



Gulfport Community Update

January 28 - February 3, 2018

Upcoming Events:

Shop original artwork, choose your favorite cuisine and enjoy live music during **First Friday Art Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district on February 2, 6 - 10 p.m. For more information call 322-5217.

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

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

The **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.

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. 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 31st 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.

Join husband-and-husband team Jon Arterton and James Mack at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue at 7 p.m. Friday, February 23 for an evening of **Songs of Hope, Love and Courage**. Tickets \$20, or \$25 for early entry reception with hors d'oeuvres and preferred seating, available at the Casino and Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard. For more information email Susan Gore at flsnowfrog@gmail.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 karenlovegf@gmail.com or call 770-497-1139.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	110
Self-initiated calls for service	410
Offenses	31
Arrests	12
Traffic citations	88
Ordinance violations	25
Residence checks	82

A resident in the 1100 block of Hull Street reported on January 25 that someone damaged his fence. There are no known suspects.

A resident in the 1000 Block of Hull Street reported that someone broke the lock off their shed and stole 3 bicycles and several tools. It was later discovered that some of the stolen items were pawned at a pawn shop in Pinellas County. Two suspects, Charles Whitton and Theodore Estlow were arrested by Detective Sergeant Woodman.

The property manager of a residence in the 2700 block of 57st Street being used as an AirBnB rental reported that the property owner recently fired a cleaning person who without permission entered the residence and slept there. Nothing was stolen and police are attempting to make contact with the suspect.

Officers assisted paramedics treating a six-year-old girl at Nancy's Nails on January 27 who was inexplicably hysterical and hallucinating that bees were attacking her. She was transported to the emergency room and doctors determined that she had an adverse reaction to an over-the-counter medication her parents had given her to treat a cold.

Officer Marshall pulled over a vehicle in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard after he recognized the driver as Jill Grasmick who has a suspended driver license. The registration decal on her

license plate was not assigned to the tag. She was arrested. Passenger Alan Danks was also arrested for having an outstanding warrant for unlawful possession of narcotics.

A resident of the Town Shores Chatham building reported on January 28 that his unsecured bicycle was stolen from the parking lot overnight.

The Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office requested GPD's assistance in locating a juvenile with a pickup order. Contact was made and he was arrested for two counts of vehicle burglary.

A resident in the 4600 block of Tifton Street reported on January 29 that someone stole her bicycle after cutting the lock sometime over the weekend.

William Gale was arrested on an outstanding warrant for boating under the influence after the manager at McDonald's requested he be trespassed from the property following a disturbance.

William McBrayer was arrested for grand theft auto after a resident in the 1500 block of 55th Street reported his vehicle was stolen from his residence earlier in the day. Officers observed McBrayer driving the car in the area.

A resident in the 1600 block of 54th Street reported she locked her keys in her car and went to work. When she returned the car was gone. It was later discovered to have been involved in a crash in St. Petersburg.

A resident in the 5100 block of 24th Avenue reported on January 30 that someone broke the window to her vehicle in order to steal \$50 that she left in plain view in her glove box.

Staff at Boca Ciega Genesis Center reported on January 31 that a patient with an active warrant had just been checked into the center. Fredrick Pinnell was arrested for a violation of the conditions of his release on a battery charge.

A resident in the 4900 block of 28th Street reported that prescription medication was stolen from his residence.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 22 hours this week. Sergeant Burkhart and Officer Carter assisted with the Gasparilla Flotilla. Sergeant Marotta and Officer Mills conducted surveys of the boaters living on the bay and Officer Marshall made contact with 6 boaters.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	18
Cases assigned:	5
Cases suspended-no leads:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Supplements received:	21
Cases cleared with arrest:	5
Previously cleared with arrest:	5
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	3
Cases exceptionally cleared	1
Cases still active:	7

Investigator Highlights

Sergeant Woodman investigated a series of 5 burglaries, 4 of which were cleared by arrest, resulting in several charges for Charles Whitton and Theodore Estlow.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two fraud cases, a burglary, an auto theft, a theft, and a death investigation; reviewed subpoena

returns for two fraud cases; assisted Sgt. Woodman with an investigation of several shed burglaries leading to the arrest of Charles Whitton and Theodore Estlow, and; attended a SAO invest for an auto theft case in which the suspect was arrested by SPPD.

