



Gulfport Community Update

October 15 - 21, 2017

The Gulfport Historical Society hosted a fun-filled **Founders' Day** celebration on October 14, followed by a night of **Dancing under the Stars** (photos below). It was day for everyone.



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. 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:

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.

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 **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 **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 16th 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 49th Street Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Saturday, October 28, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Bring your unwanted stuff to trash, swap or donate. Please no firearms, drugs, liquor, paints, chemicals or batteries. Enjoy Coffee with a Cop and register your bike and get a free helmet for kids. Drop off nonperishable food items for hurricane victims. Get gardening tips from the folks from the Community Garden. See a demo of the Boca Ciega High School Robotics Club entry in the National STEM Competition. There will be music for your listening and dancing pleasure and Halloween treats for the kiddos dressed in costume. If you are available to donate two or three hours to help with this fun event please call the Gulfport Neighbors at 698-9471.

The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation and the Town Shores Masters Association will co-host the **4th 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 and 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 to fill out the web form, or email kossola@mygulfport.us with your Gulfport address. Residents who do not have internet can fill out a form at City Hall, 2401 53rd Street or the Gulfport Public Library, 5501 28th Avenue. In the event of rain, the yard sale will be rescheduled to Sunday, November 5.

Girls, Inc. of Pinellas will host the **8th 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, Stetson University 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.

The **Citywide Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th 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 61st Street.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	164
Self-initiated calls for service	377
Offenses	44
Arrests	3
Traffic citations	83
Ordinance violations	35

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

While on patrol in the early morning hours of October 12, Officer Novak discovered a detached garage on fire in the 5700 block of 17th Avenue. The fire damaged the wall and roof of the garage, and a vehicle parked inside. The garage was locked when Officer Novak discovered the fire and the resident later advised officers that her keys had been stolen in a separate incident.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a light pole down in the 4900 block of 17th Avenue. Tire marks indicated a vehicle turning right from 17th Avenue, made a sharp turn and hit the pole. Duke Energy responded and disconnected the power source for the pole's light.

Two patrons were caught on camera stealing 2 cases of beer and exiting a bar in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard. One suspect has been identified, and the investigation is ongoing.

The owner of a boat moored at the Gulfport Marina reported on October 13 that sometime in the 3 previous days someone entered his boat and stole a \$4,000 Garmin GPS system.

Officers were dispatched to the Boca Ciega Nursing Home after the Administrator reported a nurse stole several oxycodone pills that were supposed to be administered to patients. The nurse was confronted and fired, and the investigation is ongoing.

A resident in the 5300 block of 14th Avenue reported his dog was bitten on the face by a neighbor's dog during an evening walk. The dog ran out of his home while his owners were leaving, ran across the street and bit the dog, leaving marks and causing minor bleeding. The caller wanted to report what had happened in case something happened to his dog later on.

Officers responded to a report of a hit and run in the 5300 block of Dellett Avenue. While speaking with witnesses who heard the initial crash they traced fluid drops and skid marks from the crash scene and found the at-fault car which had crashed into the curb and damaged a small fence. They recovered open beer bottles from the front driver's seat, and the vehicle was impounded while attempts are being made to find the driver.

A car was reported stolen from the 2100 block of 56th Street after the owner left the engine running and the key in the ignition. It was found several minutes later at Town Shores but the keys were missing. The car was returned to the owner.

An employee at Siri's Gourmet Pizza and Burgers left an animatronic Halloween decoration on inside the front door overnight which repeatedly activated the alarm motion detector, resulting in police responding to nine false alarms. City ordinance prohibits false alarms and prescribes that a citation be issued for each one in excess of three in a twelve-month period. However, the business was issued only one citation.

Officers made contact with a juvenile in the 3100 block of Beach Boulevard who had two probable cause affidavits for Grand Theft Auto. He was taken into custody and transferred to Pinellas County Juvenile Corrections Facility.

Curtez Blocker was arrested for felony driving while license suspended following a vehicle crash in the 1500 block of 49th Street.

A resident in the 5000 Block of 25th Avenue reported on October 16 that someone stole a pumpkin and knocked over a pelican statue in her yard, causing minor damage.

A resident in the 2300 block of 56th Street reported she went inside her home after being dropped off by a taxi, leaving her luggage on the lawn. When she returned it was gone.

Officer Marshall observed Timothy Wallace operating a scooter without a tag in the 5000 Block of Gulfport Boulevard. Wallace got off the scooter and fled the area before Officer Marshall made contact with him. The scooter was impounded and there is probable cause for Wallace's arrest for driving while license suspended.

A resident attempting to park on the street in the 5500 Block of 27th Avenue sideswiped a parked vehicle on October 17, damaging the front quarter panel.

Officers were dispatched to Gulfport Elementary after office staff reported they had a child in the nurse's office who had been struck by a car while walking home. There were no apparent injuries, and the child was unable to provide a description of the car.

St. Petersburg Police requested assistance in locating a stolen vehicle. It was found in the 3000 block of 49th Street and returned to the owner.

Detective Pham and Officer Priest were assigned to assist the Gainesville Police Department with security during a speech by a self-declared white supremacist on October 19. The university reached out across the state seeking assistance to ensure security during the event.

