



Gulfport Community Update

October 29 - November 4 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.

The **Boca Ciega High School Homecoming Parade** marched downtown streets on October 25 (photos below).



The Gulfport Neighbors hosted **Junk in the Trunk** at the 49th Street Neighborhood Center on October 28 (photos below).



The **Gulfport Public Library** is collecting **toiletries, diapers, paper products and nonperishable food items** for residents of Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria. Drop off donated items in the bin in the Youth Services area.

Hurricane Guides are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library & Fire Station. The Atlantic basin Hurricane season ends November 30. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits. Basic supplies to keep on hand:

- Flashlights and extra bulbs
- Water
- Battery-operated radio
- Fully charged battery-operated lanterns (no candles or kerosene lanterns)

- Extra batteries
- Matches
- Clock (wind-up or battery-operated)
- Plastic garbage bags
- Working fire extinguishers
- Scissors
- Clean change of clothes, rain gear, sturdy swamp boots

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

Girls, Inc. of Pinellas will host the **8th Annual Father Daughter Ball** at the Gulfport Casino on Saturday, November 4, 6 - 9 p.m.; elegant dinner, auction prizes, DJ and special entertainment, festive attire, portraits and corsages available for purchase. Admission: \$99 per couple. Pre-registration required; call 544-6230 X112 for more information.

The WRD Restaurant Association and the Gulfport Neighbors will host the **Second Annual Gulfport Chef's Table Event** 6 - 10 p.m. Monday, November 6. This outdoor fine dining experience will highlight Gulfport's thriving food scene and feature the offerings of ten local restaurants and chefs at a community table on Beach Boulevard.

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.

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

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

The **Citywide Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street. The **Marina District Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive. The **Strand Area Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Recreation Center. 5730 Shore Boulevard. The **Stetson Area Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Eleazer Hearing Room, 1401 61st Street.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	89
Self-initiated calls for service	449
Offenses	25
Arrests	3
Traffic citations	111
Ordinance violations	25
Residence checks	83

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

Morning staff at Manatees on the Bay contacted police on October 26 regarding an intoxicated man sleeping on the patio. Officer Sigsbee woke him and drove him home.

Officers were dispatched to the 6300 block of 9th Avenue on October 27 after a resident reported a woman breaking items in her own front yard. She told officers she broke glassware and several lawn ornaments following an argument with her husband, and advised she would go inside and avoid disturbing neighbors any further.

Kanon Campbell was arrested on an active warrant from Kentucky for child neglect following a disturbance in Veterans Park.

Officer Carter attempted to stop a car registered to an owner with an outstanding arrest warrant on October 28. The car fled into St. Petersburg and Officer Carter did not pursue.

Officer Carter arrested Matthew Gwinn on an outstanding felony warrant for failure to appear for driving under the influence. Gwinn, who had been evading officers for several days, was taken into custody in the 5200 block of 18th Avenue.

A truck reported stolen in Hillsborough County was found in the 1200 block of Royal Palm Drive on October 29 after the driver abandoned it following a crash into a mailbox and fire hydrant.

A resident in the 5500 block of 14th Avenue reported that someone used her eBay account information in an attempt to make multiple purchases.

Officers were dispatched to the 5600 block of 19th Avenue after a caller reported a dog running loose. When Officer Nieves arrived he discovered the dog attacking 2 other dogs, one of which later died. He deployed his taser during the attack, and the dog ran away. It++ was located and the owner was issued a City ordinance violation.

A resident in the 5600 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported that someone entered his vehicle sometime overnight and stole several items.

A resident in the 5000 Block of Jersey Avenue reported that someone stole his bicycle from his front yard.

A resident in the 5600 block Newton Avenue contacted the PD on November 1, and requested an officer to retrieve a dog at large. The dog was micro-chipped and the owner picked it up after being contacted by police.

Officers received a complaint of an intoxicated person harassing customers and staff at a business in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard. Staff advised that they wanted him trespass from the store. Another man claimed to be family of the first man, and both were issued written trespass warnings.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 14 hours this week. Thirteen vessel stops, 17 boater contacts, and 13 vessel safety checks were made.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	15
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	9
Cases cleared with arrest:	10
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Supplements received:	4
Cases cleared with arrest:	19
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	2
Cases still active:	16

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary case, a grand theft, a hit & run, and a runaway. He also located Joseph Reed and took him into custody.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two theft cases, two auto thefts, four frauds, and a robbery; assisted with the Halloween Bash and the Citywide Crime Watch meeting; questioned a suspect in a burglary case, and assisted Det. Pham in locating and arresting a burglary suspect.

