



Gulfport Community Update

August 6 - 12, 2017

Pinellas County Public Schools reopened August 10. The Gulfport Fire Department joined City Manager Jim O'Reilly to welcome the children on their first day (photos below).



Thousands of public safety organizations across the United States and Canada use the **CodeRED community notification system** to initiate emergency notifications. The CodeRED Mobile Alert app enables subscribers to receive notifications directly to their personal cell phone whether at home, on the road, or traveling around the country. Alerts are initiated by authorized public safety officials to deliver location-based notifications. The free alerts available on this app are emergency, community and missing persons. Visit www.public.coderedweb.com/cne/en-US/29EC00E01AD1 for more information or to enroll.

Southwest Florida Water Management District's (SWFWMD) year-round water conservation measures are again in effect. Lawn watering is limited to no more than twice per week: Even addresses may water on Thursday and/or Sunday before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.; Odd addresses may water on Wednesday and/or Saturday before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.; Locations without a discernable address, such as rights-of-way and common areas inside a subdivision, may water on Tuesday and/or Friday before 10 a.m. or after 4 p.m.; Hand watering and micro-irrigation of plants (other than lawns) can be done on any day and any time. For additional details regarding watering new lawns and plants, reclaimed water and other water uses visit www.WaterMatters.org/restrictions.

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. 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 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, Call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

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.

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 or visit and "like" www.Facebook.com/GeckoBall.

The **17th Annual Gulfport GeckoFest** promises a full day of free family-friendly fun on Saturday, September 2. 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. Events are hosted by the non-profit Gulfport Merchants Association, and a portion of proceeds benefit local charities. Free parking and admission. Pet and family-friendly. For more information call visit www.Facebook.com/GeckoFest or call 322-5217.

Join us for **Gulfport Family Fun Day** on the Tangerine Greenway, 49th Street & 18th Avenue 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, September 16. Registration for a charity event benefiting the local Christmas toy shop is \$15 per person; 2 person teams required. For more information email Phil Reed at JSRTraining@aol.com or call 327-3509.

The **Gulfport Peace, Love & Women Music Festival** at 4 p.m. Sunday, September 17 will offer a spectacular showcase of critically acclaimed women performers with rebellious original rock-n-roll sounds to award-winning get-on-your-feet-and-dance R & B. Five of Tampa Bay's favorite woman performers and woman-fronted bands will take the stage at the Historic Gulfport Casino. Tickets available online at www.GulfportWomensMusic.com. For more information email info@gulfportwomensmusic.com or call Business Brainstormers, Inc. at 289-9365.

Tickets for the **September 20 Tampa Bay Rays vs. Chicago Cubs** are available at the Gulfport Casino. The \$60 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 7th inning stretch. For more information call 893-1066.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	217
Self-initiated calls for service	395
Offenses	32
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	104
Ordinance violations	59

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers were dispatched to Gulfport Beach on August 3 after a caller reported an unresponsive woman on the shoreline. A preliminary investigation indicated a possible drowning. No foul play was suspected and it is unknown if a medical condition may have contributed to her death.

The driver of a pickup truck struck a car parked in the 5000 block of 9th Avenue and drove to his home on the same block. Officers found the damaged truck in his driveway, and Amedeo Brancaleoni was arrested for hit and run after he admitted to leaving the scene of the crash. The car was totaled.

A nurse at Boca Ciega Genesis Nursing Home reported on August 4 that a patient left the facility without notifying staff. The patient was found at Wal-Mart near Bay Pines Hospital.

A resident in the 5200 block of 9th Avenue reported on the morning of August 5 that his motor scooter was stolen from his carport sometime overnight.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a car crash after Melissa Sarra lost control of her car while driving east in the 6300 block of Gulfport Boulevard, crossed into the westbound lanes and hit a guardrail before crossing back into the eastbound lanes and coming to a stop. Sarra claimed to have swerved because a raccoon was crossing the road. She was arrested following a DUI investigation. Sarra provided one breath sample of .102 but refused a second breath test. She also admitted to taking prescription drugs.

