



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *February 4 - 10, 2018*

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Monday, February 19 in observance of **Presidents Day**. The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

### **Upcoming Events:**

The **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, February 10 at 9 a.m. 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.

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

Don't miss the **Swingtime Valentine's Ball** on Wednesday, February 14. Doors open at 5:45 p.m. with Carolina Shag lessons from 6 to 7, Swing lessons from 7 to 8 and live music and dancing featuring Gloria West & the Gents from 8 until 11. Tickets \$15, available at the Gulfport Casino during regular business hours and dances (cash only), or online at [www.swingtime.info/shop](http://www.swingtime.info/shop). Buy tickets in advance to reserve seats, or get general admission tickets (dancing room only) at the door.

The Gulfport Merchants Association third annual **Gulfport Fine Arts Festival** returns to Veterans Park, 5350 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue, February 17 & 18, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. The juried art show will feature fine works of art from across the region, including; 2D, 3D, ceramic, glass, metal, mixed media, wood, acrylic, collage, oil, pastel, ink, fine photography, watercolor, and fine jewelry. Free parking and admission. Call 322-5217 for more information.

Animal lovers, get ready for the **Fourteenth Annual Gulfport Get Rescued** event on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on Saturday, February 24, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m. This popular FREE ADMISSION event has evolved from a handful of animal rescue groups into a popular, festive event representing rescue groups from throughout the region, and is one of the largest animal rescue events in the state. Call 322-5217 for more information.

**The Third Annual Dance for Plants** returns to the Gulfport Casino at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 2 with music from WMNF DJ Cheryl Mogul's mix of swing, blues, soul, shag and zydeco. Festivities will include a raffle with prizes donated from the community, expert gardening advice and plant giveaways. Join your friends for a fabulous evening supporting our local Garden which donates produce to the Gulfport Senior Center food pantry. Tickets \$10 in advance, available at the Gulfport Casino, Beach Bazaar and Mangia Gourmet, or \$12 at the door. Come dressed to impress in plant themed costume and receive \$2 off at-door ticket price. Proceeds benefit the Gulfport Community Garden. For more information call George Zarillo at 845-242-7452 or visit [www.GulfportCommunityGarden.org](http://www.GulfportCommunityGarden.org).

The **Pink Flamingo Tour of Homes** has become an annual ritual that loyal visitors, our advertisers and sponsors have made the Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce's most successful fundraiser. Each year we seek out the best homes to represent our wonderful city. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, March 3. The tour will begin at the registration area at Holy Name Church, 5800 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Tickets \$20 in advance, available at the Gulfport Welcome Center, Beach Bazaar or online at [www.pinkflamingohometour.com/buy-tickets](http://www.pinkflamingohometour.com/buy-tickets), or \$25 day of the tour. A

free trolley and van will be circling the tour route from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. We encourage walking or biking the 2.25-mile route. For more information email Karen Love at [karenlovegfl@gmail.com](mailto:karenlovegfl@gmail.com) or call 770-497-1139.

The City of Gulfport is accepting addresses for the permit free **Spring Citywide Yard Sale** brochure. The sale is scheduled for Saturday, March 10. In the event of rain, the sale will take place on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup>. Pick up a registration form at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53<sup>rd</sup> Street or the Gulfport Library, 5501 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, register on line at [www.mygulfport.us/city-wide-yard-sale](http://www.mygulfport.us/city-wide-yard-sale), or email [kossola@mygulfport.us](mailto:kossola@mygulfport.us) no later than 4 p.m. Friday, March 2. No phone-in addresses please; one address per application. For more information call 893-1118.

Interested in unloading nautical equipment or searching for cool fishing gear? Look no further than the Gulfport Marina's annual **Nautical Flea Market** on Saturday, March 18, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. 10x10 vendor spaces (bring your own table) are \$10; free for slip renters. Space is limited so sign up early at the Marina, 4630 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue. For more information call Denis Frain at 893-1071.

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

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Patrol**

Dispatch calls for service	520
Self-initiated calls for service	334
Offenses	47
Arrests	11
Traffic citations	65
Ordinance violations	24
Residence checks	43

A local resident reported on the morning of February 1 that he left his car and his moped unsecured at Osgood Point. When he returned, he discovered several items had been stolen from inside the car and the moped key was missing.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a battery in the 900 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street. The defendant and victim are acquainted, and a third person witnessed the altercation. The incident remains under investigation.

A resident of Cabana Bay Apartments reported on February 2 that she left her bicycle unsecured inside the community laundry room for about a week. The room was not equipped with a door and the bicycle was stolen.

