



Gulfport Community Update

December 25 - 31, 2016

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

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 topic for the January 4 **Citywide Neighborhood Watch** meeting is *The Truth about Drugs*, presented by Narconon. The meeting will take place at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center at 7 p.m. For more information call 893-1022.

Meet Artist Rose Caballes at the Catherine Hickman Theater on Friday, January 6, 6 - 8 p.m. for a reception showcasing her bold mix of styles ranging from abstract to weathered and organic. Rose is known for her large-scale commissioned murals throughout St. Petersburg and the Gulfport Arts District. Light tapas and cash bar will be offered in the theater lobby. For more information call 893-1118.

Start your New Year off right with the **Gulfport Art and Gallery Walk** on Friday, January 6, 6 - 10 p.m. Peruse the works of many artists and crafters, enjoy live music and explore the numerous dinner options along Beach Boulevard. For more information call 322-5217.

The 7th **Annual J West 8K Prostate Cancer Run and Health & Fitness Fair** is Saturday, January 7. The run begins at the Gulfport Casino at 8 a.m. Free prostate screenings. Registration fee: \$35 at www.active.com/jwestProstatecancer8k. Call Mike at 638-2389 for more information.

The topic for the Monday, January 9 **Tangerine/Tomlinson Neighborhood Watch** is *Humanimality*, presented by the SPCA Tampa Bay. The meeting takes place at 7 p.m. at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street. For more information call 893-1022.

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 893-1118.

Everyone is invited to share their commitment to environmental stewardship during the **Arbor Day Tree Planting** celebration in Veterans Park at the corner of 54th Street & 31st Avenue at 3:30 p.m. Friday, January 20. Call 893-1118 for more information.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	140
Self-initiated calls for service	358
Offenses	34
Arrests	3
Traffic citations	71
Ordinance violations	28

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

A couple docked their boat at the Gulfport Casino on December 22 following an altercation, and were met by officers. An investigation revealed that the woman hit and scratched her boyfriend. She was arrested and discovered to be in possession of marijuana, resulting in an additional misdemeanor charge.

A resident in the 2200 block of 59th Street reported fraudulent withdrawals totaling over \$12,000 dollars from his investment account.

A man advised that he parked his vehicle in the 4900 Block of 20th Avenue and walked to the Blueberry Patch. When he returned his car was gone. It was recovered on December 24 by the St. Petersburg Police Department with extensive damage.

A resident in the 3000 Block of 49th Street reported on December 24 that her car was stolen from her driveway. She told the investigating officer that her purse, containing a car key, was stolen recently.

Andrianna Dandridge was arrested on an outstanding warrant for prostitution after officers responded to a trespass complaint at a residence in the 5000 Block of 12th Avenue.

Officers were dispatched to the 4900 Block of 13th Avenue on December 25 after a caller reported a subject threatening people with a gun. When officers arrived the complainant/victim attempted to flee the location. She was stopped but refused to answer questions or cooperate.

Officer Ross was dispatched to a residence in the 5500 Block of 11th Avenue for a welfare check on a 92 year-old woman whose family had not heard from her in several days. He heard someone inside calling for help. Entry was made and the woman was found on the floor where she had been for several days unable to move. She was transported to a hospital.

Sergeant Marotta observed a male sitting on a bicycle in the 4900 block of 9th Avenue with a large speaker box on his lap in the early morning hours of December 26. He fled when he saw the police car, dropping the box in the street and abandoning the bicycle in an alley. Officers

circulated the area, but were unable to locate him. It was later discovered the box was taken during a vehicle burglary in the 800 block of 51st Street.

A resident in the 5800 block of 26th Avenue saw a man peering into his window on December 27, and chased the suspect to the end of the block where he lost him. The home's video surveillance system recorded an image of the offender.

Officers were dispatched to a convenience store in the 1000 Block of 49th Street after a woman struck a store employee with thrown newspapers. She was located at another store, but the victim did not wish to prosecute.

A resident in the 800 Block of 51st Street reported that someone stole a speaker box from his unlocked vehicle. The box had been recovered earlier in the day, and the resident was able to identify the property which was returned to him.

Police were summoned to the 5700 block of 23rd Street on December 28 after two adult sisters got into an argument, and one battered the other. An investigation led to an arrest for simple battery, domestic related.

A jar full of change was reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 5800 block of 27th Avenue.

Someone entered an unlocked vehicle parked in the 1500 block of 53rd Street; however nothing was taken, likely because the car's alarm went off.

