



Gulfport Community Update

March 18 - 24, 2018

Public Works Director Tom Nicholls reports he received the following **22nd Avenue Drainage Improvement Project update** from Pinellas County: Installation of new stormwater piping is complete. Crews will be pouring sidewalk, curb and driveways during the next two weeks. Paving is tentatively scheduled to begin April 9 and finish April 18. The contractor anticipates the work will be completed by May 4. For more information, call Pinellas County Project Coordinator Wesley Merritt at 464-8821.

The City of Gulfport Utilities Department **annual hydrant flushing and testing** has been completed. The annual flushing program is a vital component of the Utility Department's ongoing commitment to provide customers with the safest, highest quality water possible. For more information, call the Public Works Department at 893-1089.

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 court resurfacing project** is completed, and the courts at 5313 27th Avenue South have reopened. 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.

City of Gulfport residential water customers are eligible for a rebate of up to \$100 after the purchase and installation of a high efficiency water saving toilet. The application and guidelines are available at www.mygulfport.us/toilet-rebate-program. Restrictions apply. Call 893-1016 for more information.

Great things were happening at the **Gulfport Health & Wellness Expo** on Saturday, March 17. More than 350 participants enjoyed health screenings, demonstrations and healthy food choices from 42 different vendors, and learn a wealth of information concerning their recreational activities and ways to increase self-confidence (photos below).



The **Great American Cleanup at the Clam Bayou Nature Preserve** got off on a late start on March 17, but it was a beautiful day. Twelve volunteers collected nearly 100 lbs. of trash. Councilmember Christine Brown and family were first to arrive, and created an outdoor sculpture with their findings (photos below). Thank you volunteers for your hard work and great smiles. We look forward to seeing you at the next cleanup!



Upcoming Events:

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.

Groove on down to **Hippie Dash 5k** at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 19. The race begins in front of the Gulfport Casino. Can't make it on race day? Choose the VIRTUAL option when registering at www.racersignup.com/hippie-dash to receive your official bling and T-shirt! All proceeds benefit Goodwill's programs for adults with disabilities and other barriers to employment.

Get informed to be prepared during the **City of Gulfport Hurricane Seminar** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5502 27th Avenue at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 31. Admission is free. Attendees can enjoy a slice of pizza and a soft drink for \$3 beginning at 6 p.m.

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	38
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	83
Ordinance violations	30
Residence checks	46

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 5500 block of 15th Avenue reported on March 15 that someone reached through her car's open window and stole her purse. It was later found in a neighbor's yard but her wallet was missing.

Michael Kolb was arrested for trespassing after he forced his way through a window of his former apartment in the 5300 block of 27th Avenue on March 3. Kolb had been evicted a few days earlier.

Officers responded to a burglary in progress after a caller in Pasco County reported they received information that someone was seen entering a residence in the 2100 block of 58th Street. Officers made contact with the suspect and upon identification, the victim requested a trespass warning be issued. The suspect was issued the warning and released.

Officer Sigsbee checked a temporary tag on a car parked in the alley behind the 5200 block of 18th Avenue on March 18 and discovered that registered owner Kathryn Mittler had a warrant for armed carjacking. She was arrested.

Officers were dispatched to the 5300 block of 11th Avenue after a caller reported a woman battering her mother inside a car. Officers determined that the adult daughter is diagnosed schizophrenic and hasn't been taking her medications. She was taken into custody under the Baker Act.

A resident in the 5100 block of 15th Avenue reported that her American flag and pole were taken from the bracket attached to the front of her home.

Salim Shakarzadeh was arrested after he was stopped in the 800 block of 49th Street for a traffic violation and provided a false name. He was identified with the assistance of a fingerprint scanner. Officers determined he provided a false name was because had outstanding warrants. He was also driving with a suspended license.

Officer Ross found two bicycles stolen from a residence in Gulfport at a pawn shop in St. Petersburg on March 20. They were returned to their owner.

