



# Gulfport Community Update

December 17 - 23, 2017

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

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.

**Free smoke detectors** are available to elderly and low income households within Gulfport City limits. Call Fire Chief James Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

## Upcoming Events:

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

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](mailto:lindacraig60@gmail.com), text 239-5280 or visit [www.facebook.com/GulfportNYEGala](http://www.facebook.com/GulfportNYEGala).

The **Fourth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service** will take place at Tomlinson Park, at 55<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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](mailto: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, 60<sup>th</sup> Street & 20<sup>th</sup> 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. Call 893-1118 for more information.

It's almost that time again! Bring your Gulfport I.D. and your junk to the Gulfport Neighbors **Junk in the Trunk** at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday, January 20, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Drop junk that works at the free trade table. Free bike registration and helmets for kids. Have coffee with a cop and get all of your gardening tips from the community garden team.

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

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Patrol**

Dispatch calls for service	153
Self-initiated calls for service	365
Offenses	43
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	90
Ordinance violations	37
Residence checks	46

The Criminal Investigative Section and off duty patrol officers conducted a surveillance detail for thefts and burglaries in Town Shores on December 14. Sergeant Woodman was sitting in his unmarked vehicle when a man later identified as Kelvin Neal approached and attempted to open the door. Neal was arrested. He was also charged with possession of marijuana, less than 20 grams.

An unlocked vehicle with the keys inside was reported stolen from a residence in the 5500 block of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the early morning hours of December 15.

Laura Wimmer was arrested on an outstanding warrant for possession of cocaine. She was taken into custody in the 5800 block of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

A resident in the 2600 block of Tifton Street reported on December 16 that several people came to his residence claiming that they had applied to rent the house. The homeowner discovered his house listed for rent on Craigslist by an unknown person, using photos from his real estate website when he listed the house for sale. So far nobody has lost money or followed through with a transaction and there is no way to identify the suspect.

Officers were dispatched to a report of an elderly female threatening to jump off a balcony in the 6000 block of Shore Boulevard. A relative on scene advised he pulled her back when she threw her leg over the ledge. She was taken to the hospital under the Baker Act.

Stacy Rodriguez was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear for driving while license suspended or revoked. She was taken into custody in the 5100 block 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

A resident in the 2600 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street reported on December 17 that she left a window open while she was away and when she returned she discovered her iPad missing. When she awoke she realized that someone had burglarized the house and stole two iPads, an Apple watch, cash and a small revolver.

Officers were dispatched to the 1300 block of 51<sup>st</sup> Street after a caller reported that her ex-boyfriend assaulted her after she refused to allow their daughter to leave with him and his girlfriend. The man jumped over a fence and forced his way into the residence, beating the victim with a diaper bag before dragging her into the front yard, body slamming her and beating her again. Several neighbors witnessed the battery, during which, he knocked his 2-year old daughter to the ground. He left in his girlfriend's car before police arrived, and probable cause affidavits have been entered in the Virtual Inmate Processing and Receiving program for burglary/battery, domestic battery, and child abuse.

Officer Palazzolo and Field Training Officer Kellington stopped a speeding vehicle in the 6300 block of Gulfport Boulevard, and discovered driver Lazaro Oviedo had an outstanding warrant for failure to appear for marijuana possession. He was arrested.

A resident in the 5600 block of 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on December 18 that someone broke into his work van while it was parked in front of his home and stole his work iPad. A short time later, a resident in the same block reported that a purse was stolen from their unlocked car.

A Town Shores building president reported that she accompanied a plumber to an apartment for a scheduled repair appointment. Resident George Goodenough did not like the way the plumber looked and began harassing him. He then pushed the building president, nearly knocking her down. Goodenough was uncooperative and belligerent. He was arrested for battery on a person over 65.

An unsecured bicycle was reported stolen from the front of a business in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard.

Two bicycles were stolen from a residence in the 5300 block of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue. One was recovered in the 4500 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue, but the second bike has not been located.

