



Gulfport Community Update

March 4 - 10, 2018

The **Welcome to Gulfport** street pole banners have been replaced. The City Manager would like to thank residents for their patience during the reinstallation process.

Public Works Director Tom Nicholls reports he received the following **22nd Avenue Drainage Improvement Project update** from Pinellas County: Night operation was completed on March 8 and the contractor will resume day work on March 12. The contractor will begin installing the remaining drainage pipe and structures on the north side of 22nd Avenue between 52nd & 53rd Streets, and anticipates completion by the weekend. Other cleanup and restoration work will also take place throughout the week. For more information, call Pinellas County Project Coordinator Wesley Merritt at 464-8821.

56th Street South remains closed between 28th & 29th Avenues for a road rehabilitation project. Residents are asked to use their alley access during construction. The Gulfport Public Works Department anticipates the project will be completed and the street reopened to traffic on Wednesday, March 12. For more information, call Public Works at 893-1089.

The **tennis courts at 5313 27th Avenue South will remain closed during the week of March 12** for resurfacing. For more information, call the City of Gulfport Parks Department at 893-1092.

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 & 30th Avenues. Call the Gulfport Public Works Department at 893-1089 for more information.

Smoke alarms save lives. According to the National Fire Protection Association, approximately three in five fire deaths occur in homes with no smoke alarms or with nonworking alarms. The NFPA recommends having a smoke alarm in each bedroom and on every level of the home including the basement. Be sure to test the alarms monthly, and replace them every 10 years. **Free smoke alarms 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 permit **FREE Citywide Yard Sale** is Saturday, March 10 from dawn to dusk. The deadline to get your address on the brochure ended March 2, but temporary signs will be permitted on public right of ways where the sale is being held, as long as it does not interfere/block pedestrian/vehicle traffic views or permanent street signs. Other temporary signs may be placed on private property with the permission of the owner or occupant. Please do not display signs more than 24 hours before the sale day. Signs must be removed by 7 p.m. Saturday. Vehicles may temporarily park in residential only or resident decal required parking the day of the sale as long as they do not interfere/block rights of way or traffic flow. All other parking provisions under state law are enforced. Please do not block driveways, or park on sidewalks or against the flow of traffic. Call 893-1118 for more information.

Help reduce pollution in our waterways and get rid of unwanted debris on Gulfport Beach during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 10. A limited number of pickers will be available; if you have one please bring it. The group meets at Gulfport Beach shelter #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, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

Come by land or kayak to volunteer at the **2018 Great American Cleanup Clam Bayou Cleanup** on Saturday, March 17, 9 a.m. - noon. Volunteers should wear closed-toed shoes, sun protection, and weather appropriate clothing. Cleanup supplies, snacks and water will be provided. Register on site the day of the event or online at www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-great-american-cleanup-clam-bayou-nature-preserve-tickets-43738644463. Cosponsored by City of Gulfport & Keep Pinellas Beautiful. For more information, call 893-1118.

Empower your Mind, Body, & Soul during the annual **Health & Wellness Expo** at the Gulfport Casino 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, March 17. Healthcare professionals will offer health screenings, interactive demonstrations, and representation of both Eastern and Western health modalities. For more information, visit www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org/2017/05/health-wellness-expo/, call 893-1244 or email mppscfoundation@tampabay.rr.com.

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 City of Gulfport/Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows **13th Annual Fun in the Sun Day** event at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard is Saturday, March 31, 10 a.m. - noon. FREE festivities will include an egg hunt for children ages 8 & under, basket raffle, inflatables, entertainment, food and fun! Children will also have the opportunity to climb into the driver's seat of their favorite vehicle: police car, police boat, fire truck, ambulance, garbage truck and many more. Bring a basket for the egg hunt and a camera for a photo with Peter Cottontail! For more information, call 893-1068.

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	155
Self-initiated calls for service	310
Offenses	43
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	63
Ordinance violations	21
Residence checks	46

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

GPD assisted the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office on March 1 investigating vehicle burglaries in South Pasadena. Two juveniles were taken into custody, and the investigation determined they

also committed a vehicle burglary in Gulfport. The victim refused to press charges, and they were turned over to their parents.

