



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *July 23 - 29, 2017*

**Pinellas County remains under increased water restrictions imposed by Southwest Florida Water Management District.** The District's modified Phase III water shortage order is 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 are permitted. There are also limits on car washing, and homeowner associations may not enforce any deed restrictions that could increase water use. Visit [www.WaterMatters.org/restrictions](http://www.WaterMatters.org/restrictions) for additional details regarding watering new lawns and plants, reclaimed water and other water uses.

School supplies selling for \$15 or less, clothing, footwear, and certain accessories selling for \$60 or less, and personal computers/certain computer-related accessories purchased for home or personal use selling for \$750 or less will be exempt from sales tax during the 2017 **Back-to-School Sales Tax Holiday** August 4 - 6. For more information and a list of qualifying items visit [www.floridarevenue.com](http://www.floridarevenue.com).

**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 at [www.mygulfport.us/toilet-rebate-program](http://www.mygulfport.us/toilet-rebate-program). Certain restrictions apply. For more information call 893-1016.

**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.

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.

**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

### **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).

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.

Seven larger-than-life geckos, visualized and created according to each artist's individual concept, will be the centerpiece for a live auction to benefit local charities. They can be seen for the first time during the **Third Annual Art Gecko Show** opening reception 6 - 8 p.m. Friday, August 4 at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

The **Gulfport Merchants Association Art & Gallery Walk** takes place every first Friday & third Saturday 6 - 10 p.m. rain or shine, and is home to dozens of artisans and craftsmen. Gulfport's Historical Waterfront Arts District spans 6 city blocks and includes more than 35 unique locally owned shops, businesses, boutiques, galleries, bars & restaurants. There's never an admission fee and complimentary parking is available nearby with courtesy Gulfport Trolley rides available to and from off-site parking areas.

Tickets for the August 9 **Tampa Bay Rays vs. Boston Red Sox** game 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.

Meet your neighbors and help your community at the same time. The **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, August 12, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Meet at Beach Pavilion #4. A limited number of pickers are available; if you have one please bring it. Water will be provided. For more information, visit [www.Gulfportneighbors.org](http://www.Gulfportneighbors.org).

The theme for the **Ninth Annual Gecko Ball is Geckostock**. 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	119
Self-initiated calls for service	417
Offenses	27
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	59
Ordinance violations	66
Residence checks	82

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 6100 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on July 21 that a handgun was stolen from his home while he was in jail. An investigation is under way.

Officers were dispatched to the Dollar General after an employee reported her cell phone was stolen from the store's restroom. When police arrived, the employee stated that she called the phone and advised the man who answered that she would not prosecute if he returned the phone. The suspect returned the phone before the officer arrived, and the victim did not wish to press charges.

Officers responded to a report of a person attempting to enter to a vehicle in the 3000 block of Beach Boulevard and located a man fitting the description provided. The man was extremely intoxicated, and thought he was trying to get into his vehicle. He was provided a courtesy transport home.

A purse containing a wallet, cell phone and car key was reported stolen from an unlocked car parked in the 5000 block of Jersey Avenue.

While on patrol in the 5000 Block of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue on July 22 an officer discovered two vehicles with broken windows. Several items were reported missing from both.

Officers were dispatched to report of an altercation at Gulfport Beach on July 23. A couple was involved in a domestic dispute in Madeira Beach, and the boyfriend struck a car while leaving the location. The girlfriend followed him to Gulfport Beach where she attempted to block him with her car, resulting in a physical altercation. The man's vehicle was located at a residence nearby but he could not be located.

A resident in the 5400 block of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that he and his girlfriend were arguing earlier in the morning and she left. He discovered his car's tire slashed a few hours later.

A resident in the 3100 block of Clinton Street reported that she woke up on the floor of her home and thought she had been drugged. She later hid a purse containing \$2,000 and believes it was stolen by someone in the house.

Officer Marshall stopped a vehicle being driven in the 2800 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street without a tag and discovered driver Jesse Culler, also had a suspended license. He was arrested driving while license suspended or revoked and for operating an unregistered vehicle.

Officers were asked to trespass an intoxicated person from a bar in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard on July 24. The man was unable to walk on his own and was taken into custody under the Marchman Act.

Someone cut the chain-link fence separating the Pinellas Trail from Southwest Pinellas Storage on July 25 and stole an item from a trailer parked at the business.

The owner of a business in the 2800 block of Beach Boulevard reported that he caught an employee stealing fired him. The complainant tried to produce the store video to prove the allegation but was having trouble with the DVR.

Officer Sigsbee arrested Frederick Canady for false verification of ownership and dealing in stolen property. Canady recently pawned some items that were reported stolen in a burglary.

