



Gulfport Community Update

February 11 - 17, 2018

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

Public Works Director Tom Nicholls reports that contaminated soil has been found at Gulfport Boulevard & 53rd Street South. Pinellas County Engineering is hiring a contractor specializing in hazardous material removal. It is anticipated this procedure will delay the construction project on Gulfport Boulevard another 4-6 weeks. In addition to the hazardous material the center eastbound lane base material is in extremely poor condition. Pinellas County is working with their paving contractor to develop a plan to address the issue. Based on these two issues, Pinellas County's estimated completion has been revised to May 4, 2018. For more information, call Pinellas County Project Coordinator Wesley Merritt at 464-8821.

The construction project on 58th Street scheduled to start February 15 has been delayed to Monday, February 19. Both **northbound and southbound lanes of 58th Street at 20th Avenue South will be closed for replacement of a stormwater line**. Public Works staff anticipates the street will reopen 48 hours after constructions begins. Detour signs will be posted to alert drivers of the closure. Motorists should expect some delays and traffic detours during construction, should allow for extra travel time, and exercise caution in the area due to the new traffic pattern. For more information, call the Gulfport Public Works Department at 893-1089.

The **tennis courts located at 5313 27th Avenue South will be closed** during the week of February 19 for resurfacing and fence replacement. Call the Gulfport Parks Department at 893-1092 for more information.

The **sidewalk on Beach Boulevard at 29th Avenue South is closed** until June 2018 due to road work. Pedestrians on Beach Boulevard are advised to use the crosswalks at 29th and 30th Avenues. Call the Gulfport Public Works Department at 893-1089 for more information.

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 Merchants Association third annual **Gulfport Fine Arts Festival** returns to Veterans Park, 5350 31st Avenue, Saturday & Sunday, 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.

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.

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.

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 15th Avenue. Tickets \$20 in advance, available at the Gulfport Welcome Center, Beach Bazaar or online at 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 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 11th. Pick up a registration form at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53rd Street or the Gulfport Library, 5501 28th Avenue, register on line at www.mygulfport.us/city-wide-yard-sale, or email 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 29th 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 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.

Shop original art work, choose your favorite cuisine and enjoy live music during **Art & Gallery Walks** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district from 6 until 10 p.m. every first Friday and third Saturday of the month. For more information, call 322-5217.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	153
Self-initiated calls for service	359
Offenses	38
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	91
Ordinance violations	29
Residence checks	38

Timothy Wallace was arrested on two outstanding traffic warrants on February 8 after Officer Marshall observed him walking in the 5100 block of Tangerine Avenue.

A patron of Southwest Pinellas Storage reported that someone shot her car's back window with a BB gun and broke the glass.

A money clip was reported stolen from an unlocked car parked in the 2500 block of 56th Street.

A resident reported on February 9 that he left a backpack in the basket on the front of his bike while he was inside City Hall. When he returned the backpack was missing.

A business owner in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported that someone tore down the mesh sunscreen covering the garage of his business. He suspects the damage was caused by a neighbor who left a note several months ago stating the screen was bringing down property values in the neighborhood.

A resident in the 4600 block of 27th Avenue reported someone stole his wallet from the top of his truck while he was cleaning it.

Officers are looking for a woman who battered an 80-year old man with whom she lived in the 4900 block of 12th Avenue on February 11. She reportedly struck him and threw him to the ground before fleeing the area.

A resident in the 3100 block of Clinton Street reported on February 13 that his bicycle was stolen from his fenced in backyard sometime overnight.

Alberta Williams was arrested for felony retail theft after she set off the theft alarm while exiting the Family Dollar store. The manager confronted her outside and she removed a shower rod concealed under her dress. Officers caught up with Williams on 49th Street and discovered she had a purse full of stolen items from the store.

A resident in the 6300 block of 10th Avenue reported on February 14 that a male subject has been coming onto his property and adjusting his cameras and spotlights. Police have a clear image of the subject from the complainant's surveillance camera.