The marine unit was not on the water this week.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	11
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	9
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	7
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	3
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	3

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a Cyber stalking case, a fraud, and a theft, and; conducted sex offender checks.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two fraud cases and two thefts, and; conducted Facebook research on several possible suspects in recent vehicle burglaries and auto thefts.

Records

Reports reviewed	13
Supplements reviewed:	18
Public Records requests:	6

Reports disseminated:	13
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	5
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	35

Professional Standards Section

Policy 310 - Mutual Aid Agreements is in the review process.

The following policies are awaiting the Chief's signature: 117 - Victim/Witness Rights; 408 - Traffic Law Enforcement; 417 - Domestic and Dating Violence, 120 - Infectious Diseases Exposure Control Plan, and; 509 - Investigative Files.

Accreditation Activities

Commander Stone is building files related to new Accreditation Manual Version 5.

Training Coordination

Officer Christopher Priest completed two one-hour online field training courses.

Applicant Screening

Twelve Police Officer applications are being processed.

Other Activities

Officer Mills is in the planning stages of the next citizens' police academy, which will begin in January.

Commander Stone Completed and submitted a JAG grant proposal, and continued inventorying all agency firearms. He is also auditing property and evidence held at the PD; digital evidence held in an online database, and; the PD's use of the Driver and Vehicle Information Database (DAVID).

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, December 19, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night.*

Tuesday, December 20, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, December 20, 4 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, December 20, 4 p.m. - *Tween Tinker Lab.*

Tuesday, December 20, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, December 21, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, December 21, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, December 22, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, December 22, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate.*

Friday, December 23, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

Friday, Thursday, January 5, 4 p.m. - *Adult Coloring Program*: We supply the artwork and supplies for you to embellish as you relax and listen to soothing music.

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*: This month's topic is Astrology and the Four Elements; The Building Blocks of our Temperament. Have you ever wondered why some of us make decisions quickly, and others take ages to act? Why is one person an extrovert and another an introvert? Understanding the balance of elements in our birth charts can reveal these answers and more. 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. Presented by Jennie (Gilmore) White of Ode to Pluto Astrology. For more information call 207-332-0787 or email jennie@odetopluto.com.

Tuesday, January 10, 10:30 a.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop*: Cohosted by Gulfport Neighbors and the Library. Learn about the services available through the City and the Library, and how you can participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization.

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

Tuesday, December 17, 3 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, January 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams. Visit the Circulation Desk to borrow a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1073.

Thursday, January 19, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*: Maya would love to hear one of your young reader's favorites. She visits our children's area on the third Thursday of every month.

Saturday, January 21, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: For movie title, call 893-1074.

Monday, January 23, 5 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop*: First in a series of monthly instructional sessions led by an expert.

Monday, January 30, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic*: Open to all comedians, singer-songwriters, poets, storytellers, musicians, jugglers and stage magicians. For more information call 893-1073.

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@mygulfpport.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. - *Gulfpport Writers meeting*.

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfpport Toastmasters*. Email contact@gulfpporttoastmasters.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 December 18 - 24, 2016:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,266	620
Sun. 12/18	Library closed	
Mon. 12/19	205	85
Tue. 12/20	213	91
Wed. 12/21	248	93
Thu. 12/22	289	128
Fri. 12/23	226	130
Sat. 12/24	82	79

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfpport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfpport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfpport.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 mygulfpport.us and social media sites.
- Continued preparation of 2017 events list and First Friday Art Reception schedule & contracts.
- Continued receiving and processing registrations for MLK Day.

- Distributed January calendars at all City facilities and Tuesday Market vendors.
- Updated web calendar and Cultural Facilities e-news with January information.
- Continued preparation of Tree City application.

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.

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.

The **First Friday Flea Frenzy** is bigger and better than last year. We're cleaning out the closet to make room for the New Year and everything will be priced \$1 or less. Doors open at 9 a.m. on January 6 (no early birds).

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.

Join Dr. Cate McCarty, PhD, ADC at 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 11 for **Healthy Aging with Dr. Cate**, an interactive seminar applying aging research to a brain-healthy lifestyle. This

month's topic is *The Benefits of a Mediterranean Lifestyle*. Dr. Cate will also discuss how to balance sun, fun and diet, reduce stress, and enhance heart and soul to strengthen cognition.

Join us on Thursday, January 12 for our next **Gulfport Getaway** to the Jon Hair Monumental Sculpture Museum . Space is limited; reserve your seat in advance. Round trip transportation & admission: GEMS members; \$14/nonmembers; \$16.

