



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *September 17 - 23, 2017*

Duke Energy's vegetation management contractors will perform **maintenance tree trimming in and around the City of Gulfport** during the third quarter of 2017. Duke will notify affected homeowners prior to trimming events, and tree crews will clean up debris associated with maintenance activities. Debris resulting from storm damage or other events unrelated to Duke's maintenance activities is the responsibility of homeowners.

**Hurricane Guides** are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library & Fire Station. The Atlantic basin Hurricane season ends November 30. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits. Basic supplies to keep on hand:

- Flashlights and extra bulbs
- Water
- Battery-operated radio
- Fully charged battery-operated lanterns (no candles or kerosene lanterns)
- Extra batteries
- Matches
- Clock (wind-up or battery-operated)
- Plastic garbage bags
- Working fire extinguishers
- Scissors
- Clean change of clothes, rain gear, sturdy swamp boots

**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 available at [www.mygulfport.us/toilet-rebate-program](http://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.

### **Upcoming Events:**

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent every Tuesday. For more information, visit [www.gulfportma.com](http://www.gulfportma.com). Call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto:FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com).

The **Fourth Annual Mayors' 49<sup>th</sup> Street Cleanup & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.

In partnership with the Ocean Conservancy Keep Pinellas Beautiful will coordinate the 2017 **International Coastal Cleanup** in an effort to eliminate the impact of marine and terrestrial debris within Pinellas County ecosystems, including Clam Bayou. Join the City of Gulfport for a rewarding day of community improvement, engagement and beautification on Saturday, October 21, 9 a.m. - noon. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/2017-international-coastal-cleanup-clam-bayou-nature-preserve-tickets36959992332](http://www.eventbrite.com/2017-international-coastal-cleanup-clam-bayou-nature-preserve-tickets36959992332) or call 893-1118 to register.

**Junk in the Trunk** returns to the 49<sup>th</sup> Street Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday, October 28, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Bring your unwanted stuff to trash, swap or donate.

Sign up for the permit free bi-annual **City of Gulfport Citywide Yard Sale**, scheduled for Saturday, November 4 (rain date, Sunday, November 5). We're currently accepting addresses to be added to this year's brochure at no charge. Deadline to sign up is Friday, October 27. Please, one address per registration. Visit [www.mygulfport.us/gulfport-city-wide-yard-sale](http://www.mygulfport.us/gulfport-city-wide-yard-sale) to fill out the web form and hit submit, or email [kossola@mygulfport.us](mailto:kossola@mygulfport.us) with your Gulfport address (You will receive confirmation via email). Residents who do not have internet can fill out a form at City Hall, 2401 53<sup>rd</sup> Street South, the Gulfport Public Library, 5501 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Whether you served in the military or serve on the volleyball court, join in the **City of Gulfport and VETsports Heroes Weekend** on Saturday, November 11 at 11 a.m. This is a great way for the community to participate in Veteran's Day while giving back to local Veterans. Get involved by entering in the parade or entering your team in the VETSports volleyball tournament. Register at [www.mygulfport.us/heroesweekend](http://www.mygulfport.us/heroesweekend).

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

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Patrol**

Dispatch calls for service	163
Self-initiated calls for service	371
Offenses	28
Arrests	1
Traffic citations	44
Ordinance violations	29

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

A northbound PSTA bus with three passengers aboard struck a pickup truck stopped at the traffic signal at 49<sup>th</sup> Street & 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue on September 15. There was minimal damage to the truck and no damage to the bus.

A cell phone was reported stolen from an unlocked car parked in the 5200 block of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. There is no suspect information.

The St. Petersburg Police Department requested assistance with locating a missing adult who checked himself out of a nursing home and never returned. He was located at his residence in the 5900 block of Pelican Bay Plaza and was in contact with the nursing home.

A man reported on September 16 that sometime overnight, someone stole his property from under the carport of an uninhabitable residence in the 5100 block of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He suspects the former tenant may have taken the items.

A purse and several other items were stolen from an unlocked car parked in a driveway in the 6100 block of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Officers were dispatched to the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard after two people got into an argument and one of them poured beer on the other. Neither wished to pursue charges.

A guest at the Peninsula Inn reported on September 17 that sometime overnight someone entered her locked room and removed items from her purse. She has a history of reporting questionable thefts for insurance claims and Ofc. Ross is investigating to determine if a crime

occurred. The woman also reported on September 18 that her vehicle had been stolen from the alley behind the Peninsula Inn.