Someone entered an unlocked vehicle parked in the 5800 block of 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue in the early morning hours of December 20, and took a backpack containing textbooks and a laptop. A resident observed two people in the area who resembled the subjects of an earlier suspicious person call a few blocks away. The backpack was discovered thrown over a fence in Wood Ibis Park with all contents still inside.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 5 hours this week. Officer Ross made 5 contacts and one arrest. Sergeant Burkhart placed safety buoys around a sunken vessel awaiting removal.

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

New cases:	12
Cases assigned:	4
Cases suspended-no leads:	6
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0

Supplements received:	19
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	11

### **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary case, a stolen vehicle and a runaway. He also participated in a theft and burglary surveillance detail in Town Shores resulting in an arrest for burglary to a vehicle.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two fraud cases, an auto theft, two death investigations and two thefts. She also participated in a theft and burglary surveillance detail in Town Shores resulting in an arrest for burglary to a vehicle.

Officer Motte located a missing phone and investigated a child abuse case that led to two arrests after a woman encouraged her daughter to fight another girl after school hours. The mother was arrested for child abuse and the daughter for battery. He also coordinated Gulfport Police Explorers assistance with Operation Santa. They purchased toys at various stores with donated money, received and sorted toys donated by the public, and packaged gift bags for 77 families.

Officer Embry made contact with 3 students trespassing at BCHS and escorted them off campus, and spoke with a parent regarding vandalism to her daughter's vehicle that did not occur on campus. He was advised that a student may bring a gun to school, and Officer Motte and Vice Principal Bernstein went to the student's residence to speak with him and his parents.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano created and distributed a bulletin for Officer Palazzolo regarding a stolen golf cart; reviewed property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper entry into FCIC, and; completed pawn checks on 8 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description.

### **Records**

Reports reviewed	10
Supplements reviewed:	33
Public Records requests:	41
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	1
Subpoenas processed:	7
Citizens assisted	89

### **MARINA**

Assisted with twelve pump outs evacuating two hundred five gallons of waste.

Pumped two thousand one hundred seventy-three gallons of gas and one thousand one hundred two gallons of diesel fuel, fueling eighty-one vessels.

### **Transient vessels:**

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

## **Staff activities:**

- Inspected docks for repairs.
- Replaced worn flag pole lines.
- Inspected dock boxes and lids, and ordered replacements.
- Inspected fire hose boxes and prepared inventory of repair materials.
- Inspected and cleaned fuel storage sumps.
- Identified and repaired additional break in main sewer pump-out line on pier #3.
- Recapped pilings in Marina & BCYC docks.

## **LIBRARY**

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

Monday, December 11, 3 p.m. - *K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Club*.

Monday, December 11, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*.

Tuesday, December 12, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults*

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

Tuesday, December 12, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, December 13, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, December 13, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*.

Wednesday, December 13, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, December 14, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, December 14, 11 a.m. - *Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Launch*.

Thursday, December 14, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*.

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

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

### **Upcoming Events:**

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@mygulfport.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.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.

Monday, January 8, 5:30 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop*: First in a series of free monthly instructional sessions taught by an expert.

Every Thursday beginning January 11, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*: Join us for an afternoon story, songs, movement and crafts! Everyone welcome but geared for 2-5 year-olds.

Thursday, January 11, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: Oscar-winners Olympia Dukakis and Brenda Fricker star in this 2012 film as a lesbian couple of 31 years who are threatened with separation by family members who think one should go into a nursing home. Instead, they flee together on an adventurous road trip to Canada, where same-sex marriage is legal. Along the way, they encounter a young hitchhiker who has much to learn from the couple. Poignant and funny! (Not Rated.) Refreshments available for donations accepted for the LGBTQ Resource Center. For movie title, call 727-893-1074.

