



Gulfport Community Update

November 12 - 18, 2017

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed Thursday & Friday, November 23 & 24 in observance of the Thanksgiving holiday. Thursday's sanitation routes will be collected on Wednesday, the 22nd, Friday's routes will remain on schedule and there will be no Wednesday yard waste pickup.

Veteran's Day brought plenty of action to Gulfport on November 11 with the annual parade and Sixth Annual VetSports Volleyball Tournament (photos below).



Gulfport Public Works Streets & Sanitation staff and the Gulfport Fire Department represented the City during the **2017 Great American Teach-In** at Gulfport Elementary School on November 15 Antonio Wesley provided demonstrations of the Recycling truck in action while Gulfport Firefighters explained the various features of the fire truck (photos below).



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 **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.

The Special Events Trolley, Gulfport Merchants Association and Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce will represent the City during the **LocalShops1 Annual Shopapalooza Festival** in St. Petersburg's South Straub Park on Saturday, November 18.

Shop one-of-a kind vendors, enjoy live music or spend the evening at your favorite restaurant during **Third Saturday Art Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District 6 - 10 p.m. November 18. Stop by the Welcome Center at 3101 Beach Boulevard and check out the exclusive line of everything Gulfport, from T-shirts to coffee mugs. Admission is free and complimentary parking is available nearby with courtesy trolley rides to and from off-site parking areas. Visit www.visitgulfportflorida.com or www.SIKpromotions.com for more information.

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.

ArtJones debuts 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, December 2, and continues 11 a.m. - 4p.m. Sunday the 3rd with a self-guided tour showcasing the works of twelve Gulfport artists at 10 locations. Informational brochures are available at downtown merchants, or online at www.ArtJonesStudioTour.com. For more information visit www.facebook.com/ArtJones-1329673137142553.

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	119
Self-initiated calls for service	328
Offenses	48
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	92
Ordinance violations	27
Residence checks	60

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers were dispatched to the 5300 block of 21st Avenue on November 9 after a caller reported a tenant at a nearby transition home was exposing himself in the street. When the resident and her husband confronted him he swung at the husband, accidentally striking the wife. The complainant did not want to prosecute due to the man's mental state, and he was taken into custody to be evaluated under the Baker Act.

A resident in the 5200 block of 12th Avenue reported that her daughter took her debit card and allowed her boyfriend to use it. An investigation revealed the claim was unfounded.

Someone entered three unlocked cars parked in the 4900 block of 28th Avenue sometime between the evening of November 9 and the morning of November 10, and loose change was taken from two of the vehicles.

Officers were dispatched to the 5100 block of 13th Avenue after a caller reported that he discovered several items missing following a party at his home. An investigation revealed a helmet and drill taken from the home were pawned in Dunedin by a party guest.

Several tools were reported stolen from an unlocked car parked in the 5700 block of 12th Avenue.

Brandy Bourehla was given a notice to appear on November 11 after a caller reported a suspicious vehicle parked in the 5100 block of Newton Avenue with the engine running. Responding officers found Bourehla unconscious inside. She stated she pulled over to sleep because she was too intoxicated to drive. Officers searched her car due to a strong odor of marijuana, and found a baggie of the substance.

The owner of The Back Door Theater reported on November 12 that her purse was stolen from the venue the night before while an event was underway.

A resident in the 5100 block of 9th Avenue reported on November 13 that he left his car windows open overnight, and discovered several items missing the next morning.

A staff member at Boca Ciega Nursing Home was reportedly struck by a patient while she was treating him. She advised that she did not want to prosecute.

A resident in the 5900 block of Shore Boulevard reported several transactions on his bank card that he did not authorize.

David Herr was arrested on an outstanding felony warrant for failure to secure worker comp coverage following a traffic stop in the 5000 block of Newton Avenue.

A man entered a store in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard and placed several items into a basket. He paced around the store briefly then fled on foot with the items without paying.

A resident in the 5000 block of 26th Avenue reported that someone she had sexual contact with recorded the encounter and sent the videos to someone in New Port Richey who posted them on Facebook and allowed them to be viewed publically.

A resident in the 2900 block of Beach Boulevard reported on November 14 that someone broke into his garage on October 19 and stole a pressure washer worth \$500.

Officers responded to the 5200 block of Jersey Avenue after a caller reported that that a neighbor had placed damaged fence near the road after the City had completed the pickup. The complainant approached the neighbor and a verbal altercation occurred. Officers were able to get both parties to agree to avoid each other and Public Works was advised that a second pick-up would be needed.

Officers responded to a residential burglary in progress in the 2600 block of Tifton Street on November 15 after a caller reported she woke to the sound of breaking glass and discovered a man climbing through a window. The suspect fled through the back yard and over a fence, and SPPD K-9 officers responded but could not get a track. A Pinellas County Sheriff's Office forensic technician processed the scene.

