



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *October 8 - 14, 2017*

The Gulfport Neighbors and the Cities of Gulfport & St. Petersburg gathered for the **Mayors' 49<sup>th</sup> Street Cleanup and Chiefs' Chat** (photo below). The event was a huge success.



The **Gulfport Public Library** is collecting toiletries, diapers, paper products and nonperishable food items for residents of Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria. Drop off donated items in the bin in the Youth Services area.

**Hurricane Guides** are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library & Fire Station. The Atlantic basin Hurricane season ends November 30. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits. Basic supplies to keep on hand:

- Flashlights and extra bulbs
- Water
- Battery-operated radio
- Fully charged battery-operated lanterns (no candles or kerosene lanterns)
- Extra batteries
- Matches
- Clock (wind-up or battery-operated)
- Plastic garbage bags
- Working fire extinguishers
- Scissors
- Clean change of clothes, rain gear, sturdy swamp boots

**October is National Fire Prevention Month** and serves as an excellent time to examine your preparedness. Do you have a home fire escape plan? Have you changed smoke-alarm batteries within the last year? Prepare and practice your fire escape plan twice a year with everyone in your household, including children and people with disabilities. It's also a good idea to practice your plan with overnight guests. Tips to consider when preparing your escape plan:

- Draw a map of each level of your home showing all doors and windows. Have two ways out of each room. Make sure all doors and windows that lead outside open easily.
- Only purchase collapsible escape ladders evaluated by a recognized testing laboratory, and use it only in a real emergency.
- Teach children how to escape on their own in case you cannot help them.
- Have a plan for everyone in your home with a disability.
- Practice your fire escape plan at night and during daytime.

**City of Gulfport residential water customers** are eligible for a rebate of up to \$100 after the purchase and installation of a high efficiency water saving toilet. The application and guidelines are available at [www.mygulfport.us/toilet-rebate-program](http://www.mygulfport.us/toilet-rebate-program). Restrictions apply. Call 893-1016 for more information.

**Free smoke detectors are available to elderly and low income households within Gulfport City limits.** Call Fire Chief James Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Bring your group, friends or family to volunteer the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach & Area Cleanup** Saturday, October 14, 9 - 11 a.m. Volunteers will meet at Gulfport Beach Shelter # 4. For more information email [Gulfport\\_neighbors@yahoo.com](mailto:Gulfport_neighbors@yahoo.com).

Celebrate the 107<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the City's incorporation during **Founder's Day: A Celebration of Gulfport** on Saturday, October 14. Party with old and new friends! Daytime activities are 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.: costumed dog parade; games; family activities; live music; craftsman demonstrations; mullet toss contest; Mullet King crowning, and more! Kick up your heels and show off your best moves during **Gulfport under the Stars**, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. Dance music provided by DJ Sam. Tickets: \$10, available at the door or in advance at the History Museum, Beach Bazaar and Gulfport Welcome Center. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served, and wine, beer, and soda will be available for a donation.

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).

Join the City of Gulfport, the Gulfport Neighbors, and Keep Pinellas Beautiful at the **2017 International Coastal Clam Bayou Cleanup** at 9 a.m. Saturday, October 21. Call 893-1118 for event information.

Synchrony Productions will present **Beauty and the Beast** at the Catherine A. Hickman Theater at 7 p.m. Friday & Saturday, October 20 & 21, and at 3 p.m. Sunday, October 22. For more information call 269-3343 or visit [www.synchartpro.org](http://www.synchartpro.org).

Visit Gulfport during **Third Saturday Gulfport Art-Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District 6 - 10 p.m. on October 21. For more information call 322-5217.

The **Boca Ciega High School Homecoming Parade** is Wednesday, October 25 at 5 p.m. Help support the BCHS community as the Pirates march through the downtown area.

Dance the night away at **Swingtime's 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Halloween Costume Ball** at the Gulfport Casino 7 p.m. - midnight Wednesday, October 25. The event features a costume parade and contest with prizes. Tickets: \$10; call 813-840-3715 for more information.

