



Gulfport Community Update

December 4 - 10, 2016

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Monday, December 26 in observance of **Christmas**, and on Monday, January 2 in observance of the **New Year**. The sanitation schedule will not be affected.

Approximately 200 children and children at heart attended the City's annual **Holiday Tree Lighting** on December 5. Mayor Henderson and City Council were joined by Mayor Emeritus Mike Yakes and former Mayor Yvonne Johnson in welcoming Santa as he arrived on the newly renovated 1925 Lafrance fire engine to listen to everyone's wishes. Tot Time and After School program participants entertained guests while the Teen Council served refreshments (photos below).



Top left to right: Mayor and Council along with Mayor Emeritus, Tot Time Program, 2nd row: After School program, the TREE, City Manager Jim O'Reilly and daughter Meagan, 3rd row: Mayor Henderson and wife Laura along with former Gulfport Mayor, Yvonne Johnson and Santa!

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.

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.

The Third Annual **Dr. Martin Luther King Day of Service** takes place on Saturday, January 14, 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Groups are encouraged to plan their own project, and individuals will be provided with a project that fits their talents. Every day is a day for giving, but this event marks a special holiday for a great man who dedicated his life to public service. Visit

www.mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice/ and scroll down to register, or follow along at www.facebook.com/MLK2017DayofService/?fref=ts. For more information call Gail Biron at 893-1118.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	136
Self-initiated calls for service	470
Offenses	45
Arrests	11
Traffic citations	128
Ordinance violations	65

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

Pasadena Properties management staff reported on December 1 that they hired a Naples company in June to replace a broken air conditioner, and wrote the owner of the company a check for \$3300 to purchase the new unit. By September no work had been done. In November the company was served with legal notice to remedy the situation but did not respond.

A resident in the 800 block of 60th Street reported that someone threw a pumpkin at his car while it was parked in his driveway, resulting in a dent on one of the doors.

A car reported stolen from St. Petersburg struck two power poles at 11th Avenue & 54th Street on December 2. Officers had just received a BOLO for the vehicle, which was reportedly driving recklessly prior to the crash. The driver and passenger fled from the car.

A resident in the 2300 block of 51st Street reported on December 3 that he returned home and discovered a jalousie window had been removed. Nothing appeared to be missing.

Officers were dispatched to the Dollar General after the manager reported two customers set off the shoplifting alarm as they left the store. The pair left in a vehicle, and the manager could not determine if anything had been stolen.

Police responding to a report of a shooting at a residence in the 2700 block of 48th Street discovered a 56-year-old man suffering from a self-inflicted gunshot wound. He was transported to the Bayfront Medical Trauma Center in critical condition but did not survive.

Officers responded to a 911 hang-up at a residence in the 5700 Block of 19th Avenue. The resident's granddaughter was playing with a cell phone and dialed 911 by mistake.

Officers were dispatched to the 2400 block of York Street regarding a man being struck with a pipe. The victim refused to provide any information, and was transported to the hospital.

Eleven plants which were part of the new beach parking landscaping were uprooted and stolen sometime between the evening of December 3 and the morning of the 4th.

A landlord and her tenants who were in the process of moving out of a residence in the 5400 Gulfport Boulevard had a heated disagreement over trash left in the yard, and the ownership of a shed on the property. Police responded and mediated the situation, resulting in a compromise that both parties were happy with.

A total of eight vehicle burglaries in Gulfport and several others in St. Petersburg occurred between the evening of December 4 and the morning of the 5th. Two juveniles confessed to the crimes, and most of the stolen property was recovered and returned to the victims.

Two men were delivering a refrigerator to a residence in the 6300 block of 13th Avenue reported that a subject in a car stopped near their vehicle, climbed into the cab and stole their backpacks, and cash from the center console.

Officers responded to the 1800 Block of York Street after a caller reported a male subject in a front yard, shouting that he wanted to fight others inside the residence. When officers arrived, the subject jumped over the Gulfport Elementary School fence. They are attempting to make contact and arrest the subject for prowling.

A resident in the 1200 Block of 53rd Street reported his unlocked vehicle was burglarized and his cell phone was stolen from the center console. Two juveniles were identified as the suspects.

Officers were dispatched regarding 2 males continuously entering and exiting the casino public restrooms together. They discovered marijuana and a smoking pipe on Kenneth Revel. He was given a notice to appear in court.

A resident in the 3000 block of Dupont Street reported on December 6 that she attempted to purchase a golf cart online using \$1000 worth of iTunes gift cards. She became concerned when the seller requested another \$500 for "shipping insurance." The resident scanned an image of the cards and sent them to a Gmail account but never received a follow up regarding the delivery of the golf cart.

A wallet containing several credit cards was reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 5400 block of 26th Avenue.

