



Gulfport Community Update

December 24 - 30, 2017

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on January 1 in observance of **New Year's Day**. Monday's sanitation routes will be collected on Tuesday the 2nd, Tuesday's routes will be collected on Wednesday the 3rd, and there will be no Wednesday yard waste pickup.

The Gulfport Fire Department would like to wish everyone a Joyous New Year. Remember that all alcohol drinks are not created equal. Many people think a 12-ounce beer, five-ounce glass of wine, 12-ounce wine cooler and an ounce-and-a-half of liquor contain the same amount of alcohol. That's not necessarily the case. Some beers contain 9-10 percent alcohol; so-called "light" beers contain 4-5%; flavored liqueurs can easily contain 40-50 percent alcohol. Remember when reading labels on alcoholic products that the proof number is half the alcoholic content. Know your limitations. Don't drink and drive; always choose a designated driver or take a taxi or ride share to and from your destination.

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:

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

The **Fourth Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service** will take place at Tomlinson Park, at 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. Call 893-1118 for more information.

Poppy Champlin will bring her Provincetown brew of stand-up comedy, improvisation and serious vocal talent to the Catherine Hickman Theater at 2 p.m. January 27 for a **Saturday Afternoon Delight** you won't forget! Doors open at 1:30. A cash bar offering premium wines, beer and other beverages will be available. General admission tickets \$20; early access tickets for a 1 p.m. Hors d'oeuvre reception & preferred seating \$25, available at the Gulfport Casino & Beach Bazaar.

The **Rat Pack** are together again and coming to Gulfport at 7 p.m. Saturday, January, 27 & 3 p.m. Sunday, January 28. A Toast to the Rat Pack will take you on a musical journey featuring the greatest hits from the legendary Frank Sinatra, Dean Martin & Sammy Davis Jr. Tickets \$25, available at the Gulfport Casino. Visit www.ratpacktogetheragain.com 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 49th 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 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	134
Self-initiated calls for service	357
Offenses	35
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	103
Ordinance violations	26

Officers were dispatched to the 5500 block of Shore Boulevard on December 21 after a caller reported their car key was stolen from a beach pavilion. The car was still on scene and secure, and the victim gave officers permission to disable it.

Officers responded to a report of a dispute in the 900 block of 58th Street. Upon arrival they discovered one of the involved parties left the city after breaking a window to a residence following an argument with his parents. The victims did not want to pursue charges.

Chief Vincent arrested Octavius Milton in St. Petersburg on December 22 for probable cause for burglary/battery, battery & child abuse. He is being held on \$85,000 bond.

Paul Kruse was stopped in the 5400 block of Gulfport Boulevard on December 23 for operating a vehicle with an equipment violation. Kruse had a suspended license with prior convictions so the charge was upgraded to a felony. Officers also discovered a small amount of marijuana and drug paraphernalia in his vehicle.

Officers were dispatched to a report of an altercation in the 2400 block of York Street on December 24 after a caller reported two men were fighting in the street. Neither was cooperative and one refused to identify himself. He was detained and determined to be a suspect wanted by the SPPD. Marquis Golden was arrested for obstruction and having 6 warrants with bonds of \$341,000. Antwon Foster was released with a notice to appear for obstruction.

An unlocked Dodge Charger was reported stolen from a residence in the 5800 block of 19th Avenue. The owner admitted he left the key fob inside the car.

Officer Smith conducted a welfare check at a residence in the 2600 block of 44th Street on December 25 after a caller reported she was unable to reach her friend. Officer Smith heard the subject inside the house shouting for help. He had tripped over a cord and was unable to move. He was transported to a hospital.

Officers responded to the beach volleyball courts after a caller reported two people arguing and fighting, with one of the two on the ground. Officers discovered the two were intoxicated transients who had gotten into a minor scuffle. The person on the ground was passed out.

A visitor stopped by a residence in the 2600 block of Miriam Street on December 26 to check on her 81-year old friend and found her deceased in her wheelchair. The victim had been feeling unwell the day before and appears to have died of natural causes.

