



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *June 25 - July 1, 2017*

### **OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER**

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Tuesday, July 4 in observance of **Independence Day**. Tuesday's Sanitation routes will be collected on Wednesday the 5<sup>th</sup>, and there will be no Wednesday yard waste pickup.

### **The Gulfport Fire Department offers the following tips for a safe and happy Independence Day:**

- Do not allow children to play with fireworks under any circumstances.
- Older kids should only be permitted to play with them under close adult supervision.
- Light fireworks outdoors, away from dry areas and leaves.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby, and possibly a water hose.
- Do not relight malfunctioning fireworks.
- Make sure people are out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never ignite fireworks in a container.
- Store fireworks in a cool dry place.
- Observe local laws.
- Don't experiment with homemade fireworks.
- Never have your body above fireworks.

The **Gulfport Public Library is a Summer Break Spot**, offering free lunches and snacks for children 18 years and younger beginning at 11 a.m. every Monday - Friday through July 28. Summer Break spots are sponsored through the USDA Summer Food Service Program. No signup necessary; just drop in! For more information call 893-1074.

**Pinellas remains under increased water restrictions imposed by Southwest Florida Water Management District.** The District's modified Phase III water shortage order went into effect on May 24 and will remain in effect through August 1. Under the new order lawn watering is reduced to once a week and allowable watering hours are reduced. Micro-irrigation and hand watering of non-lawn areas is permitted. There are also limits on car washing, and homeowner associations may not enforce any deed restrictions that could increase water use. For additional details regarding watering new lawns and plants, reclaimed water and other water uses visit [www.WaterMatters.org/restrictions](http://www.WaterMatters.org/restrictions).

**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 hurricane kit 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

Fire Chief Marenkovic would like to remind Gulfport residents that **free smoke detectors are available to elderly and low income households within Gulfport City limits**. Call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

Duke Energy's vegetation management contractors will perform **maintenance tree trimming in and around the City of Gulfport** during the third quarter of 2017. Duke will notify affected homeowners prior to trimming events, and tree crews will clean up debris associated with maintenance activities. Debris resulting from storm damage or other events unrelated to Duke's maintenance activities is the responsibility of homeowners.

### **Upcoming Events:**

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. For more information visit [www.gulfportma.com](http://www.gulfportma.com), Call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto:FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com).

Everyone is invited to the **City of Gulfport's Independence Day Celebration** in the Waterfront District on Tuesday, July 4. The day's events begin with a Kids' Fishing Derby at the Recreation Center seawall at 8 a.m. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Bring your own pole! The Family Sand Sculpture contest on Gulfport Beach from 10 a.m. until noon will have a Red, White & Blue theme. Bring your own tools and supplies. Tuesday Fresh Market will take place downtown from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. No 4<sup>th</sup> of July would be complete without a Parade on Beach Boulevard at 6 p.m. The day's celebration caps off with a spectacular fireworks display at 9 p.m. The trolley will begin looping offsite parking locations north of Gulfport Boulevard immediately following the parade. For more information email [info@mygulfport.us](mailto:info@mygulfport.us) or call 893-1066.

Visit art vendors, have dinner at one of Gulfport's many fine restaurants and enjoy a beautiful evening during **First Friday Art Walk** on July 7.

A **Zumbathon fundraiser for CASA** (Community Action Stops Abuse) will take place at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom at 10 a.m. Saturday, July 8. Admission \$5 to participate or watch, with all proceeds benefiting CASA! For more information call Paula McCart at 813-455-8723 or visit [www.casa-stpete.org/events.zumbathon](http://www.casa-stpete.org/events.zumbathon).

Join Gulfport Police & Fire at the Catherine Hickman Theater at 6 p.m. Thursday, August 3 for **Gulfport Night Out**, an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places to live. Gulfport Night Out enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community and provides a great opportunity to bring police, fire, and neighbors together under positive circumstances. Call 893-1066 for more information.

Tickets for the August 9 **Tampa Bay Rays vs. Boston Red Sox** are available at the Gulfport Casino. The \$40 price includes round trip transportation to Tropicana Field via the Recreation Bus, a lower box seat and complimentary Ray's baseball hat, available at the redemption desk inside Tropicana Field. All Rays fans with tickets are invited to catch free a ride to the game. Departure from the Gulfport Casino begins at 5 p.m. Return trips begin during the 7<sup>th</sup> inning. For more information call 893-1066.