The **Marine Unit** was not in use this week.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	30
Cases assigned:	6
Cases suspended-no leads:	19
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Supplements received:	12
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	9

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary case, a GTA, a fraud, a theft, and a runaway; closed 2 cases with the arrest of Benjamin Langkamp for GTA, and; provided security for an event in Gainesville.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for three death investigations, two frauds, and an armed robbery; investigated a possible arson in, and; attended a financial crimes meeting with local, state & federal law enforcement agencies.

Officer Motte took a police report for a late reported cell phone theft, but there were no leads so the case was suspended. He also assisted the school with addressing several acts of misconduct, disturbances and fights in which the school issued consequences in lieu of criminal charges; taught the Monday night Explorer meeting on the topic of search and arrest; provided security for an after school event; contacted several teachers to schedule classroom instruction for Driver Ed, a math class, and an American Government/History class.

Officer Embry met with a parent regarding allegations of a sexual battery that occurred in St. Pete and documented by St. Pete Police, and spoke with the complainant the following day; met with a parent about problems regarding her daughter; spoke with a student about bringing tobacco products on school grounds, and; provided security for a football game.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano conducted pawn checks on 21 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description; created and distributed an attempt to locate a missing juvenile bulletin for Det. Pham; compiled and distributed open case lists; attended a 6 hour seminar at FDLE on financial crimes, and; created and distributed a bulletin for Ofc. Rossi in an attempt to ID a retail theft suspect.

Records

Reports reviewed	16
Supplements reviewed:	68
Public Records requests:	32
Background checks:	4
Bike registrations:	1

Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	19
Citizens assisted	50

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, October 9, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Monday, October 9, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program.*

Tuesday, October 10, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, October 10, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, October 11, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, October 11, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, October 11, 1 p.m. - *Gulfport Poetry Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, October 11, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout.*

Wednesday, October 11, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, October 12, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime.*

Thursday, October 12, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night.*

Friday, October 13, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Friday, October 13, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

Wednesday 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.

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*: After being coerced into working for a crime boss, a young getaway driver finds himself taking part in a heist doomed to fail. Stars Ansel Elgort, John Hamm, Jamie Foxx, Lily James, and Kevin Spacey. Call 893-1074 for 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@mygulfpport.us for more information.

Thursday, November 9, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: Two drag performers and their transgender friend travel across Australia in an elderly RV named Priscilla. Stars Hugo Weaving, Guy Pearce, and Terence Stamp. Refreshments available. Donations benefit the LGBTQ Resource Center. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Monday, November 13, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*: We'll chat about how the ancient practice relates to your modern life. Curious and courageous volunteers are welcome to call ahead with their date and time of birth, and as time allows, we will take peek at your charts. Presented by Jennie (Gilmore) White of Ode to Pluto Astrology. Call 207-332-0787 or email jennie@odetopluto.com for more information.

Tuesday, November 14, 10:30 a.m. & Thursday, November 16, 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. We also provide info on bus routes serving this area; access to the Pinellas Trail. Find out how you can participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization.

Wednesday, November 15, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*: Kids, indulge your passion for the tiny building blocks of creativity! Meets in the Youth Services area.

Thursday, November 16, 11 a.m. - *CoffeeTalk Book Club*. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, November 16, 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.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *K-5th 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@mygulfpport.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@gulfpporttoastmasters.com for more information.

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

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

Library Services/Statistic October 8 - 14, 2017:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,677	1,267
Sun. 10/8	Library closed	
Mon. 10/9	277	236
Tue. 10/10	351	220
Wed. 10/11	276	192
Thu. 10/12	242	194
Fri. 10/13	264	179
Sat. 10/14	261	182

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfport.us/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.
- Continued preparation of November calendar.
- Provided audio coverage for Gulfport under the Stars event.
- 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. The Gulfport Senior Center is on Facebook. Find us at 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 27th Avenue.

Gulfport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS) offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65 plus \$2 per ride.

GEMS also offers transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital and the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

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

The **Gulfport Senior Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Monday & Thursday for qualified Gulfport residents 50 & older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Rachel, or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport 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.

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.

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 November 17. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

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 8 | 6 p.m. - Soul Night with Swingtime (Turnout 128) |
| Tuesday, October 10 | 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 22)
Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 16)
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 45) |
| Wednesday, October 11 | 10 a.m. - Keller-Williams seminar (Turnout 120)
6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 225) |
| Thursday, October 12 | 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 12)
10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 18)
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 20) |
| Friday, October 13 | 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 30)
4 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 125) |
| Saturday, October 14 | 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango Milonga (Turnout 73) |

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 |

Friday, October 12 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

Fifty two 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 four 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

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

Six **Gulfport Teen Councilmembers** attended the monthly meeting on Friday. Marivel Gutierrez facilitated. Topics discussed were Advisor report, approval of the August minutes, FY 2017/18 elections, upcoming events, Florida League of Cities Youth Council video competition, discussion of November meeting date change, old business and new business

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 49 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarms
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Water Rescue
- 2 Elevator Rescues

Life Safety:

- 12 Fire Inspections
- 3 C.O.s
- 1 Smoke Detector

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is November 16 at Gulfport City Hall.