The **marine unit** was on the water for approximately 18 hours this week. Sergeant Burkhart, Sergeant Marotta and Officer Carter were out enforcing anchor light violations. Officer Marshall made 17 boater contacts, provided a verbal warning for a wake zone violation, and followed up on a derelict vessel case.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	29
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	16
Cases cleared with arrest:	3
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	6
Supplements received:	19
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	5
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	3
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	10

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary, a theft, a fraud, and a stolen vehicle; interviewed an inmate at the Pinellas County Jail and added charges against the inmate for burglary, and; investigated a fraud case and determined the crime occurred outside of Pinellas County

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a theft and an armed robbery; identified and arrested an armed robbery suspect, and; attended a state attorney invest for multiple burglary cases.

Officer Motte evaluated two students for Baker Acts, but neither met the criteria; located four students skipping school and escorted them to the office for truancy; provided security for a basketball game at BCHS, and; facilitated the Monday night Explorer meeting, covering the topic of burglary investigations and crime scene processing.

Officer Embry met with a parent about a student skipping school, and a student about a suspended driver license; spoke with a Gulfport resident concerned about a previous tenant's child who attends BCHS, and; provided security for the district basketball tournament at BCHS.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano created and distributed a bulletin for a suspect Det. Crowson is attempting to locate; compiled the January 2018 PCSO call out report; completed pawn checks on 14 cases with a known serial number, named suspect or searchable property description, and; reviewed property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper entry into FCIC.

Records

Reports reviewed	16
Supplements reviewed:	68
Public Records requests:	57
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	4
Fingerprints	1
Subpoenas processed:	3
Citizens assisted	49

Professional Standards

Two Police officer candidates have been selected to fill the vacant positions left by the retirement of Officer Eugene Novak and Detective Robert McLaughlin, pending final approval via medical and psychological evaluations.

MARINA

Assisted with eleven pump outs evacuating two hundred fifty gallons of waste.

Pumped four thousand two hundred forty-eight gallons of gas and one thousand three hundred nineteen gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred forty vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, February 5, 10 a.m. - *AARP Tax Preparation staff training.*

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

Monday, February 5, 5:30 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop.*
Monday, February 5, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club.*
Tuesday February 6, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga.*
Tuesday, February 6, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*
Tuesday, February 6, 1:30 p.m. - *German Conversation Club.*
Tuesday, February 6, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*
Tuesday, February 6, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*
Wednesday, February 7, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*
Wednesday, February 7, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout/Knitting.*
Wednesday, February, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*
Thursday, February 8, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*
Thursday, February 8, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*
Thursday, February 8, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series.*
Friday, February 9 - *AARP Income Tax Assistance.*
Friday, February 9, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

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.

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.

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 *13th*, presented by Gulfport City Councilmember Yolanda Roman.

Saturday, February 24, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day:* A delightful, artistic film 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 for discussion as time allows. The meeting will also be an organizational one so that participants can choose what books to 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@mygulfport.us for more information.

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

Thursday, March 15, 11 a.m. - *CoffeeTalk Book Club*, Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, March 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.

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/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. - *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 February 4 - 10, 2018:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,907	1,500
Sun. 2/4	Library closed	
Mon. 2/5	340	300
Tue. 2/6	330	239
Wed. 2/7	322	276
Thu. 2/8	307	230
Fri. 2/9	319	226
Sat. 2/10	282	181

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.
- Commenced preparation of March calendar.
- 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. Find us on Facebook at www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Local elder law attorney Jennifer Terrana will discuss the **Three Most Important Estate Planning Documents** you should have and why on Wednesday, February 21 at 2 p.m.

Enjoy baseball? Have fun at the **Spring Training Game between the Philadelphia Phillies and Tampa Spartans** on February 22. Round trip transportation & admission: GEMS members \$26; nonmembers \$28.

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.

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 March 12. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

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 March 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!

