



Gulfport Community Update

March 11 - 17, 2018

Public Works Director Tom Nicholls reports he received the following **22nd Avenue Drainage Improvement Project update** from Pinellas County: The contractor will continue installing the remainder of the drainage pipe and structures on the north side of 22nd Avenue between 53rd & 52nd Street and anticipates completion in late March. For more information, call Pinellas County Project Coordinator Wesley Merritt at 464-8821.

Public Works Director Tom Nicholls reports that **sanitary sewer pipe work** is underway throughout the City. The process will take approximately 18 months.

The **tennis courts at 5313 27th Avenue South will remain closed during the week of March 19** 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 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.

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.

Gulfport Library staff, the Gulfport Neighbors and many residents helped stock the **Little Free Pantry** at the Library in preparation for the March 13 grand opening (photos below).



Upcoming Events:

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 the 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 mpscfoundation@tampabay.rr.com.

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 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 annual **Gulfport Springfest Garden Art & Faerie Festival** is 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday, April 7 & 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday April 8. Gulfport's 7.5 acre Clymer Park transforms into an enchanted village inhabited by Renaissance-era characters, gypsies, minstrels, wizards and roving entertainers in costume, featuring a wide variety of family friendly activities. Vendors will offer plants, garden art, flowers, herbs, Renaissance-period clothing, jewelry, art, hand-made crafts, food & beverages, and other items of whimsical interest. There is no admission for this pet and family friendly event, and complimentary parking is available with trolley rides to and from off-site parking areas. For more information visit www.sikpromotions.com/applicants/spring/springfest or www.facebook.com/GulfportSpringfest.

The **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, April 14 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.

It's almost that time again! Bring your Gulfport I.D. and your junk to the **Gulfport Neighbors Junk in the Trunk** at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Saturday, April 28, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Drop junk that works at the free trade table. Free bike registration and helmets for kids, have coffee with a cop and get gardening tips from the community garden team. The City's Public Works Department will also have a garbage truck for the kids to check out.

BCYC's Funday is Saturday, May 6, 1 - 4 p.m. This annual open house offers an opportunity for the public to tour the Boca Ciega Yacht Club and learn about their activities and positive impact on the community. For more information call 321-7295 or visit www.sailbcyb.org.

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	154
Self-initiated calls for service	317
Offenses	40

Arrests	5
Traffic citations	44
Ordinance violations	39
Residence checks	42

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 4900 block of 12th Avenue reported that he was home alone on the morning of March 8 when someone knocked on the front door. He didn't answer the door, and someone then removed his mother's bedroom window, entered and stole a safe.

A resident in the 5300 block of 29th Avenue reported that his red BMX style bicycle was stolen three weeks earlier, and he found it for sale online.

A resident in the 4900 block of 15th Avenue reported on March 9 that someone printed two fake checks with his routing and account numbers, and used them for purchases at Petco and Walgreens.

Officer Nicita stopped three female juveniles for being truant from Boca Ciega High School. A fourth subject walked away from the group and was found two blocks away by Sergeant Vandenberg. She attempted to lie about her age, and smelled of fresh marijuana. She eventually admitted she was a student and pulled a marijuana cigar from her bra. She was transported to the Pinellas County Juvenile Assessment Center.

A resident in the 5200 block of 27th Avenue reported that she received a phone call from someone claiming to be with the Internal Revenue Service (IRS). The caller told her that she owed the IRS money and would be arrested. She was instructed to buy gift cards and provide the numbers to the caller. The victim bought \$2500 worth of gift cards, and became suspicious after giving the gift card information when the suspect told her that she also needed to empty her bank accounts.

A resident reported seeing a man walking 2100 block of 58th Street carrying a pressure washer and when confronted, the man asked if it belonged to him. The resident said yes and the man gave him the pressure washer, which was later discovered to have been stolen from a fenced in yard nearby. A suspect has been identified and the investigating officer is waiting for forensic evidence to be processed.

A resident in the 2400 block of 52nd Street was issued county ordinance violation on March 10 after a caller reported two large dogs were chasing a cat. Responding officers were able to corral the dogs and return them to the owner who had several prior warnings for the dogs being at large.