James Pushies was arrested for pulling a knife on a neighbor after they argued about a fence on a property in the 5100 Block of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Officers were dispatched to the 5200 block of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue on September 18 after two people got into a fight over borrowed money. Neither wished to prosecute so no one was charged.

A resident in the 5800 block of 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on September 19 that his car was stolen from his driveway. He advised police that he believed the car was locked. The vehicle was located at 1620 51<sup>st</sup> Street with damage.

A juvenile listed as a runaway returned to her residence, and her grandmother (guardian) returned her to school. She left the school and ran away again but was located the same day.

A resident in the 1600 block of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street reported that someone stole the wheels off her trashcan. Officers spoke to several neighbors but there were no witnesses.

Officers were dispatched to a reported hit and run in the 5500 block of Shore Boulevard on September 20 after a caller reported someone hit the her parked car and left while she was inside a local establishment. She stated she left the area and after talking to her mother about the issue, returned and called police. The damage was very minor, a few scratches with a small dent. There is no description of the vehicle that left the scene.

A resident walking her dog in the 5900 block of Shore Boulevard found a wallet lying on the ground. Attempts to contact the owner were unsuccessful, so the wallet was inventoried and placed into property for safe keeping.

The **Marine Unit** was on the water for 5.75 hours this week, and Officer Palozollo completed her marine unit orientation for pre-field training.

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

New cases:	14
Cases assigned:	5
Cases suspended-no leads:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Supplements received:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	1
Cases still active:	10

### **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary case, a theft, a fraud, and a missing person; assisted patrol during hurricane recovery efforts, and; interviewed a suspect at the Pinellas County Jail.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary case and a death investigation. She also assisted patrol during hurricane recovery efforts.

School Resource Crystal Langston has left GPD after five years to take a job with the Tampa Police Department. Officer Jimmie Embry has been selected to fill the vacancy.

Officer Embry took a report for a runaway juvenile who was dropped off at school and left campus. She was later recovered at her residence by another officer. He also provided security for a the BCHS football game at Osceola High School on Monday night, and assisted PCSO Detectives with the interview of a student.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano performed an analysis of residential burglaries and an analysis for Ofc. Mills regarding retail thefts; updated the sex offender display and pamphlet, removing one offender sentenced to time in DOC and another who moved out of the city; reviewed calls for service related to hurricane Irma and calculated man hours used, and; compiled the monthly PCSO crime scene call out report.

## **Records**

Reports reviewed	45
Supplements reviewed:	81
Public Records requests:	47
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	7
Citizens assisted	43

## **MARINA**

Assisted with twenty (20) pump outs evacuating three hundred seventy (370) gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand four hundred twenty (3,420) gallons of gas and three thousand five hundred eighty four (3,584) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred thirty four (134) vessels.

### **Transient vessels:**

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

### **Staff activities:**

Inspected docks for loose decking and unsecured materials in preparation for Hurricane Irma.

Pumped out vessels with standing water in preparation for storm, retied and doubled mooring lines on derelict vessels and those with out of town owners.

Purchased "NO PARKING" signs and installed in designated locations.

Performed routine maintenance on new pump out.

Procured and stocked Ship Store merchandise and drinks for resale.

## **LIBRARY**

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

Thursday, September 14, 10 a.m. - *Healthcare Navigators*.

Friday, September 15, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, September 16, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*.

## Upcoming Events:

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.

Tuesday, September 26, 10 a.m. - *Heart Gallery Reception*: Everyone is invited to this event kicking off display of their traveling exhibit. Heart Gallery's mission is to increase the number of successful adoptions of local children in foster care. In addition to featuring children, we recruit and support families interested in adoption. Light refreshments will be served. The photos will be on display at the Library through October 26. For more information call 258-4806, or visit [www.heartgallerykids.org](http://www.heartgallerykids.org).

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

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.

Tuesday, October 3, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 [cklasson@mygulfport.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.us) for more information.

Friday, October 6, 10 a.m. - *Old Northeast Garden Club Program & Meeting*: Everyone is invited to attend and share in the joys of garden cultivation, and network with others of all levels of experience.

Saturday, September October 7, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: Psychological horror film about a family whose isolated and heavily-armed refuge from unnamed horrors becomes destabilized after a desperate couple and their child find their way to the home. Stars Joel Edgerton. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Monday, October 9, 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](mailto:jennie@odetopluto.com) for more information.

