



Gulfport Community Update

October 1 - 7, 2017

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.

Duke Energy's vegetation management contractors will perform **maintenance tree trimming in and around the City of Gulfport**. Duke will notify affected homeowners prior to trimming events, and tree crews will clean up debris associated with maintenance activities. Debris resulting from storm damage or other events unrelated to Duke's maintenance activities is the responsibility of homeowners.

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

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:

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 **Fourth Annual Mayors' 49th Street Cleanup & 3rd Annual Chiefs' Chat** along the Tangerine Greenway is Saturday, October 7. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. Mayors' Cleanup begins at 9 and Chiefs' Chat begins at 10:30.

Celebrate the 107th anniversary of the City's incorporation during **Founder's Day: A Celebration of Gulfport** on Saturday, October 14. Party with old and new friends! Daytime activities are 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.: costumed dog parade; games; family activities; live music; craftsman demonstrations; mullet toss contest; Mullet King crowning, and more! Kick up your heels and show off your best moves during **Gulfport under the Stars**, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. Dance

music provided by DJ Sam. Tickets: \$10, available at the door or in advance at the History Museum, Beach Bazaar and Gulfport Welcome Center. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served, and wine, beer, and soda will be available for a donation.

In partnership with the Ocean Conservancy Keep Pinellas Beautiful will coordinate the 2017 **International Coastal Cleanup** in an effort to eliminate the impact of marine and terrestrial debris within Pinellas County ecosystems, including Clam Bayou. Join the City of Gulfport for a rewarding day of community improvement, engagement and beautification on Saturday, October 21, 9 a.m. - noon. Visit www.eventbrite.com/2017-international-coastal-cleanup-clam-bayou-nature-preserve-tickets36959992332 or call 893-1118 to register.

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.

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, 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 City of Gulfport Recreation Division is excited and preparing for the **2017 Spooktakular Halloween Bash** scheduled for 7 p.m. Tuesday, October 31. Activities include Trunk-or-Treat, a frightful Haunted House, Boo-Room for toddlers, carnival games with candy/prizes, and costume contest. The Haunted Snack Shack will sell hot dogs for a \$1, "potion", chips and popcorn for 50¢. The costume contest begins at 8 p.m. Winners will be chosen from eight age categories: 0-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-12, 13-17 and Family. Three awards will be given in each age category. Plan to be there, as we are "dying" to see you! The Recreation Center is located at 5730 Shore Boulevard.

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. You will receive an email confirmation. 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.

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

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 | 179 |
| Self-initiated calls for service | 317 |
| Offenses | 38 |

| | |
|----------------------|----|
| Arrests | 3 |
| Traffic citations | 49 |
| Ordinance violations | 30 |

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

A business owner in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported on September 28 that someone stole three metal chairs from outside the business 10 days earlier. There are no witnesses.

A Dollar General customer reported that he left his phone on the checkout counter the day before, and store surveillance cameras caught a juvenile taking it. The suspect was identified by store employees, and Officer Marshall spoke with his coach at school who retrieved the phone which was returned to the owner.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a child bitten by a dog in the 5100 block of 9th Avenue. The child had a small bite mark and was transported to All Children's hospital as a precaution, and Animal Control was notified.

A woman reported she was bitten by a dog near the intersection of 28th Avenue & 54th Street. The dog owner left the scene but came to police station to speak with officers. Animal control was notified.

Officers responded to a report of a stolen car in the 5700 block of 26th Avenue in the early morning hours of September 29 after a caller reported she heard her car being unlocked with the key fob. When she looked outside the car was leaving the driveway and headed north on 58th Street. The victim stated that she lost her keys approximately a week earlier.

SPPD looking for a suspect in the area of 51st Street and 3rd Avenue South found a license tag in a yard. They requested GPD officers check the registered address where it was discovered the vehicle had been stolen overnight. Officer Sigsbee later returned to the area and found the vehicle.

Richard Price was arrested for DUI, no proof of insurance and careless driving after he crashed into the back of a tow truck stopped for the traffic light at Gulfport Boulevard & 58th Street.

SPPD officers contacted GPPD on September 30 to report a suspicious vehicle in their city that is registered to a Gulfport resident. Officer Priest contacted the owner who was unaware that his car was missing.

Someone used a rock to smash out a window on a semi-tractor parked in an open field in the 700 block of 51st Street and stole a fire extinguisher.

A truck was stolen from in front of a residence in the 2500 block of Beach Boulevard on October 1. The truck had been left unlocked with the keys inside.

A GPS was stolen from an unlocked car parked in the 800 block of 60th Street. A review of security footage showed an unknown subject entering the vehicle. Another unlocked car was rummaged through but nothing taken.