Officers were dispatched to the 2500 block of Beach Boulevard after a caller reported that her male friend had a heart attack during an intimate encounter. Attempts to revive the man were unsuccessful. The complainant has a history of prostitution arrests but claimed the sex was consensual between friends. The victim's wife was notified of his death and did not know about his relationship with the other woman.

A 2016 Hyundai Sonata was reported stolen from a residence in the 1600 block of 53rd Street after the driver left the key in the ignition while he briefly went inside the residence.

An officer on land reported seeing a small skiff style vessel in Boca Ciega Bay, shining lights at boats docked behind private residences along Kipps Colony Drive West. The Marine unit responded to the area to look for the boat. It was no longer in the area and no vessels appeared to have been disturbed.

Patrick Dickson was arrested for dealing in stolen property after his landlord reported that he had not seen various power tools and lawn equipment since the hurricane. An officer ran Dickson's name through a pawn broker transaction system and found an item that matched the description of a stolen item. The officer and the victim positively identified the item at the pawn shop and Dickson admitted after being advised of his rights that he pawned the item for money.

Staff at Holy Name Church reported on the morning of December 27 that sometime over the weekend someone stole the pumps from two fountains at the church.

Officers were dispatched to the waterfront after a caller reported a body floating in the bay several hundred yards south of Veterans Park. SPFD assisted Sgt. Woodman and Sgt. Vandenberg with recovering the deceased, identified as Colleen Oneil who had been listed as a missing, endangered person. A suicide note was left at her residence.

A realtor reported that a TV and VCR were stolen from a residence in the 4900 block of 14th Avenue sometime after the new tenant did a walkthrough last week.

A Moonlander bicycle was reported stolen from a bike rack on the back of a car parked in the driveway of a residence in the 3000 block of 56th Street. The bike is valued at \$1000.

Officers responded to a hit and run crash in the 2700 block of 49th Street. The at fault driver was later found and issued a citation for leaving the scene of a crash. There were no reported injuries.

Officers were dispatched to the 2900 block of Beach Boulevard after a caller reported an individual walking around with a knife. Officers disarmed the individual who was placed into protective custody because he was deemed a danger to himself and others. He was transported to a treatment facility in Pinellas Park.

The marine unit was on the water for 5.5 hours this week. Two contacts were made, and marine unit officers assisted with an investigation after a body was found floating in the water.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	19
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	16
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Supplements received:	13
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	11

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a runaway case, a grand theft, a burglary, a fraud, and grand theft auto. He also assisted Detective Crowson with a prescription fraud case.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two auto thefts and a fraud case, and followed up on a New Port prescription fraud investigation.

School resource officers and the crime analyst were on vacation this week.

Records

Reports reviewed	17
Supplements reviewed:	118
Public Records requests:	18
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	5
Fingerprints	1
Subpoenas processed:	3

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

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

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

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

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

Wednesday, December 20, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*.

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

Thursday, December 21, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, December 21, 11 a.m. - *CoffeeTalk Book Club discussion of The Pickup by Nadine Gordimer*.

Friday, December 22, 7 p.m. - *Family Blanket Fort Night*.

Upcoming Events:

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 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.

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 discussions of Frog by Mo Yan*. Visit the Circulation Desk to borrow a copy. 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.

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

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

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.

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@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 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 17 - 23, 2017:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1499	1,273
Sun. 12/17	Library closed	
Mon. 12/18	236	258
Tue. 12/19	290	208
Wed. 12/20	279	199
Thu. 12/21	264	201
Fri. 12/22	250	196
Sat. 12/23	171	153

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

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

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Created designs for e-newsletter.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.

Multipurpose Senior Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday - Thursday, and Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at www.mygulfport.us. Find us on Facebook 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.

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 second Monday of each month between 9 a.m. & noon. Call 893-5657 to schedule your appointment.

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 11.

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.