Michael Anthony Whitney, aka Michael Larusso was arrested for an Injunction Violation after officers were dispatched to a residence in the 1100 block of 58th Street. A woman living in the home requested police assistance following a court appearance in which the injunction was issued, and Whitney refused to leave when instructed to do so by responding officers, resulting in his arrest.

A resident in the 5900 block of 17th Avenue reported on March 2 that his unsecured bicycle was stolen at some point over the prior week.

A resident in the 5700 block of 31st Avenue reported that she received a bill from Sears for a purchase made at a store in another part of Florida that she had never visited. Someone apparently used her personal information to make the fraudulently purchase.

Officers responded to an alarm at the Happy Home Center on March 3 and discovered that someone had thrown a rock through the glass door. The door and windows are fitted with bars so the suspect was not able to get inside.

Officers responded to a report of a burglary in progress in the 2500 block of 53rd Street after a man walked into a home early in the morning, and upon arrival discovered Douglas Glidden passed out in the backyard of the residence and extremely intoxicated. The homeowner did not wish to file charges and a family member came to the scene and took Douglas home.

A woman was charged with retail theft after she called police and reported she did not like the way she and her family were treated at a bar in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard. The manager explained that a member of the caller's party did not pay their bill. Further investigation revealed the caller had actually gone back into the bar and took the money that was left to pay the bill.

A man came to the police station on March 4 to report that he went to visit a female friend at her apartment in the 1700 block of 53rd Street, and when he walked inside two male subjects pulled guns on him and stole his wallet, phone and jewelry. A short time later officers received a report of two males running through yards near the robbery scene. Officer Nicita located Ibn Scott walking down the street, detained him and determined that he was one of the suspects. He also had an outstanding warrant and was taken to the station for questioning. The other suspect was also identified, but the victim has since declined to prosecute.

Two neighbors in the 800 block of 59th Street are in an ongoing dispute over the trimming of palm trees that straddle the property line. One of the neighbors complained to her friend "Mark" about the issue and Mark decided to go over to the neighbor's house and punch him in the face. Mark was gone when police arrived, and his friend claimed have no information on his identity.

Silas Daniel was arrested for possession of cocaine after he witnessed a car crash. When the investigating officer ran his information he discovered Daniel was wanted by St. Petersburg Police for a felony charge. He was arrested and during a search, cocaine was found in his pocket.

Paige Chafin was arrested for violation of a concealed weapons permit after staff at a bar in the 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported she was intoxicated and causing a disturbance, and requested she be trespassed. She was carrying a handgun that was not entirely concealed. Chafin has a concealed carry license but Florida law prohibits firearms inside bars.

Sergeant Vandenberg stopped Ruthie Clark in the 2200 block of Beach Boulevard on March 5 for driving a car with a tag not assigned. Her license was suspended, the car was unregistered with no insurance, and two small children were in the back with no seatbelts. She was arrested for felony driving while license suspended and other traffic offenses.

A resident in the 5000 block of 9th Avenue reported three people were staying at a residence and one of the residents did not want one of the others to stay there, resulting a fight between 2 of them. Nobody wanted to prosecute.

Pinellas County School Resource Officer Hawkins requested assistance from GPD on March 6 after a fight broke out among students at Disston Academy. Officers arrived to find Officer Hawkins attempting to arrest a female later identified as 18-year-old Nyana King who was actively resisting. After securing King in a patrol car she tried to kick out the car window, and officers immobilized her legs with a hobble restraint. She was charged with disorderly conduct.

A member of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office HOME unit requested Gulfport officers attempt to make contact with a juvenile who violated the condition of his home detention. He failed to properly charge his ankle monitor, making it impossible to track his whereabouts. He was located and arrested in the 1800 block of 55th Street.

A resident in the 1700 block of 53rd Street reported on March 7 that multiple electronic devices were stolen from her home.

The marine unit was not in use this week.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	10
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Supplements received:	18
Cases cleared with arrest:	2
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	4
Cases still active:	8

Investigator Highlights

Sergeant Woodman investigated an armed robbery.