**Junk in the Trunk** returns to the 49<sup>th</sup> Street Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday, October 28, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Bring your unwanted stuff to trash, swap or donate.

The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation and the Town Shores Masters Association will co-host the **4<sup>th</sup> Annual Monster Mash** at the Gulfport Casino on Saturday, October 28, 7 - 11 p.m. Dance to the Four of a Kynd band and enjoy raffle prizes, dance & costume contests while feasting on great eats. Everyone loves Halloween, so put on your best costume and join us! Tickets on sale at Beach Bazaar, Casino, Town Shores office and the Welcome Center.

The Tampa Bay Beach Bums will host a **2-day Halloween Tricky Treats Volleyball Tournament** on Gulfport Beach on Saturday & Sunday, October 28 & 29.

Put on your best costume and take the kids to the **Halloween Bash at the Gulfport Recreation Center** on Tuesday, October 31, 7 - 9 p.m. Carnival games, Costume Contest, Haunted House, Tot Boo Room and Snack Shack. For more information call 893-1068.

The deadline to sign up your Gulfport address for the brochure for the Saturday, November 4 permit-free **Fall Citywide Yard Sale** is Friday, October 27. Please, one address per registration. Visit [www.mygulfport.us/gulfport-city-wide-yard-sale](http://www.mygulfport.us/gulfport-city-wide-yard-sale) to fill out the web form, or email [kossola@mygulfport.us](mailto:kossola@mygulfport.us) with your Gulfport address. Residents who do not have internet can fill out a form at City Hall, 2401 53<sup>rd</sup> Street or the Gulfport Public Library, 5501 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue. In the event of rain, the yard sale will be rescheduled to Sunday, November 5.

Girls, Inc. of Pinellas will host the **8<sup>th</sup> Annual Father Daughter Ball** at the Gulfport Casino on Saturday, November 4, 6 - 9 p.m.; elegant dinner, auction prizes, DJ and special entertainment, festive attire, portraits and corsages available for purchase. Admission: \$99 per couple. Pre-registration required; call 544-6230 X112 for more information.

The WRD Restaurant Association and the Gulfport Neighbors will host the **Second Annual Gulfport Chef's Table Event** on Beach Boulevard 6 - 10 p.m. Monday, November 6. This outdoor fine dining experience will highlight Gulfport's thriving food scene and feature the offerings of ten local restaurants and chefs at a community table on Beach Boulevard.

Whether you served in the military or serve on the volleyball court, join in the **City of Gulfport and VETSports Heroes Weekend** on Saturday, November 11 at 11 a.m. This is a great way for the community to participate in Veteran's Day while giving back to local Veterans. Get involved by entering in the parade or entering your team in the VETSports volleyball tournament. Register at [www.mygulfport.us/heroesweekend](http://www.mygulfport.us/heroesweekend).

The **Citywide Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street. The **Marina District Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Lions club. 4630 Tifton Drive. The **Strand Area Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Recreation Center. 5730 Shore Boulevard. The **Stetson Area Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Eleazer Hearing Room, 1401 61<sup>st</sup> Street.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Patrol**

Dispatch calls for service	153
Self-initiated calls for service	313
Offenses	37
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	40
Ordinance violations	38

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

A bicycle seat and headlight were reported stolen from a locked bicycle outside a residence in the 5600 block of Tangerine Avenue on October 5.

A resident in the 4900 Block of Jersey Avenue reported that someone broke his car window and stole several items.

Narcotic medication was reported stolen from the medicine room at the Boca Ciega Nursing Home. There was no sign of forced entry. Employees with keys are considered suspects but no arrests have been made.

A resident in the 3000 Block of Dupont Street reported that his bicycle was stolen from his screened patio sometime overnight.

A resident in the 5300 block of 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that someone entered his apartment while he was on vacation and stole his television.

Alfred Holcombe was arrested for DUI on October 6 after he was stopped in the 2500 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street for operating scooter without a tag. His breath alcohol content was .101/.103.

