



Gulfport Community Update

January 7 - 13, 2018

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Monday, January 15 in observance of **Martin Luther King Day**. The sanitation schedule will not be affected.

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 **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. Everyone is invited to 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 pavilion #4. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and make a difference in the community.

Bring your bikes, wear your helmets and join the fun during the **First Annual Bike Rodeo** at the Michael J. Yakes Recreation Complex, 5730 Shore Boulevard on Saturday, January 13, 9:30 - 11 a.m. This event is sponsored by the Gulfport Police Department, Gulfport Recreation Center, and the Michael J. Yakes Foundation.

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.

Join the City of Gulfport as we celebrate 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 gardening questions, and 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 49th Street on Saturday, January 20, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Free bike registration and helmets for kids. Have coffee with a cop and get all of your gardening tips from the community garden team. Leave junk that works at the free trade table. Need to get rid of chemicals or electronics taking up space at home? Pinellas County Household Electronics and Chemical Mobile Collection will be accepting unwanted cell phones, computer towers/CPUs, drives (e.g. hard drives, CD drives), laptops, monitors, rechargeable batteries, smart phones, tablets, televisions, automotive fluids, batteries (household alkaline batteries may be placed in household trash), cleaners, cooking oil, fertilizers, fluorescent bulbs and other mercury containing devices, fuels (e.g. gasoline, kerosene), fungicides, herbicides, insecticides, motor oil, paint (latex or oil), paint remover, paint thinner, pesticides, pool chemicals,

rechargeable batteries (button or vehicle), smoke detectors, solvents & wood preservatives for proper disposal.

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, and 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.

Gulfport voters are invited to **Meet the Candidates** at the Catherine Hickman Theater at 7 p.m. Monday, January 29. Facilitated by the Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce, the forum will allow the public to present questions to candidates on topics relative to Gulfport. The event will be broadcast live on Spectrum Cable GTV640, and online at www.mygulfport.us/gtv640. For more information, call the City Clerk's Office at 893-1012.

PAVA's 2Cool Art Show returns to the Gulfport Casino for its seventh year on Saturday & Sunday, February 3 & 4. Thirty-five juried artists will show and sell a variety of hand crafted visual and functional works in paint, wood, ceramics, photography, metal, glass, mixed media and jewelry. Admission and parking are free. This event is hosted by the Professional Association of Visual Artists, the City of Gulfport and the Gulfport Downtown Merchant Association

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	105
Self-initiated calls for service	380
Offenses	35
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	87
Ordinance violations	33
Residence checks	78

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 2700 block of 57th Street reported on the morning of January 4 that two vehicles burglarized overnight. A Garmin GPS was taken from the glove box of one of the vehicles and a set of keys were stolen from the other.

A resident in the 5200 block of Fairfield Avenue reported on January 5 that a bullet came through the roof of their mobile home on New Year's Eve and landed on an unoccupied bed. The damage was repaired before the incident was reported.

Officers were dispatched to the 3000 block of Shore Boulevard after a caller reported that a fight was about to occur. They determined that an argument took place and the other involved parties had left the scene.

Police are using store video footage in an attempt to identify a group of juveniles who ran through a business in the 1700 block of 49th Street, knocking over items and breaking property.

Angelo Adkins was arrested for possession of a stolen firearm and possession of marijuana following a traffic stop in the 2300 block of 49th Street. Officer Carter smelled marijuana, and while searching the car he discovered a loaded handgun in the console. Adkins also left two small baggies of marijuana in the backseat of Officer Carter's patrol car after being arrested.

As a group of juveniles left Gulfport Mini Mart on January 7, one of them stole a bag of potato chips. Police located the group, but the one who took the chips was no longer with them and his friends would not give up his information. Surveillance video of the perpetrator was obtained and will likely lead to his identification.

Three Family Dollar customers took a laundry basket off the shelf and loaded it with merchandise. They then ran from the store without paying and fled in a vehicle.

Police are searching for Austin Coton after he fled from a business in the 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard without paying for a food order when his credit card was declined, taking the food with him. Store video matched his identification card photo and the phone number he used to call in the order.

Officers dispatched to report of a fight in a parking lot in the 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard attempted to interview one of the people involved but she refused to provide her correct information. She was arrested for obstructing the investigation, and identified from her out of state license as Angela Saffle. She was being uncooperative because she was on probation for driving under the influence with a condition of no alcohol. She was charged with violation of probation.