The manager of Family Dollar called police when she suspected a man was shoplifting. Officers arrived as the man was leaving after making a minor purchase, his pants loaded with other merchandise he had not paid for. Robert Dugger was arrested for retail theft.

A resident in the 5300 block of 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on February 3 that someone stole \$60 from her car. Security cameras at her residence recorded the theft and an arrest was made.

Officers arrested a suspect for vehicle burglary after a residential security camera recorded him burglarizing a car in the 2900 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street.

Richard Amari was arrested for DUI following a traffic stop in the 5400 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Amari appeared to be under the influence of narcotics, and crack cocaine was found in his vehicle. He refused to provide a urine sample.

A resident in the 5300 block of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that someone entered her unlocked vehicle and stole a wallet.

Three juveniles were stopped after they were seen exiting private property in the area of 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 58<sup>th</sup> Street. One had a warrant for burglary and was arrested.

A resident in the 2500 block of 56<sup>th</sup> Street reported that he heard his car alarm go off, and saw someone inside his vehicle. Nothing appeared to be missing.

A resident in the 5300 block of 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that someone attempted to open her screen door. The suspect was last seen standing on a neighbor's porch.

Someone opened the screen door to a residence in the 5300 block of 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue on February 4, and attempted to open the locked entry door. Nothing was taken, and the suspect was unable to enter the residence.

Officers arrested a suspect caught on a security video entering a car parked in a driveway in the 5300 block of 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

A resident in the 2700 block of 56<sup>th</sup> Street reported that she woke to find her front door open. The door had been locked, and it appeared that someone entered through the doggy door. An X-Box 1, a PS3, and the resident's house and car keys were stolen.

A resident in the 1500 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street reported that he heard his vehicle alarm, and discovered that someone had broken out the passenger side window and stole a wallet.

A man wearing a batman costume was arrested after an employee of a local bar reported he was causing a disturbance. Officer Rossi observed him riding his bicycle without lights. He fled to his residence when Officer Rossi attempted to stop him and attempted to go inside, but was taken into custody before he could do so.

Officers were dispatched to a car crash in the 6300 block of Gulfport Boulevard on February 5 after a driver slid on wet pavement and struck the guardrail. She was transported to the hospital for treatment of a small laceration on her forehead.

Joseph Grabert was arrested for felony possession of marijuana after Officer Smith stopped him for a traffic violation on Gulfport Boulevard. There was a strong odor of marijuana in the vehicle, and a search revealed 32 grams of the substance.

A resident in the 5000 block of Jersey Avenue reported that his cell phone was stolen from the passenger seat of his locked vehicle. There was no damage to the vehicle that would indicate it had been burglarized.

A resident in the 6100 block of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on February 6 that he was the victim of Advance Fee Fraud, otherwise known as a 419 Scam. He lost over \$1500 dollars as a result.

Bradley Fauth was arrested for manufacture of marijuana on February 7 after police received a tip that he was growing cannabis in his backyard. Three plants were seized.

A resident in the 2500 block of 56<sup>th</sup> Street reported that someone damaged the mount on his home surveillance camera overnight. The suspect was caught on video footage.

A resident in the 2200 block of 51<sup>st</sup> Street reported that his ex-wife and her new boyfriend threatened him with a knife two weeks earlier. He said he thought he had to wait to make a report of such an incident.

Officers were dispatched to the 3100 block of Beach Boulevard after a bar/restaurant manager reported that staff discovered a man drinking beer at the outdoor bar when they arrived for cleaning. He fled the scene and has not yet been identified.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a stolen vehicle in the 5100 block of Newton Avenue. The car was located via GPS and law enforcement aviation units, and returned to the owner.

The marine unit was on the water for 7 hours this week. Seven boater contacts were made.

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

New cases:	5
Cases assigned:	4
Cases suspended-no leads:	1
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Supplements received:	0
Cases cleared with arrest:	7
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	7

### **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case, a burglary and a theft.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case, four burglaries, and two auto thefts; investigated two auto thefts and added charges to Benjamin Langkamp, and; attended a SAO invest for a video voyeurism case.

Officer Motte arrested a student for delivering a controlled substance to several students on school grounds; assisted school staff with breaking up a minor fight; escorted seven students who were skipping class to the office; instructed the Explorer meeting on the topic of criminal investigations, and; served as acting supervisor while Sergeant Woodman was on vacation.