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

Thursday, January 18, 11 a.m. - *CoffeeTalk Book Club*. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Saturday, January 20, 1:30 p.m. - Put your detective hats on we screen a recent film adapted from a popular novel by Agatha Christie. This one tells the tale of a country house, a murder, and an overabundance of suspects unraveled by Christie's 'funny little Belgian' detective, Hercule Poirot. It stars Glenn Close, Gillian Anderson, Christian Hendricks, Terence Stamp, Julian Sands, and Amanda Abbington. Rated PG-13. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, January 23, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults*: Nourish your body and spirit with mindful movement, breathwork, and meditation. This slow-paced class welcomes all levels and feature a different set of postures each month. Bring props if you wish. The class is taught by Christa Fairbrother, RYT and Certified Yoga for Arthritis Instructor. For more information or to sign up, call Cailey Klasson at 893-1074.

Thursday, January 25, 7 p.m. - *Circle of Friends Annual Meeting*: Join us for this very special event and refreshments sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library.

Monday, January 29, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night*: For more information call 893-1073.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Club*: We'll try a fun new activity every week, explore engineering through building with Lego's, and meet other young scientists and engineers in the community! Email [cklasson@mygulfport.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.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](mailto: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 10 - 16, 2017:**  
**Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,737	1,282
Sun. 12/10	Library closed	
Mon. 12/11	275	241
Tue. 12/12	342	212
Wed. 12/13	252	216
Thu. 12/14	269	204
Fri. 12/15	304	193
Sat. 12/16	293	163

**PARKS & RECREATION**

**Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://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](http://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.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.
- Continued preparation of January calendar.

**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](http://www.mygulfport.us). Find us on Facebook at [www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter](http://www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter).

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

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

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

The **Gulfport Senior Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Monday & Thursday for qualified

Gulfport residents 50 & older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Rachel, or call 893-1231.

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

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

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.

**Clubhouse Chatter** resume at 1 p.m. every Wednesday beginning January 3, offering open discussion about the MLB season and your hometown Ray's; 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 of course the future of Tropicana Field. Rays staff and players will be invited attend.

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.

Worried about your memory? St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic is offering **FREE & CONFIDENTIAL Memory Screenings** on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month between 9 am and noon. Must call 727-893-5657 to schedule your appointment time.

Incidents of fraud are on the rise and scammers' tactics are becoming more complex. That's why it's important to educate yourself about fraud. While no one is immune, there are steps you can take to **Outsmart the Scammers**. Join us on Monday, January 8 at 5:30 pm to learn important strategies to help protect you and the ones you love; how to spot certain red flags that may indicate a fraudulent encounter, resources you can turn to in the event you or a loved one are targeted, and steps you can take now to help protect yourself and your loved ones.

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.

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 January 19. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

**Happy Birthday to You!** Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 pm, Friday, January 26. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

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 10	6 p.m. - Soul Night with Swing Time (Turnout 118)
Monday, December 11	4:30 p.m. - Boley Center holiday party (Turnout 350)
Tuesday, December 12	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 38) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 20) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 77)
Wednesday, December 13	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 39) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 226)
Thursday, December 14	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 33) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 6)
Friday, December 15	9 a.m. - Suncoast League of Cities meeting (Turnout 60) 6 p.m. - Impacs Sock Hop (Turnout 174)
Saturday, December 16	7 p.m. - Professional Health Care holiday 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 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*):**

Tuesday, December 12, 7 p.m. - *New Horizons Band Holiday Concert* (Turnout 60)

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

Friday & Saturday, December 22 & 23, 8 p.m., and Sunday, December 24 & 31, 2 p.m. - *Theaterone presents The Twelve Plays of Christmas*. Tickets: \$22 in advance; \$25 (cash or check) at the door. For more information call 835-8900 or visit [www.theatreonetix@gmail.com](mailto:www.theatreonetix@gmail.com).