Officers were dispatched to the 2100 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street on October 7 after a caller reported a woman in a Jeep Cherokee using drugs in the Save-a-Lot parking lot. Jennifer Taal was found slumped over in the driver's seat with a shoelace around her arm and a needle in her hand. She was also in possession of crack cocaine. She was evaluated by rescue and arrested.

A resident in the 1800 Block of 56<sup>th</sup> Street reported on October 8 that sometime in the previous four days someone cut a cable lock on his work trailer and stole an Echo blower.

Officers responded to in the 1200 Block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street after a vehicle in the northbound lane attempted to make a left turn into a driveway on the south side of the street, and was struck by a southbound driver. Both vehicles were inoperable and all parties refused medical treatment. The driver attempting to turn was cited for failure to yield to right of way.

Officers were dispatched a report of a fight on a school bus in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard on October 9. A window was broken during the incident but no injuries were reported. The juveniles were removed from the bus and released to their guardians. Several other juveniles suffered panic and anxiety attacks and were attended to by rescue.

Officer Smith closed an auto theft case with the October 10 arrest of a juvenile after his DNA was found in a stolen vehicle recovered by GPD.

A padlock on the Gulfport Lions Club gate was found to have been cut off on October 11. Nothing was stolen from the property and nothing else was tampered with.

A resident in the 4700 block of Baywood Point Drive reported she attempted to call Amazon about a purchase, dialing a number she found online. The person she spoke to claimed to be an Amazon employee but scammed the victim out of \$1000 by convincing her to sign up for Bitcoin and provide access to the account.

The **Marine Unit** was on the water for 4 hours this week. A new marine officer was trained and 1 boater contact was made.

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

New cases:	19
Cases assigned:	10
Cases suspended-no leads:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Supplements received:	16
Cases cleared with arrest:	5
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	10

## **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a theft case, a burglary, a runaway, and fraud. He also continued investigating multiple burglaries by suspect Lupen Font.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for multiple burglaries committed by suspect Lupen Font, and attended a Kinesic Interview and Interrogation training course.

Officer Motte assisted the school with several minor altercations and misconduct in which students received school consequences in lieu of criminal charges; mentored and counseled four students; assisted other agencies with a theft investigation and locating a student with a warrant; met with the parent of a habitually truant student; taught the Monday night Police Explorer meeting on the topic of Baker Act, and; provided security for two football games.

Officer Embry assisted a detective from Polk County regarding a BCHS student who committed a crime in his jurisdiction; met with several parents regarding concerns of student misconduct and attendance issues; arranged for two parents to meet at the school to resolve issues regarding their children not getting along, and; provided security for a football game.

Crime analyst Margaret Palmisano created and distributed a bulletin for Ofc. Palazzolo in an attempt to ID a retail theft suspect, and submitted quarterly seat belt citation data to DHSMV.

## **Records**

Reports reviewed	6
Supplements reviewed:	51
Public Records requests:	66
Background checks:	5
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints	1
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted	52

## **MARINA**

Assisted with fourteen (14) pump outs evacuating two hundred eighty five (285) gallons of waste.

Pumped one thousand six hundred twenty eight (1,628) gallons of gas and one hundred thirty (130) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling forty four (44) vessels.

### **Transient vessels:**

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

### **Staff activities:**

- Prepared store Inventory for fiscal year 2017.
- Installed latches on fire boxes and readjusted lift bunks on pier 4.
- Purchased and stocked Ship Store merchandise and drinks for resale.
- Performed routine maintenance on northeast pump out.
- Reattached loose dock boards on piers 5 & 6.
- Removed, repaired and reinstalled pump out valve on BCYC pier 7, slip 1

## **LIBRARY**

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

Monday, October 2, 3 p.m. - *K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Club*.

Tuesday, October 3, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*.

Tuesday, October 3, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga*.

Tuesday, October 3, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*.

Tuesday, October 3, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, October 4, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, October 4, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*.

Wednesday, October 4, 1 p.m. - *Gulfport Poetry Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, October 4, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*.

Wednesday, October 4, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, October 5, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*.

