



Gulfport Community Update

August 27- September 2, 2017

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Monday, September 4 in observance of **Labor Day**. The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

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 **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	112
Self-initiated calls for service	473
Offenses	49
Arrests	12
Traffic citations	72
Ordinance violations	39
Residence checks:	95

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the area of 55th Street & 11th Avenue reported on August 24 that three juveniles abandoned a car after it struck a storm drain cover, and ran north towards Jersey Avenue. The car had been reported stolen in St Petersburg.

A 13 year-old girl was arrested at Gulfport Elementary after she brought her 10 year-old brother to the car circle to fight another 10 year-old. The girl pushed her brother into the other child and when he began losing the fight, she jumped in and battered the victim.

A resident in the 2800 block of Seabreeze Drive reported on August 25 that someone answered his Craigslist ad, offering to purchase pool table equipment. The suspect sent a check for the purchase price plus extra money to be paid to a moving company that would pick up the equipment. The check cleared the account but was later rejected by Bank of America.

A resident reported that she received a phone call from someone regarding her student loans, directing her to purchase two \$50 money cards and provide the numbers on the back. She realized it was a scam when the suspect asked for another \$200.

A resident in the 1600 block of 58th Street reported that someone broke a window and entered her home. Nothing appeared to be missing.

Officers were dispatched to Tomlinson Park after a caller reported a dark-colored SUV drove through the fence and damaged the baseball field. The SUV was gone when police arrived.

Police are looking for a white male who entered the TLC Food Mart on the morning of August 26 armed with a handgun, and demanded money from the clerk. The suspect is described as fair-skinned with dark hair, in his 20s, 5'11" - 6'01", with a medium build. He was wearing black pants, a long sleeve black or dark gray t-shirt and sunglasses. He was last seen heading northbound on Beach Boulevard on foot.

A business owner in the 2900 block of Beach Boulevard allowed a potential buyer to run the store for a short period of time so he could familiarize himself with the operation. The subject did not purchase the business, and the victim later realized that he made off with over \$10,000 worth of merchandise.

Officers responded to a reckless driver call after a white Mustang drove onto the sidewalk, striking tables, chairs and bushes, and continued north on Beach Boulevard. Fortunately no one was injured. Officers located the vehicle and conducted a DUI investigation, and driver John Christman was arrested for DUI. His breath alcohol was .143/.147.

A resident in the 1300 block of 52nd Street reported on August 27 that a purse containing a handgun was stolen from her car sometime overnight. The resident stated that she locked the vehicle, but there were no signs of forced entry.

Officer Rossi observed a vehicle in a disabled parking space at Dollar General with no permit displayed. As he approached the driver attempted to back out and leave but the officer stopped him. Eric Blair had a suspended license and had been adjudicated a felony habitual traffic offender. He was arrested without incident.

Cody Larson was arrested on an outstanding warrant issued by Jasper County, Missouri for failure to appear on a dealing in stolen property charge. He was taken into custody in the 4900 block of 12th Avenue without incident.

Officers were dispatched to the 5800 block of 9th Avenue on August 28 after friends of a resident, concerned for his well-being went to his home to check on him and found him deceased. Foul play is not suspected.

A resident in the 2800 block of Beach Boulevard reported on August 29 that someone stole jewelry valued at several thousand dollars.

A resident in the 6000 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported that his tricycle was stolen from his property. A check of the pawn database revealed that Anthony Keifer had pawned it. Keifer admitted to taking the trike, saying he thought it was left out as trash. He was arrested.

Officer Smith stopped Shuntal Anthony for running a stop sign at 58th Street & 11th Avenue on August 30. She initially gave a false name but eventually provided her real information. She was arrested for driving while license suspended and providing a false name to law enforcement.

A resident in the 2800 block of Skimmer Point Drive hired a man named Brian Stanley to work on his dock. Over the last five weeks tools and cash were stolen from the home. Stanley stated that his employees stole the items and were fired. They have not been located.

A resident in the 5300 block of 8th Avenue reported that two bikes, a power washer, and a weed wacker were stolen from her residence.

