



Gulfport Community Update

September 24 - 30, 2017

Duke Energy's vegetation management contractors will perform **maintenance tree trimming in and around the City of Gulfport**. 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. Restrictions apply. Call 893-1016 for more information.

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

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.

Celebrate the 107th anniversary of the City's incorporation during **Founder's Day: A Celebration of Gulfport** on Saturday, October 14. Party with old and new friends! Daytime activities are 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.: costumed dog parade; games; family activities; live music; craftsman demonstrations; mullet toss contest; Mullet King crowning, and more! Kick up your heels and show off your best moves during **Gulfport under the Stars**, 7:30 - 10:30 p.m. Dance music provided by DJ Sam. Tickets: \$10, available at the door or in advance at the History Museum, Beach Bazaar and Gulfport Welcome Center. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served, and wine, beer, and soda will be available for a donation.

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 or call 893-1118 to register.

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

The deadline to sign up your Gulfport address for the brochure for the permit-free **Fall Citywide Yard Sale** scheduled for Saturday, November 4 (rain date, Sunday, November 5) is Friday, October 27. Please, one address per registration. Visit www.mygulfport.us/gulfport-city-wide-yard-sale to fill out the web form and hit submit, or email kossola@mygulfport.us with your Gulfport address. You will receive an email confirmation. Residents who do not have internet can fill out a form at City Hall, 2401 53rd Street South or the Gulfport Public Library, 5501 28th 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.

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	207
Self-initiated calls for service	285
Offenses	31
Arrests	3
Traffic citations	64
Ordinance violations	19

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

An employee of a business in the 4900 Block of 17th Avenue reported on September 21 that a woman placed several items in her purse and left the store without paying. She was gone when officers arrived.

A car was reported stolen from a residence in the 5800 block of 24th Avenue. All keys were accounted for, and there are no leads.

A resident in the 2800 Block of 58th Street reported on September 22 that a white male was attempting to enter his home through the back door. Charles Kukulya claimed someone at the home owed him money, but the residents did not know him. He was arrested for trespassing.

Joshua Acosta was arrested on an outstanding warrant from Hendry County on September 23 following a traffic stop in the 5600 block of Shore Boulevard for an inoperable headlight.

Officers were dispatched to the 900 Block of 55th Street after a caller reported two men were trying to push a car out of the area. When officers arrived, they discovered the driver had driven through the fence at the dead end of 55th Street, turned to avoid the retention pond and slid down the embankment, becoming stuck in the pond. No injuries were reported and the car was pulled out of the pond by a towing company.

Officers responded to a report of a vehicle burglary in the 1200 block of 53rd Street on September 25. Initially, nothing appeared to have been taken and no damage was reported. The victim later discovered his saxophone and an I-phone charger were stolen. Officers are investigating.

An officer was flagged down at Gulfport Beach regarding an unresponsive man in the water. The man was not breathing when he was pulled from the water, and was pronounced dead at the scene. The investigation is continuing.

While following up on a reported burglary in the 2700 block of Tifton Street, officers were notified of another burglary at the same location.

A resident in the 2100 block of 52nd Street reported on September 27 that his Rolex watch was stolen a few days earlier. The information he provided seemed to change the more questions that he was asked. The investigation is continuing.

The rear door to the Suncoast Food Mart was pried open, but the manager was unsure what was stolen because the merchandise was still in boxes.

Eight Oxycodone pills were stolen from the medicine box at the Boca Ciega Center nurse's station. Multiple people have access and there are no leads.

The **Marine Unit** was on the water for 5.5 hours this week. One stop and three boater contacts were made.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	16
Cases assigned:	5
Cases suspended-no leads:	10
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 grand theft, a hit and run, and other assigned cases, and; attended Adult Sex Crimes Investigations training.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary, a robbery, an auto theft, two frauds, a drowning and a death investigation. She also continued investigating an armed robbery case.

Officer Motte recovered a runaway; found a small amount of marijuana on a student; assisted the school with several acts of misconduct involving students from other schools trespassing on BCHS, issuing warnings to not return and notifying their respective schools; led the Monday night police explorer meeting, and; provided security for a football game.

