



Gulfport Community Update

August 20 - 26, 2017

The Gulfport Teen Council attended the Florida League of Cities Conference in Orlando last weekend (photos below). The conference takes place each August in various locations throughout the state. Approximately 1,000 City officials from across Florida shared ideas, attended educational workshops & sessions, discussed strategies for Florida's future, determined League policies, and visited the Municipal Marketplace.



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.

Beat the heat in air conditioned comfort during the **New Horizons Band of Gulfport Inc. FREE concert** at the Catherine A. Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue at 7 p.m. Tuesday, August 29. The band will play familiar show tunes and ballads, plus pop hits.

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.

SAGES will host a unique **Celebrate Community Theater Event** at the Catherine Hickman Theater at 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept 2. This 3-in-1 event that starts with a comedy play *Get in the Game* followed by a Meet & Greet intermission with hors d'oeuvres for theater lovers, actors, directors & playwrights to mingle, and ending with guest speakers on stage for a "talk back" on Community Theater. Admission: \$15 cash or check the door. For more information call SAGES at 536-7076.

The **Fourth Annual Mayors' 49th Street Cleanup & 3rd Annual Chiefs' Chat** along the Tangerine Greenway is Saturday, October 7. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. Mayors' Cleanup begins at 9 and Chiefs' Chat begins at 10:30.

Junk in the Trunk is returns to the 49th Street Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Saturday, October 28, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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	129
Self-initiated calls for service	533
Offenses	24
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	93
Ordinance violations	38
Residence checks:	91

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers responded to a report of two men jumping off Williams Pier on August 18. One of the men was intoxicated and could not climb out of the water on his own, so they helped him onto the deck. He was transported by ambulance to the hospital for treatment of numerous lacerations and water inhalation.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a fight on a school bus in the 4900 block of 15th Avenue after a student punched another in the face. The participants were separated when officers arrived. The investigating officer has requested surveillance video from the bus.

Officer Carter stopped a bicyclist in the 1000 block of 49th Street on August 19 for riding with no lights at night. The juvenile bicyclist gave a false name, had marijuana on him and was on probation with a curfew. He was identified through the use of a fingerprint scanner and arrested.

A resident in the 5100 block of 12th Avenue reported on August 20 that a weed eater and mower were stolen from her backyard shed. A man who was seen on the property was interviewed but denied involvement.

A resident in the 1500 block of 52nd Street reported that a package containing approximately \$120 worth of paint supplies and a vanity light was stolen from her front porch. She confirmed with Home Depot and UPS that the package was delivered.

A resident in the 5700 block of 12th Avenue reported she heard her car alarm sounding and discovered her car's door open. Nothing appeared to be missing.

Officers on the Alpha Squad assisted the Boca Ciega High School resource officer on August 22 with the arrest of a student for possession of a firearm and probation violation. The student

was seen on school surveillance video recorded on August 18, passing a handgun to another student who was arrested that evening at the Pinellas Park High School football game with the gun in his possession.

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office requested that Gulfport Police attempt to make contact with Anthony Evins who had an outstanding felony arrest warrant. Officers were at Evins' residence in the 2600 block of 53rd Street when he drove up in a pickup truck. He had a suspended license and five prior convictions for driving while license suspended, and was on felony probation in Pinellas County. He was arrested without incident.

William Gale was issued a written trespass warning on August 22 prohibiting him entering the Boca Ciega Yacht Club. He was discovered on the property on August 23 and arrested for trespassing after warning.

Cory Thurston was arrested for driving while license suspended after Officer Rossi stopped him in the 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard. Thurston had two prior convictions for the same offense, resulting in a felony arrest for this third offense.

Someone threw a rock through the window of a home in the 3000 block of 50th Street and stole a loaded firearm, a bicycle and a tablet.

Officers were alerted to the presence of a woman with an outstanding warrant at a residence in the 5100 block of 14th Avenue and arrested Stacey Rodriguez for failure to appear on a possession of drug paraphernalia charge.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 14 hours this week. Ten boater contacts were made.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	18
Cases assigned:	7
Cases suspended-no leads:	4
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
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:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	2
Cases still active:	12

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a Grand theft auto case, a hit and run crash, a theft, a death investigation, and a burglary. He also attempted to locate a wanted person.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a sexual battery case, and attended a financial fraud conference.

School Resource Officers wrote one police report this week, arrested a student, counseled seven students, met with the parents of three students, and hosted a safety meeting.

