



Gulfport Community Update

December 10 - 16, 2017

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on December 25 for **Christmas Day**. Monday's sanitation routes will be collected on Tuesday the 26th, Tuesday's routes will be collected on Wednesday the 27th, and there will be no Wednesday yard waste pickup.

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.

The Gulfport Neighbors presented the City of Gulfport a check for \$1550, collected at Holiday Hoopla on December 9, to be used for the **City's Operation Santa**. The Neighbors recently presented \$500 to the effort, and collected toys with an estimated value of \$1200. Gulfport Merchants Association also provided "Operation Santa" with a \$500 check (photos below). Thank you Gulfport Neighbors, GMA and all those who participated. The Gulfport Police Department will continue to collect unwrapped toys and monetary donations until 4 p.m. Monday, December 18



Congregation Beth Sholom of Gulfport celebrated the **Ceremonial Lighting of the Menorah** on December 12, as participants gathered at Clymer Park to recognize the Jewish faith's eight-day celebration, also known as the Festival of Lights.



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.

Theaterone will present **The Twelve Plays of Christmas** at the Catherine Hickman Theater Friday, December 22 - Sunday, December 31. Tickets: \$22 in advance; \$25 (cash or check) at the door. For more information call 835-8900 or visit www.theatreonetix@gmail.com.

Don't miss the **New Year's Eve Gala** at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom Sunday, December 31. The evening's festivities will include high energy music for dancing performed by Gulfport's own Urban Gypsies of Florida. The \$35 ticket price includes a complimentary gourmet dessert, party favors, champagne toast at midnight, a free 4x6 photo (props included) and unlimited salty popcorn for your snacking pleasure. Tickets are on sale now at the Gulfport Welcome Center, 3101 Beach Boulevard. For more information email Linda Craig at lindacraig60@gmail.com, text 239-5280 or visit www.facebook.com/GulfportNYEGala.

The **Fourth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service** will take place at Tomlinson Park, located at the corner of 55th Street & Tangerine Avenue Saturday, January 13, 8 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. Gulfport residents, businesses and civic organizations will join Americans across the U.S. stepping up as volunteers and will leverage the strength of our community through a variety of community service-oriented projects. If you or your organization would like to be involved, please register at www.mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice. Registration forms are also available at all City Facilities and the Gulfport Welcome Center. For more information call Technical Events Specialist Kristin Ossola at 893-1118 or email kossola@mygulfport.us.

Help reduce pollution in our waterways and get rid of unwanted debris on Gulfport Beach during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** at 9 a.m. Saturday, January 13. A limited number of pickers will be available; if you have one please bring it. Meet at Gulfport Beach Waterfront Complex shelter #4. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and make a difference in the community.

Join the City of Gulfport as we celebrate the life of trees and their importance to the environment during the annual **Arbor Day** celebration at the pocket park located at, 60th Street & 20th Avenue at 3:30 p.m. Friday, January 19. Children from the School Year Child Care Program will read excerpts and the Gulfport Teen Council will serve refreshments. Gulfport Food Forest will answer your planting questions. Free Cabbage Palm and Live Oak seedlings will be available to guests while supplies last. For more information call 893-1118.

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	145
Self-initiated calls for service	431
Offenses	49
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	82
Ordinance violations	44
Residence checks	69

A resident in the 5400 block of 12th Avenue reported on December 7 that someone stole several plants from his residence. Another resident called few a minutes later to report that someone was stashing plants behind a residence in the 5300 block of Newton Avenue. The plants were recovered and returned to the owner.

Jamecia Lassetter was arrested on an outstanding misdemeanor warrant on December 8 after Officer Rossi stopped her at the intersection of 17th Avenue & 49th Street for driving a car with an expired tag.

A resident in the 2200 block of 53rd Street reported that three televisions were stolen from his home. He suspects that workers he hired to do a job at the residence may have taken them.

Officers were notified of an individual possibly using intravenous drugs on the north side of a business in the 1000 block of 49th Street. Officer Clague made contact with the man and found a needle prepared for use with a substance that later tested positive for an unspecified opioid. Jay Oberman was arrested for possession of a controlled substance.

A resident reported on December 9 that he left his unlocked bicycle and cell phone behind the Recreation Center while he picked up trash on the beach. When he returned, the bike and phone were missing.

The Christmas lights at the Sunoco gas station on Gulfport Boulevard were vandalized on December 10, the second time in a week the lights were damaged.

Officers were dispatched to the 5400 block of Essex Avenue after a caller reported a man displayed a handgun. Upon arrival, officers determined the person with the gun had an argument with someone he knew. He told officers that the other person threatened him so he pulled out the gun to keep him from attacking him. The other person involved, Randy Ramos was located and stated he did not wish to pursue charges. Ramos had felony warrants out of Hillsborough County and was arrested.

