



Gulfport Community Update

October 22 - 28, 2017

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Friday, November 10 in observance of **Veterans Day**. The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

Keep Pinellas Beautiful, the Gulfport Neighbors and the City of Gulfport participated in the **2017 International Coastal Cleanup** on October 21 (photos below). Neighbors from all over Gulfport came together, got a little dirty, had a great time and got a little dirty helping the Clam Bayou Nature Park continue to stay beautiful. Approximately 287 pounds of garbage was collected.



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:

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.

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.

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.

The Pinellas County Solid Waste division will visit the Gulfport Neighborhood Center 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, November 4 for the annual **Household Electronics and Chemical Mobile Collection event**. Call 464-7500 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste for more information.

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** 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.

Third Friday Sock Hops with the Impacs return to the Gulfport Casino Friday, November 17 at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. Admission \$20: tickets available at the Gulfport Casino and Beach Bazaar. For more information call 893-1070.

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	113
Self-initiated calls for service	393
Offenses	38
Arrests	5
Traffic citations	64
Ordinance violations	42
Residence checks	61

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

A Bock Ciega High School student was taken into custody under the Baker Act on October 19 after she left campus and called her mother, making references to committing suicide. Police officers found her on the Pinellas Trail. She indicated that she had been diagnosed with depression but had stopped taking her medication. She was transported to PEMHS.

A resident in the 700 block of 58th Street reported that his cell phone was stolen after he allowed a friend to use it. He stated that his friend stepped outside and when he returned, he reported that he was jumped and it was stolen. It was recovered at a residence in St. Petersburg and a further investigation revealed that a possible drug deal that went bad resulted in the phone being left in a car. The phone was returned to the owner who did not wish to prosecute.

Officers were dispatched to the 2600 block of 52nd Way in the early morning hours of October 20 after a resident reported she woke up and found an unknown male in her bedroom. The burglar fled when she saw him but made off with cash, a credit card and cell phone.

An employee of a business in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported that an unidentified man put merchandise in a basket and left the store without paying.

Officers responded to a crash at the intersection of 15th Avenue & 55th Street on October 21 after a car ran a stop sign and was struck by another car. The driver was cited for failure to stop at a stop sign, and the other driver was transported to St. Anthony's Hospital with minor injuries.

Officers were dispatched to a residence in the 2500 block of 58th Street to check on a man who had sent several text messages the day before indicating he wanted to end his life. He was not home at the time but contacted officers by phone stating he was with friends and family out of town and doing well.

The windows were smashed out of two vehicles in the Stetson College of Law student parking lot sometime between 9:30 a.m. & noon on October 22. Nothing was taken and there appeared to be dried blood on a broken window that was collected by the crime scene tech for processing.

A resident in the 4900 block of 28th Avenue called from out of the country to report his neighbor advised him the window on his RV was shattered. It is unknown how the damage occurred.

Tina McClellan was arrested for theft after she refused to pay her bar tab despite being asked by staff to do so several times. She was taken into custody in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard.

Officer Clague stopped a vehicle 1200 block 58th Street on October 23 for having an inoperable license plate light and noticed a strong odor of marijuana coming from the vehicle. An additional officer responded and confirmed the odor. They searched the vehicle and found 5.3 grams of marijuana and drug paraphernalia. The driver was referred to the Adult Pre-arrest Diversion Program.

Officers were dispatched to a traffic crash in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard after a driver attempting to turn into McDonald's drove through the road construction site and was struck by a front-end loader, crushing the hood of the car. The driver was cited for careless driving. No injuries were reported and the car was able to be driven from the scene.

Amy Newsom was arrested for retail theft on October 24 after Family Dollar employees saw her concealing merchandise in her purse. She exited the store without paying but was stopped outside the door by waiting officers. She was also found to also be in possession of medication without a prescription.

Carol Wheeler-Smith was arrested for DUI after she crashed her vehicle into a light pole in the 5600 block of Shore Boulevard. Her breath alcohol content was .239/.240.

A resident in the 5600 block of 28th Avenue reported on October 25 that someone entered an unlocked door and stole several times from his residence.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 14 hours this week. Officers made 9 boater contacts, 3 vessel stops, removed a navigational hazard, and responded to one call for service.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases: 14

Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	9
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Supplements received:	18
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	7
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	11

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a runaway case, a burglary, and a fraud; assisted the Gainesville Police Department with security for an event, and; attended a state attorney's office investigation.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for six burglary cases, two auto thefts, a fraud, and a harassment, and attended a state attorney's office investigation for five burglary cases.

Officer Motte took a report for a late reported cell phone theft; taught the Monday evening explorer post meeting, and; provided security for a football game.