Officers were dispatched to a report of 2 people at Boca Ciega High School possibly breaking into vending machines. The school was surrounded by GPD officers and sheriff's deputies while two K9 units searched the campus. Michael and Sean Lovett were found hiding under the bleachers on the baseball field and arrested.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 12 hours this week. Seven boater contacts and three vessel stops were made.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	21
Cases assigned:	5
Cases suspended-no leads:	10
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Supplements received:	22
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	4
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	15

Investigator Highlights

Sergeant Woodman is on vacation this week.

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case, a theft, a hit and run, a stolen vehicle, a burglary, and a drowning.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for four fraud cases, a stolen vehicle, a criminal mischief, and a harassing phone calls case. She also investigated a suicide and an armed robbery.

School Resource Officers Motte and Langston wrote 6 police reports this week; made 2 arrests on campus; counseled 7 students, and; met with the parent of a student.

Officer Motte arrested an adult for trespassing on school grounds after warning; broke up a fight that occurred during lunch; provided security for a football game, and; hosted the Monday night police explorer meeting, covering the topic of blood-borne pathogens.

Officer Langston conducted a mental health assessment of a student that was initiated by the school. The student met the criteria for an involuntary examination and was Baker Acted. She also provided security for a football game, arresting an adult female for trespassing on school grounds, and; responded to a disruption that occurred during lunch.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano started an analysis of thefts of mail and packages, and an analysis of residential burglaries; created and distributed an officer safety bulletin and a missing person bulletin; updated the sex offender display and pamphlet, removing an offender who moved out of state; completed pawn checks on 14 cases with a named suspect, known serial

number or searchable property description, locating a stolen bicycle, and; completed a review of property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper entry into FCIC.

Records

Reports reviewed	12
Supplements reviewed:	76
Public Records requests:	34
Background checks:	4
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	6
Citizens assisted	31

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, August 22, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, August 22, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, August 23, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers.*

Wednesday, August 23, 7 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, August 24, 10 a.m. - *ACA Healthcare Navigators.*

Thursday, August 24, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, August 24, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate.*

Thursday, August 24, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Friday, August 25, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

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 & 28, 10 a.m. - *ACA Healthcare Navigators*: Onsite assistance with qualifying for coverage and selecting health insurance plans.

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@mygulfpport.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.

Monday, September 25, 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, 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.

Thursday, September 28, 11 a.m. - *Kids Yoga*: Meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.

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

Library Services/Statistic August 20 - 26, 2017:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,530	1,213
Sun. 8/20	Library closed	
Mon. 8/21	249	237
Tue. 8/22	265	203
Wed. 8/23	251	207
Thu. 8/24	262	199
Fri. 8/25	274	164
Sat. 8/26	221	184

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 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.
- Sent September calendar to printer, and distributed to City facilities and Tuesday Market vendors.
- 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.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 us at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 6 for **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.

Worried about your memory? **St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic** is offering FREE, CONFIDENTIAL memory screenings on Monday, September 11. Call 893-5657 to schedule.

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 for **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.

Wager on your favorite greyhounds, practice your best poker face, or just watch the high-energy fun at **Derby Lanes** on Thursday, September 14. Reserve a seat no later than September 11. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$6; nonmembers \$8 MUST GEMS members \$6/Non-Members \$8.

Join Wendy at 10:30 a.m. Monday September 18 for **Health Talks with Humana**. This month's topic is *Fruits & Veggies: Color Yourself Healthy*.

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.

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 September 28.

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 20	3:30 p.m. - Contra Dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance (Turnout 54)
Tuesday, August 22	9 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 15) 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 3) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons (Turnout 58)
Wednesday, August 23	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 12) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 206)
Thursday, August 24	6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 23)
Friday, August 25	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 23)
Saturday, August 26	6 p.m. - Gecko Ball (Turnout 425)

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):

Saturday, August 26, 4 p.m. - United For Christ Church event (Turnout 120)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Friday, September 1, 6 p.m. - *Art Reception featuring works of the Gulfport Watercolor Society:*
Meet the artists, students from the Gulfport Recreation Department. Free & open to the public.
Cash bar available. For more information call Patsi Aguero at 501-3559.