The theme for the **Ninth Annual Gecko Ball is Geckostock**. Tickets go on sale July 4. The event will take place at the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Boulevard 6 - 11 p.m. Saturday, August 26. Tickets are \$35 per person. For more information and updates email John Haugen at [jhaugen@hudsonmkt.com](mailto:jhaugen@hudsonmkt.com) or visit and "like" [www.Facebook.com/GeckoBall](http://www.Facebook.com/GeckoBall).

The **17<sup>th</sup> Annual Gulfport GeckoFest** promises a full day of free family-friendly fun on Saturday, September 2, 10 a.m. - 10 p.m. This year's street performers include jugglers, magicians, acrobats, face painters, dancers and aerialists. Favorite costumed characters will be roving the village ready to pose for your photos. GeckoFest is preceded each year by the Gecko Art Show, Gecko Crawl and Gecko Ball. All events are hosted by the non-profit Gulfport Merchants Association, and a portion of proceeds benefit local charities. Parking and admission is complimentary and the event is pet and family-friendly. For more information visit [www.Facebook.com/GeckoFest](http://www.Facebook.com/GeckoFest) or call 322- 5217

The **Citywide Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> 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 61<sup>st</sup> Street.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Patrol**

Dispatch calls for service	198
Self-initiated calls for service	349
Offenses	49
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	41
Ordinance violations	40

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers responded to a burglar alarm at the Gulfport Mini Mart on June 22, and discovered forced entry to the front door. Police response was approximately four minutes. Store video showed that by the time police arrived two burglars entered the business, took the safe and fled the area.

A tag was reported stolen from a trailer parked in the Gulfport Marina parking lot. There are no suspects at this time.

A resident in the 5100 block of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on June 23 that sometime overnight someone broke a window on each of his two cars and rummaged through the interiors.

Officers were dispatched to the 5300 block of 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue after a woman reported she was slapped in the face by another woman following a heated argument while she was moving out of a nearby residence. There was no evidence and witnesses took sides for each of the parties with no independent witnesses, so there was no probable cause for a battery charge. The women were advised to avoid each other until the move was complete.

A house sitter reported that two rocking chairs were stolen from the porch of a residence in the 5300 block of 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue sometime within the last few days.

Johnny Kramer was arrested on an outstanding felony warrant from Marion County for probation violation. He was located in a trailer behind a residence in the 5600 block of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue and transported to jail to await extradition.

A resident 2800 block of Upton Street reported that someone fraudulently charged several thousand dollars to her credit card, and used her personal information to open another credit card.

A resident flagged down an officer in the 2800 block of Beach Boulevard and reported a man pulled a gun on him after an argument. James R. Davis was located nearby and arrested for aggravated assault.

A resident in the 5900 block of Pelican Bay Plaza reported on June 24 that while he was in the hospital, someone staying at his residence took a spare car key from the residence, and stole his car from his building's parking garage.

Officer Mills observed a vehicle with the engine running parked in the 4900 Block of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue on June 25, and Valentina Elliot passed out in the driver's seat. Elliott appeared to be intoxicated and was arrested after a DUI investigation. Her BAC was .130/.120.

Two male suspects, possibly juveniles, smashed a window at the Boost Mobile store on Gulfport Boulevard, and one of the two smashed the glass display case and stole cell phones, returning a second time to grab more.

A resident in the 5700 block of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that his car was missing. After receiving a description and tag number, Ofc Marshall reported he saw it at Southwest Pinellas Storage early in his shift. The car was recovered with no damage and returned to the owner.

Officers were dispatched to the 4900 block of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue after a neighbor shot video of a juvenile attacking a resident following a confrontation between the resident and three juveniles. The juvenile was taken into custody and released to a parent, and a battery charge was submitted to the State Attorney's Office.

Ofc Nieves was dispatched to a person down call in the 5100 Block of Newton Avenue where he made contact with Jay Oberman. Oberman alleged he was stretching to go for run. When his name was run through the database, it was determined he had an outstanding probable cause affidavit for felony theft, and he was taken into custody. A syringe was found during a search, and he was also charged with possession of drug paraphernalia.

A St. Vincent Episcopal Church Thrift Store patron reported that she was in the store for approximately ten minutes on June 27, and returned to her car to find it had been struck by another vehicle which was no longer at the scene. There were no witnesses and no surveillance video in the area to determine what happened.

A tenant in the 5400 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported she paid a man to mow her yard and he failed to render service. The case is being investigated.

The manager of Soapy's Laundromat reported on June 28 that someone vandalized a washing machine in an unsuccessful attempt to get money.

