



Gulfport Community Update

August 21 - 27, 2016

City of Gulfport staff attended a **Meet & Greet at Gulfport Elementary School** to welcome new school administrators and Principal Jess Hathaway (photos below). Mr. Hathaway has positive plans for the school and looks forward to community involvement.



OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Pinellas County Mosquito Control technicians continue to aggressively treat known breeding areas by ground and by air. Residents who would like to request additional mosquito spraying in their area are asked to call 464-7503. The City of Gulfport advises residents to dress wisely, use a good mosquito repellent, and drain standing water around their homes. For more information, visit www.pinellascounty.org/resident/mosquito_control.htm.

Hurricane Implementation Guides are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library and Fire Station. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits. The Atlantic basin Hurricane season began June 1 and ends November 30.

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.

Summer is the deadliest season for **lightning strikes** because of the frequency of thunderstorms and the fact that more people are outdoors. Despite its "Sunshine State" nickname, Florida receives more cloud-to-ground lightning than any other state in the country, according to data from NASA satellites. The Gulfport Fire Department offers the following tips to help keep residents safe during a thunderstorm:

- Get into a fully enclosed building or hardtop vehicle at the first rumble of thunder.
- Stay indoors for 30 minutes after the last thunder clap.
- Monitor the weather forecast and have a plan for getting to safety in case a thunderstorm moves in.
- Do not use a corded phone during a thunderstorm unless it's an emergency; cell phones are safe.
- Keep away from plumbing, electrical equipment and wiring during a thunderstorm.

Installation of brick pavers is underway at the beach parking lot (photo below). Parking is available at the Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard. Beach pavilions will not be available for rent during construction, but will be available on a first come basis. Call 893-1089 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.

The theme for the **8th Annual Gecko Ball** is *20,000 Geckos under the Sea*. This very popular event is scheduled for 6 p.m. Saturday, August 27 at the Gulfport Casino. Tickets: \$35, available online at www.VisitGulfportFlorida.com or at the Gulfport Welcome Center, 3101 Beach Boulevard.

Meet September's artist of the month **Verna McClain** during a reception showcasing her works at the Catherine Hickman Theater at 6 p.m. Friday, September 2. Free admission and tapas; cash bar with wine and beer will also be available. For more information call 893-1118.

Mark your calendar for **First Friday Art and Gallery Walk** on Friday, September 2, 6 - 10 p.m. Enjoy live music and great restaurants throughout the downtown waterfront area. For more information call 322-5217.

The topic for the Wednesday, September 7 **City-Wide Neighborhood Watch meeting** and the Monday, September 12 and the **Tangerine/Tomlinson Neighborhood Watch meeting** will be *Traffic Stops the Temporary Detention by Police*. Both meetings will begin at 7 p.m. and will take place at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street. For more information call Volunteer Coordinator Richard Grimberg at 893-1022.

The next **Keep Pinellas Beautiful/Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, September 9, 9 - 11 a.m. Participants will meet at shelter 4. For more information email Gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com.

The City of Gulfport will host a workshop at the Gulfport Casino at 6 p.m. Monday, September 12 to explore options for **Veterans Park reuse planning enhancement** and to incorporate infrastructure to aid in area drainage/water quality. This reuse project will include public engagement to define the community's desire for future park changes/enhancements. The project will include concept plan alternatives that are reflective of the community's ideas and wishes while incorporating storm water management facilities, resulting in a locally-preferred master plan. For more information call 893-1095 or email Community Development Director Fred Metcalf at fmetcalf@mygulfport.us.

Catch the Gulfport Trolley to the newly renovated Al Lang Stadium for the **Saturday, September 17 Tampa Bay Rowdies vs. Carolina Railhawks game**; Adult tickets \$22/kids & students \$10, available at www.mygulfport.us/rowdiestrolley. Departure from the Casino begins at 5 p.m. and the game is scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 893-1118.