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case, a burglary, and a grand theft; attended a deposition and a State Attorney's Office investigation; cleared 2 cases, and; closed one case by arrest.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for three fraud cases, an auto theft, a theft, and a burglary. She also interviewed and obtained a confession from a suspect in a harassing phone calls case.

Officer Motte escorted 5 truants to the office; located a missing bicycle; issued trespass warnings to 2 individuals he found trespassing on school grounds, and; facilitated the Monday night police explorer meeting, covering the topic of interview/interrogation.

Officer Embry recovered a runaway juvenile and investigated an aggravated battery resulting in the arrest of two females for assaulting a pregnant female on campus. He also spoke with a student about fighting on campus and with a parent regarding her daughter skipping school.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled fiscal year 16/17 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report statistics and the February public monthly bulletin; created and distributed a bulletin for Officer Ross in an attempt to ID a robbery suspect, and; completed the officer activity report for February.

Records

Reports reviewed	21
Supplements reviewed:	111
Public Records requests:	52
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	1
Subpoenas processed:	2
Citizens assisted	39

MARINA

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

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

Transient vessels:

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

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, February 26 - *AARP Income Tax Assistance.*

Monday, February 26, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Monday, February 26, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night.*

Tuesday, February 27, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults.*

Tuesday, February 27, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, February 27, 1:30 p.m. - *German Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, February 27, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, February 28, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, February 28, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout/Knitting.*

Wednesday, February 28, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

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

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

Thursday, March 1, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series.*

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

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

Saturday, March 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, March 10, 1:30 p.m. - *Dark Horse Writers Release Party*: Everyone is invited to join members of Gulfport Writers Group as they celebrate their newly released book, Jigsaw Stories.

Thursday, March 15, 11 a.m. - *CoffeeTalk Book Club discussion of The Sense of an Ending by Julian Barnes*: 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.

Thursday, March 15, 6 p.m. - *Bees Learning*: Mobile reading intervention program. Classes held in RV parked in front of Library. For more information email leahveal@beeslearning.org or call 404-308-0295.

Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m. - *Sexual Harassment in the Media Workplace and Beyond*: Since Harvey Weinstein, 121 other men working mostly in media have been publicly accused of a range of hostile workplace behavior. What does this mean for the modern workplace? The *New York Times* and *The New Yorker* published allegations of rape and sexual harassment. Is this a lasting change in professional relations between men and women, or a small disruption to well established patterns? Kelly McBride will share her knowledge drawn from working with dozens of media companies, as well as founding a women's leadership accelerator at The Poynter Institute.

Saturday, March 17, 10:30 a.m. - *Home Buyer's Seminar*: First in a series of three weekly classes help renters get started with homeownership by understanding where they are now as a renter, and what it takes to qualify for down payment and closing cost assistance. To register, call Jo Ann Nesbitt at 418-1554.

Saturday, March 17, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: We'll screen the latest Marvel Universe film, starring Thor and the rest of the Avengers. Starring Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston, Cate Blanchett, Idris Elba, Jeff Goldblum, Tessa Thompson, Karl Urban, Anthony Hopkins, and many more. Rated PG-13. Call 893-1074 for movie title

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

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

Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m. - *From Baroque to Classical; Gulfport Chamber Players concert*: An exploration of 17th & 18th century music for voice, flute, violin, viola and cello. Music by Purcell, Handel, Toreill, Quantz, Fasch, Molter, Haydn and Hoffmeister. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library.

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

Tuesday, March 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 each month will feature a different set of postures. Bring props if you want them. The class is taught by Christa Fairbrother, RYT and Certified Yoga for Arthritis Instructor. For more information and to sign up, call Cailey Klasson 893-1074.

Thursday, April 5, noon - *Lunch & Learn: Poetry Reading by Peter Hargitai*: Presentation by Gulfport 's Poet Laureate.

Thursday, April 5, 7 p.m. - *Virginia Woolf: Contemplation*: St. Petersburg Museum of Fine Arts Performing-Artist-in-Residence Nan Colton interprets the life of the author in period costume. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library.