Officer Rossi discovered a stolen car parked across from Hamilton Disston School. A neighbor advised it had been there for about three days.

Officers responded to a report of three juveniles breaking windows in an abandoned house in the 1600 block of 55th Street. They made contact with one of the three who stated that his friend broke the window. Officers found the juvenile who broke the window, but the owner of the property did not want to pursue charges.

A resident in the 2800 block of 47th Street reported that he found several bags of items in his yard. A check of the property led to a residence down the street, and while he was speaking with that resident, an unidentified suspect entered his home and took various items.

The **Marine Unit** was on the water for approximately 10 hours this week. Five vessel stops, 4 safety checks and 12 boater contacts were made. Marine officers also assisted a boater, and tagged a derelict vessel.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	8
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	6
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Supplements received:	13
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Previously cleared with arrest:	4
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	6

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a grand theft auto, a death investigation, a burglary, and a runaway; administered the physical abilities test to police officer applicants, and; participated in a retail theft detail in which an arrest was made and other cases involving the same suspect were closed.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports on assigned cases; participated in a retail theft detail in which an arrest was made and other cases involving the same suspect were closed, and; attended a homicide conference in Lake Mary.

School Resource Officers Motte and Embry counseled 7 students; met with the parents to two students, and; attended a safety meeting,

Officer Motte taught the Monday night police explorer meeting, covering the topic of active shooter. He also gave 8 classroom presentations this week, one for the BCHS Student Government Club and 7 at Madeira Beach Fundamental for the Great American Teach-in.

Officer Embry assisted BCHS staff members with a disruptive student; escorted a student off campus after he was sent home for the day; assisted a Pinellas Park Detective who interviewed a student at the school, and; met with a St. Pete Police lieutenant who came to the school to speak with a student.

Records

Reports reviewed	21
Supplements reviewed:	85
Public Records requests:	29
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints	7
Subpoenas processed:	13
Citizens assisted	37

MARINA

Assisted with twelve (12) pump outs evacuating three hundred fifty (350) gallons of waste.

Pumped two thousand three hundred seventy six (2,376) gallons of gas and two thousand five hundred forty eight (2,548) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling fifty nine (59) vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Repaired gate closure on pier 6-c access.
- Replaced light fixtures & bulbs along west side of pier 4.
- Purchased & stocked Ship Store resale merchandise & drinks.
- Assembled new dock cart for pier 5.
- Continued repairs to Casino courtesy dock
- Inspected all Marina docks.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, November 6, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Tuesday, November 7, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga.*

Tuesday, November 7, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, November 7, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

Tuesday, November 7, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, November 8, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, November 8, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout.*

Wednesday, November 8, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, November 9, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime.*

Thursday, November 9, noon - *Lunch & Learn: Native American Heritage Month.*

Thursday, November 9, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

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.

Monday, December 11, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*: Last program of the monthly series. Explore how the ancient practice relates to your modern life. Curious and courageous volunteers are welcome to call ahead with their date and time of birth, and as time allows, we will take peek at your charts. Presented by Jennie White, Ode to Pluto Astrology. Call 207-332-0787 or email jennie@odetopluto.com for more information.

Thursday, December 14, 11 a.m. - *CoffeeTalk Book Club*. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, December 14, 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.

Thursday, December 14, 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 November 5 - 11, 2017:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,398	1,180
Sun. 11/5	Library closed	
Mon. 11/6	305	245
Tue. 11/7	260	209
Wed. 11/8	322	231
Thu. 11/9	326	221
Fri. 11/10	Holiday - Library closed	
Sat. 11/11	147	147

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.
- Worked at Heroes Weekend / Veteran's Parade.
- Worked on December calendar.

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.

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.

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 at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, December 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 December 16. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

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

The **FUNDamentals of Watercolor** class meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. This basic class uses a limited palette which emphasizes watercolor techniques including color selection, color mixing, blending and glazing, and use of the color wheel to choose a personal palette. No prior drawing or painting experience is necessary. Registration is required.

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

The Seasoned Sowers Garden Club meets on the first & third Tuesday of every month at 9:30 a.m. Get down & dirty with one of America's favorite hobbies. No experience needed! Natural-born green thumbs & first-time gardeners welcome.