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 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 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. Get down & dirty with one of America's favorite past-time hobbies. No experience needed! Natural-born green thumbs & first-time gardeners 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):

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|------------------------|--|
| Sunday, December 18 | 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 45) |
| Tuesday, December 20 | 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Marge Grudzinski (Turnout 15)
Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 16)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 62) |
| Wednesday, December 21 | 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 349) |
| Thursday, December 22 | 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 4)
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 11) |
| Friday, December 23 | 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan (Turnout 12)
8 p.m. - Gibbs alumni holiday party (Turnout 294) |

Casino (upcoming events):

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| Saturday, December 31 | 8 p.m. - New Year's Eve Gala Tickets: \$35-\$40 per person, available at the Gulfport Welcome Center, 3101 Beach Boulevard, or call 344-3711. |
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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 20	6:30 p.m. - Sock Hop with The Impacs. Tickets: \$15, 2 for \$25 or table of 10 for \$110

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Friday, January 6 6 p.m. - Art Reception featuring the works of Rose Caballes. Free admission, tapas and cash bar

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

Sunday, December 18 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 22)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, December 20 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 25)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, December 22 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 25)

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 19 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 30)

Tuesday, December 20 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 21)
6 p.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 8)

Thursday, December 22 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 14)

Friday, December 23 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 14)

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

Programs, Classes & Activities

Seventy nine 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.

Twenty three teens are 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, Hoop Jam, Karate, Mat Pilates, Pickleball, Powder-Puffs Cheerleading, Table Tennis, Tennis, Watercolor and Yoga.

Staff Activities

John Lapham used the school bus to transport 44 children from the Holiday Break Program to Regal Park Place Stadium 16 for a movie on Thursday.

Marivel Gutierrez and Nicole Latragna interviewed 1 Staff Assistant II applicant on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 47 Emergency Medical Calls

- 2 Trauma Alerts
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak

Life Safety:

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

The Community Emergency Response Team of Gulfport will have their monthly meeting at City Hall. We will resume in January 19, 2017.

Lt. Burford taught a Healthcare provider CPR class on December 22.

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

- Repaired faucet and cleared blocked toilet in ladies restroom at Casino.
- Replaced a/c filters at all City buildings.
- Replaced a/c handler wiring at Scott Hall electrical panel to junction box.
- Cleaned up water spill in Senior Center ladies restroom.
- Disconnected coffee maker at City Hall break room and cleaned up water spill.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Sealed picnic tables for beach and Marina, and ordered new tables for City parks.
- Sanded and prepped drinking fountains for repainting.
- Graded and prepped beds along 49th Streetscapes for mulching.
- Continued aerating and seeding ball fields.
- Hung sign on new marina building.
- Replaced trash receptacles at Wood Ibis Park and on trail spur.
- Purchased new flags.
- Helped garage staff remove hydraulic cylinder from forklift.
- Oiled bench swings at beach.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched City Complex, Neighborhood Center and beach area.
- Mowed Clymer Park, City complex, Library & Senior Center green spaces, and 28th Avenue sign area.
- Repaired irrigation at Hoyt & Little League fields.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and replaced tires on Toro Workman.

- 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.

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.
- Performed alley dust control spraying on Beach Boulevard between 23rd & 28th Avenues.
- Reset STOP signs in Marina area.
- Removed old tires from City Garage.

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 25 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 2 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 82 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 21 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 three water meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 3 old water meters with new electronic meters.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples on water distribution system.
- Repaired water break at 5909 Skimmer Point Drive.
- Replaced 1.5" water valve at corner of 53rd Street & 53rd Avenue.
- Replaced water mainline in alleyway at 21st & 22nd Avenues and 54th Street.

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.

Stormwater

- Placed placards on 10 storm water inlet tops.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Removed hydraulic cylinder from forklift for repair.
- Replaced backup alarm on vehicle #29.
- Replaced tires on parks lawnmower and vehicle #42.
- Transported vehicle #25 and vehicle #4 to dealerships for repair.
- Repaired hydraulic leaks on parks tractor #23 and claw truck #29.
- Replaced oil in vehicle #04.
- Replaced window switch on vehicle #12.
- Repaired proximity switch on vehicle #47.
- Repaired air leak on vehicle #46.
- Replaced brake chamber on vehicle #42.
- 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.

Beginning in January, Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 3 of the City, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58th & 59th Streets to the City Limits. 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.