Officer Nicita located and arrested Eleanor Buist, a suspect in a forgery and uttering case. She was taken into custody in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard

The **Marine Unit** was on the water for 5.5 hours this week. Three boater contacts and one arrest were made.

### **Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)**

New cases:	14
Cases assigned:	5
Cases suspended-no leads:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Supplements received:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	0

Cases unfounded/no crime: 0  
Cases exceptionally cleared 1  
Cases still active: 10

### **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a grand theft auto, a hit & run, a burglary, a theft, and a fraud, and; interviewed a suspect in Virginia by phone.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a robbery case and a death investigation.

Crime Analyst Palmisano updated cost recovery information for officers to use when requesting restitution from convicted persons; compiled monthly officer activity data; compiled and distributed open case lists; presented a Crime Analysis briefing at the monthly staff meeting, and; updated the Sexual Predator/Offender display and pamphlet, removing one offender who moved out of the City. There are now 2 predators and 20 offenders living in the City.

### **Records**

Reports reviewed 15  
Supplements reviewed: 112  
Public Records requests: 16  
Reports disseminated: 39  
Background checks: 9  
Bike registrations: 0  
Fingerprints 2  
Subpoenas processed: 0  
Citizens assisted 31

### **Other**

The Police Explorers competed in the annual state competition, placing third in crisis intervention, and 11<sup>th</sup> overall out of 28 posts. Great job for our young crew!

### **MARINA**

Assisted with forty two (42) pump outs, evacuating one thousand ten (1,010) gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand four hundred fifteen (3,415) gallons of gas and two thousand three hundred thirty two (2,332) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred twenty eight (128) vessels.

### **Transient vessels:**

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

### **Marina Maintenance:**

- Replaced operational light on north side pump out station.
- Inspected/repared electrical pedestal on pier 6, slip 32.
- Performed standard and routine maintenance on all pump facilities.
- Purchased drinks and Ship Store merchandise for resale.
- Repaired locks and gates on pier 7 for Boca Ciega Yacht Club.
- Adjusted lift bunks on pier 4, slip 37 per renter specifications.

## **LIBRARY**

### **Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday - Friday, noon - *Student luncheon.*

Monday, June 19, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program Kids Yoga.*

Tuesday, June 20, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, June 20, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

Tuesday, June 20, 6:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, June 21, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers.*

Wednesday, June 21, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program Teens Art on the Cart.*

Thursday, June 22, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, June 22, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate.*

Thursday, June 22, noon - *Lunch & Learn: LGBTQ Homeless Youth Project.*

Thursday, June 22, 6 p.m. - *An Evening with Tim Dorsey.*

Friday, June 23, 1:30 p.m. - *Hillsborough County Public Defender's Office staff training.*

Friday, June 23, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

Saturday, July 1, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day:* Join us for the story of an interracial couple who travel to spend a weekend with the girl's parents. As the visit goes on, it moves from awkward to disturbing to shocking in a movie that is both funny and horrifying. For movie title call 893-1074.

Monday, July 3, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program 4<sup>th</sup> of July Kid's Crafternoon.*

Wednesday, July 5, 3 p.m. - *Teen Movie & Sundae.*

Thursday, July 6, 7 p.m. - *Daughter of the Revolution: the Documentary:* Film by Új Budapest Filmstúdió, produced by László Kántor and directed by Tünde Talás focuses on local poet/writer Peter Hargitai who lived in Budapest as a 9-year-old during the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. The experience haunts his life, and it is not until 50 years later that he publishes the book, the story of a 14-year-old girl who becomes a woman warrior. To mark the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the uprising, he comes to Budapest with his son to revisit his past. He narrates his journey as a young immigrant in America and reflects on his motives to write his book as a way of dealing with his traumatic experiences and to pay tribute to the legacy of all young Hungarian women who fought for freedom. Animated scenes are weaved into the narrative and bring the novel to life. The multilevel historical narrative and the film's innovative structure resonate today for audiences young and old.

Monday, July 10, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program Harry Potter Day!!!*

Monday, July 10, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program:* Together we will explore the ancient practice of astrology as it relates to your modern life. The chart can reveal what we want and need, and how we trip ourselves up. Curious and courageous volunteers are welcome to call ahead with their date and time of birth, and as time allows, we will take a peek at your charts. Presented by Jennie (Gilmore) White, Ode to Pluto Astrology. For more information call 207-332-0787 or email [jennie@odetopluto.com](mailto:jennie@odetopluto.com).