Michael Debok was arrested for DUI after the car he was driving westbound in the 5500 block of Gulfport Boulevard entered the eastbound lanes and hit another vehicle head on. The driver of that vehicle suffered minor injuries, and both drivers were taken to the hospital. Debok refused a blood test.

While patrolling the beach parking lot on October 2 officers observed a car with the windows down and two people sleeping inside. They stated they were homeless. The man was on inmate release status for burglary and the woman was on probation for worthless checks, fraud, and habitual traffic offender.

A resident in the 4900 block of 27th Avenue saw the Police Department's Facebook page referencing two subjects wanted in a string of burglaries, and reported they had been at her home in the past. She found several pieces of jewelry missing but advised that other people had been at house since then. She hid the box prior to a cleaning crew coming in so she was not sure if the items were stolen or missing. An information report was taken to document the missing items.

Robert Daniels was arrested for driving while license suspended following a traffic stop in the 5400 block of Gulfport Boulevard. Daniels had a suspended license for DUI and 2 previous driving while license suspended convictions.

Officers were dispatched to the 2800 block of 56th Street in the early morning hours of October 3 after a caller reported three people exited a small black car and broke into a car parked on the street. The suspects fled the area before police arrived. The car was located at 51st Street & Gulfport Boulevard, but the driver fled into St. Petersburg and was last seen heading southbound on 34th Street.

A Save-a-Lot customer reported on October 4 that he stepped away from his shopping cart and a woman walking by and stole his wallet.

A black pickup truck traveling northbound in the 2200 block of 51st Street struck a blue pickup truck parked in a driveway and fled the scene. The case is under investigation.

The **Marine Unit** was on the water for 5 hours this week. Four vessel stops and 1 boater contact were made.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

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|---------------------------------|----|
| New cases: | 11 |
| Cases assigned: | 1 |
| Cases suspended-no leads: | 7 |
| Cases cleared with arrest: | 0 |
| Cases exceptionally cleared: | 0 |
| Cases unfounded/no crime: | 0 |
| Supplements received: | 3 |
| Cases cleared with arrest: | 0 |
| Previously cleared with arrest: | 0 |
| Cases suspended/no leads: | 0 |
| Cases unfounded/no crime: | 0 |
| Cases exceptionally cleared | 1 |
| Cases still active: | 2 |

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a theft case, a burglary, a runaway, and a fraud; interviewed Lupen Font who is responsible for multiple burglaries; administered P.A.T. to police applicants, and; recovered a Rolex watch from a pawn shop.

Detective Crowson attended use of force and defensive tactics training; continued investigating a drowning, and; interviewed a suspect in multiple burglary cases.

Officer Motte covered for Sergeant Woodman while he was on vacation, and assisted the school with several acts of misconduct including fighting and theft. School consequences were issued in lieu of criminal charges.

Officer Embry assisted with breaking up three fights on campus. The incidents were minor and handled in house. He also spoke with a parent regarding rumors her child would be jumped by

another student after school, notifying staff members and speaking with both parties, and; provided security for two football games.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano compiled and distributed open case and reports not approved lists; created an attempt to ID bulletin for Ofc. Smith in a vehicle burglary; compiled the monthly PCSO call out report, and; completed an analysis of auto thefts.

Records

| | |
|--------------------------|-----|
| Reports reviewed | 9 |
| Supplements reviewed: | 114 |
| Public Records requests: | 51 |
| Background checks: | 7 |
| Bike registrations: | 2 |
| Fingerprints | 4 |
| Subpoenas processed: | 0 |
| Citizens assisted | 59 |

MARINA

Assisted with twenty one (21) pump outs evacuating four hundred thirty five (435) gallons of waste.

Pumped Two thousand six hundred twenty eight (2,628) gallons of gas and two thousand three hundred forty (2,340) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred three (103) vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Repaired pier 6 entrance gate.
- Installed NO THRU TRAFFIC signs in various Marina locations.
- Purchased and stocked Ship Store merchandise and drinks for resale.
- Performed routine maintenance on northeast pump out.
- Reattached rub rail on courtesy dock.
- Replaced backflow valve on live shrimp tank.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, September 25, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Tuesday, September 26, 10 a.m. - *Heart Gallery Reception.*

Tuesday, September 26, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, September 26, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

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

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

Wednesday, September 27, 1 p.m. - *Gulfport Poetry Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, September 27, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout.*

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

Thursday, September 28, 10 a.m. - *ACA Healthcare Navigators*.

Thursday, September 28, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*.

Thursday, September 28, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*.