While working the Boca Ciega High School football game at Pinellas Park High School, Officer Mott assisted the Pinellas Park PD with the arrest of three BCHS students in possession of a firearm, and arrested a student on Monday for an incident on Friday in which the student brought a firearm to school. He was charged with possession of a firearm on school grounds, carrying a concealed weapon, and violation of probation. Additionally, Officer Motte instructed the Monday evening Explorer meeting on the topics of officer safety skills and arrest techniques.

Officer Langston viewed cameras regarding two minor acts of misconduct; attended four school assemblies for students in grades 9 through 12, and; spoke with two students about the Gulfport Police Explorer program and provided them with handouts.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano compiled and distributed open case lists; created and distributed the monthly Crime Analysis briefing; compiled monthly officer activity information, and; created and distributed a bulletin to outside agencies regarding a recovered firearm.

Records

Reports reviewed	15
Supplements reviewed:	68
Public Records requests:	28
Background checks:	4
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	1
Citizens assisted	42

MARINA

Assisted with twenty one (21) pump outs evacuating four hundred twenty (420) gallons of waste.

Pumped four thousand eight hundred ninety seven (4,897) gallons of gas and two thousand eight hundred fifty two (2,852) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred forty (140) vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Marina Maintenance:

- Installed dock lines and retied boat on dock 3, slip 33.
- Disentangled and repaired stainless steel boatlift cables on pier 4, slip 30.
- Pumped standing water from vessels following recent rains.
- Read electrical meters and sent billing report to Treasurers' office.
- Performed routine maintenance on new pump out on northeast corner of Marina.
- Purchased and stocked Ship Store merchandise and drinks for resale.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, August 14, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program.*

Tuesday, August 15, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, August 15, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

Tuesday, August 15, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, August 16, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers*.

Wednesday, August 16, 7 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, August 17, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, August 17, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Blood Meridian* by Cormac McCarthy.

Thursday, August 17, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*.

Thursday, August 17, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*.

Thursday, August 17, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop*.

Friday, August 18, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, August 19, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*

Upcoming Events:

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.

Friday, September 8, 1 p.m. - *Raising Confident Kids and Teens Workshop*: Presented by the Family Counseling Center. Learn how to instill confidence and boost self-esteem that will have a lasting effect on your child or teen! Call Cailey at 893-1074 or email cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Monday, September 11, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*: Together we will explore the ancient practice of astrology as it relates to your modern life. 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 of Ode to Pluto Astrology. Call 207-332-0787 or email jennie@odetopluto.com for more information.

Tuesday, September 12, 10 a.m. - *Heart Gallery Portrait Display Opening Reception*: Heart Gallery's mission is to increase the number of successful adoptions of local children in foster care. Light refreshments will be served. Portraits will remain on display through September. Call 258-4806 or visit www.HeartGalleryKids.org 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! Refreshments will be available. Donations benefit the LGBTQ Resource Center. This film is not rated. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Saturday, September 16, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Based on the popular Nicola Yoon Ya novel, about a girl who must remain isolated from the outside world because of an immune condition, and the boy next door with whom she discovers first love. Stars Amandla Stenberg (*Hunger Games*) and Nick Robinson (*Jurassic World*). Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Every Monday beginning September 18, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club*: We'll try a fun new activity every week, explore engineering through building with Lego's, and meet other young scientists and engineers in the community! Email cklasson@mygulfport.us or call 893-1074 to register.

Thursday, September 21, 11 a.m. - *CoffeeTalk Book Club discussion of Diary of a Young girl by Anne Frank*. Visit the Circulation Desk to borrow a copy. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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.

Saturday, September 23, 10 a.m. - *Circle of Friends Flash Sale*: Our Friends group has built up a HUGE inventory of books, CDs and videos, and needs to move as much stock as possible. Find some great bargains for yourself and get an early start on shopping for the holidays.

Thursday, September 28, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Follows Storytime on the fourth Thursday of each month. Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

Every Wednesday in September, 1 p.m. - *Gulfport Poetry Writers Group*: Brown bag lunch meeting in which members will read and share their poetry, and provide critical analyses of fellow poets' works. If time allows, members will also write poems based on prompts (both visual and stylistic explanations), or be given voluntary assignments to work on and share for the next meeting. All levels of experience are welcome. For more information call Rob McCabe at 366-8909 or email writer.rob.mccabe@gmail.com.

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 13 - 19, 2017:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,530	1,213
Sun. 8/13	Library closed	
Mon. 8/14	249	237
Tue. 8/15	265	203
Wed. 8/16	251	207
Thu. 8/17	262	199
Fri. 8/18	274	164
Sat. 8/19	221	184

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

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

- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.
- 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.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.