Darquel Quarterman was arrested for driving on a suspended license on January 8 after he stopped in a posted "no stopping" area near Boca Ceige High School. Quarterman was listed as a habitual traffic offender with seven prior convictions for the same offense, so the charge was upgraded to felony status.

A resident in the 3200 block of 58th Street reported that her brother in-law kicked in her front door and attacked her in 2015. She said she waited to report the incident because the only witness was in prison until recently.

A boater reported that someone stole his gas can the night before. An alleged witness was not present to give a statement but the investigating officer intends to interview him.

Michael Whitney was arrested for video voyeurism after he admitted to Officer Carter that he took photos of a female victim while she was sleeping in her bedroom. He showed the photos to Officer Carter.

Officers witnessed a vehicle swerve off of the road and strike a bus stop sign in the 2400 block of 49th Street on January 9. The driver was issued a citation for leaving the scene of an accident.

An officer was notified by a resident that Kelley Gard was at her residence in violation of the terms of pre-trial release requiring her to have no contact with the victim, and to vacate the residence. Police went to the residence and after multiple attempts, were able to get Gard to answer the door. She ran across the street and Sergeant Burkhart deployed his Taser to stop her. Gard was arrested for violation of pre-trial release and resisting an officer without violence.

A resident in the 5600 block of 17th Avenue reported on January 10 that someone damaged the AC unit on the top of his recreational vehicle.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 3 hours this week. Officer Ross made 8 boater contacts.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	14
Cases assigned:	4
Cases suspended-no leads:	10
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Supplements received:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	1
Cases still active:	7

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a grand theft case, a burglary, a runaway, and a stolen vehicle; administered the physical abilities test to new police applicants; attended a deposition, and; obtained DNA evidence for a stolen vehicle case.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two separate sexual battery cases, a theft and a burglary; investigated a sexual battery which involved a Sexual Assault Victim Examination, and; followed up with pawn shops in a theft case and a burglary.

Officer Motte mentored a student and facilitated the Monday night police explorer meeting.

Officer Embry arrested a student for fighting on campus and spoke with the parents of both parties involved. He also spoke with a group of students about skipping class.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano finished tabulating the annual Uniform Crime Reporting report; compiled and distributed open case lists; updated the sexual predator and offender display and pamphlet, adding two offenders who recently moved into the City; reviewed property reported stolen with a known serial number to insure proper entry into FCIC; recreated the confidential informant documents and forms, and; completed pawn checks on eight cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description.

Records

Reports reviewed	15
Supplements reviewed:	95
Public Records requests:	72
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	3
Subpoenas processed:	9
Citizens assisted	57

MARINA

Assisted with eight pump outs evacuating one hundred sixty gallons of waste.

Pumped nine hundred thirty-six gallons of gas and nine hundred five gallons of diesel fuel, fueling thirty vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Refurbished and reinstalled dock box on pier 2, slip 15.
- Replaced GFI electrical outlet on pier 7, slip 20.
- Replaced various pedestal lights on pier 6 with LED lights and new photocells.
- Inspected and cleaned pump-out sensor rods, and performed routine maintenance on both pumping stations.
- Performed routine inspections of all of piers in Marina for any deficiencies including, but not limited to; missing dock line holders, damaged cleats, broken dock boards, missing pylon caps, etc.
- Purchased additional drinks and or items for resale, stocked shelves and rotated merchandise.
- Mounted shields on new pump-out shed.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, January 2, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga*.

Tuesday, January 2, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*.

Tuesday, January 2, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*.

Tuesday, January 2, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, January 3, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, January 3, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*.

Thursday, January 4, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, January 4, 4 p.m. - *Author Fran Wishnick*.

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

Saturday, January 6, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, January 16, 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 discussion 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.

Thursday, January 18, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*: Young readers boost their confidence by sharing a story with Maya, a specially trained Golden Retriever. She visits our children's area on the third Thursday of every month.

Saturday, January 20, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Put your detective hats on as 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 & 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, breath-work, 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, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

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.