Thursday, October 12, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: A struggling gay comedy writer in New York City (Jesse Plemons) returns home to Sacramento to care for his dying mother (Molly Shannon) and clash with his homophobic father (Bradley Whitford) in this funny and affecting 2016 "dramedy" from Saturday Night Live writer Chris Kelly, marking his directorial debut. Refreshments will be available. Donations benefit the LGBTQ Resource Center. This film is not rated. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Thursday, October 19, 11 a.m. - *CoffeeTalk Book Club*. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, October 19, 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, October 21, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - K-5<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:cklasson@mygulfpport.us) or call 893-1074 to register.

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. - *Gulfpport Writers meeting*.

Every Wednesday in September, 1 p.m. - *Gulfpport 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](mailto:writer.rob.mccabe@gmail.com).

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*: Games and activities for teens and tweens.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfpport Toastmasters*. Email [contact@gulfpporttoastmasters.com](mailto:contact@gulfpporttoastmasters.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 September 10 - 16, 2017:**  
**Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	777	769
Sun. 9/10	Library closed	
Mon. 9/11	Library closed	
Tue. 9/12	Library closed	
Wed. 9/13	Library closed	
Thu. 9/14	355	265
Fri. 9/15	162	214
Sat. 9/16	219	146

**PARKS & RECREATION**

**Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfpport.us](http://www.mygulfpport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfpport](http://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](http://www.mygulfpport.us/gtv640). Spread the word!

- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Created designs for e-newsletter.

- Commenced preparation of October calendar.
- Worked in Hurricane Irma Emergency Operations Center.

### **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 Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Find us at [www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter](http://www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter). Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us).

The Gulfport Senior Center is now on Facebook. Find us at [www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter](http://www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter).

The **City of Gulfport Telephone Reassurance program** is much more than a morning wake-up call. This free service offers Gulfport residents 50 years or older - and their families comfort, security, and peace of mind. Volunteers provide daily phone calls to registered members. If the member cannot be reached, the volunteer follows specific procedures to confirm there are no major concerns. Registration is simple and free. If you or someone you know could use this service, call 893-2237 or stop by the Gulfport Senior Center at 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

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

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

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

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

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

An emergency can be a very stressful time. If you arrive by your own accord to the ER without EMS, what now? Do you sit and wait? Go straight to the nurse? Join EMT and Retired Firefighter Jim Barr at this month's **HCA Health Talks** on Monday, September 25 at 2:30 p.m. as he explains what you should know when you arrive at the Emergency Room. Presented by St. Petersburg General Hospital.

Concerned about your memory? Ever wonder if your forgetfulness is a normal part of aging? Join us at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 27 to hear from the experts from St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic discuss **Brain Wellness**. Kim Saberi, LCSW will discuss 3 factors for dementia that you can control and three you cannot, recommend 5 things you can do to enhance brain wellness, explain which health conditions affect brain wellness, identify resources

available in your community, and describe the services available at the Memory Disorders Center at St. Anthony's Hospital.

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.

Join the **Out-to-Lunch Bunch** on Thursday, September 28 and experience the fun, delicious Tsunami Japanese Steak House. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$4; nonmembers \$6. Meals are selected from menu & paid separately.

Are you ready for some FOOTBALL? Retired NFL Quarterback, Matt Robinson will deliver fun facts and information about football, senior care options, and how to stay active as a senior on Wednesday, October 4 at 2 p.m. In true pep-rally fashion, you are asked to **wear your favorite team jersey or colors** and be ready to participate in football trivia to WIN fun football prizes and signed merchandise.

Discover the great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles, and many other goodies at **First Friday Flea Market** on October 6 beginning at 9 a.m.

Are you worried about your memory? **St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic** is offering FREE & CONFIDENTIAL Memory Screenings on Monday, October 9. By appointment only: call 893-5657 to schedule.

Join us for health screenings, exhibits, door prizes, and much more at the **Tampa Bay Senior Expo** on Tuesday, October 10. Take advantage of the many business exhibits offering investment information, travel opportunities, retirement choices, educational seminars, and more. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$4; nonmembers \$6.

See how "America's choice for homemade ice cream" is made with a tour of the **Working Cow Ice Cream Factory** on Tuesday, October 10. This family owned company hand-blends more than 100 different flavors of super-premium gourmet ice creams, frozen yogurts, sugar-free ice creams, sherbets, & fruity Italian Ices. Round trip transportation & tour: GEMS members \$5; nonmembers \$7. Per factory safety rules, you MUST wear closed-toe shoes & sign a waiver prior to the tour. Remember to bring a sweater!