Officers were dispatched to report of an argument in the 6200 block of 15th Avenue. They discovered that David Nas, who was intoxicated, took the keys to his brother's car and was determined to drive. Nas' family members and the responding officers tried to convince Nas to relinquish the keys but he refused. When officers attempted to take Nas into protective custody under the Marchman Act he resisted, forcing an officer to spray him with pepper spray. He was charged with resisting officers without violence.

Officers responded to a report of an unconscious person in the 3100 block of Clinton Street on March 11. The man was found on his balcony and transported to the hospital, and the events that led to his condition are under investigation.

A customer at McDonald's reported on March 12 that he plugged his phone into an outlet in the dining room, and left it on his table while he went to the restroom. Another customer stole the phone and charger. After viewing store video, officers found the suspect walking down the street a short time later. The phone was returned and the victim decided not to prosecute.

A resident in the 1000 block of 60th Street reported on March 13 that someone claiming to be from the Internal Revenue Service told him he owed back taxes for the past 6 years. He purchased a Google Play Card for \$500 as instructed and provided the information to the suspect.

A car was reported stolen from Holy Name Church on March 14. The maintenance man observed a black male acting as a lookout while a white/Hispanic male broke into the car which then left the parking lot and was seen speeding around the area of Tomlinson Park throughout the day. SPPD found the car's front bumper/grill/headlights after a hit & run in their jurisdiction, and the rest of the car was found abandoned in an alley at 55th Street & 18th Avenue.

A resident in the 1700 block of 53rd Street reported that a former tenant stole a clothes dryer and took it to her new residence nearby. The dryer was returned and the victim chose not to prosecute.

The marine unit was on the water for 3 hours this week. Sergeant Burkhart issued to anchor light citations.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	9
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Supplements received:	19
Cases cleared with arrest:	5
Previously cleared with arrest:	5
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	12

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a hit and run case, a theft, a suicide, and a cyberstalking; attended a *Why Teens Kill* training class; and; Instructed the Citizens' Academy, covering the topic of registered sexual offenders.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for three fraud cases, an auto theft, a theft, and a burglary. She also reviewed subpoena returns and completed additional subpoena requests.

Officer Motte arrested trespasser on school grounds, and; facilitated the Monday night police explorer meeting, covering the topic of child abuse investigations.

Officer Embry investigated the theft of a cell phone and met with a parent regarding his son being bullied. He also attended a *Why Teens Kill* training class.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled February PCSO call out report and 2017 Jeanne Clery disclosure stats for Stetson; created a bulletin for Sgt. Woodman in an attempt to ID subjects of interest in an investigation, and; completed an analysis regarding reports of interference with security cameras and/or lights at residences, a review of property reported stolen to ensure proper entry into FCIC/NCIC, and pawn checks on 8 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description.

Records

Reports reviewed	8
Supplements reviewed:	47
Public Records requests:	37
Background checks:	4

Bike registrations:	12
Fingerprints	3
Subpoenas processed:	1
Citizens assisted	50

MARINA

Assisted with twenty-four pump outs evacuating four hundred eighty gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand ninety-six gallons of gas and one thousand seven hundred seventy-five gallons of diesel fuel, fueling ninety-five vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Replaced gas nozzle on pump #2, and fitted nozzle head with fuel-identifying slip cover.
- Replaced 30A receptacle on pier 7, slip 34.
- Inventoried all slips in marina and cross-checked empty slips against current rental data for discrepancies.
- Scraped barnacles and oyster shells along seawall.
- Performed routine maintenance on new northeast pump out.
- Inspected Marina piers for repairs and hazards.
- Stocked/rearranged coolers and rotated merchandise.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, March 5 - *AARP Income Tax Assistance.*

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

Monday, March 5, 5:30 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop.*

Monday, March 5, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club discussion of Giovanni's Room by James Baldwin.*

Tuesday, March 6, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga.*

Tuesday, March 6, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, March 6, 1:30 p.m. - *German Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, March 6, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, March 7, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, March 7, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout/Knitting.*

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

Thursday, March 8, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*

Thursday, March 8, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Thursday, March 8, 7 p.m. - *Still Aging Gracelessly: 50 Shades of Fay*

Friday, March 9 - *AARP Income Tax Assistance.*

Friday, March 9, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, March 3, 1:30 p.m. - *Dark Horse Writers Release Party.*

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 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.