Officer Embry assisted school staff with a verbal altercation between two people; assisted Officer Motte with trespassing; met with a parent regarding her daughter's truancy; provided security for a football game against Northeast High School, and; assisted patrol where needed.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano updated a residential burglary analysis; completed pawn checks on 22 cases with a named suspect or person of interest, a known serial number or a searchable property description; compiled officer activity information for Cmdr. Stone, and; assisted patrol officers with locating and identifying stolen property.

Records

Reports reviewed	11
Supplements reviewed:	85
Public Records requests:	60
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	5
Citizens assisted	36

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:

Monday, September 18, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Tuesday, September 19, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, September 19, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*

Tuesday, September 19, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club.*

Tuesday, September 19, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, September 20, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, September 20, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Wednesday, September 20, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout.*

Wednesday, September 20, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, September 21, 10:30 a.m. – *Storytime.*

Thursday, September 21, 11 a.m. - *CoffeeTalk Book Club discussion of Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank.*

Thursday, September 21, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws.*

Friday, September 22, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language.*

Friday, September 22, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, September 23, 10 a.m. - *Circle of Friends Flash Sale.*

Upcoming Events:

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 for more information.

Wednesday, October 4 & 11, 1 p.m. - *Gulfport Poetry Writers Group*: Brown bag lunch meeting for members to 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 share at 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.

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*: The lunar nodes in your astrological chart can tell you a whole lot about what the heck you are doing here, this time around, and what might have gotten you into this mess to begin with. We're going to chat about it. Curious and courageous volunteers are welcome to call ahead with their date and time of birth, and as time allows, we will take 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.

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.

Wednesday, October 17, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*: Kids, indulge your passion for the tiny building blocks of creativity! Meets in the Youth Services area.

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

Thursday, October 19, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*: Young readers boost their confidence by sharing a story with Maya, a specially trained Golden Retriever. She visits our children's area on the third Thursday of every month.

Saturday, October 21, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: This month's teen movie is an old-fashioned horror movie, about a girl who receives a box that grants wishes. Of course, all magic comes with a price, and it may not be one she wants to pay. Stars Ryan Phillippe. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

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

Thursday, October 26, 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, October 26, 11 a.m. - *Kids Yoga*: Meets on the fourth Thursday of each month.

Thursday, October 26, 6 p.m. - *Paranormal Tools & Techniques*: A professional ghost hunter explains how it's done. Get in the "spirit" of the season!

Monday, October 30, 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.

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

Library Services/Statistic September 17 - 23, 2017:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,784	1,110
Sun. 9/17	Library closed	
Mon. 9/18	376	168
Tue. 9/19	171	177
Wed. 9/20	302	202
Thu. 9/21	347	193
Fri. 9/22	293	198

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!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Created designs for e-newsletter.
- Continued preparation of October 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 Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. 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 Gulfport Senior Center is on Facebook. Find us at 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 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.

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.

You've worked hard to provide for your family. Whether you're approaching retirement or recently retired, your focus may begin to shift from building your financial foundation to protecting the financial resources you've created for you and your family. Join us for **Standing Guard: Protect What You've Worked For** on Monday, October 9 at 5:30 p.m. Learn proactive ways to address key risks and strategies to help prepare for the unexpected. Refreshments will be served.

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!

Clubhouse Chatter begins Wednesday, October 11 and will meet weekly at 1 p.m. through November 8 This group offers open discussion about the MLB season and your hometown Rays; the good, the bad and the ugly and what the season could have been. Topics will include player personnel, draft picks, farm system (minor leagues), coaching staff, spring season, ticket pricing, and the future of Tropicana Field. Rays staff and players will be invited to attend.

Join us for **Healthy Aging with Dr. Cate: Social Isolation and Aging**, a presentation on the latest developments in brain health and the impact of social isolation on Wednesday, October 11 at 2 p.m.

It is important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center on Thursday, October 12 at 10:30 a.m.

Learn to download apps, take/send pictures, ad contacts, adjust phone settings, and more on your **Android Phone or Tablet** at 11 a.m. Friday, October 13. Preregistration required; call 893-5657.

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.

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 October 26.