Thursday, October 5, 1 p.m. - *Suncoast Center Family Services Staff Meeting*

Friday, October 6, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*.

Friday, October 6, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, October 7, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Wednesday, October 17, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*: Kids, indulge your passion for the tiny building blocks of creativity! Meets in the Youth Services area.

Thursday, October 19, 11 a.m. - *CoffeeTalk Book Club discussion of Night by Elie Wiesel*. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, October 19, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*: Young readers boost their confidence by sharing a story with Maya, a specially trained Golden Retriever. She visits our children's area on the third Thursday of every month.

Saturday, October 21, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: This month's teen movie is an old-fashioned horror movie, about a girl who receives a box that grants wishes. Of course, all magic comes with a price, and it may not be one she wants to pay. Stars Ryan Phillippe. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Monday, October 23, noon - *Lunch & Learn presents S.H.I.N.E. Medicare 101*: Learn about health care and prescription drug plan options as a Medicare beneficiary. Find out about state and federal programs to assist low income beneficiaries with Medicare costs such as paying your Medicare premiums, coinsurance, and deductibles. Program courtesy of Area Agency on Aging of Pasco & Pinellas, Inc. For more information call 893-1074.

Tuesday, October 24, 10 a.m. - *ACA Healthcare Navigators*: Onsite assistance with qualifying for coverage and selecting health insurance plans.

Thursday, October 26, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Follows Storytime on the fourth Thursday of the month. Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

Every Wednesday thru October 25, 1 p.m. - *Gulfport Poetry Writers Group*: Brown bag lunch meeting for members to read and share their poetry, and provide critical analyses of fellow poets' works. If time allows, members will also write poems based on prompts (both visual and

stylistic explanations), or be given voluntary assignments to share at the next meeting. All levels of experience are welcome. For more information call Rob McCabe at 366-8909 or email [writer.rob.mccabe@gmail.com](mailto:writer.rob.mccabe@gmail.com).

Thursday, October 26, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Follows Storytime on the fourth Thursday of each month. Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

Thursday, October 26, 11 a.m. - *Kids Yoga*: Meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Thursday, October 26, 6 p.m. - *Paranormal Tools & Techniques*: A professional ghost hunter explains how it's done. Get in the "spirit" of the season!

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

Saturday, November 4, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, November 7, 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](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.us) for more information.

Thursday, November 9, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Monday, November 13, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*: Presented by Jennie (Gilmore) White of Ode to Pluto Astrology. Call 207-332-0787 or email [jennie@odetopluto.com](mailto:jennie@odetopluto.com) for more information.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Club: We'll try a fun new activity every week, explore engineering through building with Lego's, and meet other young scientists and engineers in the community! Email [cklasson@mygulfport.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.us) or call 893-1074 to register.

Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*: Bring a dictionary and bag lunch. A different language group meets each weekday: Tuesday - French; Italian; Wednesday - Spanish; Friday - German. For more information call Mel Donovan at 893-1074.

Every Tuesday, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step* meeting. For more information call 360-9069.

Every first & third Tuesday, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*: Everyone is invited to join Allen Goldenson for some strummin' fun!

Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. Email [contact@gulfporttoastmasters.com](mailto:contact@gulfporttoastmasters.com) for more information.

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

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

### **Library Services/Statistic October 1 - 7, 2017:**

#### **Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,494	1,222
Sun. 10/1	Library closed	
Mon. 10/2	293	234
Tue. 10/3	268	198

Wed. 10/4	213	197
Thu. 10/5	219	178
Fri. 10/6	265	194
Sat. 10/7	226	163

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport) to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at [www.mygulfport.us/gtv640](http://www.mygulfport.us/gtv640). Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Created designs for e-newsletter.
- Commenced preparation of November calendar.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.

### **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 Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. 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). The Gulfport Senior Center is on Facebook. Find us at [www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter](http://www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter).

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, call 893-2237 or stop by the Gulfport Senior Center at 5501 27<sup>th</sup> 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 Multipurpose 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 for more information.

