



Gulfport Community Update

August 13 - 19, 2017

Contractors are working on **Phase II of the Shore Boulevard Recreational Trail Improvement Project** (photos below). This \$600,000.00+ investment in the Waterfront Redevelopment District was made possible thanks to the City of Gulfport Capital Improvement Program and a Pinellas County Community Development Block Grant. Shore Boulevard east of Beach Boulevard is closed to eastbound traffic until further notice. The project is expected to be completed by September 30.



Duke Energy maintains numerous outdoor lights to help promote safety and security in public areas. Gulfport residents can call 443-2641 Monday - Friday, 7 a.m. - 9 p.m. or submit an online street light repair request at www.duke-energy.com.

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 a 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 time. For more information 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. 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.

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.

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.

Join 2017 Poet Laureate Sam Henderson for a **poetry workshop** in the Gulfport Public Library Friends Room at 6 p.m. Thursday, August 31. We will write and share original poems in short forms including Pantoum, Haiku, Tanka, Cinquain, Acrostic, Limerick, Bio and Free Verse. This is a free workshop designed for spontaneous creative writing in a group setting. How much or little you choose to share is at your discretion. Bring a pen and paper, and a free and open mind. Thank you for supporting and participating in the literary arts. For more information call 893-1073.

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.

In partnership with the Ocean Conservancy, Keep Pinellas Beautiful will coordinate the **2017 International Coastal Cleanup** throughout Pinellas County, including Clam Bayou Nature Preserve in an effort to eliminate the impact of marine and terrestrial debris within Pinellas County ecosystems. Join Keep Pinellas Beautiful & the City of Gulfport for a rewarding day of community improvement, engagement, and beautification 9 a.m. - noon Saturday, October 21. Call 893-1118 or visit www.eventbrite.com/e/2017-international-coastal-cleanup-clam-bayou-nature-preserve-tickets-36959992332 to register.

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	234
Self-initiated calls for service	370
Offenses	37
Arrests	5
Traffic citations	90
Ordinance violations	41

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 6000 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported on August 10 that a relative poured sugar in her car's gas tank and stole her cell phone. The suspect is being sought.

A resident in the 2600 block of Beach Boulevard reported on August 11 that his tree trimming company advised his residence had been burglarized. There was a large hole in the back door but the residence appeared intact. The owner advised he would call back when he returned home.

Officers were dispatched to the 3100 block of 56th Street on August 12 after a driver backed into another car then proceeded across the alleyway and into an occupied residence. There were no injuries and the driver was issued a citation and recommended for a re-exam due to possible diminished memory.

Officers responded to a report of a battery in progress in the 2900 block of Beach Boulevard after a woman was struck by a bar stool during an altercation between two male subjects. The suspect who threw the chair was gone when officers arrived on scene, and is still unknown at this time.

Someone used spray paint to vandalize several areas and signs in Wood Ibis Park. The paint cans and a lid from a can were collected for processing.

The staff at Gulfport Rehabilitation Center reported that a sexual battery occurred at the facility involving two patients in the memory care unit. The female victim was transported to a hospital and an offense report was written. DCF was also contacted.

Steven Merchant was arrested following a grand theft investigation. He admitted to skimming nearly \$23,000 from the Gulfport Merchants Association over the past year while working at the weekly Tuesday Market.

Tyree Baldwin was arrested on August 14 after a resident in the 5600 block of 11th Avenue reported that her mother's ex-boyfriend attempted to break into their residence.

Ofc. Priest stopped Mario James at the intersection of 49th Street & 17th Avenue on August 15 for riding a bike after dark with no light. James dropped his crack pipe on the ground, and a subsequent search revealed a push rod in his pocket. He was issued a notice to appear in court for possession of paraphernalia.

Officers are investigating after a caller reported he was visiting a friend in the 1100 block of Gray Street when an argument broke out between the woman and her son. The caller stated he tried to mediate the situation and the son, Keontae McCullough pulled a gun and threatened him before fleeing the scene.

Walgreens Pharmacy staff advised that an unknown subject picked up a prescription for a controlled substance for another person, paying with a credit card. The next day two other subjects attempted to pick up the same prescription. Ofc. Smith is investigating.

A resident in the 6000 block of Luana Lane reported that he was contacted by a company regarding a past due account for tires and rims worth more than \$16,000 that were shipped to an address in Pompano Beach.

Sometime in the last six weeks two concrete benches were stolen from the City yard.

A Town Shores resident reported on the morning of August 16 that he allowed a female friend named Natasha Lucic to spend the night at his condo. When he woke up Lucic was gone, along with his spare keys and his vehicle.

Officers were dispatched to the 5000 Block of 14th Avenue after a caller reported several people placing a 55 inch TV into a black Ford sedan and leaving at a high rate of speed. The car rental company provided GPS location of the vehicle but it was gone when police arrived. The homeowner arrived shortly after and advised the house had been broken into through a rear door, and ransacked.