School Resource Officers Motte and Embry wrote three police reports this week, counseled six students, and met with the parents of three students.

Officer Motte investigated a late reported cell phone theft; assisted the school with breaking up a fight resulting in the students being referred for school consequences in lieu of criminal charges; provided security at the Homecoming parade, football game, and dance, and; hosted the Monday night Explorer meeting. Topics were building clearing and investigating crimes.

Officer Embry met with a student's parent about issues with another student wanting to fight her daughter; spoke with a student about a classroom fight that almost occurred; met with a CPI Investigator regarding a child abuse case involving a BCHS student, and; met with a St. Pete Officer regarding a hate crime incident that occurred in St. Pete on Halloween night.

Records

Reports reviewed	12
Supplements reviewed:	88
Public Records requests:	24
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	3
Citizens assisted	39

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, October 23, noon - *Lunch & Learn presents S.H.I.N.E. Medicare 101.*

Monday, October 23, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Tuesday, October 24, 10 a.m. - *ACA Healthcare Navigators*.
Tuesday, October 24, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*.
Tuesday, October 24, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.
Wednesday, October 25, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.
Wednesday, October 25, 1 p.m. - *Gulfport Poetry Writers meeting*.
Wednesday, October 25, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*.
Wednesday, October 25, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.
Thursday, October 26, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*.
Thursday, October 26, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*.
Thursday, October 26, 11 a.m. - *Kids Yoga*.
Thursday, October 26, 6 p.m. - *Paranormal Tools & Techniques*.
Friday, October 20, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, November 4, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: After being coerced into working for a crime boss, a young getaway driver finds himself taking part in a heist doomed to fail. Stars Ansel Elgort, John Hamm, Jamie Foxx, Lily James, and Kevin Spacey. Call 893-1074 for title.

Tuesday, November 7, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Thursday, November 9, noon - *Lunch & Learn presents Native American Heritage Month*: Join storyteller Charles Yona Dunning for both traditional tales and those he has created himself. Listen and learn about Native American culture and heritage. Bring lunch if you like; drinks are provided. Sponsored by First Florida Frontiers in partnership with the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. For more information call 893-1073.

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

Monday, November 13, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program; 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 the Library. We also provide info on bus routes serving this area; access to the Pinellas Trail. Find out how you can participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization.

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.

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.

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 22 - 28, 2017:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation: 1,684 1,270

Sun. 10/22	Library closed	
Mon. 10/23	310	244
Tue. 10/24	211	204
Wed. 10/25	323	197
Thu. 10/26	323	216
Fri. 10/27	314	175
Sat. 10/28	197	155

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

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

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Created designs for e-newsletter.
- Continued preparation of November calendar.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.
- Attended Public Information Officer training in Clearwater.

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.

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

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

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center on Thursday, November 9 at 10:30 a.m.

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

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

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

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.

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 22	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance with Carol Baker (Turnout 23)
Monday, October 23	7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance (Turnout 57)
Tuesday, October 24	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 21) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 15) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 48)
Wednesday, October 25	10 a.m. - Keller-Williams seminar (Turnout 80) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 312)
Thursday, October 25	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 7) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 23) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 3)
Friday, October 27	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 27) 6 p.m. - Anniversary ball (Turnout 120)
Saturday, October 28	7 p.m. - Monster Mash (Turnout 150)

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, October 26 7 p.m. - *PLAY Performing Arts Halloween Show* (Turnout 46)
 Friday, October 27 7 p.m. - *PLAY Performing Arts Halloween Show* (Turnout 112)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Friday, November 3, 4 p.m. - *Morean Art Center Art Reception*: Expressive paintings by a collective of painters dedicated to exploring all that's curious and remarkable in the world of art and nature.

