



Gulfport Community Update

December 31, 2017 - January 6, 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 **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. 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.

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.

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 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.

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	145
Self-initiated calls for service	324
Offenses	37
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	109
Ordinance violations	24
Residence checks	57

A resident in the 5100 block of Tangerine Avenue reported on December 28 that someone cut the lock on her bicycle and removed it from her carport sometime overnight. The bike was abandoned in the yard when the thief realized both tires were flat.

Michael Gamble was arrested for nonpayment of child support following a traffic stop in the 5300 block of 11th Avenue.

City Parks staff reported that four solar powered lights in Clymer Park were vandalized sometime overnight.

Several items were reported stolen from a car parked in front of a residence in the 6200 block of 9th Avenue. The owner stated that the car's windows were open at the time of the theft.

Mary Robinson was arrested for DUI following a vehicle stop in the 2500 block of 56th Street for an equipment violation. Her breath samples indicated no alcohol in her system but she advised that she takes prescription medication, and a urine sample was obtained.

Officers responded to a report of a disorderly person in the 1600 block of 56th Street, and upon arrival made contact with Shawn Guiziotti who appeared to be intoxicated. Guiziotti was on probation with a condition that he not consume alcohol, and was arrested for violation of probation.

Officers were dispatched to the Boca Ciega Nursing Center on December 29 after a resident told his wife that two nurses struck him in the face. An investigation revealed no injuries. The resident has severe dementia, and when interviewed by officers he said he had no recollection of anyone hitting him.

Alan Elmiger was arrested for DUI following a traffic stop for driving without headlights in the 2900 block of 50th Street His BAC was .202/.203.

Officer Carter stopped a car for driving without headlights, and after pulling into a parking lot in the 1400 block of 49th Street, the driver later identified as Jalen Miller and a passenger ran from the vehicle. Officer Carter caught Miller a short distance away. He admitted that his license was suspended and the car was unregistered. Two pills believed to be Ecstasy were found inside the car. Miller was arrested on multiple charges.

A resident in the 5600 block of 16th Avenue reported on December 31 that a bullet was fired through the passenger side door of their car, likely the result of celebratory gunfire during a New Year's Eve celebration in St. Petersburg. The case was forwarded to the St. Petersburg Police Department for further investigation.

While on routine patrol officers discovered a vehicle that had been involved in a crash in the 1800 block of 49th Street. An investigation determined that the vehicle failed to stop for a stop sign, left the roadway and struck a tree. The driver was transported to a hospital with minor injuries. No other vehicles were involved.

An employee was inside a work truck parked in front of a residence in the 900 block of 60th Street on January 2 when a car pulled up, and a male subject got out and opened the door to the truck, only to be surprised that it was occupied. He got back in the car which fled the area at a high rate of speed before police arrived.

A resident in the 5300 block of 15th Avenue reported that the back window was broken out of her vehicle while it was parked in her driveway. Nothing appeared to be missing.

The **Marine Unit** was not in use this week.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	14
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	7
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	4
Supplements received:	13
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	1
Cases still active:	8

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary case, a robbery, a grand theft, and a runaway. He also interviewed a suspect at the Pinellas County Jail.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case and a sexual battery. She also investigated the sexual battery of multiple juveniles under the age of 12, and interviewed and arrested Joseph Forgetta on 2 counts of sexual battery of a victim under 12, 2 counts of producing child pornography and 1 count of lewd and lascivious molestation.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled December 2017 officer activity; created and distributed an officer safety bulletin to GPD officers and local agencies, and; started the UCR tabulation process.

Records

Reports reviewed	14
Supplements reviewed:	15
Public Records requests:	35
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	1
Subpoenas processed:	5
Citizens assisted	34

MARINA

Assisted with twenty-two pump outs evacuating eight hundred twenty-two gallons of waste.

Pumped four thousand one hundred eight gallons of gas and one thousand two hundred eighty-nine gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred twenty-five vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Replaced various dock boxes in Marina.
- Replaced lights on piers 1 thru 6, and in BCYC.
- Repaired miscellaneous items on Casino courtesy dock.
- Inspected and cleaned pump out sensor rods, and performed routine maintenance on both pumping stations.
- Inspected piers for repairs.
- Purchased drinks and Ship Store items for resale; stocked shelves & rotated merchandise.
- Replaced damaged/missing piling caps at Marina and BCYC.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, December 26, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, December 26, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, December 27, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, December 27, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout.*

Thursday, December 28, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, December 28, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate.*

Friday, December 29, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

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 on your detective hats 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, 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, December 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 Coming of Age After Stonewall*: Presented by Jane Fleishman, sponsored by the LGBTQ Resource Center. Bring your lunch if you wish; drinks are provided.

