



Gulfport Community Update

December 11-17, 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.

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.

Councilmember Yolanda Roman collected donations during Holiday Hoopla to provide **holiday meals to Gulfport Seniors**, raising more than \$1,800 - enough to purchase food items for 100 gift packages, plus toiletries and personal hygiene products for the Senior Center pantry. Thank you to the very kind and generous Holiday Hoopla attendees who made this mission possible!



Councilmember Roman receives assistance to load supplies used to create holiday meal packages for seniors

The Gulfport Fire Department would like to wish everyone a Happy Holiday Season. Remember that all alcoholic beverages are not created equal. The proof number on the label is half of the alcoholic content. Always choose a designated driver. Know your limitations. Please don't drink and drive. Take a taxi or Uber to and from your destinations. AAA will tow your car home; you don't have to be an AAA member to use the service. Call 800-AAA-HELP (222-4357). Please be safe and bring in a Joyous Holiday & Happy New Year.

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.

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	140
Self-initiated calls for service	438
Offenses	36
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	67
Ordinance violations	47

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers were dispatched to a report of an altercation in the 2600 block of Miriam Street on December 8. They located two individuals who both claimed self-defense. Neither party wished to prosecute.

A bicycle was reported stolen from a business in the 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard.

A resident in the 1000 block of 49th Street reported on December 9 that he discovered a male inside his unlocked truck. He chased the suspect who got away with a camera and shotgun shells.

Two landscaping spotlights were stolen from a yard in the 6400 block of Gulfport Boulevard.

A resident in the 2800 block of 57th Street reported on December 10 that sometime in the last three months, someone entered her bedroom and stole a \$100 bill from a wallet in her dresser.

Officers were dispatched to the 5100 Block of 13th Avenue after a caller reported that her ex-boyfriend kicked her car's windshield, causing several cracks. The suspect was gone when officers arrived but there is probable cause for his arrest.

A resident in the 5200 block of Jersey Avenue reported that three females walked onto a neighbor's property, opened a gate and stole a bicycle.

Officer Carter stopped a vehicle in the 5700 Block of 28th Avenue for an equipment violation on December 11. Driver Christopher Bingnear appeared to be intoxicated, and admitted he had consumed several beers. Bingnear was arrested after a DUI investigation was conducted. He refused breath testing.

A resident in the 4900 block of 29th Avenue reported on December 12 that someone entered his two unlocked cars sometime overnight, and attempted to steal a stereo from one of the vehicles.

A Seaside Villas resident reported that a \$500 black men's Raleigh bike was stolen from a bike rack at the complex sometime in the previous two days.

Officers were dispatched to the 1000 block of 49th Street after a caller reported a suspicious male behind a business, attempting to open the rear door. Upon arrival, officers discovered the door was pried open from the bottom. The business owner did not notice anything missing.

A resident in the 5400 Block of Jersey Avenue reported on December 13 that she thought she had a problem with her computer and allowed someone to remotely log in. They convinced her to send money via Western Union to China. When the person at the Western Union terminal realized what was going on she convinced the resident to cancel the transaction because it was an obvious scam.

An officer on patrol on December 14 discovered a vehicle parked in the 6000 block of 15th Avenue with the rear passenger door open. He made contact with the owner who advised her children were the last to get out of the vehicle and left the door open.

Sergeant Burkhart and Councilman Fridovich led the Boca Ciega Yacht Club boat parade on December 10. The marine unit was on the water for 4 hours.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	13
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	6
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases referred back to patrol:	4
Supplements received:	4
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:	4

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental for a theft case, a burglary, a grand theft auto and a fraud case; assisted Detective Crowson with arresting a suspect in a hit and run crash, and; assisted patrol with a suspicious death investigation.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental for a fraud case, a death investigation, and a lewd and lascivious battery; interviewed a burglary suspect at the Hillsborough County Jail and attended a State Attorney's non-arrest invest to obtain a warrant for the suspect, and; interviewed and arrested a suspect in a hit and run case.

