



Gulfport Community Update

November 5 - 11, 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.

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.

The holidays are right around the corner, and the Gulfport Fire Department would like to remind residents that the kitchen can be one of the most hazardous rooms in the home if safe cooking isn't practiced:

- Stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.
- To prevent cooking fires, you have to be alert. You won't be if you are sleepy, have been drinking alcohol, or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy.
- Keep anything that can catch fire - potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, towels, or curtains - away from your stovetop.
- Keep the stovetop, burners, and oven clean.
- Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire if it comes into contact with a gas flame or electric burner.
- Plug microwave ovens and other cooking appliances directly into an outlet. Never use an extension cord for a cooking appliance, as it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.

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

Upcoming Events:

The **Gulfport Neighbors Beach and Area Cleanup** is Saturday, October 11, 9 - 11 a.m. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and make a difference in the community. Please join in the fun. The group meets at shelter #4. A limited number of pickers will be available; if you have one please bring it. Water will be provided.

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

The **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 **Holy Name Fall Festival**, featuring carnival rides, midway games and chances to win gift certificates and baskets of goodies from local merchants is Thursday - Sunday, November 16 - 19. The event will take place Most Holy Name of Jesus Church, 5800 15th Avenue South. Peruse arts and crafts, taste delicious traditional & ethnic foods, soft drinks and cold beer & wine. Hours of operation: Thursday 5-10 p.m.; Friday 5 - 11 p.m.; Saturday 1-11 p.m.; Sunday 12 - 7:30 p.m. For more information call 347-9989 or visit www.mostholyname.org.

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.

Join us for song and good cheer during the **City of Gulfport Holiday Tree Lighting** in Clymer Park at 7 p.m. Monday, December 4. Enjoy an evening of light refreshments and festive music presented by the Gulfport Recreation division; meet the Mayor and City Council. Santa will visit and listen to little ones' holiday wishes. For more information call 893-1118.

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	126
Self-initiated calls for service	398
Offenses	29
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	107
Ordinance violations	48
Residence checks	48

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

Sergeant Marotta and Officer Carter participated in a DUI Wolfpack with the St Petersburg Police Department on November 3, conducting 13 traffic stops during the 9 hour detail.

Jonathan Carlstrom was arrested for DUI after he was found passed out behind the wheel at the intersection of 49th Street & Gulfport Boulevard with the engine running and the car in gear. An investigation revealed he was under the influence of narcotics. His vehicle was impounded.

Someone smashed the glass door to a closed business in the Save-A-Lot plaza and removed a few items from inside. The subject was gone when officers arrived.

A resident reported that he was beaten up and pushed into the bay from the Gulfport Casino dock a day prior. He stated he was too intoxicated at the time to notify police.

Members of Bravo Squad assisted the Boca Ciega High School resource officer when a fight broke out. Two juvenile females were arrested at the scene.

A resident reported that he had a confrontation with someone in the Wells Fargo Bank parking lot, and while driving west on 15th Avenue the person from the confrontation drove alongside his car, and the passenger threw a jar of spaghetti at the victim's car, breaking the side view mirror.

Officers were dispatched to the 4900 block of 31st Avenue on November 4 after her dog ran out of her apartment and into the yard, and was bitten by a dog that got loose from his owner while the owner cleaned up after the dog. The dog was not seriously injured.

Three individuals who reside in Boca Ciega Bay got into an altercation on the Casino dock, and one was bitten on the forearm. The suspects fled the area and the investigation is ongoing.

The owner of a business in the 1400 block of 49th Street requested officers trespass a man found sleeping inside the business. He was issued a written trespass.

Officers were dispatched to the 5100 block of 29th Avenue on November 5 after a resident reported a screen was cut on the rear door of the residence. The suspect did not gain entry.

Officers arrested Luz Aguilar on an outstanding warrant for welfare fraud.

Thomas E. Will was arrested for felony driving on a suspended license after a Pinellas County Sheriff's Office unit in St. Pete Beach reported a vehicle in the area with a stolen tag attached. Officer Clague located the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. Information obtained during the stop was forwarded to the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office, the agency that had reported the tag stolen.

Officer Clague arrested a juvenile on a warrant for truancy on November 6. He was taken into custody in the 3000 block of Beach Boulevard, and transported to the Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center.

Officers were dispatched to the 800 block of 58th Street on November 7 after a woman broke out a window on her boyfriend's truck following an argument. The victim did not wish to prosecute.

Officer Palazzolo located a suspect in the theft of beer from Salty's Bar. Aizaz Chaudhary had been avoiding Officer Palazzolo so she had him removed from class at Stetson University. Chaudhary admitted to stealing the beer and was given a notice to appear in court.