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):

Tuesday, September 19	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Marge Grudzinski (Turnout 15) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 23) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons (Turnout 51)
Wednesday, September 20	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 9) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 241)
Thursday, September 21	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 10) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 21) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 20)
Friday, September 22	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 19) 6 p.m. - Birthday party (Turnout 43)
Saturday, September 23	6 p.m. - Neptune Crew party (Turnout 150)

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

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

Sunday, September 17 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church (Turnout 19)

Tuesday, September 19 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 10)

Thursday, September 21 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 12)

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, September 18 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 13)

Tuesday, September 19 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)

Thursday, September 21 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 8)

Friday, September 22 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)

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 multipurpose room is reserved 4 - 9 p.m. Saturday, October 7 for a wedding.

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

Contractual classes: Bootcamp, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tennis, Watercolor and Zumba.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez and Jami Rowell helped Parks staff set up furniture in offices, and reconnected office computers on Sunday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 34 Emergency medical calls
- 2 Trauma alerts
- 6 Structure fires
- 3 Fire alarms
- 3 Vehicle crashes
- 1 Fire outside structure
- 1 Water rescue

Life Safety:

- 15 Fire inspections
- 3 C.O.s
- 2 Re-inspections
- 4 Plans review

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 Pinellas County Fire Chief Association meeting on September 28.

The Gulfport Fire Department continued 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.

The Gulfport Fire Department participated in Natural Gas/Propane/Haz-Mat Emergencies training at the South County Fire Training group in South Pasadena.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Performed pest control services on all City buildings.
- Assembled chair racks for Recreation Center.
- Located and repaired electrical short at Police Station.
- Removed furniture at Recreation Center in preparation for carpet installation.
- Removed damaged art from Senior Center and power-washed wall in preparation for painting.
- Cleared Scout Hall roof of storm debris.
- Installed temporary outlet for boardwalk construction.
- Reset clock at Library.
- Replaced broken flag light fixture at Recreation Center.
- Replaced 15 light bulbs and reset neon timers at Casino.
- Distributed donations collected by Senior Center to residents throughout City.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Set up equipment for volleyball tournament.
- Continued clearing Hurricane Irma debris from streets & City facilities.
- Replaced locks on gate at Lions Club and Hoyt field.
- Repaired fence behind Neighborhood Center.
- Drove bus for Recreation after school program.
- Inspected electrical outlets along Beach Streetscapes.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and Pier.
- Trimmed, and removed dead branches from trees in parks and on City properties.
- Mowed Beach, Recreation Center, Marina & Lions Club green spaces, Chase block, Dog Park, Clymer greenway, Hoyt perimeter and 49th Street terminus.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, and sharpened/replaced blades, replaced carburetor on line trimmer, and removed fuel and placed generators into storage following Hurricane Irene.
- Repaired irrigation mainline along Chase block and 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

- Continued clearing and removal of storm debris obstructing City roadways.
- Continued free pick-up of all residential storm debris.

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 & 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Completed 66 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 15 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 2 water meters that were 20+ years old with new electronic meters
- Repaired water breaks at 5714 20th Avenue and at 2307 Beach 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.
- Replaced cable in Ridgid sewer cleaner machine.

Stormwater

- Constructed curb inlet at southwest corner of York Street & 23rd Avenue and at 5140 23rd Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced headlight on Police vehicle #54.
- Replaced hydraulic lines on Sanitation vehicle #88.
- Patched tire on Fire Department vehicle #C-17.
- Replaced front tires on Parks Division Tractor #709.
- Replaced radiator and cooling fan motor fan blade on Police vehicle #9.
- Welded tarp bracket on Sanitation vehicle #29.
- Replaced right front door spring on Fire Engine #E-17.
- Repaired power steering dipstick, and replaced hydraulic line on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Pulled and diagnosed code that set check engine light on Streets Division vehicle #37.
- Replaced power steering shaft on Streets Division's vehicle #69.
- Replaced driver's side speaker on Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Replaced hydraulic line on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- 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 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.

Due to Hurricane Irma, **Code Enforcement** has not been focusing on any particular section, but instead on life/safety issues such as dangerous trees and assisting with assessment and building related activities. Beginning in October Code Enforcement will resume scheduled section activities, beginning in Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast area which generally extends north to 7th Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58th Street and east to 49th 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.

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

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