



Gulfport Community Update

November 26 - December 2, 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 Fire Department would like to remind residents that the kitchen can be one of the most hazardous rooms in the home if safe cooking isn't practiced. Following are tips to keep you safe while cooking during the busy holiday season:

- Stay in the kitchen while frying, grilling, or broiling food. If you leave the kitchen for even a short period of time, turn off the stove.
- If simmering, baking, roasting, or boiling food, check it regularly, remain in the home while food is cooking, and use a timer to remind you that you're cooking.
- To prevent cooking fires, you have to be alert. You won't be if you are sleepy, have been drinking alcohol, or have taken medicine that makes you drowsy.
- Keep anything that can catch fire - potholders, oven mitts, wooden utensils, paper or plastic bags, food packaging, towels, or curtains - away from your stovetop.
- Keep the stovetop, burners, and oven clean.
- Wear short, close-fitting or tightly rolled sleeves when cooking. Loose clothing can catch fire if it comes into contact with a gas flame or electric burner.
- Plug microwave ovens and other cooking appliances directly into an outlet. Never use an extension cord for a cooking appliance, as it can overload the circuit and cause a fire.

Upcoming Events:

ArtJones debuts 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, December 2 and 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. Sunday the 3rd with a self-guided tour showcasing the works of twelve Gulfport artists at 10 locations. Informational brochures are available online at www.ArtJonesStudioTour.com. Visit www.facebook.com/ArtJones-1329673137142553 for more information.

Join us for song and good cheer during the **City of Gulfport Holiday Tree Lighting** in Clymer Park at 7 p.m. Monday, December 4. Enjoy an evening of light refreshments and festive music presented by the Gulfport Recreation division; meet the Mayor and City Council. Santa will visit and listen to little ones' holiday wishes. For more information call 893-1118.

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.

Meet your neighbors and help your community at the same time. The Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup is Saturday, December 9, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Meet at Beach Pavilion #4. A limited number of pickers are available; if you have one please bring it. Water will be provided. For more information visit www.Gulfportneighbors.org.

Enjoy festive music, hand crafted holiday items and roving characters during the **Ninth Annual Holiday Hoopla** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district, your one stop local shopping for the holidays on Saturday, December 10, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. Vendor space is available at

www.SIKpromotions.com. Visit www.Facebook.com/HolidayHooplaGulfport or call 322-5217 for more information. Stay for the **Boca Ciega Yacht Club 32nd Annual Lighted Boat Parade**. Parade participants can register online at www.sailbcyc.org/ChristmasBoatParade or at the club, 4600 Tifton Drive.

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. For more information call Technical Events Specialist Kristin Ossola at 893-1118 or email kossola@mygulfport.us.

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	119
Self-initiated calls for service	378
Offenses	37
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	97
Ordinance violations	24
Residence checks	72

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

Someone punched the driver door lock and entered a vehicle parked in the 5600 block of 21st Avenue in the early morning hours of November 24. Nothing was taken.

A resident reported on November 25 that something struck his driver side door, while he was driving in the 5600 block of 11th Avenue the night before, leaving a small dent. The complainant believed a BB was shot at him from an air gun but no projectile could be located.

A resident in the 1200 block of Fremont Street reported that someone entered their unlocked garage and stole a speaker valued at \$350.00.

Officer Priest stopped a motorcycle with no license plate in the 2000 block of 49th Street on November 26. The bike wasn't registered and rider Joel Dodd had no driver's license. Dodd was given a notice to appear in court and the bike was impounded.

A resident in the 5000 block of Jersey Avenue reported that his laptop was stolen. He suspects a family member took the device since no one else had access to it.

Dennis Schiffler was charged with burglary to a dwelling after he was seen entering a fenced yard in the 4900 block of Newton Avenue, and stealing a potted plant. He was stopped down the street and confronted with video surveillance footage from the victim's security cameras. Schiffler admitted to stealing the plant and showed officers where he stashed it.

John Kukor was arrested on an outstanding warrant for worthless checks. He was taken into custody in the 4900 block of 31st Avenue.

Officer Ross stopped a juvenile in the 1000 block of 49th Street on November 27 matching the description of a suspect who stole an electric scooter from a carport in the Beachway Mobile Home Park on November 21. He was positively identified from surveillance footage, and Officer Ross discovered he matched a bulletin from the St Petersburg Police Department regarding a stolen motor scooter. St. Petersburg Police Department officers positively identified the suspect. He was charged with grand theft auto, grand theft and burglary.

Officers were dispatched to a disturbance in the 5200 block of 14th Avenue on November 28 after several people were involved in a verbal altercation over money and property. The agitator of the group fled the area prior to officers arrived. There was an allegation of physical contact but it was determined that the person had to use force in order to leave the residence.

Employees at Forever Florida Real Estate arriving for work on the morning of November 29 discovered that someone had stolen 50 feet of red LED tube lights.

A resident in the 1800 block of 52nd Street reported that three males in their late teens stole his cell phone from his porch while he was skateboarding on the sidewalk. One of the three distracted him by talking about skateboarding while the other two stole the phone.

