport children, and is again asking for help. Call 893-1097 for more information or to make a donation.

The **Gulfport Senior Center Gulfport Holiday Food Drive** helps needy Gulfport seniors. Drop off at the Senior Center, 5501 27th Avenue. Call 893-5657 for more information.

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Fire Chief Marenkovic would like to remind Gulfport residents that **free smoke detectors are available to elderly and low income households within Gulfport City limits**. Call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

Upcoming Events:

Visit the 49th Street South Business Association (So49) weekly **SoTangerine Market** on the Tangerine Greenway every Saturday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. The market focuses on locally made items, but So49 will consider others in an effort to meet the needs of the community. For more information call 439-0164 or email jsrtraining@aol.com.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

Join Scott Linde and Annamarie Sisson for a **Dual Lens Reception** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue on Friday, December 2, 6 - 8 p.m. Light refreshments and cash bar. For more information call 308-0070.

Join us for song and good cheer during the **City of Gulfport Holiday Tree Lighting** in Clymer Park at 7 p.m. Monday, December 5. Enjoy an evening of light refreshments and festive music presented by the Gulfport Recreation division; meet the Mayor and City Council. Santa will visit and listen to little ones' holiday wishes. For more information call 893-1118.

The topic for the Wednesday, December 7 **Citywide Neighborhood Watch** meeting at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center is *Holiday Safety*. For more information, call 893-1022.

Meet great people, get some fresh air and exercise, and spread good cheer during the **Gulfport Beach and Area Cleanup** on Saturday, December 10, 9 - 11 a.m. The group will meet at beach shelter #4. Email Gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com for more information.

Enjoy festive music, hand crafted holiday items and roving characters at **Holiday Hoopla**, your one stop local shopping for the holidays on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district on Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. For more information, call 322-5217.

Get involved and decorate your boat for the **Boca Ciega Yacht Club 31st Annual Lighted Christmas Boat Parade** in Boca Ceiga Bay on Saturday, December 10 beginning at 6 p.m.

The fee for registration is two unwrapped gifts for donation to Operation Santa. For more information call 345-7544 or 430-7241 or email boatparade@sailbcyc.org.

A representative from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission will be guest speaker at the 7 p.m. Monday, December 12 **Tangerine/Tomlinson Neighborhood Watch** at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center. For more information, call 893-1022.

Get into the holiday spirit with the **New Horizons Band Holiday Community Concert** at the Catherine Hickman Theater 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 13. Free admission; for more information call 893-1118.

Gulfport Police Officer Zack Mills will discuss *Crash Investigations* during the 7 p.m. Wednesday, December 14 **Marina District Neighborhood Watch meeting** at the Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive. For more information call 893-1022.

Everyone is invited to the **Bay Voices Holiday Concert** at the Gulfport Public Library at 7 p.m. Thursday, December 15. The men's vocal ensemble has performed at Nordstrom's International Plaza, area churches and for civic events. Join us for this fabulous holiday event and refreshments sponsored by the LGBTQ Resource Center and the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Public Library. For more information, call 893-1074.

Don't miss the **Gulfport Chamber of Commerce New Year's Eve Gala** at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom Saturday, December 31. Live music & dancing, party favors, champagne toast and plated late-night tapas provided by Chef Olive. Tickets: \$35-\$40 each, available at the Gulfport Welcome Center, 3101 Beach Boulevard. For more information call 344-3711.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	119
Self-initiated calls for service	438
Offenses	26
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	93
Ordinance violations	102

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 1300 block of 55th Street reported on the morning of November 10 that she left her car unlocked overnight and in the morning discovered that someone had been inside. Nothing was missing but the suspect left a cell phone behind.

Officer Sigsbee led a burglary investigation that resulted in probable cause for the arrest of a Boca Ciega High School student. He and School Resource Officer Motte located the student in class and placed him under arrest.

Two Stetson University students reported on November 11 that they left their unattended vehicle unlocked with personal property inside for approximately ten minutes. When they returned they discovered many items missing.