Saturday, April 7, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: Guillermo del Toro's beast this time is a South American river creature considered a god by the local population. View a newly anointed Oscar winner! 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.

Thursday, April 12, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*: This fascinating documentary follows 15 months in the lives of three gay Palestinian men and their female friend residing in Tel-Aviv, pursuing equal civil rights. Refreshments available for donations accepted for the LGBTQ Resource Center. Refreshments available for donations accepted for the LGBTQ Resource Center. For movie title, call 727-893-1074.

Saturday, April 14, 1 p.m. - *Recorder Concert*: Adult performers' group based in St. Petersburg.

Thursday, April 19, 7 p.m. - An Evening with Jeff Klinkenberg: Author discussion of his newly published book, *Son of Real Florida: Stories from My Life*.

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@mygulfpport.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. - *Gulfpport 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. - *Gulfpport Toastmasters*: Email contact@gulfpporttoastmasters.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 25 - March 3, 2018:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	2004	1,536
Sun. 2/25	Library closed	
Mon. 2/26	334	284
Tue. 2/27	315	260
Wed. 2/28	307	232
Thu. 3/1	406	253
Fri. 3/2	320	228
Sat. 3/3	306	205

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfport.us/gtv640. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Created designs for e-newsletter.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.

Multipurpose Senior Center

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

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

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

The Senior Center participates in the **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 March 12. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

Everyone is invited to the **New Horizons Band of Gulfport free concert** at the Gulfport Casino, at 7 p.m. Monday, March 12. Join us for *A tribute to George Gershwin, Highlights from Jersey Boys, Wizard of Oz, and Chicago* among other popular tunes.

Join Meridien Research at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 14 for an informative **presentation on health conditions women over 50 should watch for** and tips for staying healthy.

Join the **Out to Lunch Bunch** on March 15 for a fun, unique entertainment and dining experience during *Ed Fletcher's Early Bird Dinner Theater presentation of Nunsense*. Round trip transportation, buffet lunch with gratuities & show: GEMS members \$46, nonmembers \$50. A minimum of 10 travelers are required to book this trip.

Learn to download apps, take/send pictures, add contacts, adjust phone settings and more during the **iPhone/iPad instructional class** at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, March 15. Space is limited. Call 893-5657 to register.

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!

Join Wendy for **Humana Health Talk** at 10:30 am. Monday, March 19. This month's topic: *Nutritional IQ*.

Community members and Stetson Law Students will advise seniors of different scams, identity theft and fraud during the **Consumer Protection Fair** at 2:30 p.m. Monday, March 19. Speakers, door prizes, and much more! **FREE shredding** of sensitive documents will be available at the fair and the following week. Proudly donated by Business Records Management. *LIMIT one file size box or bag per person.

Join the queen in a jubilee, watch a jousting match, eat turkey legs, and more as we travel back in time to the **Bay Area Renaissance Festival** on Friday, March 23. Round trip transportation & admission: GEMS members \$15; nonmembers \$20.

Enjoy culture, geography, and the history of **Women of Arabia** as Mary Stenov shares her many artifacts and stories at 1 p.m. Friday, March 23. Mary lived in Saudi Arabia for several years during the massive changes in the last quarter of the 20th century, and will discuss the lives of Saudi women, past and present and explore the culture. SPACE is LIMITED; call 893-5657 to register.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, March 23. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

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 March 29.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cookbooks, collectibles and many other goodies at **First Friday Flea Market** on April 6 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, April 12.

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):

Monday, February 26	7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance (Turnout 112)
Tuesday, February 27	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 12) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 33) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 27) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 86)
Wednesday, February 28	8 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 53) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 359)
Thursday, March 1	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 10) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 33) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 24)
Friday, March 2	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 53) 7 p.m. - Dance for Plants (Turnout 130)
Saturday, March 3	5 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 250)

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 25 2 p.m. - Jeanne Lynn Dance Studio recital (Turnout 120)
- Sunday, March 3 7 p.m. - *An Evening with Ferron* (Turnout 173)

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events)

- Sunday, February 25 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 16)
 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, February 26 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 51)

Tuesday, February 27 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 32)
Thursday, March 1 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 10)
Friday, March 2 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 44)

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. Thirteen Tot Time/VPK participants and eight parents visited the Great Explorations museum in St. Petersburg on Wednesday.