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

Sunday, August 20

9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 17)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, August 22

10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 21)
7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Thursday, August 24

10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (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, August 22

11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 25)

Tuesday, August 22

10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 21)

Thursday, August 24

11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 10)

Friday, August 25

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 six 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.

Nineteen 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, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tennis, Watercolor and Zumba.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 45 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 1 Fire outside Structure
- 1 Single Engine Response

Life Safety:

- 13 Fire Inspections
- 3 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 at Gulfport City Hall.

The Gulfport Fire Department are working on Advanced Cardiac Life Support recertification with the August CME Prep course provided by Target Solutions and the County CME Committee. ACLS is renewed every two years. Final testing will be in November.

Chief Marenkovic met with the Assistant County Administrator to discuss EMS issues and Fire Department operations on August 18.

Chief Marenkovic and Inspector Lundh reviewed the Geckofest Site Plan. The Fire Marshal will inspect vendors on-site the morning of the event. It is MANDATORY that all food vendors have adequate fire extinguishing equipment at their booth with current certification tags attached and ready for inspection. This includes a Class K extinguisher if fryers are used.

The Gulfport Fire Department participated in annual EVOC refresher training at the Allstate Campus in St. Petersburg with South Pasadena, Treasure Island and St. Pete Beach.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Performed monthly pest control on all City Buildings.
- Repaired door knob and replaced toilet seat in Dog Park ladies' room.
- Repaired air conditioning unit and replaced toilet flapper in men's restroom at Scout Hall.
- Repaired ceiling tile trim and east air conditioning unit at Casino.
- Moved old air conditioning unit from Marina to storage area at Dog Park.
- Replaced filters on all City a/c units.
- Installed float switch on air handler #2 at Scout Hall, and cleaned/adjusted fans.
- Leveled two tables, painted wall and hung shelf at Recreation Center.
- Patched walls in Parks Division office.
- Repaired emergency exit door lock and touched up paint at theater.
- Relocated playground equipment at Recreation Center.
- Repaired disconnect plug in Fire Department bay.
- Disposed of chair from Library.
- Cleaned ice machine in City yard.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Repaired bench at bocce ball court.
- Rehung fence, repaired gate and straightened signs at Tomlinson Park following vehicle strike.
- Repaired fences at Caldwell Park and Trail Spur
- Prepped walls for paint in Parks Department restrooms.
- Reattached trim around casino ceiling
- Cleaned police compound.
- Replaced water meter cover in beach restroom showers.
- Pressured washed Senior Center patio.
- Inspected electrical outlets along Beach Streetscapes.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and Pier.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Hoyt Field, Tomlinson Park, Beach Boulevard Streetscape, and Casino & beach green spaces.
- Mowed Veterans Park, beach & Recreation Center green spaces and Chase block.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, and sharpened/replaced blades.

- Continued installation of irrigation mainline and zone sleeves along Shore Boulevard project area, and repaired irrigation controllers at Casino & Beach Boulevard.
- 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 furniture from Senior Center courtyard.

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 #45, 46, 47 and 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 11 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 6 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 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Repaired water main break at 6220 10th Avenue.

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.
- Replaced 13' of 8" sanitary sewer main line at Newton Avenue & 52nd Street.

Stormwater

- Repaired curb inlet box at Newton Avenue & 51st Street.
- Exposed storm drain at 5320 Newton Avenue to inspect pipe for defects and to locate manhole structure.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced wipers on Police vehicle #9.
- Replaced wheel chair lift door shock fuse block on GEMS vehicle #11.
- Patched left rear inner tire, and replaced waste gate seal & assembly valve power shut off on Sanitation vehicle #43.
- Replaced oil and filter on Police vehicle #57.
- Replaced oil, filter and brake light bulb on Police vehicle #16, and inspected brakes.
- Replaced oil, filter, and tires on Police vehicle #28.
- Replaced distributor on Sanitation vehicle #39.
- Replaced sure charge and horn button on Fire Department #P-17.
- Replaced mud flap on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Replaced EGR cooler, particulate filter & temperature sensor on Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Replaced fuel pump on Water Department vehicle #80.
- Replaced driver's seat bottom on Garage vehicle #51.

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 have moved 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.

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.