A resident in the 5200 block of 14th Avenue reported that she was contacted over the internet by someone from Ukraine requesting money. The responding officer advised her to ignore and/or block such correspondence, as it was most certainly a scam.

Officers were dispatched to the 5700 block of 11th Avenue after a school bus driver pulled to the side of the road and reported that several passengers were threatening to fight one another. Officers restored order, and one passenger was picked up by his parent.

Officers responded to the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard after a man was struck by a vehicle while crossing the road. The victim was unable to provide a description of the vehicle. Video evidence is being obtained to attempt to identify the suspect vehicle.

Officers responded to a reported disturbance in the 2600 block of 44th Street. The residence was located and the homeowner advised the involved parties had a disagreement so he told them to leave.

A man reported on November 12 that his car key, cell phone, sunglasses and volleyball were stolen from the upper deck of Manatee's on the Bay sometime after midnight on October 1. He told officers he had been too busy to report the crime until now.

A resident in the 4900 block of Newton Avenue reported that sometime overnight someone keyed his vehicle from the rear bumper to the front door.

A resident in the 5200 Block of 12th Avenue reported that a relative entered her home, upset over an earlier argument they had. He grabbed her around the throat before her friend stopped him. He left the scene before officers arrived and is being sought for burglary and battery.

Officers were dispatched to the 2000 block of 53rd Street on November 13 after a man observed a juvenile open his neighbor's car door. He confronted the suspect and called out to the neighbor. The suspect rode off towards 49th Street. He was unable to enter the vehicle before being caught.

A Dollar Store employee reported that a male had concealed a can of beer, but put it back and left the store after being confronted. Michael Shannon was arrested for trespassing as he had recently been issued a trespass warning.

Officers responded to a report of a disorderly person at a bar in the 4900 Block of Gulfport Boulevard. They made contact with Ryan Pedro who was very intoxicated. Pedro was uncooperative and attempted to walk away then fell to the ground when officers attempted to stop him. A patron at the bar stated Pedro had grabbed her and she wanted to prosecute. He was charged with battery.

Officers were dispatched to the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard on November 15 after the McDonald's manager reported that two carloads of people met in the parking lot for a fight. The manager informed them that he was calling police, and they left the area before officers arrived.

A resident in the 6000 block of 9th Avenue reported on November 16 that someone threw a pumpkin at his home and broke two pieces of wall panel. The resident stated he saw two white male juveniles run east.

Several members of the Gulfport Police Department assisted with the GAAP (Gaining Appreciation by Adjusting Perspectives) event at Boca Ciega High School. The event featured a question & answer panel of police officers from Gulfport, Treasure Island, and St. Petersburg mixed with youth from Pinellas County Schools, and was moderated by local clergy.

The marine unit was on the water for four hours this week. One contact was made, and Detective Pham was flagged down to assist a vessel that ran aground.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	23
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	15
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	5
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	10

Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	2
Cases still active:	7

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations on assigned cases. He also attended the National Homicide Investigator training conference in Orlando.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a lewd and lascivious battery; attempted to locate a suspect in a theft/fraud investigation, and; participated in the GAAP event with the Department of Juvenile Justice at BCHS.

School Resource Officers Motte and Langston wrote four police reports; arrested a student; counseled 8 students, and; met with the parents of five students.

Officer Motte accompanied two explorers to the firearms range on Thursday and again on Sunday; finalized GAAP meeting details and hosted the meeting at BCHS on Wednesday night; participated in the Gulfport Elementary Great American Teach In and gave five presentations on being a police officer.

Officer Langston conducted crime scene scenarios with the Gulfport police explorers during their weekly Monday night meeting; participated in the Great American Teach in at Gulfport Elementary School, presenting to 6 classes, and; served as a panelist at the GAAP meeting.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano sorted, logged and distributed the case agent evidence review forms, and; compiled information and submitted the FDLE NIBRS needs assessment survey.

