



Gulfport Community Update

December 3 - 9, 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.

Public Works Director Don Sopak was celebrated for his many decades of service to the City of Gulfport during the annual **Employee Appreciation Luncheon** at the Casino on December 1 (photo below).



City Manager Jim O'Reilly and the Public Works Department are pleased to welcome **Public Works Superintendent Tom Nicholls to his new role as Public Works Director.**

Mayor Henderson and the Gulfport City Council welcomed everyone at the City's **Annual Holiday Tree Lighting** on December 4 (photos below). The children from the Recreation Center School Year Child Care & Tot Time programs filled Clymer Park with holiday song and the Gulfport Teen Council served refreshments. Thank you to the CERT team for assistance with parking and pedestrian safety.



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:

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.

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.

Congregation Beth Sholom of Gulfport will recognize Hanukkah, the Jewish faith's eight-day celebration also known as the **Festival of Lights** with a ceremonial lighting of the Menorah at Beach & Gulfport Boulevards at Clymer Park at 6 p.m. Tuesday, December 12.

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 | 149 |
| Self-initiated calls for service | 344 |
| Offenses | 52 |
| Arrests | 7 |
| Traffic citations | 86 |
| Ordinance violations | 35 |
| Residence checks | 40 |

Scott Williams was arrested for grand theft after Gulfport Public Works notified GPD on November 30 that Williams, who had his water service turned off for non-payment had broken the tamper-evident seal on the meter and turned the water back on. When utility workers removed the meter Williams installed PVC pipe and stole nearly \$1,000 worth of water.

Officers were dispatched to Walgreens after a caller reported that a large tortoise was blocking the exit. Officers discovered the tortoise was a pet that had escaped the backyard of a residence in the area. The owner of the tortoise was located and retrieved his pet.

A man is being sought for strong armed robbery after he attacked his ex-girlfriend in the parking lot at Gulfport Elementary School on December 1. The man beat her until she dropped her cell phone, stole the phone and fled the area.

A resident in the 5400 block of 20th Avenue reported that a check was fraudulently cashed against his bank account for several hundred dollars at a Publix Supermarket. The investigating officer contacted corporate loss prevention to request video of the suspect cashing the check.

A skydiver attempting to land on the beachfront volleyball courts as part of the opening ceremonies for a tournament lost control of his parachute and crashed into a tree and power pole on December 2, breaking his leg. He was transported by ambulance to Bayfront Hospital.

Officers responded to a traffic crash in the 1800 block of 49th Street after a southbound vehicle struck another vehicle, continued south and struck the fire hydrant in front of Wells Fargo. The occupants of the vehicle fled, and the driver of the other vehicle was transported to Bayfront Hospital. Officers recovered a wallet belonging to an occupant of the suspect vehicle, and Officer Clague spoke to the owner of the vehicle to identify who was driving at the time of the crash. Stephanie Hubbard came to the Gulfport Police Department and admitted she had been driving the car. She was cited and given a court date for leaving the scene of an accident with property damage.

Officers were dispatched to a report of an armed person in the 5600 block of Shore Boulevard and made contact with a woman walking westbound with a gun to her head, threatening suicide. They were able to disarm the woman and determined the gun was a pellet gun. The woman was taken into custody and transported to St Anthony's Hospital.

A 52 year old man attempting to cut a large limb from a pine tree was gravely injured when the limb snapped and knocked his ladder out from under him on December 3. He fell from the ladder into a parking space and hit his head on the concrete. He was unresponsive and taken to Bayfront Hospital as a trauma alert, and passed away on Monday.

A resident in the 3100 block of Dupont Street reported that \$1,400 had been stolen from her wallet. She suspects her roommate stole the money because when she woke up he was gone and had taken his possessions with him.

Officer Rossi observed a vehicle without a disabled placard parked in a disabled space at Dollar General. When he approached he saw a toddler standing on the front passenger seat. He went inside to ask an employee make an announcement and the mother, Micaela Bonds snuck out of the store and got into the car. Officer Rossi ordered her to stop but she refused and fled on 49th

Street. Officer Rossi attempted a traffic stop, but she continued to flee with the unrestrained two year-old. Micaela was located at her grandmother's house a few minutes later and arrested on multiple charges.

Officers responded to a possible drug overdose at a residence in the 2600 block of 48th Street. The victim's girlfriend advised they were both recovering drug users. She found a spoon and needle cap but no needle. The victim was transported to the hospital for medical attention.

A resident in the 6100 block of 12th Avenue reported on December 5 that his vehicle was stolen from his driveway overnight. He stated he lost a set of keys approximately one month prior.