Have you always wanted to learn 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, February 4	10 a.m. - PAVA 2 Cool Art Show (Turnout 732)
Tuesday, February 6	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 7) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 48) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 43) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 64)
Wednesday, February 7	8 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 46) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 321)
Thursday, February 8	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 9) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 41) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 24)
Saturday, February 10	8 p.m. - Lady in Red Ball (Turnout 430)

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):

- Sunday, February 4 2 p.m. - *SAGES Theater Company presents Committed by Linda Goldman* (Turnout 34)
- Saturday, February 10 8 p.m. - *SAGES Theater Company presents Committed by Linda Goldman* (Turnout 63)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

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, 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.

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events)

- Sunday, February 4 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 30)
 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 44)

Tuesday, January 30 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 44)

Thursday, February 1 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 15)

Friday, February 2 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 19)

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.

Eighteen children are registered for the **2017/18 Tot Time program**, and six for **VPK**. Tot Time is a hands-on preschool 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.

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.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Thursday and the Teen Council meeting on Friday. She also met with the Public Works Director & Superintendent on Tuesday to discuss specs for a new school bus.

Five **Teen Councilmembers** attended the monthly meeting on Friday. Advisor Marivel Gutierrez facilitated. Topics discussed: Advisor Report, approval of January's minutes, Special Events, Old Business and New Business.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 41 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 5 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes

- 1 Elevator Rescue

Life Safety:

- 2 C.O.s
- 10 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-Inspection

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 continued their February online CME training in Target Solutions this week. This month's topics: Geriatrics, Altered Mental Status, Cardiovascular Disease, Trauma and Metabolic disorders.

Gulfport Firefighters participated in Search & Rescue training at the St. Petersburg College drill ground.

Chief Marenkovic and the Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association are working with the Data Driven Focus Group for FY18/19 EMS system funding.

Chief Marenkovic is working on the FY18/19 ALS First Responder Services Agreement budget process with Finance Director Cheryl Hannafin.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Reattached door hinge at Senior Center, mounted first aid supply box in closet, and transported several tables to Dog Park storage area.
- Repaired lock on Theater lobby door.
- Repaired gate at Police Station.
- Patched drywall and cleaned air vents at Casino.
- Treated for ants at Library.
- Painted east wall at Recreation Center.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Tilled and aerated ball fields, and replenished clay.
- Sanded and sealed benches at Marina.
- Pressure washed bleachers, sidewalks, shed at Lum field.
- Installed trash/recycle cans and bike racks at beach parking lot, Casino & Veterans Park.
- Pressure washed Little League bleachers, shed and dugouts.
- Removed desk from casino office and prepped walls for painting.
- Picked up supplies from Sam's Club for Recreation Center.
- Mowed City complex, Clymer & Caldwell Parks, Senior Center & Library grounds, 28th Street sign area, 14th Avenue medians, Chase block, Pasadena entrance area & dog park.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Veterans Park & police compound.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Veterans Park & City Hall green spaces, 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 #23, 24, 25, 26, and 27 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 14 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 8 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 89 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 8 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 water service at 5106, 5114, 5117, 5122, 5124, 5130, 5134, 5138, 5142 & 5145 Preston Avenue, and at 5145, 5141, 5137, & 5133 17th Avenue.

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 ring and cover at 58th Street & 25th Avenue.

Stormwater

Repaired storm pipe and seawall at Gulfport Sailing Club.

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 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 7th Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64th Street to 58th 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.

Planning and Development

March 14, 2018 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

V18-03: 5016 23rd Avenue South - Variance request to reduce the side yard setback requirement by 0.6 feet, from 6 feet to 5.4 feet to allow for the construction of a proposed new screen room on an existing deck.

V28-04: 2401 Beach Boulevard South - Variance request to reduce the side yard setback requirement by 1.42 feet, from 6 feet to 4.58 feet to allow for the construction of a proposed screen room that matches the existing side of the house.