Officer Embry met with a parent regarding her daughter running away, and another parent regarding his son misbehaving in class; trespassed a former student, and; provided security for a football game and school parade.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano presented the monthly crime analysis report at the staff meeting; created and distributed an attempt to ID bulletin for Officer Nieves; compiled monthly officer activity information; updated the Sex Offender display, removing a transient offender no longer in the area, and adding a career offender who recently moved into the city; completed pawn checks on 15 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description, and; started an analysis for Officer Mills regarding traffic crashes.

Records

Reports reviewed	9
Supplements reviewed:	73
Public Records requests:	35
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	4
Subpoenas processed:	10
Citizens assisted	45

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, October 16, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Tuesday, October 17, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, October 17, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

Tuesday, October 17, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*.

Tuesday, October 17, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, October 18, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, October 18, 1 p.m. - *Gulfport Poetry Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, October 18, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*.

Wednesday, October 18, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, October 19, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*.

Thursday, October 19, 11 a.m. - *CoffeeTalk Book Club discussion of Night by Elie Wiesel*.

Thursday, October 19, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*.

Friday, October 20, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, October 21, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*.

Upcoming Events:

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@mygulfport.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 discussion of Sophie's Choice by William Styron*. Visit the Circulation desk to borrow a copy. 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.

Wednesday, November 21, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*: Kids, indulge your passion for the tiny building blocks of creativity! Meets in the Youth Services area.

Saturday, November 25, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Watch the sequel to the surprise hit starring an unlikely band of superheroes. In this film, they must fight to keep their friendship strong when they learn the secret of Peter Quill's parentage. Stars Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista, Bradley Cooper, Vin Diesel, Karen Gillan, Kurt Russell. Rated PG-13. Call 893-1074 for title.

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@mygulport.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 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:	1,642	1,254
Sun. 10/8	Library closed	
Mon. 10/9	290	229
Tue. 10/10	211	199
Wed. 10/11	209	218
Thu. 10/12	295	203
Fri. 10/13	282	196
Sat. 10/14	246	165

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulport.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.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.
- Provided photographic coverage for Clam Bayou Cleanup.

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.

Ever **considered cremation**? Find out more information on making the best choice for you and your family on Wednesday, November 1 at 2 p.m. Discover how pre-planning works best for you and your loved ones. Refreshments will be available. Reservations required: call 893-5657.

Join us for a day of shopping and lunch at **John's Pass** on Thursday, November 2. This quaint turn-of-the-century fishing village offers over 100 merchants with unique retail shopping & restaurants. Don't forget to bring your camera! You may come across a dolphin or two. Round trip transportation and parking: GEMS members \$4, nonmembers \$6.

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.

Learn **Tips to Prevent and Control Diabetes** on November 6 at 2:30 p.m. as Dr. Joubert Desulme, D.C. breaks down the statistics, causes, complications, and the 3 secrets to prevent and control this disease.

Staying safe is not an accident. Be proactive by attending this **Personal Safety Tips** presentation offered by the Gulfport Police Department at 2 p.m. Wednesday, November 8. Learn safeguards to reduce your risk of becoming a victim. Stay safe at night, at home, and while traveling.

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.

Worried about your memory? **St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic** will offer free, confidential memory screenings on Monday, November 13. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

Celebrate Thanksgiving at the Gulfport Senior Center with dinner and a musical performance, Wednesday, November 15 1 p.m. & 4 p.m. Proceeds benefit the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation and dinner is generously being donated by Grand Villa. Limited seating: tickets \$15 at the Senior Center. Call 893-1244 for more information.

Learn the basic functions of your **Apple iPhone / iPad** at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 15. How to download apps, take/send pictures, add contacts, adjust phone settings, and more. Preregistration is required; call 893-5657.

Craft beer enthusiast, this one is for you! Enjoy fresh food selections and a rotating draft beer list at **Urban Deli & Drafts** Thursday, November 16, followed by a tour of **3 Daughters Brewery** for an in-depth view of the brewing process. While in the warehouse make sure to try your hand at one of the fun games. Round trip transportation & tour GEMS members \$14/nonmembers \$16. Select your meal from the menu & pay your own check. See GEMS office for restaurant menu.

3rd Friday of every month at 9:30 am the **Community Law Program** provides legal assistance at the Senior Center. You must call 727.582.7480 to qualify and to make your appointment. If you qualify, legal assistance is free. The next meeting is November 17th.

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.

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 November 30.