Officers were dispatched to the 5800 block of 8th Avenue after several witnesses observed a subject inside a car. He fled in a waiting car when confronted. When he realized he had dropped a cellphone and wallet he returned and knocked down a witness, retrieved the items, and fled in southbound on 49th Street in the vehicle.

Multiple calls were received about subjects fighting in the area of 27th Avenue & Tifton Street, and a group gathering around them. By the time officers arrived everyone was gone.

Officer Carter stopped a vehicle for driving without lights. Driver Israel Rivera was nervous and there was a strong odor of marijuana in the car. A search revealed close to 30 grams of marijuana in the car along with a stolen 38 caliber hand gun. Rivera was arrested and charged with four felonies related to the incident.

A resident in the 3000 Block of Beach Boulevard reported she heard her vehicle start up and looked out her window as it backed out of her driveway into the alley. The car was last seen heading north on 54th Street. The resident advised that she left it unlocked with a spare key in the glove box.

Sergeant Burkhart stopped a vehicle in the 4900 Block of Gulfport Boulevard on December 7 for a broken tail light. Driver Bryan Lee Cooper admitted he had a suspended license and was out on bond for the same offense. He was arrested and taken to the Pinellas County Jail.

Officers were dispatched to the 5701 Gulfport Boulevard regarding a subject on the property after being trespassed. The man who is known to have mental health issues advised he was not feeling well and wanted to go to the hospital.

Sergeant Marotta manned marine unit for 5 hours this week. He conducted one safety check and made contact with the occupants of a second vessel.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	19
Cases assigned:	4
Cases suspended-no leads:	13
Cases cleared with arrest:	0

Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	38
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	3
Cases unfounded/no crime:	4
Cases exceptionally cleared	4
Cases still active:	25

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary case, a theft and a fraud.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for four fraud cases, an auto theft, a theft, a burglary, and a hit and run, and; attempted to locate and interview a person of interest in a theft case for Ofc. Lavigne.

School Resource Officer Motte completed an investigation and report for a grand theft, and solved the case with an arrest; counseled two students; met with the parents of three students; taught building clearing techniques to the Explorers at their Monday night meeting, and; accompanied two Explorers to the shooting range.

School Resource Officer Langston wrote one police report; counseled two students; met with the parents of three students; provided security at two basketball games; attempted to locate two runaway juveniles, recovering one at school; responded to two disturbances, and; escorted one student off campus.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled and distributed the open case lists, and started an analysis for Officer Carter regarding vehicle burglaries and auto thefts.

Records

Reports reviewed	22
Supplements reviewed:	76
Public Records requests:	10
Reports disseminated:	18
Background checks:	6
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	3
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	45

Policy Review and Development

The following policies are in the review process: 117 - Victim/Witness Rights; 120 - Infectious Diseases Exposure Control Plan; 310 - Mutual Aid Agreements; 408 - Traffic Law Enforcement; 417 - Domestic and Dating Violence, and; 509 - Investigative Files.

Accreditation Activities

Cmdr. Stone is building files related to the new version of the accreditation manual (version 5). He also assisted in the accreditation assessment for Florida Highway Patrol Troop C.

Training Coordination

Sworn members are completing online annual refresher training on the use of the TASER.

Community Resource Officer Zach Mills is attending a 40-hour refresher training course related to his duties as a traffic homicide investigator.

Applicant Screening

Six Police Officer applications are being processed. Two applicants are scheduled for a physical abilities test.

Other Activities

Cmdr. Stone prepared and submitted the Federal Equitable Sharing certification report and agreement. He also attended the Citywide Neighborhood Watch meeting with Volunteer Coordinator Richard Grimberg on December 7.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, November 28, 3:15 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club*.

Tuesday, November 29, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*.

Tuesday, November 29, 3 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*.

Tuesday, November 29, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, November 30, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

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

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

Thursday, December 1, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, December 1, noon - *Lunch and Learn presents How to Help Friends & Family with Memory Problems*.

Friday, December 2, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, December 3, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, December 12, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*: This month's topic is Holiday Survival Guide. Together, we will look at the energy of this holiday season and gain astrological insight about how to make the most of it. Curious and courageous volunteers are welcome to call ahead with their date and time of birth, and as time allows, we will take peek at your charts. For more information 207-332-0787 or email jennie@odetopluto.com.

Thursday, December 15, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of All the King's Men by Robert Penn Warren*. Visit the Circulation Desk to borrow a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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.

Thursday, December 15, 7 p.m. - *Bay Voices Holiday Concert*: The men's vocal ensemble has performed at Nordstrom's at the 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 Library.

Friday, December 16, 5 p.m. - *Adult Coloring Program*: We provide the artwork and supplies for participants to embellish while they relax and listen to soothing music.

Friday, December 16, 7 p.m. - *Family Blanket Fort Night*: Bring the kids and some old sheets. We'll watch a movie & munch popcorn as we celebrate our 3rd annual party!