Randy Jackson was arrested for retail theft and providing a false name to law enforcement after employees at Family Dollar observed him shoplifting. Jackson also had two other outstanding warrants; one for retail theft.

Nelson Turney was arrested for driving with license suspended on July 26 after Officer Rossi observed him driving a vehicle with an expired tag. Officer Rossi had issued Turney a citation a day earlier while he was driving same car.

A resident 5700 block of 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that his car was stolen sometime overnight. A key stolen in the past was possibly used to steal the vehicle since there were no signs of forced entry at the scene. The vehicle was later found abandoned seven blocks away.

A motorist reported that she was involved in a hit & run crash in the 1500 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street. She was able to provide a license plate number for the other vehicle. The other driver was identified and the investigation will progress once he is located.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 10 hours this week. Officer Marshall made contact with 5 boaters and Officer Carter began marine unit training this week.

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

New cases:	18
Cases assigned:	8
Cases suspended-no leads:	9
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Supplements received:	14
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	12

### **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a retail theft case, a fraud, and a burglary; identified and is attempting to locate a suspect in a retail theft case; identified a suspect in a burglary case, and; completed subpoena requests for multiple cases.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case, a death investigation, a robbery, and a harassing phone calls case; traveled to Boca Raton with Sgt. Woodman to interview a person in a homicide case, and; assisted with a death investigation.

Crime Analyst, Margaret created and distributed two bulletins in an attempt to ID retail theft suspects; created and distributed a bulletin for Sgt. Woodman in an attempt to ID a person of interest in a homicide case; compiled monthly officer activity information, and; updated the sex offender display and pamphlet adding a new offender who recently moved into the City.

### **Records**

Reports reviewed	5
Supplements reviewed:	74

Public Records requests:	24
Background checks:	4
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	5
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted	37

## **MARINA**

Assisted with twenty one (21) pump outs evacuating four hundred forty (440) gallons of waste.

Pumped six thousand fifteen (6,015) gallons of gas and two thousand four hundred three (2,403) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred seventy three (173) vessels.

### **Transient vessels:**

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

### **Marina Maintenance:**

- Secured deck boards at Boca Ciega Yacht Club.
- Reattached cover onto security light fixture in breezeway between Ship Store & day room.
- Repaired, lubed and reinstalled gate on pier 6.
- Replaced broken shrimp tank valve, installed check valve, and modified intake line.
- Performed routine maintenance on east pump out.
- Purchased and stocked ship store merchandise and drinks for resale.

## **LIBRARY**

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

Monday - Friday, noon - *Student luncheon.*

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

Tuesday, July 18, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, July 18, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

Tuesday, July 18, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step Meeting.*

Wednesday, July 19, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers.*

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

Wednesday, July 19, 7 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, July 20, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, July 20, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Dead Man's Walk by Larry McMurty.*

Thursday, July 20, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Thursday, July 20, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws.*

Friday, July 21, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

## Upcoming Events:

Monday, July 31, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic night*: Open to all comedians, singer-songwriters, poets, storytellers, musicians, jugglers and stage magicians. For more information call 893-1073.

Tuesday, August 1, 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](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.us) for more information.

Thursday, August 3, 7 p.m. - *Teen End of Summer Party*: Pizza! Prizes! Playstation!

Friday, August 4, 7 p.m. - *Family Magic Show with Cesar Domico*: Join us for the grand finale of our kids' Summer Reading Program. A celebration featuring a comedy magic show.

Saturday, August 5, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: This month's film is based on a popular novel about the keepers of the Warsaw zoo who saved both animals and people during the World War II invasion of Poland. Starring Jessica Chastain, Johan Heldenbergh, and Daniel Bruhl. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, August 8, 10:30 a.m. & Thursday, August 17, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop*: Cohosted by Gulfport Neighbors and the Library; learn about the services available through the City and the Library, information on bus routes serving Gulfport and access to the Pinellas Trail. Find out how you can participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization.

Thursday, August 10, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: In this 2015 inventive, independent Canadian film, a closeted Newfoundland teen named Oscar (Connor Jessup) dreams of becoming a special-effects makeup artist, and is terrified of his macho father finding out the truth about his sexuality. When Oscar falls for Wilder (Aliocha Schneider), a handsome and worldly co-worker at the hardware store, he is forced to confront his fears. Also starring Isabella Rossellini, voicing the role of Buffy the hamster! The film won the Best Canadian Feature award at the Toronto International Film Festival. (Not rated.) Refreshments are available. Donations will be accepted to benefit the LGBTQ Resource Center. For movie title, call 727-893-1074.