Monday, April 2, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club discussion of Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin.

Tuesday, April 3, 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.

Wednesday, April 4, 1 p.m. - *Native American Flute Class*: Instructor, Music Therapist Janalea Hoffman has a passion for this instrument, and has used it extensively in therapy for cancer, depression and anxiety, and teaches it just for fun. For more information or to register, call 913-710-8535.

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.

Monday, April 9, 5:30 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop*: First 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.

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 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@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 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 March 4 - 10, 2018:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,943	1,488
Sun. 3/4	Library closed	
Mon. 3/5	383	283
Tue. 3/6	350	248
Wed. 3/7	205	220
Thu. 3/8	355	224
Fri. 3/9	326	238
Sat. 3/10	305	195

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.

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 drivers 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 Talks** 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.

Technology is constantly changing, making it hard to keep up with the latest devices, & trends. Stetson students will offer instruction & tips at **Tech Tips with Stetson** at 3 p.m. Monday, March 26. This month's topic: *Smart Phones and Tablets*. Space is limited; call 893-5657 to register.

Be prepared for a day of fun at **John's Pass Village & Boardwalk** with over 100 shops, restaurants, and attractions right on the Gulf on Tuesday, March 27. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$5; nonmembers \$7

Join the Gulfport Fire Department at the Senior Center at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 28 to learn **CPR, Basic First Aid, & AED use**. This course is ideal for those who want to learn the basics, but don't need course completion certification. Space is limited; call 893-5657 to register.

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.

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 April 9. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

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.

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 April 20. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

Have you always wanted to learn to play Bridge but thinks it's too difficult? Join the **Bridge 101** class every Monday at 9 a.m. This class is for those who know nothing or almost nothing about Bridge. Learn to bid and all the tricks to playing.

Are you overwhelmed with the responsibilities & challenges of being a caregiver? You are not alone! On-going support for you is essential. The **Caregivers Support Group** meets at 1 p.m. every first & third Friday of the month. This peer-led group will share tips, offer encouragement, and discuss the trials, demands, & overwhelming experience of caring for a loved one.

The **FUNDamentals of Watercolor** class meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. This basic class uses a limited palette which emphasizes watercolor techniques including color selection, color mixing, blending and glazing, and use of the color wheel to choose a personal palette. No prior drawing or painting experience is necessary. Registration is required.

Join us for **Clubhouse Chatter** at 1 p.m. every Wednesday, offering open discussion about the MLB season and your hometown Rays; the good, the bad and the ugly and what the season could have been. Topics will include Player Personnel, Draft Picks, Farm System (Minor Leagues), Coaching Staff, Spring Season, Ticket Pricing, and of course the future of Tropicana Field. Rays staff and players will be invited attend.

Bring your game face for a friendly game of **Texas Hold'em** every Tuesday & Friday at high noon. No stakes; chips only.

The Seasoned Sowers Garden Club meets on the first & third Tuesday of every month at 9:30 a.m. Get down & dirty with one of America's favorite hobbies. No experience needed! Natural-born green thumbs & first-time gardeners welcome.

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc. Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every third Tuesday of the month. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

Recycle your old cell phone, General Mills Box tops, Campbell's labels, can tabs and eye glasses at the Senior Center. Staff forwards these items to the proper organizations for reuse, recycle or education.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater, Neighborhood Center & Scout Hall

Casino (last week's events):

Sunday, March 4	7 p.m. - Ballroom dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 41)
Tuesday, March 6	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 10) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 36) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 25) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 76)
Wednesday, March 7	8 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 46) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 355)
Thursday, March 8	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 6) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 35) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 19)
Friday, March 9	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 59)

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, March 4 3 p.m. - Frank Sinatra show (Turnout 11)

Thursday, March 8 7 p.m. - Fay Jacobs show (Turnout 125)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Thursday - Saturday March 15 - 17 & 22 - 24, 8 p.m., and Saturday & Sunday, March 17 & 18, and 25 & 26, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present *Becky's New Car*: An original comedy by Steven Dietz. Tickets \$18 (cash only) in advance, available at Beach Bazaar; \$20 at the door within one hour of performance, or online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org.

