



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *July 31 - August 6, 2016*

### **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

The beach parking lot and Shore Boulevard parking east of the Casino is temporarily closed for improvements. Shore Boulevard is open between 58<sup>th</sup> Street & Beach Boulevard. 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.

**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.

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 49<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto: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](http://www.gulfportma.com), call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto:FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com).

The topic for the Monday, August 8 **Tangerine/Tomlinson Neighborhood Watch meeting** will be *Traffic Stops: the Temporary Detention by Police*. The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center. Call 893-1022 for more information.

An **opening reception** for an exhibit of the works of the seven local artists chosen to create gecko art pieces for this year's Gecko Ball will take place at 6 p.m. Friday, August 8 in the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Email [jessica.sager@live.com](mailto:jessica.sager@live.com) for more information. Free admission/cash bar.

Peruse local artists, enjoy live music and dine at one of many fine establishments during **First Friday Gulfport Art & Gallery Walk**, on Beach Boulevard in the waterfront district on Friday, August 5, 6 - 10 p.m. Free admission. Call 322-5217 for more information.

Keep Pinellas Beautiful and the Gulfport Neighbors will join forces on Saturday, August 13 from 9 until 11 a.m. for the **Gulfport Beach Cleanup**. The group will meet at beach shelter 4. Email [Gulfport\\_neighbors@yahoo.com](mailto:Gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com) for more information.

Six Gulfport locations will participate in the **9<sup>th</sup> Annual Gecko Crawl** on Saturday, August 13, 4 - 9 p.m. Tickets: \$20 in advance at the Gulfport Welcome Center/\$25 day of event. For more information call 344-3711.

The monthly **Strand Neighborhood Watch meeting** is Wednesday, August 17 at 7 p.m. at the Gulfport Recreation Center. Brent Bardell of the SPCA will discuss *Animal Abuse*. Call 893-1022 for more information.

New to Gulfport or just want to know more information? The monthly **Welcome to Gulfport Workshop**, cohosted by Gulfport Neighbors and the Library is Thursday, August 18 at 6 p.m. Learn about City & Library services, and find out how to participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization. Call 893-1074 for more information.

Catch the Gulfport Trolley to the newly renovated Al Lang Stadium for the Saturday, August 20 **Tampa Bay Rowdies** vs. FC Edmonton game; Adult tickets \$22/kids & students \$10, available at [www.mygulfport.us/rowdiestrolley](http://www.mygulfport.us/rowdiestrolley). Tickets are also available for the Saturday, September 17 vs. Carolina Railhawks game. Departure from the Casino begins at 5 p.m. and games are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m. For more information call 893-1118.

The topic for the 7 p.m. August 24 **Stetson Neighborhood Watch meeting** is *Current Scams and How to Avoid them*, presented by Brandon Robinson. Call 893-1022 for more information.

Tickets for the **August 24 Tampa Bay Rays vs. Boston Red Sox and the September 21 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 7<sup>th</sup> inning. All trolley trips this season take place on \$2 *Hotdog Wednesdays*. For more information call 893-1118.

The next **Citywide Business Watch** event is on Thursday, August 25 at 6 p.m. at the Boca Bay Grill, 2834 Beach Boulevard. News Channel 8 Investigative Reporter Mark Douglas will talk about the media and how it reports crime. For more information call 893-1022.

The theme for the **8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.VisitGulfportFlorida.com) or at the Gulfport Welcome Center, 3101 Beach Boulevard.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Patrol**

Dispatch calls for service	112
Self-initiated calls for service	399
Offenses	24
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	65
Ordinance violations	41

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers were dispatched to the Gulfport Recreation Center on July 28 after a caller reported an unconscious woman on the sidewalk behind the building. When the woman finally came to, officers determined that she may have been there for quite a while, and she did not know how she got there. She was transported to Palms of Pasadena Hospital.

A woman reported that she received two counterfeit twenty dollar bills as cash back after a purchase at the Dollar Store. The store declined to exchange the bills because as there was no way to prove that she had received them there. She contacted police nearly 12 hours after she received the bills. They were sent to the United States Secret Service for further investigation.

Rayvada McLaurin was arrested after she stole several items from the Dollar General Store and fled from Officer Sigsbee. He arrested her after a brief chase. McLaurin had several prior theft convictions, so her charge was upgraded to a felony.

A resident in the 2600 Block of Upton Street reported that a bullet went through his bedroom window. A St. Petersburg Police Officer arrived on scene and advised there had been a shooting nearby in St. Petersburg, and the bullet was believed to have come from that incident.