School Resource Officers Motte and Langston wrote three police reports this week; made one arrest; counseled six students, and; met with the parents of three students

Officer Motte investigated a grand theft case and solved the case with an arrest. He also taught traffic stops to the Explorer's at their Monday night meeting.

Officer Langston responded to two disturbances, and attended a three day Child Abduction Response Team (CART) conference this week.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano created an informational bulletin for Officer Carter regarding recovered property; completed a vehicle burglaries and auto thefts analysis for Officer Carter; created an attempt to ID bulletin for Detective Pham regarding a vehicle burglary; completed pawn checks on 14 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or a searchable property description, and; compiled the November PCSO call out report.

Records

Reports reviewed	20
Supplements reviewed:	47
Public Records requests:	53
Background checks:	10
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	11
Citizens assisted:	60

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, December 5, 3:15 p.m. - *Gulfcoast Legal Services Foreclosure Prevention Workshop.*

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

Tuesday, December 6, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga.*

Tuesday, December 6, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, December 6, 3 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, December 6, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, December 7, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, December 7, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, December 7, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*, facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

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

Thursday, December 8, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, December 8, 6 p.m. - *Six Words Challenge.*

Thursday, December 8, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night.*

Friday, December 9, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, December 10, 10:30 a.m. - *Westwind Condo Association annual meeting.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

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.

Monday, January 9, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*: For more information 207-332-0787 or email jennie@odetopluto.com.

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.

Wednesday, January 11, 2 p.m. - *Home Organization Made Simple*: Dani Brahm explains how it's done.

Thursday, January 12, noon - *Lunch & Learn presents Florida History/Maria Velazquez*: She came to our shores in 1528. Elizabeth Neily of First Florida Frontiers presents her story while dressed for the period. Funded by a grant from the Gulfport Merchants Association.

Thursday, January 12, 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, January 12, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: Free popcorn and bottled water provided. Sponsored by the LGBTQ Resource Center. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

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:	1423	703
Sun. 11/27	Library closed	
Mon. 11/28	249	97
Tue. 11/29	209	90
Wed. 11/30	223	102
Thu. 12/1	264	124
Fri. 12/2	272	140
Sat. 12/3	199	135

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 photo coverage for Holiday Hoopla.
- Covering for Cultural Events Supervisor on vacation.
- Created Gulfport Reassurance program PSA, and uploaded to City YouTube & Facebook pages.
- Continued 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 **Neighborhood 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.

Join Wendy for **Health Talk with Humana** as she discusses a different topic every third Monday. The next meeting is December 19.

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

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 January 20. 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.

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, December 4	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance with Daniel Fugazzoto (Turnout 31)
Tuesday, December 6	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Marge Grudzinski (Turnout 27) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 25) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 55)
Wednesday, December 7	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 29) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 312)
Thursday, December 8	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 12) 6:30 p.m. - Pinellas County Job Corps dance (Turnout 155)
Friday, December 9	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan (Turnout 10)

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, December 16 6:30 p.m. - Sock Hop with The Impacs and special guests James O'Neill & the Silver Shadows. Tickets: \$15, 2 for \$25 or table of 10 for \$110

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

Sunday, December 4 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 14)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, December 6 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 13)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, December 8 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 17)

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, December 5 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 22)

Tuesday, December 7 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 14)
6 p.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 16)

Thursday, December 8 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 10)

Friday, December 9 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 15)

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. Sixteen Tot Time/VPK participants and twelve parents visited Tampa Bay Skating in Oldsmar 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: Beginner's Spanish, Bootcamp, Hoop Jam, Karate, Mat Pilates, Pickleball, Powder-Puffs Cheerleading, Table Tennis, Tennis, Watercolor and Yoga.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez and Joanne McRoberts attended the Lunch Pal Orientation on Friday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Teen Council meeting on Friday, and the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport 16 Tot Time/VPK Program participants and 12 parents to Tampa Bay Skating in Oldsmar on Wednesday.