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.mygulfpport.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.

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** inform 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 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. 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.

Join us at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 6 **Life Reimagined**, an AARP initiative to help seniors navigate life's changes and challenges, big or small. Explore free tools, articles and courses to discover what's possible and live the life you want.

Have you always wanted to learn how to play Bridge but thinks it's too difficult? Join the **Bridge 101** class every Monday beginning September 11 at 9 a.m. This class is for those who know nothing or almost nothing about Bridge. Learn to bid and all the tricks to playing.

Are you a "worry-wart" or a "nervous Nellie"? Do you find yourself fretting over an issue in your life? Worry can immobilize you. Excessive worry not only affects your mental health, but your physical well-being. Join Life Coach Kathy Lane at the next **Law of Attraction: Be a Warrior, Not a Worrier** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 13 as she explores the concept of worry, and provides helpful suggestions to transform worry into action to become a productive warrior.

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 13	6 p.m. - Soul Night with Swing Time (Turnout 153)
Tuesday, August 15	9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 14) 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 3) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons (Turnout 49)
Wednesday, August 16	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 18) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 191)
Thursday, August 17	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 12) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 20)

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, August 13 2 p.m. - Jeanne Lynn Dance Academy recital (Turnout 52)

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

Sunday, August 13 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 19)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, August 15 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 29)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Thursday, August 17 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 23)

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, August 15 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 25)

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

Thursday, August 17 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 10)

Friday, August 18 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 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 are 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.

Eighteen 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 and John Lapham attended the Florida League of Cities Conference in Orlando with the Gulfport Teen Council on Friday and Saturday.

Marivel Gutierrez and John Lapham interviewed a Recreation Leader applicant on Thursday.

Teen Councilmembers Cameron Althaus, Phoebe Carrazco, Sarah Eisenbaum, Vasilios Kosmakos, Katelyn Latragna, Taryn Spence, Robert Wolf, Advisor Marivel Gutierrez and City chaperone John Lapham attended a Youth Program facilitated by Scott C. Paine, PhD during the *Florida League of Cities Conference* in Orlando on Saturday. They were presented many topics on Government for group discussion.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

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

Life Safety:

- 12 Fire Inspections
- 2 C.O.s
- 2 Re-inspections

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 City Council's Operating budget meeting on August 15.

Chief Marenkovic met with the Assistant County Administrator to talk about EMS Issues and overall operations with Fire Department on August 18.

The Gulfport Fire Pension Board special meeting took place on August 16. The City is seeking applications to fill a vacant position.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Performed monthly pest control on all City Buildings.
- Completed semi-annual inspection of fire suppression system and repaired flag light at City Hall.
- Replaced light fixture in beach restroom.
- Moved chairs to Historical Building.
- Cleaned roof and repaired door lock at Scout Hall.
- Repaired table, installed cabinet, cleaned roof, tightened faucet in ladies room and assembled play kitchen at Recreation Center.
- Repaired air conditioning and replaced ceiling tile in Theater lobby.
- Cleaned roof and lubricated wheels on a 300 gallon container at Senior Center.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Repaired fences at Wood Ibis Park and Trail Spur.
- Removed graffiti from playground at Tomlinson & Caldwell Parks.
- Inspected electrical outlets along Beach Streetscapes.
- Reworked sand, graded volleyball courts and set up trash & recycling containers for Beach Volleyball tournament.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and Pier.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched City complex and beach parking lot.
- Mowed Clymer, Wood Ibis & Clam Bayou Parks, Library, Senior Center, Marina, Lions Club, Recreation Center & City complex green spaces, trail spur, 57th Street drainage area, and York & 49th Street termini.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced drive cable & belt on rototiller.
- Installed irrigation mainline and zone sleeves along Shore Boulevard project area.
- 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.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system.
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters.
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall.)
- Daily check of ground water levels.
- Completed routes #31, 32, 33, 34 & 35 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 13 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 2 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 128 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 18 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 8 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 3 old meters with new electronic meters.
- Repaired water breaks at 5932 19th Avenue & 5934 Skimmer Point 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.
- Televised sewer at 5801 15th Avenue.

Stormwater

- Rebuilt curb inlets at 20th Avenue & 56th Street.
- Cleaned and replaced lid on curb inlet at Shore Boulevard & 58th Street, 28th Avenue & 54th Street, and at 20th Avenue & 52nd Street.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on

more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

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

Code Enforcement activities continued this week in 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 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.

Beginning on September Code Enforcement efforts will move to Section 1 of the City, also referred to as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7th Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64th Street to 58th Street. 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.