Officer Motte spoke with a class about how to report a crime and proper ways to secure their property; assisted a student with a class project on the current climate for police officers in the United States, and; provided security for a basketball game at Lakewood High.

Officer Embry made contact with a suspicious person trespassing on school grounds; spoke with a student about someone letting the air out of her tires, and instructed her to report the incident to her assistant principal since there was no crime involved; intervened with two students before an altercation occurred, and; provided security for a basketball game.

Crime Analyst Margaret completed pawn checks related to to a series of burglaries and located 6 items pawned by Theodore Estlow matching the descriptions of items reported stolen, resulting in the recovery of property and the arrest of Enslow and Charles Whitton; completed pawn checks on 9 cases with a known serial number, named suspect or searchable property description, and; completed a review of property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper entry into FCIC.

Records

Reports reviewed	8
Supplements reviewed:	64
Public Records requests:	47
Background checks:	6
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted	47

MARINA

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

Pumped two thousand six hundred thirty-six gallons of gas and one thousand one hundred sixty-eight gallons of diesel fuel, fueling sixty-three vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Replaced line hanger on pier 5, slip 15.
- Replaced shower curtain in upstairs men's restroom handicap stall.
- Repaired pump out line head on pier 3.
- 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.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, January 22, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Tuesday, January 23, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults*.
Tuesday, January 23, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*.
Tuesday, January 23, 1:30 p.m. - *German Conversation Club*.
Tuesday, January 23, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.
Wednesday, January 24, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.
Wednesday, January 24, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*.
Wednesday, January 24, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.
Thursday, January 25, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.
Thursday, January 25, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*.
Thursday, January 25, 11 a.m. - *CoffeeTalk Book Club discussion of Frog by Mo Yan*.
Thursday, January 25, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*.
Thursday, January 25, 7 p.m. - *An Evening of Poetry: 2018 Poet Laureate Event*.
Friday, January 26, 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.

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

Monday, February 5, 5:30 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop*: Second 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, February 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, February 6, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Thursday, February 8, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: Stars Heath Ledger and Jake Gyllenhaal as a ranch hand and rodeo cowboy who meet in 1963 while driving cattle in the west. Refreshments available for donations benefitting the LGBTQ Resource Center. For movie title, call 893-1074.

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.

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.

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.

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 January 21 - 27, 2018:

	Items Circulated	Patrons
Weekly Circulation:	1,970	1,427
Sun. 1/21	Library closed	
Mon. 1/22	314	279
Tue. 1/23	323	234
Wed. 1/24	382	245
Thu. 1/25	383	276
Fri. 1/26	286	210
Sat. 1/27	273	183

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfpport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfpport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfpport.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.
- Distributed February calendar to Tuesday market vendors and at all City facilities.
- Worked on graphic design project for Library LGBTQ ReadOut program.

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.mygulfpport.us. Find us on Facebook at www.FB.com/GulfpportSeniorCenter.

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.

Allow Barbara Newborn and Marty Carroll help you become your own healer by finding answers within your body, mind and soul during the next **Empowerment of Healing** at 3 p.m. Monday, February 5.

While caregiving can be challenging, it can also be tremendously rewarding. By practicing self-care and seeking support, you can enhance your own wellbeing while taking good care of someone else. Get the scoop on local resources available during **Empath Health's Tips for Caregivers** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 7.

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

Join the Out-to-Lunch Bunch on February 8 for lunch at **Bellissimo Italian Eatery**, voted one of the best restaurants in Pinellas County. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$6; nonmembers \$8.

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

Have you 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.

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.

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.