A resident in the 5100 Block of 16th Avenue reported that a bicycle that was chained to a tree and a weed eater that was in a shed had been stolen.

The Marine Unit was used for 5 hours this week. Four boater contacts were made.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	14
Cases assigned:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Supplements received:	17
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0

Cases still active: 15

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a death investigation, a grand theft auto and a fraud case, and; issued probable cause for retail theft charges against Ramon Moss. Moss was located and arrested.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two fraud cases, a death investigation and an auto theft; completed case agent evidence review forms, and; investigated sexual battery allegations.

Officer Motte hosted a safety meeting in preparation for the start of the school year; provided a presentation to school staff regarding securing school property and their personal property; spoke with several classrooms, providing lessons on a range of topics Law enforcement encounters; spoke at three assemblies at Boca Ciega High School and one at Pinellas Park High School in an attempt to recruited new Police Explorers; hosted an Award Ceremony for the Gulfport Police Explorers to recognize the group's hard work throughout the year, with many parents and community leaders attending.

Officer Langston attempted to locate a student wanted on Hillsborough County warrant after receiving a tip and request from SPPD. The student was absent the first two days of school, and Officer Langston was later notified that the student had been located and taken into custody. She assisted a parent who informed her of a student with school transportation issues; attended three school assemblies for students from grades 9, 10 & 11; assisted in organizing and planning the first ever Gulfport Police explorer's award ceremony which was held on Saturday, August 12, securing donations from three food vendors, creating the ceremony program and certificates, and assisting with set up and cleanup.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano completed an analysis regarding the thefts of plants and decorative items from in front of residences and businesses; compiled the monthly PCSO call out report; processed and distributed 53 case agent review forms; reviewed property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper entry into FCIC, and; completed pawn checks on eight cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description.

Records

Reports reviewed	21
Supplements reviewed:	90
Public Records requests:	52
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	21
Citizens assisted	38

MARINA

Assisted with nineteen (19) pump outs evacuating three hundred sixty (360) gallons of waste.

Pumped five thousand four hundred forty five (5,445) gallons of gas and one thousand six hundred ninety (1,690) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred fifty one (151) vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, August 8, 10 a.m. - *ACA Healthcare Navigators*.

Tuesday, August 8, 10:30 a.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop*.

Tuesday, August 8, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*.

Tuesday, August 8, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step Meeting*.

Wednesday, August 9, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers*.

Wednesday, August 9, 7 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

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

Thursday, August 10, noon - *Lunch & Learn presents Ancestry.com*.

Thursday, August 10, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*.

Thursday, August 10, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*.

Friday, August 11, 2 p.m. - *America Divided: Film & Discussion* presented by Dave Mather.

Friday, August 11, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, August 19, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: 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, noon - *Lunch & Learn presents Ancestry Family Trees*: Publishing your tree on Ancestry.com can be a great way to share your research with others, as well as to provide a backup for your work. Learn how to start a family tree on the site and how to maintain it. That includes working with people, events, images, and sources. Presented by Peter Summers of the Pinellas Genealogical Society.

Thursday, August 31, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Poetry Workshop*: Presented by Gulfport Poet Laureate Sam Henderson. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Saturday, September 2, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: Three retirees 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.

Monday, September 11, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*: Presented by Jennie (Gilmore) White of Ode to Pluto Astrology. Call 207-332-0787 or email jennie@odetopluto.com for more information.

Thursday, September 14, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: Oscar-winners Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker star in this 2012 film as a lesbian couple of 31 years who are threatened with separation by family members who think one should go into a nursing home. Instead, they flee together on an adventurous road trip to Canada, where same-sex marriage is legal. Along the way they encounter a young hitchhiker who has much to learn from the couple. Poignant and funny! (Not Rated.) Refreshments will be available. Donations benefit the LGBTQ Resource Center. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Thursday, September 21, 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.

Through September - *Heart Gallery Portrait Display*: Heart Gallery's mission is to increase the number of successful adoptions of local children in foster care. Call 258-4806 or visit www.HeartGalleryKids.org for more information.

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 August 6 - 12, 2017:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,683	1,219
Sun. 8/6	Library closed	
Mon. 8/7	316	204
Tue. 8/8	261	198
Wed. 8/9	207	200
Thu. 8/10	275	199
Fri. 8/11	300	190
Sat. 8/12	307	167

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.
- Continued preparation of September calendar.
- Provided photo coverage for Gulfport Fire Department Back to School Driver Safety campaign.

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.

Join Wendy for **Health Talks with Humana** at 10:30 a.m. Monday August 21. 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 AARP is working with governors, state legislators, and community partners across the country to take commonsense steps to support America's 40 million family caregivers. **AARP's CAREversations** informs family caregivers of locally available resources. Learn about this program at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 30.