Officers were dispatched to the Gulfport Casino on July 29 after a caller reported observing a man leave a large suitcase behind the Casino and walk away. Officers made contact with him a short time later and determined that he is transient and recently arrived in the area. He left his suitcase there so that he could walk around.

Eric Thomas was arrested at his residence on July 30 on an outstanding warrant for failing to appear on a criminal traffic summons.

A resident in the 5900 block of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that his bicycle, which was chained to the carport was stolen overnight.

Officers are searching for a man who was observed on store video, stealing four cases of beer from the Dollar General on July 31. The man was gone from the area when police arrived.

Officers responded to a report of an argument between an intoxicated man and a group of people in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard on August 1. The intoxicated man was punched in the face by a member of the other group. The suspect fled before police arrived but officers obtained a lead which will likely result in his identification.

Officers Nicita and Ross launched the police boat in response to a call regarding a male swimmer in distress near the Gulfport Casino dock. They reached the victim within approximately seven minutes of receiving the call, and Officer Nicita performed CPR until the victim was delivered to paramedics on the dock. Unfortunately, the man did not survive.

James Rogers was arrested on an outstanding warrant from Marion County for violation of probation for criminal mischief after he started a fight inside a bar in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard. Rogers continued to fight with officers during his arrest, and initially refused to provide his name. He was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

Stephen Schrig was arrested on August 2 after he stuffed an alcoholic beverage down his pants and attempted to leave a business in the 5800 block of 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Employees were able to hold him there until officers arrived.

A juvenile female reported on August 3 that she was walking on the Pinellas Trail when a black male on a bicycle approached her and asked her for her phone number. She declined, but he persisted, and at one point grabbed her. She was on the phone with her friend at the time and asked her to call the police. Officers circulating the area found a male on a red bicycle matching the description provided. He fled when they attempted to stop him, abandoned his bicycle and could not be located.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 9 hours this week. Detective Pham made 4 contacts, inspected a vessel, checked on a partially submerged vessel, and made a warrant arrest. Officers Nicita and Ross assisted with a drowning. They pulled the victim from the water and Officer Nicita began chest compressions while Officer Ross got them to the Casino dock.

### **Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)**

New cases:	10
Cases assigned:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases referred back to patrol:	0
Supplements received:	15

Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	4
Cases suspended-no leads:	3
Cases unfounded-no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases still active:	8

**Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a sexual battery case, a grand theft auto, and a fraud; conducted marine patrol over the weekend and arrested a man on an outstanding warrant, and; worked with agents from the FBI and IRS in a grand theft and a tax scam investigation.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for an auto theft case, a theft, a burglary and a hit and run; completed case agent evidence reviews, and; investigated an accidental drowning.

School Resource Officer Motte worked with the Pinellas County Sheriff’s Office, Pinellas Park Police Department, and St. Petersburg Police Department on the Multijurisdictional Police Explorer Academy. This year’s academy had 25 participants. The week-long course included basic law, ethics, physical training, defensive tactics training, water survival, gun safety and shooting, simunitions training, a K9 demonstration, and several other presentations on detective work regarding robbery, homicide, and property crimes.

Margaret Palmisano created a crime prevention flyer on staying safe on craigslist.com for the Gulfport Police facebook page. She also reviewed reports with stolen property with a known serial number to ensure that the proper documentation was attached showing that the item had been entered into FCIC/NCIC.

**Records**

Reports reviewed	12
Supplements reviewed:	52
Public Records requests:	17
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	3
Subpoenas processed:	14
Citizens assisted:	34

**MARINA**

Assisted in thirty one (31) pump outs evacuating four hundred ninety (490) gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand eight hundred eighty seven (3,887) gallons of gas and one thousand nine hundred one (1,901) gallons of diesel fuel fueling one hundred fifty five (155) vessels.

**Staff Activities:**

- Replaced operational light on south pump out station.
- Inspected and repaired electrical pedestal on pier 6, slip 32.
- Performed maintenance on all pump facilities.
- Procured drinks for resale.
- Repaired locks and gate on pier three.

### **Transient vessels:**

Staff welcomed five vessels of various size and type this week.

### **LIBRARY**

Visit the **Circle of Friends Book Shop** during Library hours.

### **Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, July 25, 3 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Program: Olympic Games.*

Tuesday, July 26, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Tuesday, July 26, 3 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, July 26, 5:30 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, July 27, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, July 27, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, July 27, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Program: Adventure Time!*

Wednesday, July 27, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, July 28, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, July 28, 3:30 p.m. - *Kids Yoga* facilitated by Cailey Klasson.

Thursday, July 28, 8 p.m. - *National Moth Week event.*

Friday, July 29, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

Saturday, August 6, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day:* Selections intended for adults to enjoy more complex and challenging films in a quiet and relaxed atmosphere. For movie title, call 893-1074.