Wednesday, July 12, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program Teen Harry Potter party!*

Thursday, July 13, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night:* An independently-produced "broad comedy," stars *RuPaul's Drag Race Season Six* winner Bianca Del Rio (Roy Haylock), as school teacher Richard, fired from his job in a small Texas town after community members discover he is gay.

He returns "in disguise" as his drag persona Bianca to wreak havoc on those who have discriminated against him. Also starring Rachel Dratch, Alan Cumming, Margaret Cho, Lola Botha and RuPaul. Refreshments available. Donations will be accepted to benefit the LGBTQ Resource Center. For movie title call 893-1074.

Saturday, July 15, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: This month's movie is the next outing a wildly popular series based on colorful building blocks. It features a black-masked vigilante! An annoying teenage sidekick! Super villains! And the voice talents of Will Arnett, Michael Cera, Rosario Dawson, and Ralph Fiennes. Rated PG. For movie title, call 727-893-1074.

Monday, July 17, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program Cardboard Construction Creations*.

Wednesday, July 19, 3 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program Teen Yoga*.

Thursday, July 20, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Dead Man's Walk by Larry McMurdy*. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Visit the Circulation Desk to borrow a copy. For more information call 893-1073.

Thursday, July 20, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*: Maya would love to hear one of your young reader's favorites. She visits our children's area on the third Thursday of every month.

Monday, July 24, 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, July 27, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Follows Storytime on the fourth Thursday of the month. Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

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](mailto: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 June 18 - 24, 2017:**

#### **Items Circulated   Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	2,184	1,240
Sun. 6/18	Library closed	
Mon. 6/19	412	214
Tue. 6/20	360	215
Wed. 6/21	445	227
Thu. 6/22	538	209
Fri. 6/23	193	175

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](https://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](http://www.mygulfport.us/gtv640). Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list, and assisted with updates to social media pages.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued daily updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us and social media sites.
- Finalized preparations for 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration.
- Distributed calendars and event information to Tuesday Market vendors and Gulfport Welcome Center.
- Continued preparation of 2018 events list.

### **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 Fridays, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. 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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

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, July 6.

A **Special Flea Frenzy** is scheduled for 9 a.m. - noon Friday, July 7. Everything will be priced at \$2 or less in order to make room for new items.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is July 10. By appointment only; call 893-5657 to schedule.

Learn the latest strategies for building brain and heart health at the next **Healthy Aging with Dr. Cate: Secret of the Tin Man** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 12. Dr. Cate will offer her translation of proven lifestyle choices.

The **Out-to-Lunch Bunch will visit Big Apple Chinese Buffet** restaurant on Thursday, July 13. Enjoy a large selection of Chinese and American cuisine. Round trip transportation: GEMS members; \$4/nonmembers \$6. Meals are selected from menu & paid separately.

St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic is offering **FREE & CONFIDENTIAL Memory Screenings** on Monday, July 17. By appointment only; call 893-5657 to schedule.

Join us for **Health Talks with Humana** at 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 17 when Wendy will discuss this month's topic: *Making a Healthy Change*.

Learn to download apps, take pictures, add contacts, adjust your phone settings, protect your phone, and more at the next **iPhone/iPad Instruction Class** on Wednesday, July 19 at 1:30 p.m. Registration required; call 893-5657 to reserve a seat.

Join us for light refreshments and a presentation by Karyn Rizzo, author of *Aging in America: Navigating our Healthcare System* on Wednesday, July 19 at 2 p.m. for helpful tips and techniques to **Choosing the Best Primary Care Physician**.

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 July 21. Call 582-7480 to schedule an appointment.

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 July 27.

**Happy Birthday to You!** Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games and more at 3 p.m. Friday, July 28. Sponsored by Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance.

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, June 18	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 154)
Tuesday, June 20	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Marge Grudzinski (Turnout 15) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 18) 7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 48)
Wednesday, June 21	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 17) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 247)
Thursday, June 22	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 8) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 9)
Friday, June 23	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 20)
Saturday, June 24	5:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 250)

**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. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance: members \$5, non-members \$8

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

Sunday, June 18	9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church (Turnout 19)
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6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, June 20 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 20)  
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, June 22 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 26)

**Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):**

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every first - third Sunday 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - Bible study

Every Tuesday 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

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

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

Monday, June 19 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 24)

Tuesday, June 20 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 15)

Thursday, June 22 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 15)

Friday, June 23 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 7)

**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 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. & 5 p.m. - 11 p.m. Saturday, July 15, and 1 - 5 p.m. Saturday, July 22 for family reunions.