Four women entered the Dollar General store on August 6, walked to the rear of the store, shoved frozen dinners into a purse, and left without paying.

A resident in the 5100 Block of 14th Avenue reported that someone entered her unlocked vehicle and stole a purse and wallet.

A man entered the Dollar General store on August 7 and placed several items of clothing into a bag that he brought with him. The manager confronted him and demanded a receipt when he asked for a second bag. The man fled the store with the merchandise.

Officers were dispatched to the 5100 block of 20th Avenue after a caller reported someone broke her passenger side window. Nothing appeared to be missing.

Police made contact with a woman on August 8 who had an outstanding arrest warrant for failing to appear in court. After some research, it was determined a court error caused the defendant to be notified of the wrong appearance date. A circuit judge was notified, a new court date was issued, and the warrant was nullified. No arrest was necessary as a result.

A subject inside the Citgo gas station snatched over \$40.00 worth of scratch-off lottery tickets and fled the store without paying. Video surveillance was obtained to help identify the suspect.

A water pump and an air filter were reported stolen from in front of a residence in the 5300 block of 26th Avenue. Officers conducted a neighborhood canvass but found no leads.

A resident found a debit card in the 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard and turned it over to Officer Sigsbee. The card had been reported stolen in a burglary investigated by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. The case agent was notified and the card was placed into Property & Evidence to be returned to the owner.

A resident in the 4900 Block of 15th Avenue reported her ex-boyfriend stole her jewelry and pawned it at a local pawn shop. The case is under investigation.

The **Marine Unit** was on the water for 23.5 hours this week, and 13 boater contacts were made. The Marine Unit was also on display during National Night Out

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	13
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Supplements received:	17
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	4
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	11

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case, a runaway, a hit & run, and a theft; conducted a follow-up investigation in Leesburg in a fraud incident, and; investigated the drowning of an elderly woman at Gulfport Beach.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two fraud cases, a death investigation and an auto theft; identified and arrested a suspect in a stalking case; assisted with Gulfport Night Out, and; assisted Det. McLaughlin with a recruiting event at Polk State College.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano completed the CIS monthly report; assisted with Gulfport Night Out; created and distributed a bulletin for Ofc. Guillory in an attempt to ID a retail theft subject; compiled and distributed open case lists; completed an analysis of vehicle burglaries, and; created a bulletin for Ofc. Smith in an attempt to ID a retail theft suspect.

Records

Reports reviewed	7
Supplements reviewed:	38
Public Records requests:	31
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	4
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted	36

MARINA

Assisted with twenty four (24) pump outs evacuating four hundred sixty (460) gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand eight hundred twenty nine (3,829) gallons of gas and three thousand forty three (3,043) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred twenty one (121) vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Marina Maintenance:

- Assembled t-shirt and accessory display rack for Ship Store.
- Weed and reworked open areas along west fence line and under kayak racks.
- Inspected Marina fire extinguishers, including those in vehicles.
- Cleaned, flushed and prepared pump-out room for installation of new pump.
- Repaired/replaced dock box lid keepers on pier 2, slip 6.
- Purchased and stocked Ship Store merchandise for resale.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, July 31, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night.*

Tuesday, August 1, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga.*

Tuesday, August 1, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, August 1, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

Tuesday, August 1, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step Meeting.*

Wednesday, August 2, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers.*

Wednesday, August 2, 7 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, August 3, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, August 3, 3 p.m. - *Teen End of Summer Party.*

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

Friday, August 4, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Friday, August 4, 7 p.m. - *Family Magic Show with Cesar Domico.*

Saturday, August 5, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

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.

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.

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.

Thursday, August 24, 10 a.m. - *ACA Healthcare Navigators*: Onsite assistance with qualifying for coverage and selecting health insurance plans.

Thursday, August 24, 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.

Monday, August 28, 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, August 31, 6 p.m. - *An Evening of Poetry*: Presented by Gulfport Poet Laureate Sam Henderson.