A Stetson University faculty member received an email on December 11 stating that someone had paid the sender to kill him, and if the "victim" paid money he would not carry out the "hit". The sender would then forward the information the person who took out the "contract". Officers advised the caller this is a common scam, and a report taken was for information purposes.

Officers were dispatched to a business in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard after a man reported that his scooter was stolen from While Officer Nieves was investigating, he was advised that earlier in the day a man stole items from a store and fled. He was seen getting into the passenger side of a car and the tag number was obtained. The suspect is known to officers and there is probable cause for his arrest.

A boxer dog was found by a resident in the 5200 block of Tangerine Avenue on December 12. Police took a picture of the dog and posted it on the Gulfport Police Department Facebook page with a short description. The owner saw the post, and his dog was returned to him at the Police Department.

City staff reported on December 13 that someone removed the "Mary Disston Shipwreck" plaque from the pier. It is unknown if the plaque was stolen or thrown into the water.

Staff at Gulfport Genesis Center reported a theft of narcotic pills from the distribution area. Everyone at the facility had access to the pills and the new administrator is correcting the problem.

A 1997 Clubcar golf cart with palm tree style camouflage was reported stolen from the backyard of a residence in the 5700 block of Tangerine Avenue.

The **marine unit** was on the water for approximately 6 hours this week. Officers Marshall and Carter retrieved a wayward dinghy, and Sergeant Burkhart led the Boca Ciega Yacht Club boat parade and assisted with collection of donated toys for Operation Santa.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	16
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	7
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Supplements received:	16
Cases cleared with arrest:	3
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
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 runaway, and a theft. He also participated in a probable cause round up with other members of CIS and Officer Nicita during which 3 arrests were made.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for four frauds cases, an auto theft, a robbery, and a theft; interviewed and arrested a juvenile suspect for robbery and possession of marijuana and a suspect in for fraudulent prescription for a controlled substance; participated in a probable cause round up with other members of CIS and Officer Nicita in which 3 arrests were made, and; assisted patrol with a fraud investigation.

School Resource Officers Motte and Embry wrote 1 police report this week; counseled 6 students; met with the parent of a student, and;

Officer Motte arrested a student for trespassing on school grounds after multiple warnings; assisted the school with breaking up several minor fights and locating lost property; gave 3 classroom presentations on search and seizure, and courtroom procedure; hosted the Monday night explorer meeting teaching the explorers about criminal law.

Officer Embry met with a St. Pete officer who needed to speak with a student about an incident that occurred in his city; spoke with a student about sports in colleges he's interested in attending, and; escorted a student off campus at the request of the assistant principal.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano compiled and distributed pen case lists; conducted UCR training with officers in pre-FTO, and; compiled the monthly PCSO crime scene call out report.

Records

Reports reviewed	16
Supplements reviewed:	63
Public Records requests:	22
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	3
Subpoenas processed:	7
Citizens assisted	52

MARINA

Assisted with sixteen (16) pump outs evacuating two hundred twenty five (225) gallons of waste.

Pumped one thousand seven hundred ninety three (1,793) gallons of gas and one thousand one hundred ninety two (1,192) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling seventy (70) vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Replaced broken sections of pump out main line under piers 3, 4 & 5.
- Replaced backflow valve and water valves on pier 6, slip 28.
- Purchased and stocked Ship Store merchandise for resale.
- Replaced light bulbs in electric pedestals at Boca Ciega Yacht Club.
- Inspected all docks for repairs.
- Replaced broken water valve at entrance to Clam Bayou kayak launch.
- Replaced broken water valve under pier 3
- Recapped pilings on east side of pier 3.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, December 4, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Monday, December 4, 5:30 p.m. - *Author Rose Walton.*

Tuesday, December 5, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga.*

Tuesday, December 5, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, December 5, 2 p.m. - *Ukelele group.*

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

Tuesday, December 5, 7 p.m. - *Bay Voices Holiday Concert.*

Wednesday, December 6, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, December 6, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout.*

Wednesday, December 6, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, December 7, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, December 7, 7 p.m. - *West African Harp (Kora) Concert.*

Friday, December 8, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, December 9, 1 p.m. - *Author Michael Cifone.*

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, December 16, 1:40 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day: Gru meets his charming, long-lost twin brother, Dru, who wants them to join together for one last criminal heist. Starring the voices of Steve Carell, Kristin Wiig and Trey Parker. Rated PG. Call 893-1074 for movie title.*

Wednesday, December 20, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club: Kids, indulge your passion for the tiny building blocks of creativity! Meets in the Youth Services area.*

Thursday, December 21, 11 a.m. - *CoffeeTalk Book Club discussion of The Pickup by Nadine Gordimer. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.*

Friday, December 22, 7 p.m. - *Family Blanket Fort Night*: Kick off the holiday break at our fourth annual event! Bring some blankets and pillows, wear your PJs and build a blanket fort in our meeting room. We'll pop some popcorn and put on a holiday movie. Fun for the whole family!