Five **Gulfport Teen Councilmembers** attended the monthly meeting on Friday. Advisor Marivel Gutierrez facilitated. Topics discussed: Advisor Report, approval of October minutes, upcoming special events, old business and new business.

Teen Councilmembers Phoebe Carrasco, Sarah Eisenbaum and Cameron Althaus assisted Councilmember Yolanda Roman with manning a table for the Senior Center Food Drive during the 8th Annual Holiday Hoopla on Saturday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 37 Emergency Medical Calls

- 6 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 14 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspections
- 4 C.O.'s
- 1 Smoke Detector

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

The Final Draft of the 2017 Medical Operations Manual has been printed and distributed to all the Paramedics. This final draft incorporates all of the corrections that are up to date and with the new protocols.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced soap dispenser in Casino outdoor men's restroom.
- Stripped and waxed floors at Neighborhood Center and in Fire Station bunk room.
- Repaired door at Casino.
- Replaced ballast at Recreation Center.
- Cleaned beach restrooms.
- Repaired automatic door at Senior Center.
- Cleared blocked toilet in Dog Park ladies' room.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Set up, trash/recycle bins and sound system for Holiday Hoopla.
- Sealed picnic tables for Recreation Center.
- Continued aerating and seeding ball fields.
- Installed safety bollards in beach parking lot.
- Replaced landscaping in front of beach restrooms
- Installed upcoming event banners on Gulfport Boulevard.
- Oiled bench swings at beach.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed Clymer & Veterans Parks, City Complex, Library & Senior Center
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Casino, and Beach & 49th Streetscapes.
- Repaired irrigation along Beach & Shore Boulevards, and installed irrigation bubblers on palm trees in Beach parking lot.
- 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.

Streets & 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.
- Reset “Stop Signs” in Marina area.
- Removed debris and seaweed from beach area.
- Completed installation of new lids on 300-gallon trash containers at Boca Ciega High School.
- Removed broken sidewalk and underlying roots/debris at 28th Avenue between 56th & 57th Streets; 29th Avenue between 54th Street & Beach Boulevard; 56th Street between 28th & 29th Avenues; 9th Avenue, between 53rd & 54th Streets; Beach Boulevard & 27th Avenue; 58th Street & 29th Avenue; Hull Street at 13th & 15th Avenues.

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.
- Installed new water service line at 2218 53rd Street.
- Replaced backflow, water meter, and installed bollard to protect device from vehicles at 5321 31st Avenue.
- Repaired 6” water main line, broken by crane, at 47th Street & 27th Avenue.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 & 2.
- Daily rain fall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.

- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations 1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Replaced sewer lateral and installed clean-out at 5325 23rd Avenue.
- Replaced section of 8" sewer main in alley on 58th Street, between 26th & 27th Avenues.
- Replaced sewer lateral, and installed clean-out at 2620 58th Street.
- Repaired sewer lateral at 1106 & 1110 Freemont Street.

Stormwater

- Cleaned and televised storm main and structures at intersection of 54th Street & 26th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced hydraulic cylinder on Parks Division's Tractor #73.
- Replaced signal light in Police vehicle #12.
- Replaced tire on Police vehicle #16.
- Replaced brake pads, and T.P.M.S. sensor in Police vehicle #18.
- Delivered Police vehicle #6 to dealer for warranty repairs.
- Replaced grabber cylinder on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Delivered Fire Engine #D17 to dealer for steering column repair.
- Replaced tires on Sanitation vehicle #47.
- Repaired punctured tire on Streets Division's Caterpillar Loader #35.
- 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.

The number of code enforcement cases for November was 112. The fiscal year-to-date total number of cases is 243. The number of citizen complaints for October was 12, making a fiscal year-to-date total of 31. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 12.8 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.

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.