Routines, rites and rituals play important roles across the life span, and may be particularly helpful during times of transition and spiritual discovery in later years. During her recent medical pilgrimage to Nepal, Dr. Wehry witnessed and experienced the power of ritual in everyday life and will share her observations and photos during **Tashi delek, prayer flags and tea: Lessons from a pilgrimage** at 1 p.m. Friday, January 12. Space is limited. Call 893-5657 to register.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. 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 17	87 p.m. - Home Depot holiday party (Turnout 82)
Monday, December 18	7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance (Turnout 90)
Tuesday, December 19	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 20) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 21) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 79)
Wednesday, December 20	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 33) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 311)
Thursday, December 21	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 19)
Friday, December 22	11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 26) 8 p.m. - Gibbs Alumni holiday party (Turnout 350)

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 20 6 p.m. - Exceeding Grace Christian Center program (Turnout 150)
- Friday, December 22 8 p.m. - *Theaterone presents The Twelve Plays of Christmas* (Turnout 29)
- Saturday, December 23 8 p.m. - *Theaterone presents The Twelve Plays of Christmas* (Turnout 40)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Friday & Saturday, December 29 & 30, 8 p.m., and Sunday, December 31, 2 p.m. - *Theaterone presents The Twelve Plays of Christmas*. Tickets: \$22 in advance; \$25 (cash or check) at the door. Call 835-8900 or email theatreonetix@gmail.com for more information.

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

- Sunday, December 17 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church (Turnout 18)
- 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 18 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 29)
- Thursday, November 21 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 12)
- Friday, December 22 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 14)

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, 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-nine 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.

Sixteen 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

Alton Hooker used the GEMS van to take Boca Ciega Nursing Center residents to see the Christmas Lights on Wednesday evening.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 30 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fire
- 1 Structural Collapse
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Water Rescue

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. Coordinator James Wright is working on the 2018 training schedule, and team members are encouraged to contact him with suggestions.

Gulfport Fire staff are completing their December 2017 Continuing Medical Education (CME) with Target Solutions. This month's topic is Pinellas County EMS Protocol MOM's Updates for 2018.

Chief Marenkovic and Lieutenant Fuchs are working on ISO requirements for evaluation in spring 2018. GFD's current ISO is 2, a very good rating.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Pressure-washed Recreation Center exterior, removed holiday wreath from front of building, patched holes in restroom walls and repaired cabinet in food pantry.
- Mounted plaque at beach volleyball courts.
- Installed shades at Casino.
- Repaired pergola on east side of theater.
- Assembled new office furniture for Neighborhood Center.
- Replaced filters on all City a/c units.
- Repaired air conditioning unit at Marina ship store.
- Unclogged toilet in Dog Park ladies' room.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Contacted Duke Energy to request replacement of lights and poles.
- Installed solar up lighting to event parking signs throughout City.
- Inspected exterior lights at all City buildings.
- Cleaned and organized shop.
- Oiled equipment at Tomlinson Park.
- Pressure washed fence at Caldwell Park and picnic tables throughout City.
- Installed two concrete benches in new construction area on Shore Boulevard.
- Repaired irrigation at Recreation Center & Caldwell Park.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Mowed City complex, Senior Center, Library, Marina & Lions Club green spaces, Clymer & Veterans Parks, York & 49th Street termini, and 28th Avenue sign area.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced pump on spray truck and beach rake on tractor.
- 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 #45, 46, 47 & 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 59 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 8 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 100 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.

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.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.

Stormwater

- Repaired storm structure and replaced lid at 54th Street & 21st Avenue.
- Replaced storm structure and 24' of 15" pipe at 19th Avenue at 54th Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Removed fuel pump for rebuilding on City backhoe #79.
- Replaced blower motor on Streets Division's vehicle #35.
- Replaced fuel filters on Utilities vehicle #22.
- Replaced tire on Police vehicle #524.
- Replaced throttle cable on Parks Division's Toro Workman #704.

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.

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.