Thursday, December 28, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

Tuesday, January 2, 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@mygulport.us for more information.

Thursday, January 4, 5 p.m. - *Author Fran Wishnick*: The author of *Craig Climbed a Tree* discusses the topics of autism and mental health in children.

Saturday, January 6, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: Salma Hayek is a holistic medical practitioner who finds herself invited (though not welcome) to a very awkward dinner party at her client's house after her car breaks down. Costars John Lithgow, Connie Britton, and Chloe Sevigny. Rated R. Call 893-1074 for title.

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 December 3 - 9, 2017:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,646	1,229
Sun. 12/3	Library closed	
Mon. 12/4	260	263
Tue. 12/5	239	216
Wed. 12/6	363	213
Thu. 12/7	318	123
Fri. 12/8	281	200
Sat. 12/9	176	152

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

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

- 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.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.
- Commenced preparation of January calendar.
- Provided photographic coverage for Congregation Beth Sholom Festival of Lights.

Multipurpose Senior Center

The Gulfpport 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.mygulfpport.us. The Gulfpport Senior Center is on Facebook. Find us at www.FB.com/GulfpportSeniorCenter.

The **City of Gulfpport Telephone Reassurance program** is much more than a morning wake-up call. This free service offers Gulfpport 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 Gulfpport Senior Center at 5501 27th Avenue.

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

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

The 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 December 15. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

Light up the holidays with a special evening drive along the **St. Petersburg Waterfront Light Display** and the Shore Acres residential area. You'll be amazed by the thousands of lights and decorations on Tuesday, December 19. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$6; nonmembers \$8.

Join us on Thursday, December 21 when the Out-to-Lunch Bunch visits **Leverock's Seafood Restaurant** in Pasadena where great seafood has been served since 1948. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$4; nonmembers \$6. Select your meal from the menu & pay your own check. See GEMS office for restaurant menu.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 pm, Friday, December 22nd. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

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 December 28.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles, and many other goodies at **First Friday Flea Market** on January 5 beginning at 9 a.m.

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, January 10.

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):

Sunday, December 3 7 p.m. - Ballroom dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 46)

Tuesday, December 5 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 33)

Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 22)
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 59)

Wednesday, December 6 10 a.m. - Keller-Williams seminar (Turnout 50)
6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 246)

Thursday, December 7 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 29)
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 8)

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 Third Friday 7 p.m. - Sock Hop with the Impacs

Every fourth Monday 7 p.m. - USA Dance ballroom dance: members \$5, non-members \$8

Catherine Hickman Theater (*last week's events*):

Wednesday, December 6, 1 p.m. - *Senior Center Holiday Extravaganza* (Turnout 95)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Tuesday, December 12, 7 p.m. - *New Horizons Band Holiday Concert*: A great way to get into the Holiday Spirit! Free & open to the public.

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

Sunday, December 3 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church (Turnout 12)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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 first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

Scout Hall (*last week's events*):

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

Monday, December 4 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 31)

Thursday, November 7 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 11)

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

Santa and his elves will judge the **Holiday Decorations Contest** on Monday evening, December 18. There are two theme categories: general for single homes and; commercial for single business and professional locations, including home occupations. Deadline to enter the contest is noon on the 18th. A plaque will be presented to one winner in each category at the City Council meeting (televised) at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 2.

The Gulfport Recreation Center will offer **full day activities during Holiday Break** from 7:45 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. Tuesday - Friday, December 26 - 29 & January 2 - 5 for children in Kindergarten through age 14. Extended care is available until 6 p.m. for an additional fee. The children will participate in arts & crafts, field trips, sports, and much more!

Sixty seven children are 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 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 six 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 met with cleaning company owner on Thursday morning to discuss cleaning of Recreation Center, facilitated the Teen Council on Friday, and attended the Senior Staff & Leisure Services Staff meeting on Wednesday.

Joanne McRoberts attended the FLAEYC Conference in Orlando on Friday, Saturday & Sunday.

Five **Gulfport Teen Councilmembers** attended the monthly meeting on Friday. Advisor Marivel Gutierrez facilitated. Topics discussed were Advisor Report, approval of October's minutes, upcoming events, old business and new business.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 46 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Structure Collapse
- 4 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Elevator Rescue

Life Safety:

- 2 Fire Inspections
- 1 C.O.

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is December 21. Training will include a Mass Casualty Incident simulation.

New Firefighter/Paramedic Lisa Sedillo will join GFD on December 19. If you see her please welcome her to the City.