Monday, August 14, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program: Total Eclipse of the Sun; an Astrological Perspective*. Together we will explore the ancient practice of astrology as it relates to the upcoming solar eclipse. We will discuss the potential energy shift presented by this auspicious event. How might it affect our country and our personal lives, and how can we take the best advantage of the energy? 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).

Thursday, August 17, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Blood Meridian* by Cormac McCarthy. Visit the Circulation Desk to borrow a copy Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Visit the Circulation Desk to borrow a copy. For more information call 893-1073.

Thursday, August 17, 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.

Saturday, August 19, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: We're screening one based on a popular children's book, about a suit-wearing, briefcase-carrying baby who teams up with his 7-year-old brother to save the world. This animated feature stars the voice talents of Alec Baldwin, Steve Buscemi, Lisa Kudrow, and Tobey Maguire. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

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 Thursday through August 24, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*: Programs include stories, songs, movement, and a craft or two for kids 3 - 5 years old.

Every Friday, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*. For more information call 893-1073.

**Library Services/Statistic July 16- 22, 2017:**  
**Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,897	1,296
Sun. 7/16	Library closed	
Mon. 7/17	340	233
Tue. 7/18	374	201
Wed. 7/19	299	225
Thu. 7/20	341	207
Fri. 7/21	287	206
Sat. 7/22	241	158

**PARKS & RECREATION**

**Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://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!

- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us.
- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Sent August events calendar to printer.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Made updates to website.
- Created designs for our e-newsletter.

**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.

Meet Palms of Pasadena Hospital CEO Sharon Hayes at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 2 for a discussion of **Caring Connection**, a new program designed for seniors and their loved ones.

Let's all go to the movies! Our Thursday, August 3 **GEMS Getaway** will take us to the Sundial in St. Petersburg where attendees can peruse the many unique stores and watch a new release at Movieco. Space limited; reserve your seat by August 1. Round trip transportation & movie ticket: GEMS members \$13; nonmembers \$15.

The Alzheimer's Association offers **free Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is August 14. By appointment only; call 893-5657 to schedule.

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 August 18. 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 August 31.

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, July 16            5 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 60)
- Tuesday, July 18        9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 17)  
                                 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 10)  
                                 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons with Kathleen & Steve Prucher  
                                 (Turnout 59)
- Wednesday, July 19    10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 18)  
                                 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 238)
- Thursday, July 20      9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 11)  
                                 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 16)
- Friday, July 21         11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 25)

**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

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

Sunday, July 16, 2 p.m. - *Gulfport Community Players (GCP) Summer One Acts* (Turnout 155)

**Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):**

Thursday, July 27, 7 p.m., and Friday, July 28 5 & 7:30 p.m. - *PLAY Performing Arts presents Beauty & the Beast Jr.* Tickets \$10 plus service fee, available at [www.playstpete.com](http://www.playstpete.com).

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

Sunday, July 16      9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 14)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, July 18      10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 28)  
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Thursday, July 20      10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 29)

**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, July 17      11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 23)

Tuesday, July 18      10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 15)

Thursday, July 20      11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 20)

Friday, July 21      10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 5)

**Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):**

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

Every Monday      11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday      6 p.m. - Meditation class

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

Every Thursday      11 a.m. - Meditation class

## **Recreation Center**

The game room was 1 - 5 p.m. Saturday, July 22 for a family reunion with 75 in attendance.

The game room is reserved 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. Saturday, August 5 for a family reunion.

Registration is underway 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.

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.

Fifty two 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 nine 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.

## **Staff Activities**

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 34 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Trauma Alerts
- 1 Citizen assist
- 3 Vehicle Crashes

### **Life Safety:**

- 2 Fire Inspections
- 1 C/O
- 1 Permit

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is August 17, and will take place at Gulfport City Hall. Call 893-1022 or email [jwright@mygulfport.us](mailto:jwright@mygulfport.us) for more information.

Gulfport Firefighters are scheduled for training on the use of the new water rescue board, and Emergency Vehicle Operator Course training to ensure safe vehicle operations.