Tickets for the **September 21 Tampa Bay Rays vs. New York Yankees** games are available at the Gulfport Casino. The \$30 ticket price includes round trip transportation to Tropicana Field via the Gulfport Trolley, a lower box seat & complimentary Ray's baseball hat. All Rays fans with tickets are invited to catch free a ride to the game on the Gulfport Trolley. Departure from the Gulfport Casino begins at 5 p.m. Return trips begin during the 7th inning. For more information call 893-1118.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	146
Self-initiated calls for service	398
Offenses	32
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	100
Ordinance violations	50

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Two cars collided at the intersection of 55th Street & 15th Avenue on August 18. There were no injuries, but both vehicles had to be towed from the scene. One driver was cited for careless driving and the other for driving on a suspended license without knowledge.

Officers assisted Department of Corrections Probation Officers with a warrant. Todd Deery was taken into custody on an outstanding warrant for violation of probation.

Mayre Garcia was arrested after an employee of the Dollar General store reported a theft in progress. Garcia was gone when officers arrived on scene, and was located a short time later at the intersection of 11th Avenue & 49th Street South. She was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

Sometime between the evening of August 18 & the morning of August 19 a brick was thrown through the glass front door of The Cell Phone Solution. No attempt to enter the business was apparent. Video of the suspect was obtained and the brick was collected for forensic evidence testing.

Officer Priest stopped a car for speeding and as he approached, he smelled marijuana. Driver Dorian Watson Jr. admitted he had just smoked a joint and had marijuana in the center console. Ofc. Priest also found Hydromorphone pills in the car. Watson was arrested.

A resident in the 6100 block of 9th Avenue reported on the morning of August 21 that she awoke to discover her car's doors open, and her purse missing from inside. Her purse and wallet were found about a block away by a resident walking her dog. All items were recovered except for \$40 from the wallet.

Two males in a blue pickup pulled into the alleyway behind a business in the 5300 block of Gulfport Boulevard and loaded the bed with large potted plants from the business. A witness called in the theft and Sgt. Vandenberg located the truck at 15th Avenue & 49th Street, where it fled from a traffic stop. One of the two suspects was identified, and on August 22, Sgt. Vandenberg went to his last known address in an attempt to locate him. As he approached, the suspect saw the patrol car, ducked between two vehicles in the front yard and climbed into the passenger side of his girlfriend's car. Sgt. Vandenberg pulled in behind the car to block it from leaving. The suspect then forced his girlfriend from the car, moved into the driver's seat and backed the vehicle towards the patrol car. Sgt. Vandenberg exited his car and ordered the suspect to stop. The suspect drove straight at him then fled the scene. The girlfriend advised that their 10-day old baby was in the car. Sgt. Vandenberg wrote several probable cause affidavits for the suspect and will continue to attempt to take him into custody.

A resident in the 5100 Block of 9th Avenue reported that someone smashed the glass sliding door at the rear of their residence. A computer, 2 handguns, coins and a watch were stolen.

The owner of a vacant house in the 5100 block of 14th Avenue checked the premises on August 23 and found that someone entered the fenced in side yard and stole a window air conditioner.

Management at Advanced Auto Parts presented evidence to police that an employee had been stealing money for the past few months.

A resident in the 5300 block of 12th Avenue reported that a brick paver was thrown through his glass door in an apparent burglary attempt. The burglar(s) fled when they heard him calling 911.

The marine unit was on the water four hours this week. Detective Pham made contact with several people at the Casino dock.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	20
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	9
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases referred back to patrol:	5
Supplements received:	12
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	1

Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	7

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a grand theft auto case, a retail theft, and a fraud case; conducted sex offender checks; assisted Detective Crowson with a death investigation, and; attended Pinellas County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) meeting.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two theft cases, a fraud, and two death investigations; responded to and investigated an apparent suicide, and; assisted patrol with a burglary in progress.

School Resource Officer Mottea attended school assemblies and gave a presentation on prevention of school related crimes and recruitment for the police explorer post; hosted the Explorer meeting, covering the topic of the Baker Act process, and; scheduled a police K9 sweep of the school for drugs and guns. None were found.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano updated the Sex Predator/Offender display and pamphlet, removing an offender who moved out of the City; attended an information-sharing meeting with analysts from around Pinellas County; presented the monthly Crime Analysis briefing at the staff meeting, and; compiled data for a public records request and monthly officer activity data.

Records

Reports reviewed	12
Supplements reviewed:	79
Public Records requests:	28
Background checks:	9
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	5
Subpoenas processed:	17
Citizens assisted:	36

MARINA

Assisted in thirty seven (37) pump outs evacuating five hundred ten (510) gallons of waste.