Tuesday, January 30, noon - *Lunch & Learn presents Elder LGBT Sexuality*: Scant research has been conducted about the sex lives of older adults in LGBTQ communities. Dr. Jane Fleishman, a sexuality researcher intrigued by the intersection of sex, politics and aging will describe some of the key findings of her research into the sex lives of LGBT older adults. This presentation is a sneak preview of Fleishman's new book, *Coming of Age at the Time of Stonewall* about ordinary people living through extraordinary times - LGBT elders who came of age at the time of the Stonewall Rebellion. Two "icons" of the local lesbian community, Edie Daly and Jackie Mirkin will read from their sections of the book. Discussion and question & answer time will follow Dr. Fleishman's presentation. Attendees are invited to bring their lunch & beverages.

Through January 30 - *Art Exhibit by Carol Lore*: Display includes a variety of works in the Friends Room. Email clore4art@gmail.com for more information.

Thursday, February 1, 7 p.m. - *What the H* Is Going on with Media?*: Kelly McBride is a writer, teacher and one of the country's leading voices of media ethics. She has been on the faculty of The Poynter Institute since 2002 and directed Poynter's Sense-Making Project, an initiative examining the transformation of journalism from a profession for a few to a civic obligation of many, the values of the Fifth Estate and the effects of technology on democracy. She is the co-editor, along with Tom Rosenstiel, of *The New Ethics of Journalism: Principles for the 21st Century*, which features essays by 14 thought leaders and practitioners, and a new code of ethics for journalists and people who care about journalism. This free program is sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. A reception and book-signing will follow.

Saturday, February 3 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: We'll screen an interesting and thought-provoking biopic about William Marston, the man who invented Wonder Woman, and the women who inspired him. Starring Luke Evans, Rebecca Hall, and Bella Heathcote. Rated R. This monthly series is intended to allow adults to enjoy more challenging and complex films in a quiet atmosphere (so we request that no children attend). Call 893-1074 for title.

Tuesday, February 6, 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, February 8, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*. For movie title, call 893-1074.

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, 1:30 p.m. - *German Conversation Club*: Enjoy conversing in a relaxed atmosphere with others. All levels are welcome; this is not a class, simply an opportunity to engage with others interested in improving fluency.

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 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 Thursday, 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 Friday, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*. For more information call 893-1073.

Library Services/Statistic December 31, 2017 - January 6, 2018:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,672	1,291
Sun. 12/31	Library closed	
Mon. 1/1	Holiday - Library closed	
Tue. 1/5	436	268
Wed. 1/3	320	234
Thu. 1/4	310	267
Fri. 1/5	330	238
Sat. 1/6	252	169

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 **Neighborhood 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.

An Optimum Life is one that is purposeful, emotional, physical, social, spiritual, & intellectual. By pursuing the Optimum Life concept with passion and purpose, you can begin to live a life that is balanced and fulfilling. Join Heather Reuscher at 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 17 as she helps you understand each of **The Six Dimensions of Optimum Living** and their impact on health and wellbeing.

Explore the natural beauty & hidden history of Tampa Bay on Thursday, January 18 with a guided tour of **Jungle Prada**, home to over 50 peacocks. Visit a 900-year old Tocobaga Indian mound, remnants of a prehistoric village and on-site museum. Then enjoy a delicious lunch at the **Jungle Prada Tavern**. Round trip transportation & guided tour: GEMS members \$14; nonmembers \$16. Select a meal from the menu & pay your own check. See GEMS office for restaurant menu.

Learn the basic functions of your **iPhone & iPad**: how to download apps, take/send pictures, add contacts, adjust the phone settings, and more at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, January 18. Registration required; call 893-5657.

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.

Technology is constantly evolving, making it hard to keep up with the latest changes, devices, & trends. Stetson students will offer instruction & tips during **Tech Tips with Stetson** at 4 p.m. Monday, January 22. This month's topic: *Facebook*. 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.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles and many other goodies at **First Friday Flea Market** on February 2 beginning at 9 a.m.

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, February 8.

Worried about your memory? St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic offers free, confidential **Memory Screenings** on the second Monday of each month between 9 a.m. & noon. The next screening is February 12. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

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.

Are you overwhelmed with the responsibilities & challenges of being a caregiver? You are not alone! On-going support for you is essential. The **Caregivers Support Group** meets at 1 p.m. every first & third Friday of the month. This peer-led group will share tips, offer encouragement, and discuss the trials, demands, & overwhelming experience of caring for a loved one.

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.

Join us for **Clubhouse Chatter** at 1 p.m. every Wednesday, offering open discussion about the MLB season and your hometown Rays; 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.