The National Fire Protection Association reports that the number of candle fires doubles in December. Christmas Day brings the most candle fires, and Christmas Eve and New Year's Day tie for second place. Forty percent of all candle fires happen in the bedroom and account for 30% of deaths. Indeed, falling asleep was indicated in a quarter of all candle fire deaths. Below are some **Candle Safety Tips** to help keep you safe:

- Don't leave burning candles unattended; extinguish them before leaving or going to sleep.
- Keep candles away from items that can catch fire; clothing, books and magazines, or curtains are all remarkably flammable.
- Use sturdy candle holders that will not tip or burn, and are large enough to collect dripping wax.
- Keep open flames away from flammable liquids.
- Trim candle wicks to one-quarter inch.
- Extinguish pillar and taper candles when they get within two inches of the holder.
- Extinguish votive and container candles before the last half-inch of wax is melted.
- Do not carry lit candles during power outages; use flashlights instead.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced batteries on Fire Panel at Casino.
- Reassembled 4 sections of fence at Neighborhood Center.
- Properly disposed of 20 boxes of records that met retention schedule guidelines.
- Purchased and delivered furniture to Library for garden area.
- Moved solar panel pedestals to Parks Division office, and replaced paper towel dispenser.
- Installed Menorah in Clymer Park.
- Patched wall at Recreation Center.
- Delivered food donations to Senior Center.
- Lowered and raised American flags for Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Assembled Menorah at Clymer Park.
- Obtained prices for tennis courts, fencing and trash/recycle cans.
- Contacted Duke Energy to request replacement of lights and poles.
- Installed solar up-lighting to event parking signs throughout City.
- Installed concrete pads for bike racks and benches at beach, Marina, & Tomlinson Park.
- Located Duke Energy box on Tangerine & 49th Street for pole replacement.
- Repaired tree lights on Beach Boulevard.
- Cleaned and organized shop.
- Cleaned out and sanitized event trash cans.
- Repaired irrigation at City Complex, Library, Clymer Park, Chase block & along Shore Boulevard streetscapes.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned beds at Fire station and City complex.
- Mowed Wood Ibis & Caldwell Park, Clam Bayou green spaces, trail spur and Tangerine greenway pond banks.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced.
- 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 park trash and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Inspected outside lights at all City buildings.
- 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.
- Repaired sections of brick and curbing at 54th Street & Essex Avenue.

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 #23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 21 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 12 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 87 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 14 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 2 water meters that were 20+ years old with new electronic meters.
- Placed 2 Code Enforcement Notice of Violation door hangers for high grass or trash in easements.
- Replaced broken water valve box at 51st Street & 8th Avenue.
- Continued annual flushing of water main lines, and exercised fire hydrants.
- Repaired backflow assembly for Casino dock fire line.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 & 2.
- Daily rain fall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations 1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.

Stormwater

- Repaired curb and storm lid at 55th Street & 20th Avenue.
- Replaced 8' of 15" storm pipe, and repaired manhole structure at Pinellas Trail.
- Repaired storm structure at 49th Street & 28th Avenue.
- Repaired curb inlets and lids at Beach Boulevard & 27th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced wipers on Parks Division vehicle #714.
- Welded hooks on Streets Division vehicle #38.
- Repaired clearance light on Sanitation vehicle #48.
- Replaced clean-out waste gate-door seals on Sanitation vehicle #47.
- Cleared misfire code on GEMS vehicle #3.
- Patched tires on Parks Division Toro Workman #704 & Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Replaced alternator on GEMS vehicle #93.
- Replaced starter and rear wiper on Fire Department vehicle #D-17.
- Repaired leaf spring on Water Division vehicle #77.
- Replaced rear brake pads, engine oil & filter on Police vehicle #101.
- Replaced grabber arm "90-degree elbow," on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced exhaust pipes, door clamp, and air actuator on Sanitation vehicle #41.
- Replaced left rear, (inner and outer), tires on Sanitation vehicle #40.

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 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.

December 13, 2017 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

V17-18; 5402 31st Avenue South; Variance application to reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 8 feet 4 inches, from 25 feet to 16 feet 8 inches to extend open-sided porches that are to be built onto the rear of a proposed new single-family home located within the Conservation Overlay District. APPROVED

V17-19; 4914 27th Avenue South; Variance application to reduce the side yard setback requirement by 0.92 feet, from 6 feet to 5.08 feet to allow for the proposed construction of a new addition to the rear of the existing house to match the existing side of the house which is located within the Conservation Overlay District. APPROVED

December 19 City Council/CRA meeting:

Consideration of an ordinance amending the Zoning Code to allow for Medical Marijuana. P&Z recommended approval.

January 3, 2018 Planning and Zoning Board and January 16 City Council/CRA meeting:

Consideration of an ordinance amending the Zoning Code as it relates to historic preservation and associated duties of the historic preservation board.