Monday, August 8, 5 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 call 207-332-0787 or email [jennie@odetopluto.com](mailto:jennie@odetopluto.com).

Tuesday, August 9, 1 p.m. - *Healthy Mind/Healthy Body Book Club:* The group meets on the second Tuesday of the month. If you have interest in understanding the relationship between our thoughts and their influence on the physical body, this club is for you. Email [klane@untieyourwings.com](mailto:klane@untieyourwings.com) for more information.

Tuesday, August 11, 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 pale artwork will be provided. You supply the creativity (no, you do not have to stay within the lines).

Thursday, August 18, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of A Study in Scarlet* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Visit the Circulation Desk to borrow a copy. Call 893-1073 for more information. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.

Thursday, August 18, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop:* Co-hosted 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, August 20, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day.* Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Thursday, August 25, 11 a.m. - *First Steps Parenting Workshop:* Licensed therapist Diane Mandell will join us after Storytime to answer child development questions, provide parenting materials, share information on community resources; and engage in interactive play.

Thursday, August 25, 3:30 p.m. - *Kids Yoga*: The group meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.

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@mygulford.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulford.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 Monday, 3 p.m. - *K-5<sup>th</sup> 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@mygulford.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulford.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. - *Gulford Writers meeting*.

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulford Toastmasters*. Email [robynfeatherstonesq@gmail.com](mailto: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 July 24 - 30, 2016:**

#### **Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,359	611
Sun. 7/24	Library closed	
Mon. 7/25	213	71
Tue. 7/26	201	88
Wed. 7/27	210	90
Thu. 7/28	255	100
Fri. 7/29	311	127
Sat. 7/30	162	125

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulford.us](http://www.mygulford.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulford](http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulford) to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at [www.mygulford.us/gtv-640](http://www.mygulford.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.
- Organized site plan for Gulfport Night Out.
- Discussed upcoming Art Reception with organizer.
- Met with Gulfport Merchants to discuss new event for upcoming fiscal year.
- Distributed monthly Cultural Facilities e-newsletter.
- Contacted upcoming Cultural facilities performers for September press release info.

### **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](http://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 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South for more information.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Monthly Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is August 8. 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 August 8.

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center on Thursday, August 11 at 10:30 a.m.

Join Wendy for **Health Talk with Humana** at 10:30 a.m. Monday, August 15 as she discusses the important topic of *Battling the Aging Brain*.

Create a legacy that lasts forever! **Woodlawn Memory Gardens** will present a vital informational seminar on advance planning for funeral, cremation, or cemetery services on Wednesday, August 17 at 2 p.m. Refreshments provided. Call 893-5657 to register.

The **Health and Rehabilitation Centre at Dolphin's View** invites everyone to join them for a first-ever fishing tournament on Thursday, August 18. All skill levels are encouraged participate. Fishing poles and bait included. Prizes will be awarded for various categories. Lunch will be served following the tournament. Free.

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 August 19. 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 August 22.

Hula on over for some tropical fun during the annual **Tiki Time Luau** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 24. Enjoy island inspired foods, dancing, and the popular PHOTO BOOTH! Tickets **MUST** be obtained prior to the event. Limit 2 tickets per person.

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 August 25.

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.

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, July 24                      3:30 p.m. - Contra Dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance  
(Turnout 73)

Monday, July 25      7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance (Turnout 105)

Tuesday, July 26      9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 14)  
 Noon - Ballroom lessons with Luigi (Turnout 18)  
 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (turnout 62)

Wednesday, July 27      10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 10)  
 6:30 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 248)

Thursday, July 28      9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 10)  
 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 30)

Friday, July 29      11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan (Turnout 20)

Saturday, July 30      6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 165)

**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 Joyce Bloom

Monday, August 22      7 p.m. - USA Ballroom dance Members \$5/nonmembers \$8

**Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):**

Friday, August 5      6 p.m. - Gecko World Artists opening reception. Free Admission/cash bar

Saturday, August 6      Noon - Little Miss Pink Pearl Back To School Pageant. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door

**Catherine Hickman Theater (*Upcoming events*):**

Friday, August 5      6 p.m. - Gecko Artists opening reception. Free Admission/cash bar

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

Sunday, July 24      9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 10)  
 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Tuesday, July 26      10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 14)  
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, July 28      10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 14)

Saturday, July 30      1 p.m. - Baby Shower (Turnout 40)

**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, July 24      9 a.m. - Calvary Christian Assembly church services (Turnout 11)

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

Monday, July 25      11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 35)

Tuesday, July 26      10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 17)

Friday, July 29      10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)

Saturday, July 30      11 a.m. - Baby Shower (Turnout 30)

**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 is reserved 1 - 5 p.m. Saturday August 6 & 2 - 6 p.m. Saturday, August 20 for baby showers, and 1 - 6 p.m. Saturday, August 27 for a wedding reception.