Pumped two thousand four hundred sixty three (4,263) gallons of gas and two thousand four (2,004) gallons of diesel fuel fueling one hundred fourteen (114) vessels.

Staff Activities:

- Replaced operational light on south pump out.
- Repaired electrical pedestal on pier six, slip 32.
- Performed routine pump out maintenance at both service locations.
- Procured ship store merchandise and drinks for resale.
- Repaired the latch and gate on pier three.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, August 15, 5 p.m. - *Aces Theater Group auditions.*

Monday, August 15, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*.

Tuesday, August 16, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*.

Tuesday, August 16, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group meeting*.

Tuesday, August 16, 3 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*.

Tuesday, August 16, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, August 17, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, August 17, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*.

Wednesday, August 17, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, August 18, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, August 18, 4:30 p.m. - *Adult Coloring Program*.

Thursday, August 18, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of A Study in Scarlet* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

Thursday, August 18, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop*.

Friday, August 19, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, August 20, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, August 29, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic night*: Open to all comedians, singer-songwriters, poets, storytellers, musicians, jugglers and stage magicians. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, September 1, 4:30 p.m. - *Adult Coloring Program*: It's not just for kids anymore! Listen to soothing music and color your cares away. Crayons, colored pencils and beautiful artwork will be provided. You fill in the spaces. No, you do not have to stay within the lines.

Saturday, September 3, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: Selections intended for adults only to enjoy more complex and challenging films in a quiet and relaxed atmosphere. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, September 6, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Thursday, September 8, 6 p.m. - *An Evening with Tim Dorsey*: The New York Times bestselling author of Florida fiction returns to talk about the new adventures of Serge Storms and Coleman.

Monday, September 12, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*: Release your Cosmic MOJO as we explore the ancient practice of astrology as it relates to your modern life. For more information on the next topic call 207-332-0787 or email jennie@odetopluto.com.

Tuesday, September 13, 1 p.m. - *Healthy Mind/Healthy Body Book Club meeting*: If you have interest in understanding the relationship between our thoughts and their influence on the physical body this club is for you. For more information email klane@untieyourwings.com.

Thursday, September 15, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Sun Also Rises* by Ernest Hemingway. Visit the Circulation desk to borrow a copy. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1074.

Thursday, September 15, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop*: Cohosted by Gulfport Neighbors and the Library. Learn about the services available through the City and the Library. Find out how you can participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization.

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

Thursday, September 22, 3:30 p.m. - *Kids Yoga*: The group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.

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 Monday, 3 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! Email cklasson@mygulfpport.us or call 893-1074 for more information.

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 robynfeatherstonesq@gmail.com for more information.

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area. Cailey leads the group in singing songs, playing instruments & networking with other caregivers in our community.

Every Friday, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*. For more information call 893-1073.

Library Services/Statistic August 14 - 20, 2016:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,335	662
Sun. 8/14	Library closed	
Mon. 8/15	183	85
Tue. 8/16	264	88
Wed. 8/17	186	102
Thu. 8/18	292	120
Fri. 8/19	224	141
Sat. 8/20	179	111

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 mygulfport.us and social media sites.
- Continued preparation of 2016-2017 events list and First Friday Art Reception schedule & contracts.
- Sent September calendar to printer.
- Attended Gulfport Elementary Meet and Greet.

Multipurpose Center

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

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

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

The **Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Tuesday & 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 the **Out-To-Lunch Bunch** on Tuesday, August 30 for a visit the Amish Country Store where Pennsylvania Dutch foods have been served since 1997. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$5/non-members \$7, meal not included.

Learn the signs, symptoms, and treatment options available for **Parkinson's disease**, a neurodegenerative brain disorder, or motor system disorder, that can make walking, talking, and other everyday tasks difficult to complete. Fusion Health Care will host a Parkinson's informational seminar at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 31.

A new **Sound Meditation class** will meet at Scout Hall on Thursdays at 11 a.m. beginning Thursday, September 1. Sound meditation improves sleep, sharpens focus, and reduces stress among a myriad of benefits. Please join us and improve your life experience.