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 31 8 p.m. - Gulfport Chamber of Commerce New Year's Eve Gala (Turnout 350)

Tuesday, January 2 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 1)
10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 30)
Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 24)
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 57)

Wednesday, January 3 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 29)

6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 250)
Thursday, January 4 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 4)
10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 39)
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 18)

Friday, January 5 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 20)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

Most Sundays 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8

Every second Sunday 6 p.m. - Soul Night with Swing Time Admission \$8

Every Tuesday 9 a.m. - Tai Chi
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons with Kathleen & Steve Prucher
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8

Every Wednesday 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn/Joyce Bloom
6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8

Every Thursday 9 a.m. - Tai Chi
6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan

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

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

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

Sunday, December 31, 2 p.m. - Theaterone presents *The Twelve Plays of Christmas* (Turnout 48)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Thursday - Saturday, January 11-13 & 18-20, 8 p.m., and Sunday, January 14 & 21, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present *Breaking the Code by Hugh Whitmore*. Tickets: \$18 in advance available at Beach Bazaar (cash only); \$20 at the door within 1 hour of performance, or online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.com.

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

Sunday, December 31 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 20)

Thursday, January 4 2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 13)

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
- Thursday, January 4 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 7)
- Friday, January 5 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 17)

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

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.

Seventeen 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.

Thirty-one 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, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tennis, Watercolor, and Zumba.

Staff Activities

John Lapham used the school bus to transport Winter Break Program participants to Congo River Golf in Clearwater on Thursday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 46 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 6 Fire Alarm
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Elevator Rescue

Life Safety:

- 1 C.O.
- 1 Site Plan Review

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The topic for the January 18 meeting is **SOPs/FOPs, CERT Handbook**. Team members will participate in Mass Casualty training in Hillsborough County on February 24.

Gulfport Fire staff continued their January 2018 CME with Target Solutions this week.

Firefighter/Paramedic Lisa Sedillo is attending OMD orientation. The program will prepare her for certified county paramedic status while she is in her probationary period.

Firefighter/Paramedic Martin Joyce will attend capstone testing for completion of the certified county paramedic program.

Lt. Fernandez will attend a First Pass course to learn protocol formulas for the electronic run reports for Quality Assurance reviews.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired smoke alarm at City Hall, patched old nail holes and painted lobby walls.
- Replaced light fixture at Police Department, and cleared blocked toilet in men's restroom.
- Relocated four planters from front of Senior Center to Theater exit, and repaired two electrical outlets on Theater stage.
- Repaired north gate at Neighborhood Center.
- Installed benches at Osgood Point.
- Installed wall light on stairway at Public Services building.
- Replaced ballast in Garage.
- Replaced rotted wooden siding at Casino, and cleaned mildew from bus stop shelter.
- Installed light at Fire Department.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Replaced clay along baselines at ball fields, and cleaned clay from grass.
- Cleaned and prepped around event signs for shelling.
- Removed holiday lights and sign from Clymer Park.
- Filled in washouts along seawall behind Recreation Center.
- Cleaned upstairs storage area and shop.
- Repaired bench swing on beach and pier
- Replaced flags throughout City.
- Painted City Hall lobby.

- Installed benches at the marina.
- Repaired tree lights on Beach Boulevard.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Recreation Center, Senior Center & along 49th Streetscape, and installed irrigation controller at Shore Boulevard project.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched planter beds at Library & Recreation Center and 50th Street terminus, hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced pull cord on backpack blower, and repaired carburetor on tiller.
- All City park trash and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playgrounds.
- Inspected exterior lights at all City buildings.

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 #23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 25 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 14 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Placed 2 Code Enforcement "Notice of Violation" door hangers for high grass or trash in easements.
- Completed 109 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 7 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 3 old water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Repaired water breaks at Fremont Street & 13th Avenue and at 6419 Pelican Drive.

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.
- Removed sewage from manhole in alley on 27th Avenue between 54th Street & Beach Boulevard to avoid overflow until repairs were made by contractor.

Stormwater

- Cleaned Suntree box on 29th Avenue between 49th & 50th Street.
- Formed new concrete lids for future use.

Vehicle Maintenance

Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles as needed.

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 5 of the City, also known as the Marina District Area, comprising the southeast portion of the City and generally extending south from 26th Avenue South to the water and east from 49th Street South to the City boundaries.

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 results:

Consideration of an ordinance amending the Zoning Code as it relates to historic preservation and associated duties of the historic preservation board. **The Board recommended approval.**