Saturday, September 2, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: This month's film is about three retirees who join forces to rob the bank that stole their pension funds in this stylish heist movie. Stars Morgan Freeman, Michael Caine, and Alan Arkin. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, September 5, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Thursday, September 14, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: 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 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 30 - August 5, 2017:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,518	1,271
Sun. 7/30	Library closed	
Mon. 7/31	254	196
Tue. 8/1	300	227
Wed. 8/2	193	198
Thu. 8/3	310	216
Fri. 8/4	238	208
Sat. 8/5	213	168

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

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

- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us.
- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Created designs for e-newsletter.
- Commenced preparation of September calendar.

Multipurpose Senior Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday-Thursday, and 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.

The **City of Gulfport Telephone Reassurance program** is much more than a morning wake-up call. This free service offers Gulfport residents 50 years or older - and their families comfort, security, and peace of mind. Volunteers provide daily phone calls to registered members. If the

member cannot be reached, the volunteer follows specific procedures to confirm there are no major concerns. Registration is simple and free. If you or someone you know could use this service, call 893-2237 or stop by the Gulfport Senior Center at 5501 27th Avenue.

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

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

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

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

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

St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic will offer **free Memory Screenings** Monday, 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.

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, September 14.

Join us on Wednesday, August 16 at 2 p.m. as Dr. Donald B. Ardell explains why Robert Green Ingersoll was such a remarkable attraction who drew 50,000 people to a lecture in Chicago; 40,000 too many for the Great Exposition Center! Dr. Ardell, an Ingersoll aficionado and Gulfport resident will recite a few of **The Great Agnostic's** profound speeches.

The **Out-to-Lunch Bunch** will venture to Cordon Bleu French Bistro on Thursday, August 17, where you will find a large selection of delicious French specialties. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$4/non-members \$6. Meals are selected from menu & paid separately.

Join us for **Health Talks with Humana** on Monday, August 21 at 10:30 a.m. for Wendy's monthly educational discussion. This month's topic is "Superfoods".

Hula on over for some tropical fun at the Annual **Tiki Time Luau** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 23. Enjoy island inspired foods, dancing and the popular PHOTO BOOTH! Limited seating: tickets MUST be obtained prior to the event. Limit 2 tickets per person.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, August 25. 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, July 30	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 24)
Tuesday, August 1	9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 19) 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 5) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons (Turnout 52)
Wednesday, August 2	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 17) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 185)
Thursday, August 3	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 15) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 11)
Friday, August 4	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 24)
Saturday, August 5	8 p.m. - Family Reunion (Turnout 120)

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*):

Tuesday, August 1

5 p.m. - Edward Jones seminar (Turnout 20)

Thursday, August 3

6 p.m. - Gulfport Night Out (Turnout 200)

Friday, August 4

6 p.m. - Art Reception (Turnout 125)

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

Sunday, July 30

9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 11)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, August 1

10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 26)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Thursday, August 3

10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 29)
2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 22)

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 31

11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 10)

Tuesday, August 1

10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 7)

Thursday, August 3

11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 12)

Friday, August 4

10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 4)

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 reserved 9 a.m. - 11 p.m. Saturday, August 5 for a family reunion with 85 in attendance.

The game room is reserved 3 - 7 p.m. Saturday, August 12 for a baby shower.

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

Fifteen children have been registered for the **2017/18 Tot Time program**, and five for **VPK**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on program for children ages 3-5 that aims to make learning fun for children, and helps prepare them for Kindergarten. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply with Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas, Inc. and receive a Certificate of Eligibility to attend the program. Class begins Tuesday, September 5.

Three teens are registered for the **2017/18 Teen Night Program**, a great hangout for teens in grades 6-12. Teen Night provides recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects.

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

Staff Activities

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday.

Marivel Gutierrez and John Lapham interviewed one Recreation Leader applicant on Monday.

Teen Councilmembers Phoebe Carrazco, Sarah Eisenbaum and Katelyn Latragna volunteered at Gulfport Night Out on Thursday evening.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 35 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 1 Structure Fire
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Haz-Mat Call
- 1 Gas Leak

Life Safety:

- 11 Fire Inspections
- 1 C/O
- 1 Re-inspection

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 for more information.