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 15	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance with Dan Fugazzotto (Turnout 31)
Tuesday, October 17	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 20) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 112) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 40)
Wednesday, October 18	6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 207)
Thursday, October 19	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 10) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 21) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 11)
Friday, October 20	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 27) 5:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 130)
Saturday, October 21	3:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 200)

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 14 7 p.m. - SAGES presents *Grandma goes off her Rocker* (Turnout 24)

Friday, October 20 7 p.m. - Synchrony Arts Productions presents *Beauty and the Beast* (Turnout 56)

Saturday, October 21 7 p.m. - Synchrony Arts Productions presents *Beauty and the Beast* (Turnout 64)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Thursday & Friday, October 26 & 27, 7 p.m. - 7 p.m. - *PLAY Performing Arts Halloween Show*:
Call 393-7625 for information.

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

Sunday, October 15 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church (Turnout 17)

Saturday, October 21 2 p.m. - Birthday party (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 first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

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

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

Monday, October 16 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 27)

Thursday, October 18 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 7)

Friday, October 19 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 9)

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.

Fifteen 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 five 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 and the Gulfport Teen Council worked on the Florida League of Cities Youth Council video on Wednesday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport participants in the Tot Time/VPK program participants to Fresh Market in St. Petersburg on Friday.

John Lapham, Angelica Castro-Tovar and two teens from the Teen Night Program drove around the City to judge homes and businesses entered in the Halloween Decorations contest. There were seven entries in the general theme, one in the commercial theme and one in the haunted house theme.

Teen Councilmembers Cameron Althaus, Sarah Eisenbaum, Katelyn Latragna and Taryn Spence met with Justin Shea at the Casino to work on the Florida League of Cities Youth Council video on Wednesday afternoon. The FLC is hosting a video competition that includes a 60-second public service announcement video promoting Florida City Government Week locally, or recognizes the City during Florida City Government Week.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 41 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Single Engine
- 1 Elevator Rescue

Life Safety:

- 12 Fire Inspections
- 1 C.O.
- 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. CERT will assist with crowd control during the Halloween Haunted House on October 31.

Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief Association meeting on October 26. Discussions were over post hurricane Irma.

The Gulfport Fire department participated in the Boca Ceiga High School homecoming parade on October 25.

The Gulfport Fire Department began their Advanced Cardiac Life Support Re-Certification with the 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

- Performed annual fire alarm inspection at Library.
- Cleared blocked toilets in Casino ladies' restroom.
- Met with Cameron Pest Control to arrange termite inspections at Historical Museum and Little League Field.
- Sanded exterior door and repaired two sections of fencing at Neighborhood Center.
- Repaired handicap ramp at Historical Museum.
- Repaired gate at Clymer Park.
- Repaired handicap door in public restroom at City Hall.
- Assembled Haunted House for Halloween event at Recreation Center.
- Removed wasp nest at Wood Ibis Park.
- Removed bird nests in Fire Station bays.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Cleaned and organized maintenance shop.
- Continued shelling paths at Clam Bayou.
- Continued construction of Haunted House at Recreation Center.
- Repaired bench swings at Wood Ibis Park and beach.
- Transported Halloween props and games from storage to Recreation Center.
- Cleaned and organized upstairs storage area.
- 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 Senior Center, Library, Veterans & Clymer Parks, and City Complex.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, and sharpened/replaced blades.
- Repaired irrigation at Senior Center, Library & Clymer Park.
- 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.
- 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 #45, 46, 47 & 48 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 7 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 1 water meter that was 20+ years old with new electronic meters.
- Repaired water break at 5514 Tangerine 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.
- Cleaned and televised sewer main at Hull Street & 17th Avenue.
- Cleared main line sewer stoppage at Gulfport Boulevard & 15th Avenue.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 6016 17th Avenue.

Stormwater

- Formed and poured concrete collar around separated joint on storm water outfall pipe behind Recreation Center.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Changed oil and filter on Police vehicle #501.
- Replaced passenger rear tail light assembly on Parks Division vehicle #710.
- Repaired tailgate on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Repaired and secured fuse panel on Recreation Center vehicle #68.
- Replaced battery and repaired airline on driver's seat in Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Repaired wiring throttle pedal and replaced air fitting on Fire Department #E-17.
- Repaired and secured splash shield and replaced oil & filter on Gems vehicle #1.
- Replaced oil and filter on Police vehicle #529.
- Evacuated and recharged a/c on Gems vehicle #3.
- Replaced 2 hydraulic hoses on Sanitation vehicle #43.
- Replaced 1 hydraulic hose and repaired grabber arm on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced high psi fuel pump on Streets vehicle #38.
- Performed maintenance and replaced hydraulic line on Parks Division vehicle #709.

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.

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.