Saturday, December 17, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Monday, December 19, 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, December 20, 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.

Tuesday, January 3, 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.

Thursday, January 5, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: Free popcorn and bottled water provided. Sponsored by the LGBTQ Resource Center. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Saturday, January 7, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: Selections intended for adults only to enjoy more complex and challenging films in a quiet and relaxed atmosphere. For movie title, call 893-1074.

Tuesday, January 10, 1:30 p.m. - *Healthy Mind/Healthy Body Book Club meeting*: If you have interest in understanding the relationship between our thoughts and their influence on the physical body this club is for you. For more information email klane@untieyourwings.com.

Thursday, January 19, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop*: Learn about services available through the City and the Library. Find out how you can participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization.

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*. Email contact@gulfporttoastmasters.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 November 27 - December 3, 2016:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1389	728
Sun. 11/27	Library closed	
Mon. 11/28	228	99
Tue. 11/29	214	108
Wed. 11/30	188	94
Thu. 12/1	285	131
Fri. 12/2	285	141
Sat. 12/3	184	140

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 receiving and processing registrations for MLK Day.
- Provided technical coverage for Holiday Tree Lighting.
- Commenced preparation of January calendar.

Multipurpose Senior Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and Fridays, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at www.mygulfport.us.

The **City of Gulfport Telephone Reassurance program** is much more than a morning wake-up call. This free service offers Gulfport residents 50 years or older - and their families comfort, security, and peace of mind. Volunteers provide daily phone calls to registered members. If the member cannot be reached, the volunteer follows specific procedures to confirm there are no major concerns. Registration is simple and free. If you or someone you know could use this service, please call 893-2237 or stop by the Gulfport Senior Center at 5501 27th Avenue.

Gulfport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS) offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65 plus \$2 per ride. GEMS also offers transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital and the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** program, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or to lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Senior Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Monday & Thursday for qualified Gulfport residents 50 & older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multi-Purpose Senior Center has **many volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center at 5501 27th Avenue South for more information.

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

It's the season when many focus on the desire for peace on earth. Although an honorable request, rather than thinking globally, many believe that world peace begins with the individual. Join Master Life Coach Kathy Lane at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 14 for **Peace on Earth Begins with Us** as she discusses how to find that peace within yourself using three keys: acceptance, forgiveness and self-love.

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.

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, January 3.

It is important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, January 5.

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

The Last Word - Writing an Obituary is offered at the Senior Center at 4:30 p.m. every third Monday. Learn the ins and outs of writing and placing an obituary in the local press from local writer, editor and instructor Diane Craig. Call 893-5657 to register.

The Seasoned Sowers Garden Club meets on the first & 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 27	6 p.m. - Contra Dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance (Turnout 80)
Monday, November 28	7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance (turnout 75)
Tuesday, November 29	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Marge Grudzinski (Turnout 25) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 49)
Wednesday, November 30	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 23) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 261)
Thursday, December 1	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 13) 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera (Turnout 12) 8 p.m. - Latin dance (Turnout 135)
Friday, December 2	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan (Turnout 14) 6:30 p.m. - Sock Hop with The Impacs (Turnout 135)

Casino (upcoming events):

Most Sundays	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8
Every 4 th Friday	7 p.m. - USA Dance ballroom dance Members \$5/ nonmembers \$8
Every Tuesday	9 a.m. - Tai Chi 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons with Kathleen & Steve Prucher 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8
Every Wednesday	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn/Joyce Bloom 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8
Every Thursday	9 a.m. - Tai Chi 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera 8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8
Every Friday	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan
Friday, January 6	6:30 p.m. - Sock Hop with The Impacs Tickets: \$15/2 for \$25 or a table of 10 for \$100

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Wednesday, November 30	7 p.m. - An Evening with Ferron (Turnout 185)
Friday, December 2	6 p.m. - Dual Lens art reception (Turnout 75)

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

Sunday, November 27 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 14)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, November 29 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 17)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Wednesday, November 30 7 p.m. - Golfview Condo Association meeting (Turnout 4)

Thursday, December 1 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 14)
2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 18)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

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

Every Tuesday 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

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

Monday, November 28 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 26)

Tuesday, November 29 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)
6 p.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 11)

Thursday, December 1 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 9)

Friday, December 2 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday 6 p.m. - Meditation class

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

Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class

Recreation Center

Santa and his elves will judge the **Holiday Decorations Contest** on Monday evening, December 19. There are two theme categories: general for single homes and; commercial for single business and professional locations, including home occupations. Deadline to enter the contest is noon on the 19th. A plaque will be presented to one winner in each category at the City Council meeting (televised) at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 3.