Need a ride in Gulfport? Call the **Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation GetGO free ride service** at 542-7757. The non-profit program transports residents to destinations within City limits free of charge.

Health insurance can be very confusing. Hospitalization coverage? Prescription drug coverage? Emergency services? Wellness Services? The **Gulfport Open Enrollment Insurance Expo** can help you figure it out. Join us at 3 p.m. Wednesday, October 18 to speak with representatives from various Medicare supplement companies and SHINE Volunteers. FREE Admission and swag!

Unwind with your Senior Center friends and stroll through a guided tour of **Sunken Gardens** on Thursday, October 19. Explore cascading waterfalls, beautiful demonstration gardens and more than 50,000 tropical/exotic plants & flowers. Round trip transportation, admission & tour: GEMS members \$12; nonmembers \$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 October 20. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

Join Palms of Pasadena Hospital CEO Sharon Hayeson at 3 p.m. Monday, October 23 for **Caring Connection** and Palms of Pasadena Hospital's Acute Care for the Elderly (ACE) Unit, the only ACE Unit in Pinellas County. This program focuses on the unique needs of older adults and care that promotes function, autonomy, and dignity.

At some point in our lives, most of us will need the kind of help that is provided by community resources, but most of us don't know what is available. Join Empath Health at 2 p.m. Wednesday, October 25 for **Something for Everyone**, and learn about the wide array of services for people coping with the changes that life can bring. Whether you're coping with a new diagnosis or living with a chronic condition, seeking assistance to stay at home and manage an illness, caring for someone, grieving a loss, or hoping to find meaning by helping others, we have something for you.

Join the Out-to-Lunch Bunch for a taste of the historic **Columbia Restaurant** in Clearwater Beach on Thursday, October 26. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$8; nonmembers \$10. Select your meal from the menu & pay your own check. Visit the GEMS office for the restaurant menu.

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 October 26.

**Happy Birthday to You!** Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, October 27. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles, and many other goodies at **First Friday Flea Market** on November 3 beginning at 9 a.m.

**Clubhouse Chatter** meets every Wednesday at 1 p.m. through November 8 This group offers open discussion about the MLB season and your hometown Rays; the good, the bad and the ugly and what the season could have been. Topics will include player personnel, draft picks, farm system (minor leagues), coaching staff, spring season, ticket pricing, and the future of Tropicana Field. Rays staff and players will be invited to attend.

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center on Thursday, November 9 at 10:30 a.m.

Have you always wanted to learn how to play Bridge but thinks it's too difficult? Join the **Bridge 101** class every Monday at 9 a.m. This class is for those who know nothing or almost nothing about Bridge. Learn to bid and all the tricks to playing.

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.

Bring your game face for a friendly game of **Texas Hold'em** every Tuesday & Friday at high noon. No stakes; chips only.

**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 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):**

Sunday, October 1	7 p.m. - Ballroom dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 37)
Tuesday, October 3	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 22) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 18) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 44)
Wednesday, October 4	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 14) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 237)
Thursday, October 5	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 8) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 25) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 10)
Friday, October 6	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 22)
Saturday, October 7	5:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 150)

#### **Casino (upcoming events):**

Most Sundays	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8
Every second Sunday	6 p.m. - Soul Night with Swing Time 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

Every fourth Monday 7 p.m. - USA Dance ballroom dance: members \$5, non-members \$8

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

Saturday, October 7, 7:30 p.m. - *Think Pink Affair Fashion Show & Cancer Awareness event* (Turnout 60)

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

Saturday & Sunday, October 14 & 15, 2 p.m. & p.m. - SAGES (*Senior Actors Guild & Education Services*) presents *Grandma Goes Off Her Rocker*. Tickets \$15 at the door. Advance discount tickets available at Beach Bazaar or by contacting SAGES at 536-7076 or at [www.senioractorsguild.com](http://www.senioractorsguild.com).

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

Sunday, October 1 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church (Turnout 18)

**Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):**

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

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

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

**Scout Hall (*last week's events*):**

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

Monday, October 2 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 22)

Tuesday, October 3 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 11)

Thursday, October 4 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 10)

Friday, October 5 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 13)

**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**

The multipurpose room was reserved 4 - 9 p.m. Saturday, October 7 for a wedding..