The fleas are returning from summer vacation, and have collected all kinds of unique and unusual items. Stop by to check out the great deals at the **First Friday Flea Market** on September 2, 9 a.m. - noon. Sorry, no early birds.

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, September 6.

See how “America’s choice for homemade ice cream” is made at the **Working Cow Ice Cream Factory tour** on Tuesday, September 6. This family owned company hand-blends more than 100 different flavors of super-premium gourmet ice creams, frozen yogurts, sugar-free ice creams, sherbets, & fruity Italian Ices. Reserve your seat by September 1. GEMS members \$5/nonmembers \$7. Price includes round trip transportation & tour. Attendees **MUST** wear closed-toe shoes and sign a waiver prior to tour. Don’t forget to bring a sweater!

Central Neurology Sleep Disorders Center invites everyone to **Reinvent Your Sleep** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 7. This informative session is focused on common signs and symptoms of Sleep Apnea, and provides valuable tips on good sleep hygiene.

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

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The Alzheimer’s Association offers free **Monthly Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is September 13. By appointment only; call 893-5657 to schedule your screening.

Enjoy a healthy snack as Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance Services presents **Fruit for Thought** at 10 a.m. the second Monday of every month. The next meeting is September 13.

We’ve all been hurt by the actions or words of another. You can hold onto anger & resentment or you can embody forgiveness and go forward. Join Master Life Coach Kathy Lane as she explores **The Practice of Forgiveness** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 14.

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 September 16. Call 582-7480 to schedule an appointment.

Gulfcoast Legal Services, Inc. provides quality **legal advice and services** to Gulfport Senior Center participants 10 a.m. - noon every fourth Monday of the month. The next meeting is September 26.

The Senior Center offers free blood pressure and health screenings at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Our next **Monthly Mini Health Clinic** is September 29.

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 first & fourth 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.

One-On-One Tech Support with Jaclyn meets every Monday at 12:30 p.m. and every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. Assistance is not limited to specific devices. All electronics and skill levels are welcome.

Volunteers for the **Telephone Reassurance Program** call Gulfport seniors every Monday through Saturday between 7:30 & 8:30 a.m. To sign up for this program visit the Gulfport Senior Center and bring valid I.D.

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, August 14 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 96)

Tuesday, August 16 9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 13)
Noon - Ballroom lessons with Luigi (Turnout 15)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (turnout 68)

Wednesday, August 17 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 12)
6:30 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 231)

Thursday, August 18 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John (Turnout 12)
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 20)

Friday, August 19 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan (Turnout 17)
6:30 p.m. - Third Friday Sock Hop with the Impacs & Fifi (Turnout 21)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

Most Sundays 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8

Every Tuesday 9 a.m. - Tai Chi
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons with Kathleen & Steve Prucher
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8

Every Wednesday 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn/Joyce Bloom
6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8

Every Thursday 9 a.m. - Tai Chi
6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan

Monday, September 26 7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance Members \$5/nonmembers \$8

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

Tuesday, August 16 5 p.m. - Pinellas County Board of County Commissioners workshop
(Turnout 45)

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

Sunday, August 14 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 19)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, August 16 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 14)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, August 18 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 21)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

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

Every Tuesday 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

Sunday, August 14 9 a.m. - Calvary Christian Assembly church services (Turnout 13)

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

Monday, August 15 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 20)

Tuesday, August 16 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 22)

Friday, August 17 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 19)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 9 am - Calvary Christian Assembly church services

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

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

Recreation Center

The multipurpose room was reserved 2 - 6 p.m. Saturday, August 20 for a baby shower with 50 in attendance.

The multipurpose room is reserved 1 - 6 p.m. Saturday, August 27 for a wedding reception.

Programs, Classes & Activities

Sixty 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.

Fifteen children have been registered for the **2016/17 Tot Time program**, a hands-on pre-school program for children ages 3-5, that aims to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten. Classes begin Tuesday, September 6.

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

Contractual classes: Bootcamp, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis and Tennis.

Staff Activities

Recreation Staff attended CPR and First Aid training on Wednesday.

Marivel Gutierrez accompanied the Gulfport Teen Council to the Florida League of Cities Conference in Hollywood, FL on Friday afternoon and returned on Saturday evening.

Tony Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Meet & Greet at Gulfport Elementary School on Wednesday.