Officer Embry arrested two students for simple battery; met with a parent and her son regarding drugs on campus; provided security for basketball game; attended a training course, and; sat in on a meeting with the assistant principal and a student regarding child pornography.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled and distributed open case lists and January officer activity information; put together crime prevention tips to be posted on Facebook, and; compiled and submitted seatbelt citation data to DHSMV.

### **Records**

Reports reviewed	18
Supplements reviewed:	51
Public Records requests:	56
Background checks:	5
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	3
Subpoenas processed:	1
Citizens assisted	52

### **MARINA**

Assisted with nine pump outs evacuating one hundred fifty-five gallons of waste.

Pumped one thousand five hundred ninety-four gallons of gas and two thousand two hundred thirty-two gallons of diesel fuel, fueling seventy-three vessels.

**Transient vessels:**

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

**Staff activities:**

- Repaired and reinstalled dock box on pier 5, slip 17.
- Replaced line hanger on pier 4, slip 12.
- Inspected and cleaned pump out sensor rods, and performed routine maintenance on both pumping stations.
- Inspected Marina piers for repairs and hazards.
- Purchased drinks and items for resale, stocked shelves and rotated merchandise.
- Replaced faucet fixture and hose under transient dock.

**LIBRARY**

**Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, January 29, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Preparation staff training.*

Monday, January 29, 3 p.m. - *K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Club.*

Monday, January 29, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night.*

Tuesday, January 30, noon - *Lunch & Learn presents Elder LGBT Sexuality.*

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

Tuesday, January 30, 1:30 p.m. - *German Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, January 30, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, January 31, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, January 31, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout/Knitting.*

Wednesday, January 31, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, February 1, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, February 1, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Thursday, February 1, 7 p.m. - *What the H\* Is Going on with Media?*

Friday, February 2 - *AARP Income Tax Assistance.*

Friday, February 2, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, February 3, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day.*

**Upcoming Events:**

Every Monday, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., and every Friday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance: TAXPAYERS MUST BRING SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS FOR ALL PERSONS LISTED ON THEIR TAX RETURNS, A PICTURE ID, ALL PERTINENT RECORDS SUCH AS W2'S, 1099'S, other income & credits, and a copy of last year's return if available. Free Electronic filing is available through April 16. For more information, call 893-1073.*

Saturday, February 10 - *Career Information for Insurance Industry Jobs: Interested in finding a job in this very diverse field? Discover many opportunities besides selling policies. Presented by Randy Bolton.*

Tuesday, February 13, 10:30 a.m. and Thursday, February 15, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop*: Cohosted by Gulfport Neighbors and the Gulfport Public Library, these events will provide information on City services and activities, wards and the councilmembers who represent them. Call the Gulfport Public Library at 893-1074 for more information.

Thursday, February 15, 11 a.m. - *CoffeeTalk Book Club discussion of Bob Dylan's albums in our continuing series of Nobel Prize winners*: Bring your favorite! Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, February 15, 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.

Thursday, February 15, 7 p.m. - *The Vagina Monologues*: This Obie award-winning whirlwind tour of a forbidden zone brings together a wildly divergent gathering of women's voices. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.

Friday - Sunday, February 16 - 18 - *ReadOut Books for Lesbians*: Friday, 7 p.m. Wine & Cheese meet & greet; Saturday, 10 a.m. - Vendors & speakers; Sunday, 9:30 a.m. - Workshop with Elizabeth Sims (registration & fee required); 11:15 a.m. - Panel discussion. For more information visit [www.mygulfport.us/lgbtq-resources](http://www.mygulfport.us/lgbtq-resources).

Tuesday, February 20, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*: Kids, indulge your passion for the tiny building blocks of creativity! Meets in the Youth Services area.

Thursday, February 22, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

Thursday, February 22, 6 p.m. - *Black History Month Movie*: In honor of this month's designation we are showing *13<sup>th</sup>*, presented by Gulfport City Councilmember Yolanda Roman.

Saturday, February 24, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: A delightful, artistic work about the life of Vincent Van Gogh. After Van Gogh's death, a young man tasked with delivering the artist's final message to someone finds himself getting to know the people and places Van Gogh knew in life, and coming to appreciate his work and his life. Rated PG-13; call 893-1074 for movie title.

Monday, February 26, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night*: For more information call 893-1073.

Tuesday, February 27, 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.

Saturday, March 3, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: Independent film about a surgeon who takes in a teenager when the boy's father dies on the operating table, and the effect this has on the rest of his family - especially when they begin to suspect the teen's true motives. It stars Colin Farrell and Nicole Kidman, and is 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.