Thirty-five 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, Gentle Yoga, Heal Your Life Book Club, Essential Oils, Karate, Pickleball, Slow Flow Yoga, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tennis, Watercolor and Zumba.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff Meeting on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 56 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest

Life Safety:

- 14 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.
- 1 Plans Review
- 1 Sprinkler Permit

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is March 15, and will take place at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street.

Gulfport Firefighters have commenced their online March CME training in Target Solutions. This month's topics: Special needs for Infants and Transportation on Pediatrics, MCI Triage Tags and Assessment.

Gulfport Fire Rescue is analyzing, reviewing and evaluating new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) from different vendors for compliance with the new NFPA standard. We have budgeted and applied for a Safer Grant for the project.

Chief Marenkovic and Finance Director Cheryl Hannafin continued working on the FY 2018/19 ALS First Responder Program budget this week.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced soap dispensers in two locations and repaired desk drawer at Senior Center.
- Replaced photocell for parking area at Police Station.
- Repaired office equipment at Library.
- Lowered flags at all City buildings.
- Repaired wall and relocated fire extinguisher in theater lobby.
- Secured area behind Casino, washed canopy and exterior door, and repaired deck boards & exhaust fans in outdoor restrooms.
- Cleaned Recreation Center roof gutters, repaired toy cart and replaced photocell on playground.
- Repaired toilet in in Fire Department ladies' restroom.
- Installed food pantry in front of Library.
- Replaced faucet in beach outdoor men's restroom.
- Removed chairs from City Hall Council chambers in preparation for municipal election.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Poured slab at Hoyt field in preparation for shed installation.
- Commenced resurfacing of Chase block tennis courts, and replaced fence.
- Received quotes for fence replacement at Recreation Center exercise area and pavilion.
- Installed signage on bike racks throughout City.
- Installed trash/recycle bins on Beach Boulevard.
- Ordered new trash receptacles.
- Mowed Caldwell Park, 14th Avenue medians, Pasadena entrance area, Chase block/Dog Park & Clymer greenway.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Veterans & Caldwell Parks, and along Shore Boulevard streetscape.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.

- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched beach parking lot green spaces and installed new plants, planted tree at City complex, cleared leaves on Beach Boulevard, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- All City park trash and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playgrounds.
- Inspected exterior lights at all City buildings.

Streets & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Performed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Cleaned and removed debris from beach, storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways, alleyways & sidewalks.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at points of connection to water distribution system.
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters.
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall.).
- Daily check of ground water levels.
- Completed routes #9, 10, 11 & 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 24 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 3 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 132 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 15 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Performed annual inspection and testing of 5 backflows due in March.
- Commenced annual water distribution system flushing.
- Repaired water break at 3032 56th 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.
- Installed sewer laterals for new homes at 1617 & 1619 52nd Street.

Stormwater

- Repaired curb inlets at 1025 54th Street, and 1120 & 1202 53rd Street.
- Cleaned catch basins at 5314 23rd Avenue and 5325 11th 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 under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

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

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

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

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at 582-3100.

- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

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

Code Enforcement activities have moved to Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast area which generally extends north to 7th Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58th Street and east to 49th Street.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous. E-mail correspondence is considered a public record. 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.

April 4, 2018 Planning and Zoning Board and April 17, 2018 City Council/CRA meeting:

C17-04: 5110 Tangerine Avenue South; Conditional Mixed Use Application with a Site Plan for the addition of a personal services use to the front of an existing single family structure to create a live-work use, and the addition of the required off-street parking spaces.

C18-01: 5111 Gulfport Boulevard South; Conditional Use Application with a Site Plan for the razing of the existing restaurant and drive-through facility, and the proposed construction of a new restaurant with a drive-through facility.