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.

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.

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 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 24 - 30, 2017:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,487	1,107
Sun. 12/24	Library closed	
Mon. 12/25	Holiday - Library closed	
Tue. 12/26	344	223
Wed. 12/27	331	221
Thu. 12/28	272	189
Fri. 12/29	275	199
Sat. 12/30	264	187

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.

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 January 8. Call 893-5657 to schedule an 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.

Experience the **Dali & Schiaparelli Exhibit**, "the first dedicated to the creative relationship and works of Elsa Schiaparelli and Salvador Dali, friends and collaborators who set Paris and the world ablaze with their groundbreaking visions" at the Dali Museum on Thursday, January 11. Round trip transportation & admission: GEMS members \$14; nonmembers \$16.

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.

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.

The Community Law Program provides **free legal assistance** at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. the third Friday of every month. The next meeting is January 19. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 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.

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):

Tuesday, December 26 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 16)
 Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 11)
 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 66)

Wednesday, December 27 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 29)
6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 250)

Thursday, December 28 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 18)

Friday, December 29 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 20)

Saturday, December 30 2:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 120)

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 24 2 p.m. - Theaterone presents *The Twelve Plays of Christmas* (Turnout 7)

Friday, December 29 8 p.m. - Theaterone presents *The Twelve Plays of Christmas* (Turnout 35)

Saturday, December 30 8 p.m. - Theaterone presents *The Twelve Plays of Christmas* (Turnout 45)

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

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, November 28 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 12)
- Friday, December 29 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 11)

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.

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, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tennis, Watercolor, and Zumba.

Staff Activities

John Lapham used the school bus to transport Winter Break Program participants to: Regal Park Place Stadium 16 in Pinellas Park on Thursday; the Boca Ciega Nursing Center on Friday, and; Largo Central Park on Tuesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 42 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Fires Outside Structure

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 have commenced their January 2018 Continuing Medical Education (CME) with Target Solutions.

Chief Marenkovic and Lieutenant Fuchs continued working on ISO requirements for evaluation in spring 2018. GFD's current ISO is 2.

Chief Marenkovic attended a Site Plan review meeting at the Community Development department on January 4.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired doorstep at Recreation Center.
- Removed Christmas tree from Library and installed new art.
- Repaired toilet at Casino.
- Patched drywall in City Hall lobby in preparation for painting.
- Repaired gate at Neighborhood Center and installed picture in office.
- Repaired cabinet at Senior Center.
- Painted restrooms in Theater lobby.
- Cleared blocked toilet in Police Department men's restroom.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Pressure washed tables and benches at Recreation Center & beach.
- Removed invasive trees at ballfields, beach and along 49th Streetscapes.
- Cleaned and organized shop, and painted restrooms.
- Installed concrete slabs at Clam Bayou for new benches.
- Repaired concrete ribbon curbing at little league field.
- Painted restrooms at Senior Center and primed wall in lobby in preparation for painting.
- Repaired tree lights on Beach Boulevard.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired fences at Little League field, Clam Bayou and marina.
- Repaired irrigation at Recreation Center, Senior Center & along 49th Streetscape.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.

- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched planter beds at City complex, hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- 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 #9, 10, 11 & 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 45 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 10 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 94 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 15 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Repaired water break at 58th Street & 9th Avenue.

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.
- Cleared sewer stoppage in alley on 26th Avenue between 54th Street & Beach Boulevard.
- Used vacuum trailer to remove sand and debris from manholes.

Stormwater

- Reset storm lid at 4922 14th Avenue.
- Formed new concrete lids for future use.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Rebuilt fuel pump on Streets Division vehicle #79.

- Replaced blower motor on Streets Division vehicle #35.
- Replaced both fuel filters on Water Division vehicle #22.
- Replaced ignition coil on GEMS vehicle #3.
- Replaced front tires and aligned front end on Police vehicle #526.
- Replaced oil and filter on Sanitation vehicle #30 and Police vehicle #530.
- Replaced throttle cable on Parks Division vehicle #703.
- Replaced 2 hydraulic lines on Sanitation vehicle #41.
- Replaced headlight on Police vehicle #9.
- Replaced left front and right rear tires on Sanitation vehicle #44.

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 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.**