A juvenile male stuffed a bottle of cough syrup in his pants at the Family Dollar but only paid for a bag of chips he brought to the counter. He was caught by police officers across the street and arrested.

An employee of a business in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported that a male subject was caught on video pulling down the Christmas lights in the early morning hours of December 3. The suspect has not been identified.

Justin Scott was arrested for DUI after he struck a car parked in the 2600 block of Beach Boulevard. He refused to provide a breath sample.

A man armed with a handgun barged into JTR Enterprises on December 6, grabbed the owner's wife and put the gun to her head, demanding her purse and money. A customer walked in, distracting the robber for a moment before a struggle ensued. No shots were fired and the victims suffered minor injuries. The suspect fled the scene but left behind evidence that may lead to his identification.

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: | 11 |
| Cases assigned: | 2 |
| Cases suspended-no leads: | 8 |
| Cases cleared with arrest: | 0 |
| Cases exceptionally cleared: | 0 |
| Cases unfounded/no crime: | 1 |
| Supplements received: | 18 |
| Cases cleared with arrest: | 0 |
| Previously cleared with arrest: | 10 |
| Cases suspended/no leads: | 1 |
| Cases unfounded/no crime: | 1 |
| Cases exceptionally cleared | 0 |
| Cases still active: | 16 |

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a stolen vehicle case, a fraud, a theft, and a runaway. He also collected dental records for a runaway juvenile.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two fraud cases, two auto thefts, and a death investigation; reviewed multiple days of video for a multijurisdictional fraud case, and; assisted patrol with a robbery investigation.

School Resource Officers Motte and Embry wrote 2 police reports this week; counseled seven students; met with the parent of a student, and; initiated a Baker Act.

Officer Motte taught two classes covering the topics of 4th amendment search & seizure and courtroom procedures; covered two off duty details; counseled two students who were suspended from school, and; assisted Officer Motte in a history class presentation.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled the monthly officer activity report; created the November public monthly crime analysis bulletin for Facebook; conducted pawn checks on seven cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description, and; reviewed property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper entry into FCIC.

Records

| | |
|--------------------------|----|
| Reports reviewed | 8 |
| Supplements reviewed: | 63 |
| Public Records requests: | 14 |
| Background checks: | 2 |
| Bike registrations: | 0 |
| Fingerprints | 3 |
| Subpoenas processed: | 7 |
| Citizens assisted | 52 |

MARINA

Assisted with twenty three (23) pump outs evacuating three hundred ninety (390) gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand three hundred forty seven (3,347) gallons of gas and one thousand six hundred fourteen (1,614) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred eight (108) vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Repaired pump out hose on pier 6.
- Replaced water valve and backflow valve on pier 7, slip 35.
- Purchased and stocked Ship Store merchandise for resale.
- Replaced hinges and keepers on pier 6, slip 3 dock box for Fun Unlimited vendor.
- Mounted thermostat guard in Captains Lounge/Day Room.
- Inspected all docks for repairs.
- Replaced broken water valve at entrance to Clam Bayou kayak launch.
- Recapped pilings on east side of pier 4.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, November 27, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Tuesday, November 28, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults.*

Tuesday, November 28, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, November 28, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, November 29, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, November 29, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*.

Wednesday, November 29, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

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

Thursday, November 30, 7 p.m. - *An Evening with AIDS Treatment Pioneer Dr. Bob Wallace*.

Friday, December 1, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, December 2, 1 p.m. - *Family Movie Day*.

Upcoming Events:

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 of Ode to Pluto Astrology. Call 207-332-0787 or email jennie@odetopluto.com for more information.

Tuesday, December 12, 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 will 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, 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, 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.

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.

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 November 26 - December 2, 2017:
Items Circulated Patrons

| | | |
|---------------------|----------------|-------|
| Weekly Circulation: | 1,898 | 1,320 |
| Sun. 11/26 | Library closed | |
| Mon. 11/27 | 386 | 263 |
| Tue. 11/28 | 308 | 233 |
| Wed. 11/29 | 304 | 217 |
| Thu. 11/30 | 291 | 196 |
| Fri. 12/1 | 347 | 171 |
| Sat. 12/2 | 247 | 163 |

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. The Gulfport Senior Center is on Facebook. Find us at www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter.

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

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

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

The **Gulfport Senior Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Monday & Thursday for qualified Gulfport residents 50 & older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information please see Rachel, or call 893-1231.

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

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

Are you 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.