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 October 20. Call 582-7480 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 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.

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):**

Friday, September 15            11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 10)

**Casino (upcoming events):**

Sunday, September 24    3:30 p.m. - Contra Dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance  
Admission \$8. Visit [www.tampabaycontra.com](http://www.tampabaycontra.com) for more information

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. - USA Dance ballroom dance: members \$5, non-members \$8

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

Sunday, September 24, 1:30 p.m. - **SAGES Celebrates Community Theater:** This 3-in-1 event starts with the 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 at the door. For more information call SAGES at 536-7076.

**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

**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 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday, September 16 for a birthday party with thirty five in attendance.

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.

Fourteen children are registered for the **2017/18 Tot Time program**, and six 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.

Twenty one 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.

**Staff Activities**

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday.

Fred Leporati drove the school bus for the School Year Child Care Program on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Calls for Service:**

- 59 Emergency Medical Calls

- 12 Structure Fires
- 5 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Gas Leaks
- 6 Fires Outside Structures
- 9 Single Engine Response
- 30 Wires Down/Trees Down
- 28 Evacuee Assists

#### **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 October 19 at Gulfport City Hall.

Chief Marenkovic attended the ROC Emergency Management meetings associated with Hurricane Irma from September 8 thru 19.

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

Chief Marenkovic and City Manager have scheduled applicant interviews for the open Lieutenant Firefighter/Paramedic position.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **Building Maintenance**

- Repaired roof fascia at Hoyt Field.
- Reset restroom timers at Casino, beach and Dog Park.
- Repaired air conditioners at Scout Hall and Recreation Center.
- Repaired overhead bay door at Garage.
- Repaired electrical short, and reset gates at Police Department.
- Removed damaged Gulfport banner from Senior Center parking lot.
- Rehung all flags following Hurricane Irma.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

#### **Parks Maintenance**

- Performed preventive maintenance on all generators and made preparations for storm.
- Cleared debris from streets & City facilities up after Hurricane Irma.
- Replaced tennis court light timer.
- 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 Beach streetscapes.
- Mowed Clymer, Caldwell & Veterans Parks, Dog Park, Library, Senior Center & City complex, Chase block, Hoyt perimeter, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue medians & Pasadena entrance area.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, and sharpened/replaced blades.

- Continued installation of irrigation 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**

- Distributed 25,000 sand bags to residents in preparation for Hurricane Irma.
- Initiated Debris Removal Plan following Hurricane: cleared and removed storm debris obstructing City roadways, and pick-up of all residential storm debris, with services provided exclusively by City of Gulfport Public Works staff.

### **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 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Completed 49 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.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced water lines broken by Hurricane Irma 1407 56<sup>th</sup> Street, 6219 Gulfport Boulevard, 52<sup>nd</sup> Street & Preston Avenue, and at 5326 11<sup>th</sup> 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.
- Removed hurricane shutters at both lift stations following storm.
- Installed 2" electrical conduit for Shore Boulevard Phase 2 street lights.

### **Stormwater**

- Cleaned CDS boxes at Marina.
- Rebuilt curb inlet at southeast corner of Gulfport Casino.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced cylinder in Sanitation vehicle #43.
- Replaced battery in Code Enforcement vehicle #13.
- Replaced pass front headlight in GEMS vehicle #5.
- Replaced fuse for PTO in Sanitation vehicle #88.
- Replaced tires and solenoid on Water Division's trailer.
- Replaced right rear outer tire on GEMS vehicle #93.
- Replaced 4 tires on GEMS vehicle #1.

- Replaced hydraulic line on Sanitation vehicle #79.
- Replaced front tires and changed oil and filter on Police vehicle #501.
- Performed preventive maintenance and small repairs on City vehicles.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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

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

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

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

### **Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### **WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:**

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and

check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at 582-3100.

- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

#### WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit [www.pcclb.com](http://www.pcclb.com).

At this time **Code Enforcement** is not focusing on any particular section, but on the City as a whole. This time of the year code enforcement is normally spent on high weeds and lot mowing, but due to Hurricane Irma code enforcement is focusing attention on life/safety issues such as dangerous trees and assisting with assessment and building related activities. Focus on high weeds will likely return next week.

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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

#### **October 4, 2017 Planning and Zoning Board and October 17 City Council/CRA meeting:**

**S17-02;** 5801 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Conditional use application with site plan for a proposed day care center.