Monday, March 5, 5:30 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop*: Third in a series of free monthly instructional sessions taught by Landis Braddock. Workshops will be presented as a three class cycle: Beginner, Advanced Beginner and Strum & Sing Jam.

Monday, March 5, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club*: Those interested are encouraged to bring their favorite books with them and we will be discussing these as time allows. The meeting will also be an organizational one so that participants can chose what books they will read in the future.

Tuesday, March 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@mygulford.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulford.us) for more information.

Thursday, March 8, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

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

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout/Knitting*: Know how to knit? Want to learn or get better doing it? We'll supply the needles and yarn.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulford Toastmasters*: Email [contact@gulfortoastmasters.com](mailto:contact@gulfortoastmasters.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 January 28 - February 3, 2018:**

#### **Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,951	1,466
Sun. 1/28	Library closed	
Mon. 1/29	405	267
Tue. 1/30	274	226
Wed. 1/31	310	246
Thu. 2/1	368	241
Fri. 2/2	352	205
Sat. 2/3	227	189

### **PARKS & RECREATION**

#### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulford.us](http://www.mygulford.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulford](http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulford) to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at [www.mygulford.us/gtv640](http://www.mygulford.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.
- Worked on Gulfport Senior Center logo.

## **Multipurpose Senior Center**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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 ever wondered if Medical Marijuana is right for you? Are you tired of the harmful side effects of traditional pharmaceuticals? Do you find traditional medications are no longer effective? Cannabis is a natural alternative to many harmful pharmaceuticals! Please join

Compassionate Care Clinics of Pinellas at Gulfport Senior Center at 5 p.m. Monday, February 12 for **Medical Marijuana: Cannabis in the Medicine Cabinet**, a FREE educational lecture on the history, efficacy, qualification requirements and law regarding Medical Marijuana in Florida. Bring your questions and your loved ones for information on how to be part of Florida's Medical Marijuana Program.

Learn the 3 most common causes of back pain & sciatica and successful treatment without medications, injections, or surgery at the **Back Pain and Sciatica Workshop** at 1 p.m. Tuesday, February 13. Presented by Physical Therapist Wayne Whittle. Space is limited; call 893-5657 to register.

Be our guest as we celebrate **Valentine's Day** with appetizers, drinks and a movie at 1 p.m. Wednesday, February 14. Tickets must be obtained prior to the event; limit 2 per person.

Learn the importance of resource recovery from wastewater and how the **South Cross Bayou Water Reclamation Facility** turns it into reclaimed water, fertilizer, and energy on Thursday, February 15. Round trip transportation and tour: GEMS members \$4; nonmembers \$6.

Learn to download apps, take/send pictures, add contacts, adjust phone settings, and more during the **iPhone/iPad Instruction Class** at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, February 15. Presented by the Gulfport Library. Preregistration required: call 893-5657 to reserve a seat.

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 February 16. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

Join us 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, March 17 for **CarFit**, a FREE, interactive & educational program developed by AAA, AARP, and the American Occupational Therapy Association that shows participants how to make their personal vehicle "fit" them to increase safety & mobility when they hit the road. Call 893-5657 to schedule a 20-minute appointment. Space is limited so don't wait!

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 February 22.

Learn to download apps, take/send pictures, ad contacts, adjust phone settings and more during the **Android Phone & Tablet Instruction Class** at 11 a.m. Friday, February 23. Sponsored by Metro PCS of South Pasadena. Registration required; call 893-5657.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cookbooks, collectibles and many other goodies at **First Friday Flea Market** on March 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, March 8.

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, January 28	6 p.m. - Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance Snow Ball (Turnout 350)
Monday, January 29	6 p.m. - Wedding reception(Turnout 75)
Tuesday, January 30	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 49) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 27) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 77)
Wednesday, January 31	8 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 41) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 305)
Thursday, February 1	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 6) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 48) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 18)
Saturday, February 3	10 a.m. - PAVA 2 Cool Art Show (Turnout 1,284)

#### **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 with Dann Oliver 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato 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 with Dann Oliver  
                                   10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato  
                                   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, February 2        6 p.m. - Art Reception featuring the works of Carol Lore (Turnout 40)
- Saturday, February 3    8 p.m. - *SAGES Theater Company presents Committed by Linda Goldman* (Turnout 42)

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

Saturday, February 10, 8 p.m. & Sunday, February 11, 2 p.m. - *SAGES Theater Company presents Committed by Linda Goldman*: A delightful mix of comedy and drama for seniors, by seniors. Tickets \$13.50 in advance, available at Beach Bazaar or at [www.senioractorsguild.com](http://www.senioractorsguild.com), or \$15 at the door (cash or check). Call 536-7076 for more information.