Robin Hannula was arrested for DUI after she made a sharp turn into a parking spot in the 2800 block of Beach Boulevard and struck a parked car. She submitted to a breath test which revealed that her breath alcohol content was .189/.191, more than twice the legal limit.

The **Marine Unit** was on the water for approximately 4 hours this week. Officer Kellington conducted 3 vessel stops and 1 safety check.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	12
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	9
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Supplements received:	21
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared	2
Cases still active:	15

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary case, a runaway, a forgery, and a grand theft auto.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental for three fraud cases and two auto thefts.

School Resource Officers Motte and Embry wrote 1 police report, counseled 4 students, and met with the parent of one student this week.

Officer Motte assisted the school with a parent that needed clarification on a minor fight that occurred before Thanksgiving Break. He also taught the Monday night Police Explorer meeting, covering the topic of Search and Arrest.

Officer Embry met with a student thought to suicidal, and determined the student did not meet the criteria for a Baker Act. He also escorted a disruptive student off campus.

Records

Reports reviewed	23
Supplements reviewed:	44
Public Records requests:	14
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	2
Subpoenas processed:	5
Citizens assisted	21

MARINA

Assisted with eighteen (18) pump outs evacuating three hundred forty (340) gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand six hundred thirty four (3,634) gallons of gas and one thousand one hundred twenty eight (1,128) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling ninety three (93) vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Installed clothing/towel hooks in restroom showers.
- Replaced water backflow valve on pier 5, slip 40.
- Procured & stocked ships store merchandise for resale.
- Replaced lock hinges on pier 5, slip 29 dock box.
- Inspected docks for hazards and repairs.
- Replaced water valve at Clam Bayou kayak launch.
- Re-capped pilings in Marina.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, November 21, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*.

Tuesday, November 21, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*.

Wednesday, November 21, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*.

Tuesday, November 21, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, November 22, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, November 22, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout.*

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, December 2, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day:* An undercover MI6 agent is sent to Berlin during the Cold War to investigate the murder of a fellow agent and recover a list of double agents. Stars Charlize Theron, James MacAvoy, Eddie Marsan, John Goodman. Call 893-1074 for title.

Monday, December 4, 5:30 p.m. - *Author Rose Walton:* Discussion of her book, *By Any Other Name: A Lesbian's Journey out of West Virginia*, published in 2016.

Tuesday, December 5, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Tuesday, December 5, 7 p.m. - *Bay Voices Holiday Concert:* Returning for a third year, this family-friendly event is free and open to the public. Complimentary wine, soft beverages and cheese will be offered. Sponsored by the LGBTQ Resource Center, a project of the non-profit Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Public Library.

Thursday, December 7, 7 p.m. - *West African Harp (Kora) Concert:* All ages are invited to this musical event. Call 893-1134 for more information.

Saturday, December 9, 1 p.m. - *Author Michael Ciafone:* Literary discussion of his recently published nonfiction book.

Monday, December 11, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program:* Last program of the monthly series. Explore how the ancient practice 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 peek at your charts. Presented by Jennie White, Ode to Pluto Astrology. Call 207-332-0787 or email jennie@odetopluto.com for more information.

Thursday, December 14, 11 a.m. - *Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Launch:* The Library is partnering with a local Rotary Club to provide books to preschoolers registered for this free program. Details available at www.imaginationlibrary.com. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, December 14, 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.

Thursday, December 14, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night:* Documentary tells the story of activists as they pushed to expand the boundaries of AIDS treatment, transforming the disease from a death sentence to a manageable condition. Refreshments available. Donations benefit the LGBTQ Resource Center. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

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.

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@mygulford.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. - *Gulford Writers meeting*.

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulford Toastmasters*. Email contact@gulfortoastmasters.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 November 19 - 25, 2017:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,344	1,084
Sun. 11/19	Library closed	
Mon. 11/20	316	251
Tue. 11/21	383	212
Wed. 11/22	291	202
Thu. 11/23	Holiday - Library closed	
Fri. 11/24	Holiday - Library closed	
Sat. 11/25	349	228

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulford.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulford to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulford.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.
- Distributed December calendars at City facilities & Tuesday Market.

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.

What if you knew how to empower your whole being, to nourish it and give to yourself exactly what you need? Barbara Newborn guides you to do just that on Monday, December 4 at 3 p.m. as she discusses methods on where and how to look for answers in your **Body, Mind, and Spirit**. Special Guest Speaker Martin Carroll will offer insight on how hypnotism can also assist you in becoming your own healer.

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 5 or 19, or on Thursday the 14th. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$6; nonmembers \$8.

Time to get your holiday shopping done! We'll head up to **Countryside Mall** on Thursday, December 7 where you can shop at over 200 stores, watch the skaters at the ice rink or try it for yourself. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$10; nonmembers \$12.

Learn to download apps, take/send pictures, ad contacts, adjust phone settings and more during the **Android Cell Phone & Tablet Instructional Class** at 11 a.m. Friday, December 8. Preregistration is required; call 893-5657.

Are you worried about your memory? St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic will offer **FREE & CONFIDENTIAL Memory Screenings** 9 a.m. - noon Monday, December 12. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment time.