The Pasco County Sheriff's Office executed a search warrant at a residence in their jurisdiction and recovered a handgun stolen during a 2004 residential burglary in the 5700 block of 16th Avenue. The victim died in 2015 and Sergeant Parks, who worked the case thirteen years ago, made contact with the victim's heir and advised him that the firearm had been recovered and could be returned to the family pending a background check.

A man called police from Madeira Beach and reported he had been shot at while visiting a residence in Gulfport. The caller refused to provide adequate details of the incident and refused a face-to-face interview with an officer. Further investigation was conducted in the 4900 block of Newton Avenue where the incident was alleged to have occurred, but the specific circumstances were never learned. An information report was generated to document the claim.

David Herr was arrested on a warrant for Failure to Secure Workers Comp Coverage following a traffic stop in the 5000 block of Newton Avenue.

Officer Hutsko stopped Erin Thomson for a traffic violation in the area of Shore Boulevard & Clinton Avenue. Thomson had a suspended license and 4 prior convictions for driving while license suspended. She was arrested.

A resident came to the PD on November 8 and reported that she was attacked by a man with a knife behind Save-A-Lot on the night of October 20. She said she escaped with a minor cut on her face. The complainant said she just wanted to report the incident but did not prosecute.

The **Marine Unit** was on the water for approximately 6 hours this week. Sergeant Marotta and Officer Carter assisted a boater and Sergeant Burkhart made 4 boater contacts & 2 boat stops.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	14
Cases assigned:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	9
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	3
Supplements received:	31
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended/no leads:	4
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	1
Cases still active:	21

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a runaway case, a burglary, a grand theft, and a fraud; interviewed a suspect at the Hillsborough County Jail, clearing a case; searched for a runaway in Largo, and; closed 2 cases with arrest.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two burglaries, two auto thefts and three frauds; reviewed multiple subpoena returns and DNA reports, and; interviewed a suspect in a theft case.

School Resource Officers Motte and Embry wrote 1 police report; arrested a student; referred an arrest referral to the SAO; counseled 12 students, and; met with the parents of 5 students.

Officer Motte arranged for drug and gun School Police K9's to be on campus on November 3. No weapons or drugs were found but the drug dog alerted on a student in possession of several empty baggies containing trace amounts of cannabis. The student was issued school consequences and sent to a drug rehabilitation program hosted through Pinellas County Schools.

Officer Embry assisted BCHS staff members with several fights on campus; assisted a Lakewood High School SRO regarding a BCHS student trespassing at their school; spoke with a PCSO Deputy regarding a suspect involved in a crime in their jurisdiction. In addition, Officer Embry met with parents regarding their kids fighting on campus.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled October officer activity data for Cmdr. Farrand and the monthly PCSO forensic call out report; created an attempt to ID bulletin for Ofc. Nieves for a retail theft; completed a retail thefts analysis; compiled a training brief on UCR; completed pawn checks on 15 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description, and; conducted a review of property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper entry into FCIC.

Records

Reports reviewed	10
Supplements reviewed:	44
Public Records requests:	46
Background checks:	6
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	2

Subpoenas processed: 0
Citizens assisted 39

MARINA

Assisted with nine (9) pump outs evacuating two hundred eighty four (284) gallons of waste.

Pumped four thousand six hundred sixty two (4,662) gallons of gas and two thousand five hundred fourteen (2,514) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred thirty six (136) vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

Replaced/repared backflow valve on pier 5, slip 40 water line.

Replaced light bulbs and light bulb fixtures along east side of pier 5.

Purchased, delivered and stocked Ship Store merchandise and drinks for resale.

Installed new pump-out pump in utility shed servicing docks 2 - 5 & Boca Ciega Yacht Club.

Performing extensive repairs to floating Casino Courtesy dock, solidifying connection between finger piers and main pier to improve safety.

Inspected docks for missing dock line holders, damaged cleats, broken dock boards, etc.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, October 30, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Monday, October 30, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic night.*

Tuesday, October 31, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, October 31, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, November 1, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, November 1, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout.*

Wednesday, November 1, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, November 2, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime.*

Friday, November 3, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Monday, November 13, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program; Perception and Belief - The Astrological Mercury and Jupiter: We'll explore the roles of Mercury and Jupiter in the astrological horoscope. Mercury reveals how we process thought and communicate information, and Jupiter has to do with our belief, whether we trust life and what gives us the courage to take a leap of faith. Jennie (Gilmore) White of Ode to Pluto Astrology will explain the importance of understanding how we think and make decisions, so we can make conscious choices that are aligned with our values. 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. 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 Library. We also provide information on bus routes serving the area; access to the Pinellas Trail. Find out how you can participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization.

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.

Saturday, November 18, 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.

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.