Records

Reports reviewed	18
Supplements reviewed:	75
Public Records requests:	30
Background checks:	5
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	23
Citizens assisted:	30

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, November 7, 3:15 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Monday, November 7, 5 p.m. - *Adult Coloring Program.*

Tuesday, November 8, 1 p.m. - *Healthy Mind/Healthy Body Book Club meeting.*

Tuesday, November 8, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, November 8, 3 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, November 8, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, November 9, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, November 9, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, November 9, 12:30 p.m. - *Author Talk with Laura Lipman.*

Wednesday, November 9, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout.*

Wednesday, November 9, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

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

Thursday, November 10, noon - *Lunch and Learn iPad Class.*

Thursday, November 10, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night.*

Saturday, November 12, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day.*

Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, November 21, 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

Thursday, December 1, noon - *Lunch and Learn presents How to Help Friends & Family with Memory Problems:* Many people struggle with knowing when they should be worried about someone, and what to do to help them. We'll discuss what works and what doesn't, and how we can support each other to find the best possible solutions. Presented by Alison Solomon, LCSW, author of *Along Came the Rain*, a suspense novel that deals with memory issues. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library.

Saturday, December 3, 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, December 5, 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, December 6, 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.

Monday, December 12, 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, December 13, 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.

Tuesday, December 13, 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, December 15, 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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. For more information email contact@gulfporttoastmasters.com.

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 November 6 - 12, 2016:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,309	647
Sun. 11/6	Library closed	
Mon. 11/7	194	92
Tue. 11/8	152	98
Wed. 11/9	230	89
Thu. 11/10	246	136
Fri. 11/11	Holiday: Library closed	
Sat. 11/12	240	185

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.
- Commence planning for Holiday Tree Lighting & MLK Day.
- Continued preparation of December calendar.

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.

Treasure Island, the Sand Sculpture Capital of Florida, will host the **8th Annual Sanding Ovations Master Cup Sand Sculpture Competition** on Monday, November 21. Join us as we check out the beautiful sand sculptures designed by ten amazingly talented sand sculpting masters from throughout North America. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

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 November 28.

Sexually transmitted infections (STIs) are rampant among older Americans. Are you at risk? Join Christine for a fun and interactive discussion about STI prevention, symptoms and testing, current sexual trends, and how to initiate conversations with partners and healthcare providers at 2:30 p.m. Monday, November 28 during **Sex Health for Women over 50**.

Get started on your holiday shopping with a **GEMS Getaway** to the new Seminole City Center on Thursday, December 1. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$5, nonmembers \$7.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles, and many other goodies during **First Friday Flea Market** on December 2, 9 a.m. - noon.

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, December 6.

It is important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, December 8.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is December 12. 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 December 12.

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 December 16. 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 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, November 6	1 p.m. - Free concert with New Horizons Band (Turnout 100) 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 34)
Tuesday, November 8	9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 26) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 26) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 53)
Wednesday, November 9	Noon - Volunteer Luncheon (Turnout 132) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 226)
Thursday, November 10	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 12) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 24)
Saturday, November 12	5:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 134)

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, November 28 7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance Members \$5/nonmembers \$8

Friday, December 2 6 p.m. - Sock Hop with The Impacs Tickets: \$15 or 2 for \$25

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

Sunday, November 6 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Over the River and Through the Woods* (Turnout 100)

Thursday, November 10 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Over the River and Through the Woods* (Turnout 48)

Friday, November 11 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Over the River and Through the Woods* (Turnout 52)

Saturday, November 12 2 p.m. - GCP presents *Over the River and Through the Woods* (Turnout 25)
8 p.m. - GCP presents *Over the River and Through the Woods* (Turnout 84)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Saturday, November 19, 2 p.m. - *South Florida Lyric Opera Puccini Festival*: a celebration of opera composer Giacomo Puccini. Tickets \$35 for limited front row seats, \$25 for general admission, available at the Gulfport Casino or online at southflorida-lyric.squarespace.com.

Wednesday, November 30 - 7 p.m. - *An Evening with Ferron*: Canadian-born singer-songwriter of Folk and Women's Music. Tickets \$25, available in advance available at the Gulfport Casino, \$35 at the door or online at tinyurl.com/ferronconcert.