Forty nine children have been registered for the **2017/18 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.

Fourteen children are registered for the **2017/18 Tot Time program**, and six for **VPK**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5 that aims to make learning fun for children, and helps prepare them for Kindergarten. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply with Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas, Inc. and receive a Certificate of Eligibility to attend the program. Class begins Tuesday, September 5.

Twenty three teens are registered for the **2017/18 Teen Night Program**, a great hangout 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, Tennis, Watercolor and Zumba.

### **Staff Activities**

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Calls for Service:**

- 40 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Single Engine Response

#### **Life Safety:**

- 12 Fire Inspections
- 3 C.O.s

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is October 19 at Gulfport City Hall.

Staff continued their Advanced Cardiac Life Support Recertification with the CME Prep course provided by the Target Solutions and the County CME Committee. ACLS is renewed every two years. Final testing will be in November.

Congratulations to FF/PM Rene Fernandez on his promotion to fill the vacant A-Shift Lieutenant position.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Replaced lock on cash register drawer and installed pamphlet holder at City Hall.
- Repaired a/c unit at Scout Hall.
- Removed graffiti from Tonkin Playground equipment.
- Helped relocate volleyball nets at Beach.
- Treated for ants at Senior Center & Library.
- Repaired cabinet hinge at Senior Center.
- Installed window blinds and repaired foosball table at Recreation Center, and purchased supplies for Halloween Bash.
- Purchased and painted benches, repaired mailbox, replaced electrical outlet and hung blackboard at Historical Museum.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

### **Parks Maintenance**

- Continued post-storm cleanup of debris on City parks & properties, and fallen tree at Marina.
- Spread, graded and tilled sand on Volleyball courts.
- Repaired electric outlets and, painted benches and installed bench outside historical museum.
- Replaced lights and relocated soda lines at Casino bar area.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and Pier.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned Veterans Park, museum, Scout Hall & beach parking lot.
- Mowed Beach, Recreation Center, Senior Center & Library green spaces, Chase block, Dog Park, Hoyt perimeter, Clymer & Veterans Parks, and 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue sign area.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, and sharpened/replaced blades.
- Inspected irrigation clocks and continued installation of irrigation sleeves along Shore Boulevard project area.
- 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**

- Continued clearing and removal of storm debris obstructing City roadways.
- Continued free pick-up of all residential storm debris.

### **Water**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system.
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters.
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall.).
- Daily check of ground water levels.

- Completed routes #23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 75 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 5 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 84 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 15 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 water meters that were 20+ years old with new electronic meters.

### **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.
- Replaced sewer lateral and installed clean-out at 5626 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Stormwater**

- Formed and poured replacement curb inlet tops for future use.
- Formed and poured concrete flume to storm inlet at 5140 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced oil and filter on Sanitation vehicle #31 and Police vehicle #104.
- Performed body repairs on Parks Division vehicle #710.
- Replaced oil, filter, and battery on Water Division vehicle #20; and pressure-tested cooling system to check for leaks.
- Replaced batteries on Police vehicles #102 & 116.
- Replaced battery and fuel pump on Police vehicle #4.
- Replaced wheel chair lift cylinders on GEMS vehicle #5.
- Replaced starter and battery on Police vehicle #18 following floodwater damage.

## **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 464-7723. 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](http://www.pcclb.com).

Code Enforcement activities have moved to Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast area which generally extends north to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58<sup>th</sup> Street and east to 49<sup>th</sup> Street.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous. E-mail correspondence is considered a public record, so if you wish to make a complaint using e-mail, please understand that such communications are not anonymous.

To review Code Enforcement activities documents for more detailed information and a map of Code Enforcement areas visit the Special Documents section at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us).

**October 17 City Council/CRA meeting:**

**S17-02;** 5801 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Conditional use application with site plan for a proposed day care center. P&Z RECOMMENED APPROVAL