Monday, November 27, 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 28, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults*: Nourish your body and spirit with mindful movement, breath-work, and meditation. This slow-paced class welcomes all levels and will feature a different set of postures each month. Please bring props if you want them. The class is taught by Christa Fairbrother, RYT and Certified Yoga for Arthritis Instructor. For more information please call Cailey Klasson at 893-1074.

Thursday, November 30, 7 p.m. - *An Evening with AIDS Treatment Pioneer Dr. Bob Wallace*: To help commemorate World AIDS Day 2017 (December 1), local AIDS treatment pioneer Dr. Bob will be our featured speaker. When his office opened in St. Petersburg in 1987, he participated in every clinical trial possible to help stop the spread of HIV. Dr. Bob made it his passion to attend every conference related to the treatment of HIV/AIDS. In one trial known as FTC 303, Dr. Bob's St. Petersburg office had more patients enrolled than any other practice in the world. Sponsored by the LGBTQ Resource Center, a project of the non-profit Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Public Library.

Saturday, December 2, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: An undercover MI6 agent is sent to Berlin during the Cold War to investigate the murder of a fellow agent and recover a list of double agents. Stars Charlize Theron, James MacAvoy, Eddie Marsan, John Goodman. Call 893-1074 for title.

Monday, December 4, 5:30 p.m. - *Author Rose Walton*: Discussion of her book, *By Any Other Name: A Lesbian's Journey out of West Virginia*, published in 2016.

Tuesday, December 5, 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.

Tuesday, December 5, 7 p.m. - *Bay Voices Holiday Concert*: Returning for a third year, this family-friendly event is free and open to the public. Complimentary wine, soft beverages and cheese will be offered. Sponsored by the LGBTQ Resource Center, a project of the non-profit Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Public Library.

Thursday, December 7, 7 p.m. - *West African Harp (Kora) Concert*: All ages are invited to this musical event. Call 893-1134 for more information.

Thursday, December 8, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: Refreshments available. Donations benefit the LGBTQ Resource Center. Call 893-1074 for movie 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@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 October 29 - November 4, 2017:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,505	1,230
Sun. 10/29	Library closed	
Mon. 10/30	278	236
Tue. 10/31	221	179
Wed. 11/1	211	210
Thu. 11/2	268	188
Fri. 11/3	261	185
Sat. 11/4	250	170

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

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

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.

- Created designs for e-newsletter.
- Distributed November calendar to City facilities and Tuesday Market vendors.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.

Multipurpose Senior Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday - Thursday, and Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at www.mygulfport.us. The Gulfport Senior Center is on Facebook. Find us at www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter.

The **City of Gulfport Telephone Reassurance program** is much more than a morning wake-up call. This free service offers Gulfport residents 50 years or older - and their families comfort, security, and peace of mind. Volunteers provide daily phone calls to registered members. If the member cannot be reached, the volunteer follows specific procedures to confirm there are no major concerns. Registration is simple and free. If you or someone you know could use this service, call 893-2237 or stop by the Gulfport Senior Center at 5501 27th Avenue.

Gulfport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS) offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65 plus \$2 per ride. GEMS also offers transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital and the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

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

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

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center has **many volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center for more information.

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

Worried about your memory? **St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic** will offer free, confidential memory screenings on Monday, December 11. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, December 14.

Learn the basic functions of your **Apple iPhone/iPad** at 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, November 15. Learn 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.

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.

Take a ride with PSTA staff at 2 p.m. Monday, November 6 and learn about door to door options, available senior discounts, where PSTA buses go and how easy it is to ride the bus. Call 893-5657 to preregister.

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.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles, and many other goodies at **First Friday Flea Market** on December 1 beginning at 9 a.m.

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center on Thursday, December 14 at 10:30 a.m.

Ever wonder if your memory is normal? Join us at 10 a.m. Tuesday, November 28 for a **FREE Brain Health Workshop** to find out. Baycrest, the world's leading memory and aging research institute will offer a 15-20 minute science based assessment to answer the question "Is My Memory Normal?" Adults ages 55 - 79 will receive an Assessment Score from the computer-based Brain Health Assessment, and we'll answer your questions about what your score means and give you immediate science-backed steps to be pro-active to keep your brain healthy. The ability to operate a mouse and keyboard is required. Space is limited; call 893-5657 to register.