The best time to make decisions concerning your healthcare is while you're able to consider your wishes carefully and discuss them with your doctor, caregivers & loved ones. Advance care planning is a process involving personal reflection & discussions of medical treatment preferences based on your personal values. Join us at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 13 to learn more about **Advance Care Planning** services provided by Empath Health.

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, December 14.

The Community Law Program provides **free legal assistance** at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. the third Friday of every month. The next meeting is December 15. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

The Senior Center offers free blood pressure and health screenings at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Our next **Monthly Mini Health Clinic** is 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.

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, November 19 4:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 130)

Monday, November 20 6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 115)

Tuesday, November 21 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 22)
 Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 20)
 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 63)

Wednesday, November 22 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 310)

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*):

Sunday, November 19 5 p.m. - PLAY Performing Arts show (Turnout 50)
 7:30 p.m. - PLAY Performing Arts show (Turnout 30)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Friday, December 1 6 p.m. - *Art reception*: Meet December's featured artist, Jay Lynch.
 Free & open to the public. Cash bar.

Saturday, December 2 7:30 p.m. - *CASA Free Holiday Concert*: Food, cash bar and special
 performance of holiday-themed tunes from Chorus Angelorum, Tampa
 Bay's premier a capella vocal ensemble. Visit www.casa-stpete.org for
 more information.

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

Sunday, November 19 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 20)
 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, November 20 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 28)

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!

Fifty eight 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 five 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 attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

Brian VanSlyke took the school bus to Pinellas Diesel in Clearwater for repairs on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 48 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 8 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 begin her first day on December 19. If you see her please welcome her to the City.

The Gulfport Fire Department will bring Santa to town on the antique fire engine on December 4.

The Gulfport Fire Department finished testing and has been recertified for Advanced Cardiac Life Support. ACLS is renewed every two years.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced soap dispenser at Senior Center and air handler & condenser in room #106.
- Performed monthly pest control at all City buildings.
- Installed address number on Little League building.
- Cleared blocked toilet in Casino outdoor men's restroom.
- Set up Council Chambers for meeting.
- Cleaned restrooms and replaced ballast in theater lobby.
- Tented Historical Museum for termites.
- Performed monthly filter change & semi-annual HVAC maintenance on all City a/c units.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Trimmed oaks and palms at Caldwell Park, and palms at Clymer Park.
- Installed landscaping and irrigation along Shore Boulevard project.
- Seeded and fertilized ball fields.

- Inspected exterior lights at all City buildings.
- Replaced lights on entry signs.
- Repaired bench swing at beach and bench on Casino deck.
- Cleared weeds around Hoyt perimeter.
- Set up holiday tree at Clymer Park and installed lights.
- Re-shelled walking trail at Wood Ibis Park.
- Graded and raked volleyball courts.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and Pier.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned beds at Clymer & Veterans Parks and City complex.
- Mowed Clymer & Veterans Parks, City complex, Senior Center, 28th Avenue sign area and bush-hogged Tangerine Greenway pond.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and replaced pulleys on mower decks.
- Repaired irrigation along 49th Streetscape, and replaced irrigation timer at Recreation Center.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged ball fields.

Streets & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Performed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Cleaned and removed debris from beach, storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways, alleyways & sidewalks.
- Cleaned debris, cans and trash following Tuesday Market.

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 #32, 33, 34, 45, 46, 47 & 48 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 20 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 15 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 192 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 10 water meters that were 20+ years old with new electronic meters.
- Replaced 3 meters that were stuck or damaged and not recording water usage.

- Placed 22 Code Enforcement Notice of Violation door hangers for high grass or trash in easements.
- Repaired water leak at 6100 Gulfport Boulevard and water break at 2610 58th Street.

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.
- Cleared sewer lateral stoppage at 4902 31st Avenue.

Stormwater

- Constructed new storm water curb inlet on York Street between 23rd & 24th Avenues.
- Repaired storm water inlet and replaced lid at southeast corner of 52nd Street & 24th Avenue.
- Cleaned and inspected 33 storm water inlets.
- Replaced storm water lid at southeast corner of 54th Street & 28th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced hydraulic hose on Sanitation vehicle #88.
- Replaced engine oil, filter, and fuel filter on Water Division vehicle #22.
- Replaced driver's seat airbag in Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Replaced universal joints and oil & filter on fire truck #E-17.
- Replaced front tires on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced oil and filter, topped off power steering fluid, and checked for leaks on Police vehicle #18.
- Replaced oil and filters on Police vehicles #527 and #528.
- Replaced tires on Police vehicle #19.
- Replaced step on Sanitation vehicle #48.
- Replaced oil cap, grabber arm piston bolt and eye on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Replaced power steering pump on GEMS vehicle #1.
- Replaced water pump, thermostat, and timing belt on Police vehicle #101
- Repaired wiring for emergency lights on Police vehicle #9.
- Replaced tires and repaired wiring on Sanitation vehicle #41 grabber arm.

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 6, 2017 Planning and Zoning Board & December 19 City Council/CRA meeting:

Consideration of an ordinance amending the Zoning Code to allow for Medical Marijuana.

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.

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.