Thursday, September 28, 11 a.m. - *Kids Yoga*.

Friday, September 29, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*.

Friday, September 29, 3:30 p.m. - *Tot Time Storytime*.

Friday, September 29, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, September October 7, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: Psychological horror film about a family who's isolated and heavily-armed refuge from unnamed horrors becomes destabilized after a desperate couple and their child find their way to the home. Stars Joel Edgerton. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Monday, October 9, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*: The lunar nodes in your astrological chart can tell you a whole lot about what the heck you are doing here, this time around, and what might have gotten you into this mess to begin with. We're going to chat about it. 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.

Thursday, October 12, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: A struggling gay comedy writer in New York City (Jesse Plemons) returns home to Sacramento to care for his dying mother (Molly Shannon) and clash with his homophobic father (Bradley Whitford) in this funny and affecting 2016 "dramedy" from Saturday Night Live writer Chris Kelly, marking his directorial debut. Refreshments will be available. Donations benefit the LGBTQ Resource Center. This film is not rated. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Every Wednesday thru October 25, 1 p.m. - *Gulfport Poetry Writers Group*: Brown bag lunch meeting for members to read and share their poetry, and provide critical analyses of fellow poets' works. If time allows, members will also write poems based on prompts (both visual and stylistic explanations), or be given voluntary assignments to share at the next meeting. All levels

of experience are welcome. For more information call Rob McCabe at 366-8909 or email writer.rob.mccabe@gmail.com.

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.

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.

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@mygulfport.us or call 893-1074 to register.

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

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

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

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. Email contact@gulfporttoastmasters.com 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 September 24 - 30, 2017:
Items Circulated Patrons

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-------|
| Weekly Circulation: | 1,564 | 1,202 |
| Sun. 9/24 | Library closed | |
| Mon. 9/25 | 290 | 226 |
| Tue. 9/26 | 240 | 200 |
| Wed. 9/27 | 270 | 199 |
| Thu. 9/28 | 227 | 183 |
| Fri. 9/29 | 268 | 184 |
| Sat. 9/30 | 261 | 153 |

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfpport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfpport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfpport.us/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.
- 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.mygulfpport.us. The Gulfport Senior Center is on Facebook. Find us at www.FB.com/GulfpportSeniorCenter.

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.

Worried about your memory? **St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic** is offering FREE & CONFIDENTIAL memory screenings on Monday, October 9. By appointment only: call 893-5657 to schedule.

You've worked hard to provide for your family. Whether you're approaching retirement or recently retired, your focus may begin to shift from building your financial foundation to protecting the financial resources you've created for you and your family. Join us for **Standing Guard: Protect What You've Worked For** on Monday, October 9 at 5:30 p.m. Learn proactive ways to address key risks and strategies to help prepare for the unexpected. Refreshments will be served.

Join us for health screenings, exhibits, door prizes, and much more at the **Tampa Bay Senior Expo** on Tuesday, October 10. Take advantage of the many business exhibits offering investment information, travel opportunities, retirement choices, educational seminars, and more. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$4; nonmembers \$6.

See how "America's choice for homemade ice cream" is made with a tour of the **Working Cow Ice Cream Factory** on Tuesday, October 10. This family owned company hand-blends more than 100 different flavors of super-premium gourmet ice creams, frozen yogurts, sugar-free ice creams, sherbets, & fruity Italian Ices. Round trip transportation & tour: GEMS members \$5; nonmembers \$7. Per factory safety rules, you MUST wear closed-toe shoes and sign a waiver prior to the tour. Remember to bring a sweater!

Clubhouse Chatter begins Wednesday, October 11 and will meet weekly 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.

Join us for **Healthy Aging with Dr. Cate: Social Isolation and Aging**, a presentation on the latest developments in brain health and the impact of social isolation on Wednesday, October 11 at 2 p.m.

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center on Thursday, October 12 at 10:30 a.m.

Learn to download apps, take/send pictures, ad contacts, adjust phone settings, and more on your **Android Phone or Tablet** at 11 a.m. Friday, October 13. Preregistration required; call 893-5657.

Unwind with your Senior Center friends and stroll through a guided tour of **Sunken Gardens** on Thursday, October 19. Explore cascading waterfalls, beautiful demonstration gardens and more than 50,000 tropical/exotic plants & flowers. Round trip transportation, admission & tour: GEMS members \$12; nonmembers \$14.

The Community Law Program provides **free legal assistance** at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. the third Friday of every month. The next meeting is October 20. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

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.

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.