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

Sunday, October 22 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church bible study (Turnout 10)
 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 23 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 26)

Thursday, October 25 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 11)

Friday, October 26 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 13)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday 6 p.m. - Meditation class

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

Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class

Recreation Center

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

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

John Lapham used the school bus to transport thirty five Gulfport Elementary students and four adults to the Boca Ciega Nursing Center, and fifty students and five adults to the Egret Cove Nursing Center on Monday morning.

Recreation staff worked the Annual Spooktacular Halloween Bash on Tuesday evening. There were approximately 750 attendees throughout the evening.

Teen Councilmembers Cameron Althaus, Katelyn Latragna and Connor Rowell volunteered during the Annual Spooktakular Halloween Bash on Tuesday evening.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 42 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 WFF
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Single Engine

Life Safety:

- 12 Fire Inspections
- 1 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 November 16 at Gulfport City Hall.

Chief Marenkovic and Lieutenant Fuchs attended an ISO Public Protection Classification course on November 2. The City's upcoming review will be in the spring of 2018. We currently have a PPC rating of 2.

The Gulfport Fire Department participated in Trunk or Treat at the Recreation Center on Halloween night.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Created concrete molds for volleyball plaques.
- Repaired railing at Tomlinson Park snack bar.
- Installed bird deterrent in Fire Station bays.
- Ordered and maintained janitorial supplies.
- Repaired handicap ramp at Historical Museum.
- Disassembled Boo-Room and Haunted House following Halloween Spooktacular event.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Dismantled Halloween haunted house, and returned props & games to storage.
- Repaired bench swings on beach and at Wood Ibis Park.
- Cleaned upstairs storage area.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and Pier.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned beds at Marina, Scout Hall, Lions Club, Clam Bayou, and beach parking lot.
- Mowed beach, Caldwell Park, 14th Avenue medians & Pasadena entrance area.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced filters on small equipment.
- Repaired irrigation at Senior Center, Library & Clymer Park.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged ball fields.

Streets & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Performed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Cleaned and removed debris from beach, storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.

- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways, alleyways & sidewalks.
- Cleaned debris, cans and trash following Tuesday Market.
- Restocked recycled mulch pile in Neighborhood Center parking lot.
- Continued clearing and removal of storm debris obstructing City roadways.
- Continued free pick-up of all residential storm debris.
- Assisted Gulfport Neighbors at Junk-in-Trunk, collecting and removing 10.11 tons of trash, and 3 pallets of electronics.

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.
- Disconnected water service at 5 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 7 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 104 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 15 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 16 water meters that were 20+ years old with new electronic meters.
- Replaced 2 meters that were stuck or damaged and not recording water usage.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 & 2.
- Daily rain fall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations 1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Cleaned and televised sewer main at Hull Street & 17th Avenue.
- Cleared main line sewer stoppage at Gulfport Boulevard & 15th Avenue.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 6016 17th Avenue.

Stormwater

- Repaired 36" RCP storm water drain line at 5124 12th Avenue.
- Repaired storm water manhole, finished graded area, and replaced sod & rock.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced right rear taillight lens on Police vehicle #156.
- Replaced left rear tires on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Replaced cab mounts on Fire Engine E-17.
- Repaired lights on Fire Engine #P-17.
- Replaced tarp assembly on Sanitation vehicle #29.
- Completed oil change, and replaced wiper blades on Police vehicle #07.
- Added power steering fluid to GEMS vehicle #01.
- Replaced window switch and ignition coil on Public Services vehicle #13.
- Replaced washer pump and grommet on Police vehicle #154.
- Replaced fuel injector on Police vehicle #09.
- Replaced air flow sensor on GEMS vehicle #03.
- Replaced idler pulleys and belts on Streets vehicle #38.

- Performed maintenance and replaced hydraulic line on Parks Division vehicle #709.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

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

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

The state requires licensed contractors to have workers' compensation and liability insurance and the board monitors their insurance coverage. Without these, if a worker gets injured on the job or damages property, the homeowner is liable. Many insurance policies will not pay claims if an unlicensed contractor was doing the work.

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at 582-3100.

- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

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

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

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

To review Code Enforcement activities documents for more detailed information and a map of Code Enforcement areas visit the Special Documents section at www.mygulfport.us.

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

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

November 8, 2017 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

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

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

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