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

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):

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|------------------------|---|
| Sunday, November 26 | 3 p.m. - Contra dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance (Turnout 94) |
| Monday, November 27 | 7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance (Turnout 102) |
| Tuesday, November 28 | 10 a.m. - Filming/Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 48) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 5) |
| Wednesday, November 29 | 10 a.m. - Keller-Williams seminar (Turnout 65) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 248) |
| Thursday, November 30 | 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with John Amsallen (Turnout 7) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 20) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 16) |
| Friday December 1 | 11 a.m. - Employee luncheon (Turnout 168) |

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*):

Friday, December 1 6 p.m. - *Art reception* (Turnout 60)

Saturday, December 2 7:30 p.m. - *CASA Free Holiday Concert* (Turnout 75)

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

Sunday, November 26 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 27 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 28)

Thursday, November 30 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 8)

Friday, December 1 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 6)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday 6 p.m. - Meditation class

Every Tuesday & Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class

Recreation Center

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

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

Sixty five 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, Jami Rowell, Hallie Tucker, Joanne McRoberts and Kimberly Titara attended the City's Holiday Tree Lighting celebration on Monday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 58 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert

- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Structure Collapse
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 2 Fire Inspections
- 1 C.O.

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

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

The Gulfport Fire Department garage bay floors are being resurfaced.

Chief Marenkovic and Lieutenant Fuchs taught Heartsaver CPR and AED training for the Gulfport Police Department's annual reaccreditation.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Removed chairs & tables from Senior Center dining room & lobby in preparation for floor waxing.
- Repaired water fountain at Tennis Courts.
- Patched walls in two offices and painted two offices at Police Station.
- Repaired window and adjusted photo cell at Historical Museum.
- Installed keyboard tray, repaired stage, toys & foosball table and replaced water filter in refrigerator at Recreation Center.
- Installed sound bar at Library.
- Purchased and set up Christmas trees at Recreation Center and Library.
- Replaced flapper on toilet in men's restroom at City Hall.
- Replaced hand soap dispenser at Fire station.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Decorated holiday tree and signs, and trimmed palms at Clymer Park.
- Set up and beak down for Holiday Tree lighting and beach Volleyball Tournament.
- Seeded Tonkin Park.
- Inspected exterior lights at all City facilities, and replaced lights on entry signs.
- Repaired bench swing at Wood Ibis Park.
- Repaired tree lights along Beach Boulevard.
- Removed broken benches and filled in washouts around Marina seawall.
- Replaced flex stick on trial spur.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Oiled bench swings on beach and Pier.
- Trimmed, weeded and cleaned beds at Clymer Park and Fire station, and removed Australian pine from beach.

- Mowed beach green spaces, Recreation Center grounds and Caldwell Park.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and replaced belts & spindles on mowers and trailer connector & hitch on Toro Workman.
- 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.
- 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 #9, 10, 11 & 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 48 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 5 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 116 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 12 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Replaced 2 water meters that were 20+ years old with new electronic meters.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck or damaged and not recording water usage.
- Placed 2 Code Enforcement Notice of Violation door hangers for high grass or trash in easements.
- Installed new water service at 5002 28th Avenue.
- Replaced broken water valve boxes on Shore Boulevard.

Sewer

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

Stormwater

- Repaired 24” storm water line at 55th Street & 20th Avenue, and replaced bricks in intersection.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced windshield on Sanitation vehicle #40.
- Replaced oil and filter on Police vehicle #14.
- Replaced engine oil & filter and front tires on Police vehicle #155.
- Replaced oil & filter and seat airbag, and evacuated & recharged a/c on Water Division vehicle #78.
- Replaced oil and filter on Water Division vehicle #26.
- Patched tire on Police vehicle #7.
- Replaced front tires, oil & filter, and realigned on Streets Division vehicle #34.
- Replaced tires and exhaust pipes on Sanitation vehicle #41.
- Replaced tires on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced rear shocks, oil and filter on Parks Division’s vehicle #710.
- Replaced wheel seal and grabber arm joystick on Sanitation vehicle #47.
- Replaced oil and filter on Police vehicle #103.
- Replaced tires on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Inspected brakes and replaced 2 turn signal flashers on Sanitation vehicle #88.
- Replaced oil, filter and front brake pads on Police vehicle #91.
- Replaced seat air bag and hydraulic hose on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Replaced battery on Police vehicle #111.
- Replaced oil & filter and cab mount on Fire truck # E-17.
- Replaced starter on Fire truck #RH-17.
- 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. P&Z recommended approval.

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.

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