The Gulfport Recreation Center will offer **full day activities during Holiday Break** from 7:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. December 19-23 & December 27-30 for children in Kindergarten through age 14. Extended care is available until 6 p.m. for an additional fee. The children will participate in arts & crafts, field trips, sports, and much more!

Programs, Classes & Activities

Seventy eight children are registered for the **2016/17 School Year Child Care program** for children who will be entering Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents and \$188 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

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

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.

Several children from the School Year Child Care Program and the Tot Time/VPK program sang songs at the City's **Annual Holiday Tree Lighting** on Monday evening.

Contractual classes: Beginner's Spanish, Bootcamp, Hoop Jam, Karate, Mat Pilates, Pickleball, Powder-Puffs Cheerleading, Table Tennis, Tennis, Watercolor and Yoga.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez and Recreation staff participated in the Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

Teen Councilmembers Phoebe Carrasco, Sarah Eisenbaum, Katelyn Latragna and Taryn Spence served cookies and punch at the Holiday Tree Lighting on Monday evening.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 41 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 4 Structure Fires
- 0 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak

Life Safety:

- 11 Fire Inspections

- 8 Re-Inspections
- 3 C.O.'s
- 1 Final Permit

The Gulfport Fire Department continued their Online December 2016 Target Solutions CME. Topics are new protocol changes, and new medications added to the system.

The Gulfport Fire Department received its Certificate from the State Fire Marshal Office for 100% compliance with the NFIRS and Florida Fire Incident Reporting System for the 2015 year.

The Gulfport Fire Department hosted two visits by the Boca Ceiga High School shop class on December 7.

The Gulfport Fire Department participated in the annual Holiday Tree Lighting on December 5. GP100, Engine 17 & Pumper 17 were in the Parade lineup, accompanying the 1925 La France fire truck carrying Santa Clause.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced two ballasts in Public Services building upstairs storage area.
- Cleared blocked toilet in Public Services building ladies restroom.
- Relocated furniture in Senior Center dining, kitchen and lobby areas in preparation for floor stripping and waxing.
- Replaced faucet in ladies restroom at Recreation Center.
- Performed semi-annual a/c preventative maintenance on all City a/c units.
- Repaired roof drain in Recreation Center art room.
- Relit gas heaters at City Garage.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Set up seating, trash/recycle bins and sound system for holiday tree lighting at Clymer Park.
- Replaced electrical outlets on Beach Boulevard event poles.
- Repaired electrical outlets at Clymer signage area, and replaced lights, and lock & hasp.
- Shelled marina sitting area.
- Aerated and seeded baseball fields.
- Cleaned and organized shop.
- Moved tables and chairs to historical building.
- Replaced electrical meter can at Recreation Center playing field, and repaired gates.
- Repaired fence Gates at Recreation Center
- Oiled bench swings at beach.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed Tangerine Greenway, Tomlinson & Wood Ibis Parks, trail spur & Clam Bayou.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched lift station at 58th & Shore, Casino and Beach Streetscapes.
- Repaired irrigation along Beach & 49th Streetscapes.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades, replaced carburetor on stick edger and repaired tires on aerator.
- 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.
- 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.
- Assembled & delivered automated commercial recycling containers to Gulfport Shores.
- Assembled & delivered commercial automated trash containers at Fabric Smart, Stetson University & Boca Ciega High School
- Completed alley work and set new grade at 52nd Street & 19th Avenue.
- Replaced three “35 MPH” signs along 49th Street, and four along Gulfport Boulevard.

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 27 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 3 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 95 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 9 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Repaired water leaks at 2937 Beach Boulevard and at 6216 Fairway Bay Boulevard.
- Installed new water service line at 1125 Gray Street.
- Replaced water service 2710 Skimmer Point Way.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 & 2.
- Daily rain fall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations 1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.

- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Cleaned and televised sewer line at 4913 27th Avenue.

Stormwater

- Repaired hole in stormwater manhole at York Street & Newton Avenue.
- Rebuilt storm structure and reinstalled lid at Freemont Street & 11th Avenue.
- Repaired stormwater line in front of 2519 54th Street.
- Removed sand from stormwater discharge structure and graded area to enable positive flow.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced air horn, grabber cylinder, cylinder rod eye & tires on Sanitation vehicle #43.
- Removed hydraulic cylinder, and replaced hydraulic hoses on Parks Division tractor #73.
- Investigated coolant smell and replaced radiator on Police vehicle #9.
- Replaced battery in Parks Division's Kawasaki Mule.
- Replaced main hydraulic line on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- 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 continued this week in Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7th Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58th Street and east to 49th 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.

January 4, 2017 Planning and Zoning Board and January 17 City Council/CRA meeting:

C16-01; 2901-2903 and 2905-2907 Beach Boulevard South; Conditional use request with a site plan for a proposed mixed-use development consisting of retail, residential, and office uses.