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

Sunday, December 10    9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church (Turnout 16)  
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 26)

Thursday, November 7      11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 14)

Friday, December 15        10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 19)

**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 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-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-eight 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**

John Lapham, Randy Bertram and three Teen Night participants judged homes and businesses entered in the Holiday Decorations contest on Monday. There were eight General Theme entries and five Commercial Theme.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport thirteen Tot Time/VPK participants and twelve parents to the Coast Guard Air Station in Clearwater on Tuesday, and fifty-five Gulfport Elementary students and 6 adults to the Boca Ciega Nursing Center & fifty-seven students and five adults to the Egret Cove Nursing Center on Wednesday.

**Gulfport Teen Councilmembers** Katelyn Latragna and Connor Rowell assisted Operation Santa with shopping on Monday, and sorting toys on Tuesday.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Calls for Service:**

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

#### **Life Safety:**

- 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 January 18.

New Firefighter/Paramedic Lisa Sedillo began her first day with the Gulfport Fire Department on December 19. She is undergoing SCBA training, target solutions and drill at the SPFD Drill Grounds.

Chief Marenkovic and Lt. Fuchs taught Heartsaver CPR and AED training to the Gulfport Police Department for their annual accreditation. The majority of the police officers are now recertified until December 2019.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Cleared blocked toilets in Casino ladies' restroom and PD men's room.
- Relocated 8 boxes from City Hall to upstairs storage area in Public Services Building.
- Performed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Rearranged closet in Library Friends Room, and repaired faucet knob in men's restroom.
- Disposed of electronics at City Hall.
- Transported popcorn machine from Recreation Center to Library in preparation for movie night.
- Replaced ballast, cleaned gutters repaired and playground equipment at Recreation Center.
- Replaced hand soap dispenser in beach men's room, and toilet seat in Casino outdoor ladies' room.
- Repainted Public Works Department main entrance door.
- Hung plaque in Police Station.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

### **Parks Maintenance**

- Repaired irrigation at City complex, Library, Clymer Park, Chase block & along Shore Boulevard streetscapes.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- 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.

### **Water**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system.
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters.
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall.)
- Daily check of ground water levels.
- Completed routes #31, 32, 33, 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.

- Disconnected water service at 20 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 1 non-pay recheck to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 93 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 6 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 water meter that was 20+ years old with new electronic meter.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Completed annual flushing of water main lines and exercised fire hydrants.
- Completed 42 annual backflow inspections and testing due in December.
- Repaired backflows hit by cars at 4600 Tifton Street and at 2026 51<sup>st</sup> 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.
- Cleaned and televised sewer 5618 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Stormwater**

- Formed and poured 10 replacement storm structure lids.
- Developed and implemented Mobile 311 software for Storm Water Division.
- Created digital work orders for stormwater repairs within Mobile 311 program.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced #3 fuel injector, fuel regulator and valve cover gasket, and secured loose fuse on Recreation vehicle #68.
- Replaced back up camera on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Replaced front shocks on Parks vehicle #714.
- Replaced oil and filter on Police vehicle #57.
- Replaced wipers on Police vehicle #18.
- Replaced oil and filter on Garage vehicle #51.
- Replaced blend door actuator on Police vehicle #7.
- Replaced a/c blower motor fuse on Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Replaced tires, oil and filter on Building Maintenance vehicle #24.
- Drained fuel tank and replaced fuel & filter on Parks vehicle #700.
- Replaced and oil filter on Sewer vehicle #17.
- Replaced oil and filter on Police vehicle #524.
- Replaced tarp brackets and three light bars and glad hand on Streets vehicle #37.
- Replaced air filter, oil, oil filter and fuel filter on Water vehicle #76.
- Patched tire on Police vehicle #526.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

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

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at

[www.pced.org/entrepreneurs](http://www.pced.org/entrepreneurs) or call 464-7723. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

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

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.

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

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

Code Enforcement activities have moved to Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast area which generally extends north to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58<sup>th</sup> Street and east to 49<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

**December 19 City Council/CRA meeting:**

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

**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.