Teen Councilmembers Cameron Althaus, Phoebe Carrazco, Sarah Eisenbaum, Katelyn Latragna, Taryn Spence, Robert Wolf, Advisor Marivel Gutierrez and City chaperone John Lapham attended the Florida League of Cities Conference Youth Program facilitated by Scott C. Paine, PhD. on Saturday, participating in group discussions related to many Government-related topics.



Left to right: Phoebe Carrazco, Sarah Eisenbaum, Robert Wolf, Cameron Althaus, Taryn Spence, Katelyn Latragna

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 40 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 5 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes

Life Safety:

- 14 Fire Inspections
- 3 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O
- 2 Plans Review
- 1 Final Alarm Test

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly. The next meeting is 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, September 20.

Eckerd College, located at 4200 54th Avenue South in St. Pete will offer **Basic CERT training** at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday & Thursday, September 20 & 22, and 9 a.m. Saturday, September 24.

The Gulfport Fire Department continued their August-November 2016 Face to Face CME for recertification of Pre-hospital Trauma Life Support. Testing will take place in November.

Chief Marenkovic and Inspector Lundh reviewed the Geckofest Site Plan provided by Justin Shea. The Fire Marshal is expected to arrive on site to inspect each vendor on the morning of the event Sept 3rd. It is MANDATORY that all food vendors have adequate fire extinguishing equipment at their booth with current certification tags attached and ready for inspection. This includes a Class K extinguisher if fryers are used.

Chief Marenkovic attended the PCFCA meeting at the Epi-Center in Largo on August 25.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Cleared blocked urinal and replaced toilet flapper in Public Services Building upstairs restroom.
- Disposed of vacuum and compact disc player at Casino.
- Installed 3-phase motor for exhaust system at Garage.
- Painted toy storage box area at Recreation Center.
- Repaired several chairs at Senior Center.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed Senior Center, Library, Clymer, Caldwell & Veterans Parks, City complex and Recreation Center.
- Trimmed, weeded & cleaned Senior Center, Library, Clymer, Caldwell & Veterans Parks, City complex and Recreation Center.
- Repaired irrigation at Senior Center and continued installation of irrigation sleeves for Shore Boulevard improvements.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades, and line trimmer and stick edger.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards following weekend events.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged ball fields daily.

Streets, Stormwater & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Assembled & delivered new residential and commercial automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers.
- Cleaned and removed debris from beach, storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways, alleyways & sidewalks.
- Cleaned debris, cans and trash following Tuesday Market.
- Continued automated street sweeping throughout City.
- Replaced storm drain lid at 54th Street & 26th Avenue.
- Restocked recycled mulch pile at Neighborhood Center.
- Added millings and set new grade in Marina parking lot.
- Crushed and disposed of boat at Marina.
- Replaced concrete storm cover at 54th Street & 23rd Avenue.
- Performed automated storm drain cleaning on 54th Street, between Gulfport Boulevard & 25th Avenue.
- Removed signs at marina in preparation for new construction.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system (Includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #45, 46, 47 & 48 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 23 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 2 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 118 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 11 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Replaced 2 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 1 water old water meter with new style meter.
- Continued semi-annual water system and hydrant flushing required by DEP.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 & 2.
- Daily rain fall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations 1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Weekly vehicle safety and maintenance inspection.
- Repaired leaking sewer manhole at 51st Street & 26th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced lower control arm in GEMS vehicle #1.
- Replaced tires and rebuilt hydraulic pump shaft on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced seatbelt latch and cable in Fire Engine #P17.
- Repaired door hinge on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Reattached rearview mirror and repaired window switch on Police vehicle #102.
- Replaced batteries in Sanitation vehicle #41.
- Charged battery and tested charging system in Parks Division's Sandpro Groomer.
- Continued to dry out and deodorize Police vehicle #12.
- Repaired A/C system in GEMS bus #11.
- Replaced hose on Sanitation vehicle #29.
- Rotated tires on Parks Division's Toro Groundskeeper.
- 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 464-7332. 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 (727) 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.
- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.
- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.
- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit www.pcclb.com.

Code Enforcement activities continued this week in 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.

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 September Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 4 of the City, also referred to as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49th Street to 58th & 59th Streets. 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.