Fire Department will participate in Gulfport Public Safety Night Out on August 3, be offering fire truck tours, handouts and a chance to play with the fire hose.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Repaired roof and desk drawer at Casino.
- Cleaned air conditioning intakes at Fire Station.
- Cleared blocked sink at Garage.
- Cleaned carpets, replaced two ballasts, hung file holders in office and dismantled gate at Neighborhood Center in preparation for repair.
- Installed new fluidmaster in restroom and repaired fan at Historical Building.
- Moved chairs from Historical Building to Scout Hall.
- Installed benches on Williams Pier.
- Moved filing cabinet from storage area to office at Public Services Building.
- Moved boxes from City Hall to Public Services Building.
- Repaired handicap bar in ladies room & playground gate, and installed signs at Recreation Center playground.
- Moved furniture out of dining room and lobby area for floor waxing and cleaned carpets at Senior Center.
- Repaired gate damaged by recycle truck.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

### **Parks**

- Repaired door handles in Parks shop.
- Installed benches on Williams Pier.
- Inspected event power polls on Tangerine Greenway.
- Continued hanging new signs in parks.
- Cleaned restrooms at little league, beach and outside Casino.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and Pier.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Neighborhood Center & Senior Center green spaces, hand raked around benches & pavilions, cleaned beach, picked up trash and emptied receptacles on Beach & Shore Boulevards.
- Mowed Clymer &, Tomlinson Parks, Dog Park, Marina, Lions Club, Recreation Center, Senior Center & Library green spaces, Clymer Greenway, City Complex, Hoyt perimeter, and York & 49<sup>th</sup> Street termini.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and replaced battery and fuel pump on mower.
- Repaired irrigation at Veterans & Caldwell Parks.
- 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 debris and construction material from York Street terminus.
- Staged two dirt mounds for future work at 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 60<sup>th</sup> Street.

## **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 and 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 25 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 1 non-pay recheck to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 94 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Replaced 4 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 14 old meters with new electronic meters.
- Repaired water breaks at 2801 Upton Street and at 3020 Beach Boulevard.

## **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**

- Repaired storm drain at southeast corner of 51<sup>st</sup> Street & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Changed oil and filter and performed safety inspection on Police vehicle #156.
- Performed preventive maintenance, installed seat sensors, replaced 2 seats bottoms and steering wheel on Fire vehicle #E17.
- Replaced rear shocks on Parks vehicle #710.
- Evacuated and recharged air conditioning system on Parks vehicle #716.
- Patched spare tire and removed heat shield from rotors on Police vehicle #530.
- Replaced tire on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced air conditioning belt and evacuated & recharged air conditioning system on Sanitation vehicle # 43.
- Replaced O-ring on hydraulic valve on Sanitation vehicle # 43.
- Repaired fuel line leak and checked air conditioning operation on Street vehicle #35.
- 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 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.

Beginning in August, Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 5 of the City, also referred to as the Marina District which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the water and east from 49<sup>th</sup> Street to City boundaries.

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).

#### **Planning and Development**

##### **August 2, 2017 Planning & Zoning Board and August 15, 2017 City Council/CRA meeting:**

Discussion of the monitoring and evaluation of the Public Information Program Strategy Plan for the Community Rating System Program.

##### **August 9, 2017 Board of Adjustment meeting:**

V17-14; 2720 50<sup>th</sup> Street South; Variances requested to:

- 1) acknowledge the existing encroachment of the separation distance requirement of 3 feet, from 12 feet to 9 feet between the accessory structure and the existing house;
- 2) acknowledge the existing rear yard setback encroachment for the existing detached accessory structure (garage with apartment) of 9.12 feet, from 15 feet to 9.12 feet, from 15 feet to 5.88 feet;

- 3) reduce the required separation distance between the proposed exterior stairs to be rebuilt and the existing house by 7 feet, from 12 feet to 5 feet;
- 4) reduce the required separation distance between a proposed attached roofed cover to be attached to the garage and covering an existing concrete slab and the existing house by 3 feet from 12 feet to 9 feet; and
- 5) reduce the rear yard setback distance for an accessory structure for the proposed attached roofed cover to be attached to the garage and covering an existing concrete slab by 9.12 feet from 15 feet to 5.88 feet.

V17-15; 3001 56<sup>th</sup> Street South; Variances requested to:

- 1) acknowledge the existing encroachment of the house into the front yard setback requirement by 0.5 feet from 25 feet to 24.5 feet; separation distance requirement of 3 feet, from 12 feet to 9 feet between the accessory structure and the existing house;
- 2) acknowledge the existing secondary street side yard setback encroachment of the house by 1.2 feet from 12 feet to 10.8 feet;
- 3) acknowledge the existing interior side yard setback encroachment for house by 1.2 feet, from 6 feet to 4.8 feet;
- 4) reduce the required side yard setback distance by 1.2 feet, from 6 feet to 4.8 feet for the construction of a proposed new deck and steps to be attached to the house and located on the interior side yard; and
- 5) reduce the required front yard setback distance by 5 feet from 19 feet to 14 feet in addition to;
- 6) reduce the secondary street side yard setback distance by 3 feet from 12 feet to 9 feet for another proposed new deck and steps to be located on the front of the house.