**Programs, Classes & Activities**

Seven Children have been 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.

Registration is underway for the **2016/17 Tot Time program**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on 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.

One hundred thirty six children have been registered for the **2016 Summer Recreation Program**. The program lasts eight weeks and is available to children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Hours of registration are Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Summer program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra fee. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

Sixty two teens are registered for the **2015/16 Teen Night Program** for teens in middle school thru age 17. Program hours are 6 - 9 p.m. Monday, Wednesday & Friday. Annual registration fee: \$2 for residents, \$22 for nonresidents.

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

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 44 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Water Rescue
- 4 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Vehicle Fire
- 2 Haz-Mat Calls
- 1 Gas Leak

### **Life Safety:**

- 9 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspections
- 1 Fire Alarm Permit

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets monthly. The next training session is Thursday, August 18 at 7 p.m. at Gulfport Police Department. This month's meeting will include a presentation on *Mission Manager* incident management software for daily team management and live missions.

Primary Engine 17 is in Ocala for repairs and will be returned in mid-to-late August.

The Gulfport Fire Department is hosting two EMT Students from St. Petersburg College internship field program, Lt. Firefighter/Paramedic Grady on the A-shift is preceptor for one, and the second student on B-shift is with Lt Firefighter/Paramedic [Scott Burford](#).

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Cleared blocked toilet in in Police Station break room, and urinals in men's room at beach & Casino.

- Repaired shelving & Friends' Room a/c unit at Library.
- Hung coat rack and folder holder at Senior Center.
- Removed broken key from door at Dog Park.
- Delivered mail to post office for Finance Department.

## **Parks**

- Set up tents for Gulfport Night Out and removed following event.
- Emptied trash and removed fencing following Volleyball tournaments.
- Built concrete slabs for new trash receptacles
- Replaced nets on basketball court at Recreation Center
- Removed past event banners on Gulfport Boulevard
- Replaced air hose and installed additional air hose at Parks Department shop.
- Removed debris from storm drain at pier and lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Continued work on tree lights and electrical outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed Tangerine & Greenways, Beach, Marina, Lions Club & Recreation Center green spaces, Tomlinson & Wood Ibis Parks, 56<sup>th</sup> Street drainage area, 55<sup>th</sup> Street median, and York & 49<sup>th</sup> Street termini.
- Repaired irrigation at Senior Center and continued installation of irrigation sleeves for Shore Boulevard improvements.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched City Complex, Hoyt Field & Library, and cleaned beach.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- 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.
- Barricaded storm drain at 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Removed and disposed of large piles of debris from Lincoln Cemetery.
- Reset mailbox at 911 Fremont Street.
- Assembled and installed 8 new signs along 59<sup>th</sup> Street, replacing stolen signs.

## 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 #9, 10, 11 & 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 29 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 6 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 116 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 10 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 2 old meters with new style electronic meters.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Repaired water breaks at 4914 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 5308 Gulfport Boulevard, and fire hydrant at 62<sup>nd</sup> Street & 15<sup>th</sup> 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 5113 Tangerine Avenue.
- Cleaned and televised storm water line at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced tire on Police vehicle #12.
- Reinstalled tire on Police vehicle #54.
- Removed and patched tire on Parks vehicle #85.
- Remounted rear tire on Parks Division mower.
- Sanded, painted and affixed reflective decal on Sanitation vehicle #47.
- Replaced broken windshield wiper on Police vehicle #111.
- 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.pcclb.com).

**Code Enforcement** activities have moved 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 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets to the City Limits.

The number of Code Enforcement cases for July was 131. The fiscal year-to-date total number of cases is 1,634. The number of citizen complaints for July was 10, making a fiscal year-to-date total of 116. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 7.0 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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

**August 10, 2016 Board of Adjustment:**

V16-15; 5137 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Variance request:

1. To reduce the side yard setback requirement by 4.14 feet, from 10 feet to 5.86 feet, and;
2. reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 29.23 feet, from 40 feet to 10.77 feet to allow for a proposed addition to an existing detached dwelling unit that is part of a multiple family use of the property.

V16-16; 2401 54<sup>th</sup> Street South; Variance request due to an existing, unpermitted 6' x 16' shed:

1. to reduce the separation distance from the principal structure by 5 feet, from 12 feet to 7 feet, and;
2. reduce the side yard setback requirement by 3 feet, from 6 feet to 3 feet.