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every third Tuesday of the month. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

Recycle your old cell phone, General Mills Box tops, Campbell's labels, can tabs and eye glasses at the Senior Center. Staff forwards these items to the proper organizations for reuse, recycle or education.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater, Neighborhood Center & Scout Hall

Casino (last week's events):

- Sunday, November 5 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance with Daniel Figazzotto (Turnout 25)
- Tuesday, November 7 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 28)
 Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 24)
 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 66)
- Wednesday, November 8 10 a.m. - Keller-Williams seminar (Turnout 80)
 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 266)
- Thursday, November 9 11 a.m. - Volunteer Luncheon (Turnout 122)
 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 9)
- Saturday, November 11 5 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 122)

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 Third Friday 7 p.m. - Sock Hop with the Impacs
- Every fourth Monday 7 p.m. - USA Dance ballroom dance: members \$5, non-members \$8

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

Sunday, November 5 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Letting Go*
(Turnout 93)

Thursday, November 9 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Letting Go* (Turnout 38)

Friday, November 10 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Letting Go* (Turnout 65)

Saturday, November 11 2 p.m. - GCP presents *Letting Go* (Turnout 48)
8 p.m. - GCP presents *Letting Go* (Turnout 67)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Saturday, November 18, 11:30 a.m. & 2 p.m., and Sunday, November 19 5 & 7:30 p.m. - *PLAY Performing Arts show*. Call 393-7625 for tickets and information.

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

Sunday, November 5 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 22)
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, November 6 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 22)

Thursday, November 9 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 9)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday 6 p.m. - Meditation class

Every Tuesday & Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class

Recreation Center

The game room is reserved 1 - 5 p.m. Saturday, November 18 for a Birthday Party.

Fifty seven 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

Marivel Gutierrez and Jami Rowell attended the City's Volunteer Luncheon at the Casino on Thursday afternoon.

Marivel Gutierrez and John Lapham met with Matt from Records Management on Tuesday morning to go through old files.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 40 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 1 WFF
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes

Life Safety:

- 14 Fire Inspections
- 2 C.O.
- 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 December 21 at Gulfport City Hall.

Gulfport firefighters are undergoing final testing for Advanced Cardiac Life Support recertification. ACLS is renewed every two years.

The Gulfport Fire Department Firefighter/Paramedic selectee has undergone a background check, polygraph s and psychological testing. A health & physical screening with drug test will be completed next week.

Inspector Lundh inspected equipment and attractions on November 16 in preparation for the Most Holy Name of Jesus Fall Festival.

Firefighter/EMT Lesley Jordan & Lieutenant Fernandez taught a Healthcare Provider CPR Course to seven employees at Dr. Amely's office.

The Gulfport Fire Department final testing for Advanced Cardiac Life Support Recertification. ACLS is renewed every two years.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Installed awning at Senior Center.
- Performed monthly pest control at all City buildings.
- Installed address number on Little League building.
- Cleared blocked toilet at Casino.
- Replaced soap dispenser at Senior Center.
- Repaired lights at Wood Ibis & Caldwell Parks.
- Cleaned air conditioning vents and light shield under driveway awning at Library.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Weeded and tilled around volleyball courts, installed plaques, and set up fencing, trash & recycling bins in preparation for volleyball tournament.
- Replaced flags throughout City.
- Repaired Public Works time clock.
- Seeded and fertilized ball fields.
- Inspected outdoor lights around all City buildings.
- Installed trash can outside Casino.
- Remove broken zip line from playground at Caldwell Park for repair.
- Installed storage cage for Sanitation Department.
- Prepped Wood Ibis Park trail path for re-shelling.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and Pier.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned beds at Clymer & Veterans Parks and beach parking lot.
- Mowed Wood Ibis & Clam Bayou Parks, City complex, neighborhood Center, Tangerine sign area, and trail spur.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- Repaired irrigation along 49th Streetscape.
- 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.
- Adjusted sidewalk on Beach Boulevard to ensure pedestrian safety.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system.
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters.
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall.)
- Daily check of ground water levels.
- Completed routes #23, 24, 25, 26, 27 & 31 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 34 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 12 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 82 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 10 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Replaced 1 water meter that was 20+ years old with new electronic meter.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck or damaged and not recording water usage.
- Installed new water service at 2609 46th 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 concrete storm water lids at Recreation Center.
- Formed and poured 6 concrete storm water lids for future use.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced grabber arm spring hook on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced cab mount, led lights, sure plug and tires on Fire Truck #E-17.
- Replaced coolant reservoir cap on Streets Division vehicle #35.
- Replaced battery on Sewer Division vehicle #75.
- Replaced led lights on Fire Truck #P-17.
- Replaced washer pump on Police vehicle #154.
- Replaced battery on Parks Division vehicle #707.
- Replaced fuel injector on Police vehicle #9.
- Replaced idler pulley & belts and front tires on Streets Division vehicle #38.
- Replaced front door panels on Police vehicle #501.
- Replaced hydraulic hose on Sanitation vehicle #29.
- Replaced oil & filter on Police vehicle #525.
- Replaced proximity switch on Sanitation vehicle #44.
- 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 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.

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.