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events)

Sunday, March 4 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, March 5 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 46)

Tuesday, March 6 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 39)

Thursday, March 8 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 8)

Friday, March 9 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 13)

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-six 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, Walking Club, Watercolor and Zumba.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez met with the City Manager and Nicole Mozell from the Bay Area Saints Football League on Wednesday to discuss rental of Hoyt Field for practice. She also facilitated the Teen Council meeting on Friday.

Eric Nelson opened the Recreation Center for Election day activities on Tuesday morning.

Six Teen Councilmembers attended the monthly meeting on Friday. Advisor Marivel Gutierrez facilitated. Topics discussed: Advisor Report, approval of the February minutes, Events, Old Business and New Business.

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

- Continued roof repairs on Public Services building.
- Replaced 32 bulbs in Library.
- Reset clocks for all City buildings.
- Repaired water fountain, railing on handicap deck & dimmer light control in theater lobby.
- Opened three City buildings for election activities.
- Repaired door lock at Casino.
- Painted Police Department breakroom.
- Repaired fence on Casino deck.
- Moved boxes from Police Station to City Clerk's office.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Procured furniture for Police Department break room.
- Inspected roof at Public Services building.
- Continued resurfacing of tennis courts at Chase Block.
- Pressure washed concession stand, bleachers and sidewalks at Little league Fields.
- Cleaned west side of beach.
- Pressure washed steps and awning at Casino and sidewalk in front of volleyball courts
- Delivered barricades and tables for Nautical Flea Market.
- Repaired drinking fountains on Beach Boulevard.
- Hung air hose reel in garage.

- Repaired fence at Wood Ibis Park.
- Continued installation of signage on bike racks throughout City.
- Screwed down deck boards and rails on beach handicap deck.
- Mowed Clymer, Veterans & Caldwell Parks, City Complex, Senior Center, Library & Recreation Center green spaces, Dog Park & Hoyt field perimeter.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park, Library & Senior Center.
- 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 #23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 12 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 9 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 141 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 12 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 3 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Continued annual water distribution system flushing.
- Repaired fire hydrant at 54th Street & Tangerine Avenue.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 & 2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations 1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.

- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Cleaned, televised, and removed roots in sewer main line in 5600 block of 25th Avenue.

Stormwater

- Removed debris and rebuilt storm water structure at 57th Street & 29th Avenue.
- Built temporary ramp over drainage swale on Beach Boulevard.

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 results:

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. APPROVED

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. APPROVED

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 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 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.

April 11, 2018 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

V18-05: 2526 Beach Boulevard South; To reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 2.5 feet, from 25 feet to 22.5 feet for a proposed addition to the house which will connect the existing detached accessory structure (garage) to the principal structure (house).

V18-06: 4914 27th Avenue South; To reduce the front yard setback requirement by 12 feet 6 inches, from 25 feet to 12 feet 6 inches to allow for the proposed conversion of an enclosed non-conditioned front porch to become habitable/conditioned space, and the construction of a new open deck and steps to the existing front of the house which is located within the Conservation Overlay District.

V18-07: 5934 Skimmer Point Boulevard South; To reduce the left-hand one-third setback requirement by 11.7 feet, from 28.2 feet to 16.5 feet to allow for a 4' lower landing to be constructed on the left-hand side of the existing dock, which currently encroaches 13 feet into the required setback.

V18-08: Vacant Lot to be addressed as 5827 Skimmer Point Boulevard South; To reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 5 feet, from 20 feet to 15 feet to allow for an encroachment of a portion the master bedroom of a proposed, new house.