Friday, February 16, 7:30 p.m. & Saturday, February 17, 2 p.m. - *David & Jenny*: Cutting edge illusions & daring escapes, as seen on America's Got Talent. Tickets: \$25, available at [magicshowtix.com](http://magicshowtix.com), Gulfport Beach Bazaar & Gulfport Welcome Center.

Friday, February 23, 7 p.m. - Songs of Hope, Love & Courage performed by husband-and-husband team Jon Arteron & James Mack. Tickets: \$20; \$25 for early entry & reception with hors d'oeuvres and preferred seating, available at the Casino and Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard. Proceeds benefit the Gulfport Public Library's LGBTQ Resource Center. For more information email Susan Gore at [flsnowfrog@gmail.com](mailto:flsnowfrog@gmail.com).

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

- Sunday, January 28        9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 8)  
                                   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, January 29        11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 39)
- Tuesday, January 30        10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 41)

Thursday, February 1 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 13)

Friday, February 2 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 16)

**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**

Seventy-eight children are registered for the **2017/18 School Year Child Care program** for children who will be entering Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents and \$188 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

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-three 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, Essential Oils, Karate, Pickleball, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tennis, Watercolor and Zumba.

**FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**Calls for Service:**

- 45 Emergency Medical calls
- 3 Structure fires
- 4 Fire alarms
- 3 Vehicle crashes
- 1 Wires down

**Life Safety:**

- 4 C.O.s
- 1 Fire Inspection
- 2 Site Plan Reviews
- 1 Occupant Load

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The team will participate in Mass Casualty training in Hillsborough County on February 24.

Gulfport Firefighters have commenced their February online CME training in Target Solutions. This month's topics: Geriatrics, Altered Mental Status, Cardiovascular Disease, Trauma and Metabolic disorders.

Chief James Marenkovic applied for a Firefighters Grant (AFG) for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus on February 2.

Piper Fire Protection Systems performed annual testing on the Fire Department's fire alarm system on February 5.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Replaced lights in theater with new LED lights.
- Relocated several boxes from City Hall to Public Services storage area.
- Installed "hose hanger" at Library.
- Removed banners at Casino, and patched office walls in preparation for painting.
- Painted benches at Marina.
- Repaired gate at Police Station.
- Replaced carpeting in Public Works offices & Police office at Neighborhood Center.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

### **Parks Maintenance**

- Tilled and aerated ball fields, and replenished clay.
- Replaced vehicle port poles in City yard.
- Sanded and sealed benches at Marina.
- Pressure washed around trashcans at Storage House.
- Installed concrete slabs for trashcans and benches at beach & Caldwell Park.
- Pressure washed Little League bleachers, shed and dugouts.
- Removed desk from casino office and prepped walls for painting.
- Mowed Veterans Park & Neighborhood Center green spaces.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park and along 49<sup>th</sup> Streetscapes.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Veterans Park, Dog Park & Williams Pier area, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced filters on mowers & small equipment.
- 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, and 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 23 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 2 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 58 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 18 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 2 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Replaced water service at 5105 Preston Avenue, 5102 Preston Avenue, 5106, 5109, 5113, 5117, 5121, 5125, 5133, 1541, 5145 & 5149 Preston Avenue, and 1620 & 1624 52<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- Installed water meter, backflow, water line & hose bibs between 23<sup>rd</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> Avenues in Clymer Park.

### **Sewer**

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall 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.
- Replaced sewer lateral from main line to 5301 Gulfport Boulevard.
- Cleaned and televised sewer at Gulfport Casino.

### **Stormwater**

- Replaced damaged storm drain lid at Beach Boulevard & 23<sup>rd</sup> Avenue.
- Repaired storm water line at 5209 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **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](http://www.mygulfport.us) under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Code Enforcement activities continued this week in Section 1 of the City, also referred to as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> Street.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous. E-mail correspondence is considered a public record. If you wish to make a complaint using e-mail such communications are not anonymous.

To review Code Enforcement activities documents for more detailed information and a map of Code Enforcement areas visit the Special Documents section at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us).

## **Planning and Development**

### **February 14, 2018 Board of Adjustment Meeting:**

V18-01: 5401 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the secondary street side yard setback requirement by 7 feet, from 12 feet to 5 feet to allow for the proposed construction of a new shed.

V18-02: 5313 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the front yard setback requirement by 1.22 feet, from 25 feet to 23.78 feet to allow for the continuation of an existing, unpermitted open deck.