Gulfport Firefighters are undergoing annual Physicals with LifeScans. The Physicals also include a series of tests for Firefighter Safety and Wellbeing under NFPA 1500.

Firefighters participated in Surface Water Rescue training hosted by the Madeira Beach Fire Department this week.

The Gulfport Fire Department participated in the Drive Safe Back to School Campaign at 52nd Street & Gulfport Boulevard on August 10. Please be cautious of children and drive safely now that school is back in session.

There was no quorum for the July 20 Gulfport Fire Pension Board meeting. A special meeting is scheduled for August 16.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Inspected fire extinguishers in all City vehicles and buildings.
- Delivered boxes from Public Services storage area to City Hall for Finance Department.
- Repaired roof leaks at Casino and Neighborhood Center.
- Painted Casino roof drain, and repaired umbrella holder on patio table and partitions in women's restroom.
- Cleared blocked drain and repaired chair & paper towel dispenser at Police Department.
- Removed furniture from Recreation Center rooms A & B, installed new carpet and replaced furniture, relocated window blinds, and repaired corkboard & keyboard tray.
- Repaired mailbox at Dog Park.
- Filled dog bag boxes at all City parks.
- Transported bus to Tampa for repairs per Garage request.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Replaced lights and fixtures in Recreation Center gym.
- Inspected GetGo charging station at Fire Department.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and Pier.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched City complex, Casino green spaces and beach parking lot.
- Mowed City complex, Wood Ibis, Clam Bayou & Clymer Parks, Senior Center, Library, Recreation Center, Marina & Lions Club green spaces, trail spur and 49th & York Street termini.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and replaced belt on mower.
- Repaired irrigation at Caldwell Park and along Beach Streetscape.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas.

- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged ball fields.

Streets & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Performed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Cleaned and removed debris from beach, storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways, alleyways & sidewalks.
- Cleaned debris, cans and trash following Tuesday Market.
- Restocked recycled mulch pile in Neighborhood Center parking lot.
- Repaired/replaced signs throughout City.
- Removed 28' sailboat 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 #09, 10, 11 and 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 38 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 1 non-pay recheck to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 84 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 15 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Collected biweekly bacteriological samples and quarterly TTHM's and HAA5 samples on water distribution system.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 1 old meter with new electronic meters.
- Repaired water breaks at 5154 16th Avenue, 5440 29th Avenue, and at Casino Dock.

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.
- Manually controlled pumps at Lift Stations to avoid sanitary sewer overflow.

Stormwater

- Cleaned storm drains on 20th Avenue between 54th & 53rd Streets.
- Cleared blocked outfall at Gulfport Elementary School storm water retention pond.
- Constructed curb inlets on northeast & southeast corners of Newton Avenue and 56th Street.
- Constructed curb inlet on Tradewinds Drive.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced oil & filter, radiator & fan motors, performed fuel induction service, front upper control arms and struts, hood struts, alternator and passenger front airbag, and performed safety inspection on Police vehicle #4.
- Balanced tires on Police vehicle #12.
- Replaced front passenger tire on Police vehicle #14.
- Patched spare tire on Police vehicle #30.
- Replaced upper control arms, oil & filter, completed alignment and patched left front tire on Public Services vehicle #10.
- Replaced hydraulic hose on Sanitation vehicle #29, ignition switch and batteries on Sanitation vehicle #40, front wipers on Sanitation vehicle #42, power steering pump on Sanitation vehicle #41, batteries on Sanitation vehicle #45, fuel injector on Sanitation vehicle #46 and hydraulic hose on Sanitation vehicle #88.
- Welded rear passenger rear door hinge on Street vehicle #38.
- Replaced entrance door module on GEMS bus #11.
- Performed preventive 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 under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

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

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.

Code Enforcement activities continued this week in Section 5 of the City, also referred to as the also referred to as the Marina District which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26th Avenue to the water and east from 49th Street to City boundaries.

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.mygulfpport.us.

Planning and Development

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.