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.

Dive into the history of the automobile at the **Tampa Bay Automobile Museum** on Thursday, August 31. The Tampa Bay Automobile Museum features a unique collection of vintage vehicles, including the world's only replica of the French 1770 Fardier de Cugnot, the first-ever self-propelled vehicle. Each vehicle is chosen based on its engineering achievements. Limited seating; seats **MUST** be reserved by August 24. Round trip transportation & admission: GEMS members \$10; nonmembers \$12.

The fleas are returning from their summer trip and have gathered all kinds of unique and unusual items at bargain prices. Stop by to check out all the great deals at the next **First Friday Flea Market** at 9 a.m. September 1. Sorry, no early birds.

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.

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 September 15. Call 582-7480 to schedule an appointment.

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, August 6 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with DJ Rich (Turnout 25)
- Tuesday, August 8 9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 13)
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 6)
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons (Turnout 57)
- Wednesday, August 9 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 13)
6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 219)
- Thursday, August 10 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 20)
- Friday, August 11 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 19)

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, August 6 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 16)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
- Tuesday, August 8 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 26)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
- Thursday, August 10 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 28)

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
August 7 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 24)
Tuesday, August 1 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 18)
Thursday, August 3 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 14)
Friday, August 4 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 3)

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 3 - 7 p.m. Saturday, August 12 for a family reunion with 45 in attendance.

The game room is reserved 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, September 16 for a birthday party.

Forty five 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.

Fifteen 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

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Gulfport Teen Council meeting on Friday.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday.

Marivel Gutierrez and John Lapham interviewed one Recreation Leader applicant on Tuesday, and one on Wednesday.

Four **Gulfport Teen Councilmembers** attended the monthly meeting at the Recreation Center on Friday. Advisor Marivel Gutierrez facilitated. Topics discussed: Advisor report; approval of July's meeting minutes; Community Service logs; new terms for FY17/18; the upcoming Florida League of Cities conference; old business, and; new business.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 41 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Odor/ Smoke Invest
- 1 Gas Leak

Life Safety:

- 10 Fire Inspections
- 2 C.O.s
- 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 September 21, and will take place at Gulfport City Hall.

Chief Marenkovic attended the EMS Leadership Group meeting on August 14 with the Medical Directors office, followed by a special QA meeting.

Chief Marenkovic attended the City Council's Operating budget meeting on August 15.

The Gulfport Fire Pension Board special meeting took place on August 16.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Moved boxes from City Hall to Public Services Building storage area.
- Cleaned vent at Fire Station, and repaired 30 amp plug & bay door stop light.
- Repaired north gate at Neighborhood Center.
- Delivered popcorn machine to Library.
- Replaced stage carpet, flag light and emergency light at Recreation Center, transported boxed clothing to St. Vincent de Paul, and repaired electrical junction box and desk drawer.
- Patched holes in door and repaired toilet at Theater.
- Removed graffiti at Wood Ibis Park.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and Pier.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched City complex, Marina & Casino green spaces, Beach Boulevard streetscape and beach parking lot.
- Mowed Beach & Recreation Center green spaces, Chase Block, Caldwell Park, Hoyt perimeter, 14th Avenue medians and Police compound.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and repaired pressure washer motor.
- Repaired irrigation at Hoyt Field 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.
- Continued cleanup and debris removal at City Yard and 49th Street Yard.
- Removed 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 #23, 24, 25, 26 and 27 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 5 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 15 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 102 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 8 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 2 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.

- Replaced 2 old meters with new electronic meters.

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 leaking RCP pipe and DBI inlet at Newton Avenue & 53rd Street, and cleaned area.
- Rebuilt curb inlets at Tradewinds Drive & Del Rio Way, and constructed flume from road to structure.
- Formed and poured concrete sidewalk at 12th Avenue & 52nd Street.
- Formed, poured & replaced 7 concrete storm water lids.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Charged batteries on Fire vehicle #P-17.
- Replaced fuel pump on Parks vehicle #700.
- Patched tire on Police vehicle #9.
- Secured rear splash shield on Police vehicle #14.
- Replaced radiator and coolant fans on Police vehicle #101.
- Replaced hydraulic hoses on Sanitation vehicle #29.
- Replaced hydraulic hose and mud flap on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Tightened loose hydraulic hose on Sanitation vehicle #37.
- Secured loose joystick hand controller on Sanitation vehicle #41.
- Replaced hydraulic hose on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced driver's side low beam headlight on Sanitation vehicle #45.
- Replaced broken bolt on grabber arm on Sanitation vehicle #46, and aligned arm.
- Replaced batteries and alternator on Sanitation vehicle #88.
- 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.mygulfport.us.