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

Sunday, November 6 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 20)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, November 8 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 19)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, November 10 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 15)

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 (November meeting cancelled)

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

- Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
- Monday, November 6 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 23)
- Tuesday, November 8 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)
6 p.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 11)
- Thursday, November 10 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 10)
- Friday, November 11 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 15)

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 6 p.m. - Meditation class
- Every Tuesday & Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing
- Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room was reserved 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, November 12 for a life tribute with 50 in attendance.

The multipurpose room is reserved noon - 4 p.m. Saturday for a family dinner.

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/VPK**, 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. Sixteen Tot Time/VPK participants and sixteen adults visited the Florida Aquarium in Tampa on Friday. Fifteen Tot Time/VPK participants and nine parents visited the Gulfport City Hall on Wednesday.

Eighteen teens have been registered for the **2016/17 Teen Night Program**, a great hang out for teens in grades 6-12. Teen Night provides recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects.

Contractual classes: Bootcamp, Karate, Pickle ball, Table Tennis, Tennis and Watercolor.

Staff Activities

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Tuesday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport Tot Time/VPK Program participants to Gulfport City Hall on Wednesday.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired toilet paper dispenser in Casino ladies restroom and Police compound east gate.
- Repaired fencing at Neighborhood Center storage area, and cabinet in kitchen.
- Replaced soap dispenser in Public Services restroom.
- Performed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Replaced “panic bars” on front doors at City Hall.
- Reset clocks in City Council Chambers.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Set up equipment, leveled courts and replaced flag windscreen in preparation for volleyball tournament.
- Replaced plants in planters at Clymer Park, and vandalized plants on Shore Boulevard.
- Replaced boards and locks on beach bocce ball court, locks and chains on beach playground, landscaping lights at Library outside reading area, flex stick at Wood Ibis Park rear entrance, and nets at Recreation Center basketball court.
- Fabricated wooden stakes for tree lighting event.
- Hung doggie boxes on trash receptacles along Shore Boulevard.
- Oiled locks and bench swings at beach.
- Repaired fence posts and rails at Wood Ibis & Clam Bayou Parks.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed City Complex, Clymer & Caldwell Parks, Senior Center, Library, Marina & Lions Club green spaces, 28th Street sign area, York & 49th Street termini, Chase Block, Dog Park, Pasadena entrance area and 14th Avenue medians.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned and mulched Veterans & Clymer Parks and beach parking lot.
- Repaired irrigation at Shore Boulevard, Beach & Senior Center.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards.

- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged ball fields daily.

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.
- Continued automated curbside street sweeping throughout City.
- Removed sunken boat from Marina boat ramp.
- Provided trash and recycling containers for Holy Name Fall Festival.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (Includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Disconnected water service at 26 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 6 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 88 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 7 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.
- Installed new service at 2817½ Kipps Colony Drive.
- Graded and placed sod in area of water break at 6212 Fairway Bay Boulevard.
- Graded alley and placed millings after water break at 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.

- Repaired hole in sewer main line at 5713 12th Avenue.

Stormwater

- Repaired storm drain structure and pipe at 54th Street & 20th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Repaired power steering return hose on Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Repaired cab mounts on Park Division vehicle #52.
- Replaced faulty brake chamber and batteries in Fire Engine #P17.
- Repaired side marker light and welded side board brackets on Streets vehicle #37.
- Reattached hydraulic hose brackets, and refilled hydraulic system on Sewer vehicle #79.
- Repaired cylinder latch on Sanitation vehicle #43.
- Replaced batteries in Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced window switch in Police vehicle #9.
- Replaced wheel speed sensor in Police vehicle #7.
- 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.

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 1 of the City, also referred to as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7th Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64th Street to 58th Street.

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.

November 9, 2016 Board of Adjustment Results:

V16-21 - 5925 Bayview Circle South; Variance request to reduce the right-hand one-third setback requirement by 18 feet, from 26 feet 8 inches to 8 feet 8 inches to allow for the installation of a new boat lift and construction of a new catwalk to service the boat lift. APPLICATION WITHDRAWN. NO ACTION TAKEN.