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, September 24 | 3:30 p.m. - Contra Dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance (Turnout 58) |
| Monday, September 25 | 7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance (Turnout 73) |
| Tuesday, September 26 | 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 19) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 44) |
| Wednesday, September 27 | 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 9) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 192) |
| Thursday, September 28 | 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 14) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 25) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 8) |
| Friday, September 29 | 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 24) 7 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 150) |
| Saturday, September 30 | 6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 128) |

Casino (upcoming events):

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|---------------------|---|
| 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*):

Sunday, September 24, 1:30 p.m. - *Celebrate Community Theater with S*A*G*E*S* (Turnout 65)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Saturday, October 7, 7:30pm - *Think Pink Affair Fashion Show & Cancer Awareness event: A night you'll never forget!* Tickets \$25: call 235-9158. Proceeds benefit Advantage Village Academy's Cancer Awareness Outreach.

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

Sunday, September 24 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church (Turnout 12)

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
Every first - third Sunday 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services
Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - Bible study
Every Tuesday 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
Every Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi
Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

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

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Monday, September 25 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 18)
Tuesday, September 26 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)
Thursday, September 28 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 11)
Friday, September 29 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 5)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday 6 p.m. - Meditation class
Every Tuesday & Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing
Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class

Recreation Center

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

Forty seven children have been registered for the **2017/18 School Year Child Care program** for children who will be entering Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents and \$188 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

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

Twenty three teens are registered for the **2017/18 Teen Night Program**, a great hangout for teens in grades 6-12. Teen Night provides recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects.

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

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez met with the City Manager, Parks Superintendent and Community Development Director to discuss the Skate Park Design with a representative from Cardno. She also used the GEMS bus to transport Tot Time/VPK program participants to the Gulfport Library on Friday; represented the Gulfport Teen Council at the City Council meeting on Tuesday, receiving a trophy and check for their participation in the Florida League of Cities photo contest, and; attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 44 Emergency Medical Calls
- 6 Structure Fires
- 4 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Single Engine Response
- 3 Fires Outside Structures
- 1 Gas leak

Life Safety:

- 13 Fire Inspections
- 3 C.O.s

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

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.

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

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired door and replaced emergency backup batteries in fire panel at Casino.
- Installed mail shelf on office door and replaced toilet paper holder in ladies restroom at City Hall.
- Replaced lock on fire panel at Police Department.
- Made adjustments on new air conditioning unit in Harbormaster's office.
- Painted wall in storage area and reset fire panel at Senior Center.
- Replaced filters on all City air conditioning units.
- Replaced two air conditioning units, repaired flagpole light and rehung *Safe Place* sign at Fire Station.
- Repaired fencing at Wood Ibis, Caldwell & Clam Bayou Parks.
- Patched wall behind theater.
- 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.
- Replaced locks on gate at Lions Club, and installed chain & sign
- Repaired fencing at Wood Ibis & Caldwell Parks.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and Pier.
- Trimmed, and removed dead branches from trees in parks and on City properties.
- Mowed Neighborhood Center, Senior Center & Library green spaces, 28th Avenue sign area, Clymer & Caldwell Parks, 14th Avenue drainage area, Pasadena entrance area and Tangerine greenway.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, and sharpened/replaced blades, replaced carburetor on line trimmer, and sent 5650 tractor for warranty repair.
- Replaced 2 valve boxes at Caldwell Park and continued installation of irrigation sleeves along Shore Boulevard project area.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.

- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged ball fields.

Streets & Sanitation

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

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system.
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters.
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall.).
- Daily check of ground water levels.
- Completed routes #9, 10, 11 & 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Completed 97 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 8 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 3 meter that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 8 water meters that were 20+ years old with new electronic meters.
- Repaired water break at 1522 60th Street.

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 lateral at 5407 29th Avenue.

Stormwater

- Constructed curb inlet at southeast corner of Beach Boulevard & Dellette Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced heater hose, 2 hydraulic lines and can cylinder on Sanitation vehicle #40.
- Replaced 2 hydraulic lines on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced cooling motor fan on Police vehicle #116.
- Replaced wiper blades on Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Scanned and diagnosed check engine light on Police vehicle #6.
- Replaced brake hose fitting and air filters on Streets Division vehicle #35.
- Replaced battery on Water Division trailer #75.
- Replaced high psi fuel pump, and #4 fuel injector on Water Division vehicle #80.
- Updated power control module on Water division vehicle #22.
- Replaced starter and battery on Police vehicle #18 following floodwater damage.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at www.mygulfport.us 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 4, 2017 Planning and Zoning Board and October 17 City Council/CRA meeting:
S17-02; 5801 9th Avenue South; Conditional use application with site plan for a proposed day care center. P&Z RECOMMENED APPROVAL