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 29 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance with DJ Rich (Turnout 12)

Tuesday, October 31 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 20)
 Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 12)
 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 59)

Wednesday, November 1 10 a.m. - Keller-Williams seminar (Turnout 80)
 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 239)

Thursday, November 2 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 26)
 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 18)

Friday, November 3 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 29)
 2 p.m. - Retirement party (Turnout 100)

Saturday, November 4 6 p.m. - Father/Daughter Ball (Turnout 96)

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*):

Thursday, November 2 8 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Letting Go*
 (Turnout 49)

Friday, November 3 4 p.m. - Art Reception (Turnout 55)
 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Letting Go* (Turnout 59)

Saturday, November 4 2 p.m. - GCP presents *Letting Go* (Turnout 59)
 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Letting Go* (Turnout 52)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Thursday - Saturday, November 10 - 12, 8 p.m., and Saturday & Sunday, November 11 & 12, 2 p.m. - The Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Letting Go*: A very funny musical about a

very serious subject. Tickets \$18 in advance at Beach Bazaar, \$20 at the door within one hour of performance (cash only), or online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org.

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

Sunday, October 29 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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 30 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 19)

Thursday, November 2 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 11)

Friday, November 3 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 11)

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 are 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

Fred Loporati used the school bus to transport eleven Tot Time/VPK participants and seven adults to Heritage Village in Largo on Wednesday morning.

Eric Nelson opened the Recreation Center for voting on Tuesday morning.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 42 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 4 Structure Fires
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Outside Structure Fire
- 2 Elevator Rescues

Life Safety:

- 14 Fire Inspections
- 2 C.O.s
- 2 Smoke Detectors

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.

Two FF/PM candidates have been chosen to move forward in the hiring process for the open position on the B-shift. Following background checks, polygraph and psychological testing the chosen applicant will undergo a health & physical screening.

Firefighter/EMT Lesley Jordan taught a Healthcare Provider CPR Course in the Fire Department Training Room on November 1.

The Gulfport Fire Department continued their Advanced Cardiac Life Support Recertification with the prep course provided by Target Solutions and the County CME Committee. ACLS is renewed every two years.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired electrical outlets at Public Services building and Recreation Center gym.
- Replaced batteries in smoke detector, and repaired faucet at Police Station.
- Assisted in set-up of voting precincts for General Election, and secured each building after polls closed.
- Repaired faucet at Recreation Center.
- Reset wall clocks and employee time clocks for Daylight Saving Time.
- Replaced stained ceiling tiles at Fire Department.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Repaired fountain at Wood Ibis Park.
- Graded volleyball courts, replaced flag banner and installed concrete plaque mount.
- Seeded and fertilized ball fields.
- Dropped off trashcan for Jersey Avenue cleanup project.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and Pier.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned beds at Marina, Library, Veterans Park and beach parking lot.
- Mowed Senior Center, Recreation Center & Library green spaces, Clymer & Veterans Parks, 14th Avenue medians, and Pasadena entrance area.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- Repaired irrigation at Recreation Center.
- 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.
- Debris removal haulers assisted in picking up residual storm debris from 49th Street holding area.
- Inspected alleyways and listed locations in need of repair in preparation for regrading.
- Assisted with Pinellas County Household Electronics & Chemical Collection mobile event at Gulfport Neighborhood Center.

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, and 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 2 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 7 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 57 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.

- Completed 6 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 7 water meters that were 20+ years old with new electronic meters.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck or damaged and not recording water usage.
- Repaired water break at 2530 York 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.

Stormwater

- Replaced 24" VCP storm line crossing 55th Street at 20th Avenue with new HDPE corrugated pipe.
- Replaced concrete storm water lid at 31st Avenue & Beach Boulevard.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Evacuated and recharged a/c, and replaced oil & filter on GEMS vehicle #3.
- Replaced dash knob on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Replaced tires, headlight, and engine oil & filter on Police vehicle #54.
- Replaced a/c belt and tensioner on Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Replaced brake pads, rotors, coolant reservoir and tires on Police vehicle #16.
- Replaced engine and transmission on Police vehicle #18.
- Replaced fuel tank fuel pump, transmission, and transmission cooler on Streets vehicle #38.
- Replaced temp valve seals on Parks vehicle #718.
- Replaced door strap on Sanitation vehicle #40.
- Replaced oil "psi" switch, and completed regen on Sanitation vehicle #88.
- Replaced passenger side front headlight on Building Maintenance vehicle #24.
- Replaced driver's side master window switch and spark plugs on Public Services vehicle #13.
- Replaced tarp, and tarp roller assembly on Sanitation vehicle #29.
- Replaced cab mounts, and repaired air leak on Fire Department's vehicle #E-17.
- Replaced passenger rear tail light on Police vehicle #156.
- Replaced passenger rear tail light assembly on Parks vehicle #710.
- 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 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. P&Z RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.

November 8 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. APPROVED

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. APPROVED

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. APPLICATION WITHDRAWN

December 6, 2017 Planning and Zoning Board & December 19 City Council/CRA meeting:

Consideration of an ordinance amending the Zoning Code to allow for Medical Marijuana.

Consideration of Amendments to the Zoning Code pertaining to Historic Preservation.