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 21	6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 37)
Monday, January 22	7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance (Turnout 104)
Tuesday, January 23	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 8) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 47) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 30) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 74)

- Wednesday, January 24 8 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 43)
6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 299)
- Thursday, January 25 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 6)
10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 42)
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 16)
- Friday, January 26 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 48)
6 p.m. - Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance Snow Ball (Turnout 350)
- Saturday, January 27 9 a.m. - Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance Snow Ball (Turnout 350)

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, January 21 2 p.m. Gulfport Community Players present *Breaking the Code* (Turnout 90)
- Saturday, January 27 2 p.m. - *An Afternoon Delight with Poppy Champlin* (Turnout 172)
7 p.m. - *The Rat Pack: Together Again* (Turnout 47)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

- Friday, February 2 6 p.m. - Art Reception with February mixed media artist Carol Lore. Free admission.

Saturday, February 3, 8 p.m. & Sunday, February 4, 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 the Beach Bazaar or at www.senioractorsquild.com, or \$15 at the door (cash or check). Call 536-7076 for more information.

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events)

Sunday, January 21 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 13)
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 22 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 35)

Tuesday, January 23 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 42)

Thursday, January 25 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 14)

Friday, January 26 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 22)

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-one teens are registered for the **2017/18 Teen Night Program**, a great hangout for teens in grades 6-12. Teen Night provides recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects.

Contractual classes: Bootcamp, Karate, Pickleball, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tennis, Watercolor and Zumba.

Staff Activities

John Lapham used the school bus to transport twelve VPK/Tot Time participants and fifteen parents to the Ringling Museum in Sarasota on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 46 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 WFF
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 2 C.O.s
- 1 Site Plan Review
- 1 Final Sprinkler System

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.

The Gulfport Fire Department participated Search & Rescue training at the St. Petersburg College drill grounds this week.

Lt. Firefighter/Paramedic Rene Fernandez taught a Healthcare Provider CPR Course to three students on January 27.

Chief Marenkovic attended the Data Driven Focus Group meeting on January 29 to analyze data with the Pinellas County EMS system.

The State of Florida Fire Marshal Office presented the Gulfport Fire Department a Certificate of Appreciation for 100% completion of 2016 annual Fire Reports.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired card system on electronic gate at Neighborhood Center, pressure-washed roof tiles, and removed graffiti from restroom wall
- Relocated generator control system and several outlets in Police Station break room.
- Completed monthly filter change on all City air conditioning units.
- Performed semiannual inspection of hood systems at Senior Center & Little League Field.

- Replaced hose bib on water fountain at Dog Park.
- Repaired brick patio at Clymer Park.
- Repaired door closer at Recreation Center.
- Installed new time clock at Public Services Building.
- Tightened toilet seat, rebuilt flushometer, and removed graffiti at beach restrooms.
- Assisted in installing art project at Beach Boulevard & 28th Avenue South.
- Sealed window at Historical Museum.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Tilled and aerated ball fields, and replenished clay.
- Cleared weeds and shelled around event parking signs.
- Reinstalled sink at beach men's restrooms.
- Landscaped and shelled island beds along Shore Boulevard project area.
- Relocated Santa chair from Senior Center to storage.
- Installed bike racks and trash/recycle bins at pier and along Shore Boulevard.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Senior Center, Library, Historical building, Chase block, Clymer Park and along 49th Streetscapes.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Recreation Center & Public Works green spaces, Chase block & 58th Street terminus, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and changed oil in Z-Master mowers.
- 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.
- Disconnected water service at 1 location for non-payment of service.
- Completed 3 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 6 old water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Replaced water service at 5129, 5133, 5139, 5141, 5122, 5130, 5134, 5138, 5142, 5150 & 5154 16th Avenue, 1508 52nd Street, 5154 15th Avenue and at 5149 Preston Street.

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.

Stormwater

Removed damaged storm water lid and curb at 58th Street & 30th Avenue, and formed and poured new curb, throat and lid.

Vehicle Maintenance

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at www.pced.org/entrepreneurs or call 464-7723. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

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

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

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit www.pcclb.com.

Code Enforcement activities have moved to Section 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

February 14, 2018 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

V18-01: 5401 20th 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 16th 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.