Registration is underway for **2017/18 Tot Time/VPK program**. 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.

Thirty nine teens are registered for the **2016/17 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.

One hundred forty six children have been registered for the **2017 Summer Recreation Program** for children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14.

**Contractual classes:** Bootcamp, Hoop Jam, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tennis & Zumba.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 33 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 3 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Elevator Rescues

### **Life Safety:**

- 10 Fire Inspections
- 5 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is July 20, and will take place at Gulfport City Hall. Call 893-1022 or email [jwright@mygulfport.us](mailto:jwright@mygulfport.us) for more information.

Lieutenant Firefighter/Paramedic Fuchs is preceptor for a St. Petersburg College Field Internship Program EMT Student.

Five Firefighter/Paramedic applicants are scheduled for interviews to fill the vacation position on the A-shift.

The Gulfport Fire Department's large and small diameter hoses and ground ladders were tested at the Gulfport Marina on June 26. All successfully passed.

Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chiefs Association meeting on June 22.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Replaced filters on all City air conditioning units.
- Repaired cabinet door at City Hall.
- Installed air conditioning drain for Garage.
- Replaced paper towel dispenser at Dog Park.
- Installed garden hose hanger at Fire Department.
- Hung decorations in children's area at Library.
- Delivered a shelving unit to Police Department.
- Replaced ceiling tile in upstairs restroom at Public Services Building, and patched wall in upstairs break room.
- Replaced toilet paper dispenser at Recreation Center.
- Patched and painted walls in Senior Center dining room area.

- Disposed of contents of outside storage unit.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

## **Parks**

- Prepped trolley for parade and reattached windows.
- Drove trolley in St Pete Pride parade.
- Replaced flag rope at Wood Ibis Park.
- Tilled/replaced sand at beach playground.
- Replaced base anchors and foul poles at Little League field.
- Hung storage cabinet in Parks Department shop restroom.
- Cleaned restrooms at little league, beach and outside Casino.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and Pier.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Beach & 49<sup>th</sup> Streetscapes, and beach parking lot & Casino green spaces, hand raked around benches & pavilions, cleaned beach, picked up trash and emptied receptacles on Beach & Shore Boulevards.
- Mowed City complex, Clymer, Veterans, Tomlinson, Wood Ibis & Clam Bayou Parks, Senior Center, Library, Recreation Center & Neighborhood Center green spaces, 55<sup>th</sup> Street medians, Tangerine Greenway and trail spur.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and replaced carburetor on line trimmer.
- Repaired irrigation along 49<sup>th</sup> Streetscape.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards.
- 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.
- Removed several loads of debris from 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area.
- Removed sidewalks at 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 58<sup>th</sup> Street, 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue & Dupont Street, and at 2208 Beach Boulevard.
- Reinstalled City banner at 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue and 49<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Removed obstruction from alley at 57<sup>th</sup> Street & Gulfport Boulevard.
- Removed abandoned boat from Marina.

## **Water**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system (Includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #45, 46, 47 & 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 1 location for non-payment of service.
- Completed 1 non-pay recheck to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 102 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 7 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Replaced 5 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 3 old meters with new electronic meters
- Installed new water service at 5949 Bay Drive.
- Repaired water break at 5518 Newton Street.
- Installed new water service at 1617, 1619 & 1623 52<sup>nd</sup> 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.
- Cleared sewer stoppage in main line at Gulfport Boulevard & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## **Stormwater**

- Excavated and installed road base in pipe crossings at Freemont Street & 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and replaced sod around new storm water inlets.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Removed decals from Fire Department vehicle #D17.
- Replaced air conditioning unit on Fire Department vehicle # E17.
- Installed decals on Parks vehicle #714.
- Repaired electrical wiring for trunk release on Police vehicle #2.
- Replaced battery on Police vehicle #9.
- Investigated exhaust odor on Police vehicle #9.
- Replaced oil & filter, and repaired rear tire on Police vehicle #527.
- Replaced passenger side mirror on Sanitation vehicle #40.
- Welded arm on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Performed preventative maintenance, repairs and duties as needed.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at [www.mygulfport.us](http://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](http://www.pced.org/entrepreneurs) or call 464-7723. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

The longer daylight hours of summer means more time for home improvement projects. **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](http://www.pcclb.com).

**Code Enforcement** activities continued this week in Section 3 of the City, also known as the Southwest Neighborhood Area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets to the City Limits.

Beginning in July, Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 4 of the City also referred to as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets.

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](http://www.mygulfport.us).