Chief Marenkovic attended a EMS Leadership group meeting at Sunstar in Largo on October 17.

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.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced A/C sensors and thermostat and closed four vent openings at Fire Station.
- Replaced breaker in Recreation Center game room and commenced construction of Haunted House.
- Removed banners destroyed during hurricane Irma.
- Transported chairs, tables and pop-up tents to Historical Museum for event.
- Replaced ceiling tiles at Neighborhood Center and moved filing cabinet into storage.
- Rewired flood light and hung sign at Historical Museum.
- Installed wear stripping on Casino west door and repaired liquor cabinet.
- Removed wasp nest at Caldwell Park.
- 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.
- Shelled paths at Clam Bayou.
- Commenced construction of Recreation Center Haunted House.
- Removed debris and prepared recreation center playground for mulching at
- Unloaded trashcans and benches for Shore Boulevard project.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and Pier.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned beds at Marina, Scout Hall, Lions Club, Clam Bayou & beach parking lot.
- Mowed Marina, Lions Club & Neighborhood Center green spaces, York & 49th Street termini, 55th Street medians and City Complex.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, and sharpened/replaced blades.
- Repaired irrigation mainline along Chase block, and replaced control valve at Hoyt Field.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged ball fields.

Streets & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Performed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Cleaned and removed debris from beach, storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways, alleyways & sidewalks.
- Cleaned debris, cans and trash following Tuesday Market.
- Restocked recycled mulch pile in Neighborhood Center parking lot.
- Removed large tree from alleyway at 6218 10th Avenue.
- Cleared seaweed from beach.
- Approximately 6500 cubic yards of debris have been removed from City rights of way.
- 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 #31, 32, 33 & 34 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 39 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 24 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 121 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 30 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 10 water meters that were 20+ years old with new electronic meters.
- Repaired water break at 5926 Skimmer Point Boulevard.

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.
- Repaired hole in sewer manhole on 15th Avenue between Hull & 61st Streets.

Stormwater

- Replaced curb inlet tops on Beach Boulevard at Shore Boulevard & Delette Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced steering cylinder and engine seal in Sanitation vehicle #35.
- Replaced engine coolant hose on Police vehicle #12.
- Repaired tarp and tarp bracket on Sanitations vehicle #37.

- Replaced right front valve stem on water department vehicle # 79.
- Patched right rear tire on Police vehicle #101.
- Replaced wipers on Gems vehicle #93.
- Evacuated and recharged a/c on Parks department vehicle #718.
- Replaced ignition switch and a/c compressor on Sanitation vehicle #79.
- Patched left front tire and replaced left rear tire on Parks department vehicle # 701.
- Completed routine maintenance on Parks department vehicle # 709.
- Completed alignment on Police vehicle # 524.
- Replaced cylinders on wheel chair lift on Gems vehicle # 5.
- Replaced 2 hydraulic hoses on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at www.pced.org/entrepreneurs or call 464-7723. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

Building Division staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on do-it-yourself projects. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, many are electing to do these projects themselves. Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, or for an explanation of code requirements.

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

The Pinellas County Communications Department offers the following information when looking for qualified contractors:

The Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board helps guide homeowners in hiring a licensed contractor for home improvements.

Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

"Do your homework and follow the guidelines and resources provided to you by the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board," said Executive Director Rodney Fischer. "Why take a chance with your money and safety?"

The function of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board is to regulate construction and home improvement contractors practicing in all Pinellas jurisdictions.

The licensing board can tell you if a contractor has a license. They must be licensed by the board or the state of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and be registered with the board. Licensed contractors have passed a competency exam and perform electrical, plumbing or structural work in compliance with the building codes.

The state requires licensed contractors to have workers' compensation and liability insurance and the board monitors their insurance coverage. Without these, if a worker gets injured on the

job or damages property, the homeowner is liable. Many insurance policies will not pay claims if an unlicensed contractor was doing the work.

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

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

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

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

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.

October 17 City Council/CRA meeting results:

S17-02; 5801 9th Avenue South; Conditional use application with site plan for a proposed day care center. APPROVED

November 1, 2017 Planning and Zoning Board & November 21 City Council/CRA meeting:

C17-03; 5602 Gulfport Boulevard South; Conditional use application for a proposed drive-through facility accessory to a permitted use.

November 8, 2017 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

V17-16; 6321 Pasadena Point Boulevard South; Variance request to reduce the left-hand one-third setback requirement by 18 feet 3 inches, from 28 feet 5 inches to 10 feet 2 inches to allow for the proposed construction of a new boat lift and catwalk to service the boat lift to be located on the left-hand side of the existing.

V17-17; 5850 27th Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the required front yard setback by 2 feet, from 19 feet to 17 feet to allow for the proposed construction of a screen room that is located within the Conservation Overlay District.

V17-18; 5402 31st Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 8 feet 4 inches, from 25 feet to 16 feet 8 inches to allow for open porches that are to be built onto the rear of a proposed new single family home located within the Conservation Overlay District.