Officer Marshall arrested Clayton Farley on March 21 on a case he had been working for several weeks. Farley obtained a stolen vehicle title and passed it as genuine to the Department of Motor Vehicles after it was forged to indicate the car was sold to him. Farley then used the new title to take the victim's car. He was charged with auto theft, possession of a title with intent to defraud, and uttering a forged instrument.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a man and woman fighting in the street in the 2800 block of 49th Street. Both said that they were only arguing. Officers discovered that the man, identified as Saviyon Thompson was wanted by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office for sale of marijuana. He was arrested without incident.

Officers were approached by two juveniles who stated the BMX bicycle being driven by a third subject was stolen. Officers determined that the bicycle was in fact reported stolen and seized it. The owner was advised that he could claim the bike the following day, and the case was forwarded to the St. Petersburg Police Department for further investigation.

The marine unit was not in use this week.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	7
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Supplements received:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	3
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	8

Investigator Highlights

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a death investigation, a sexual battery, a theft, and an auto theft. She also conducted research on suspects with outstanding probable cause arrest affidavits in attempt to locate them.

Officer Motte escorted 5 truants to the office and trespassed a former student from campus; completed a Baker Act evaluation on a student who did not meet the criteria, and; facilitated Monday night police explorer meeting covering the topic of in progress crimes.

Officer Embry investigated an incident involving a criminal mischief in which someone wrote something on a restroom wall. He also met with parents regarding their daughter being injured at school. It was determined the student had been horse playing with another student.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano researched vacation rental properties for potential tax violations; compiled and distributed open case lists, and; began compiling citations and crash data for Sergeant Marotta.

Records

Reports reviewed	14
Supplements reviewed:	59
Public Records requests:	54
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted	40

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, March 12 - *AARP Income Tax Assistance.*

Monday, March 12, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Tuesday, March 13, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, March 13, 1:30 p.m. - *German Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, March 13, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, March 14, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, March 14, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout/Knitting.*

Wednesday, March 14, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, March 15, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*

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

Thursday, March 15, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Thursday, March 15, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws.*

Thursday, March 15, 6 p.m. - *Bees Learning mobile reading intervention program.*

Thursday, March 15, 7 p.m. - *Sexual Harassment in the Media Workplace and Beyond*

Friday, March 16 - *AARP Income Tax Assistance.*

Friday, March 16, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, March 17, 10:30 a.m. - *Home Buyer's Seminar*.

Saturday, March 17, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family 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

Saturday, March 17, 10:30 a.m. - *Home Buyer's Seminar*: Series of 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.

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@mygulfpport.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.

Tuesday, April 17, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*: Kids, indulge your passion for the tiny building blocks of creativity! Meets in the Youth Services area.

Thursday, April 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel*. Copies available at the Circulation Desk. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, April 19, 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, 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*.

Saturday, April 21, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Joyous musical loosely based on the life of P. T. Barnum, from his humble beginnings to circus impresario. It stars Hugh Jackman, Michelle Williams, Zac Efron, and Zendaya. Rated PG-13. Call 893-1074 for movie title

Thursday, April 26, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

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*: call 537-9098 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 Thursday, 6 p.m. - *Bees Learning*: Mobile reading intervention program. Classes held in RV parked in front of Library. **Registration required.** Email leahveal@beeslearning.org or call 404-308-0295 for more information.

Every Friday, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*: For more information call 893-1073.

Library Services/Statistic March 11 - 17, 2018:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,879	1,140
Sun. 3/11		Library closed

Mon. 3/12	393	272
Tue. 3/13	335	239
Wed. 3/14	316	240
Thu. 3/15	359	245
Fri. 3/16	226	212
Sat. 3/17	234	160

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

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

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Created designs for e-newsletter.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.
- Commenced preparation of April events/meetings calendar.
- Provided photographic coverage the Great American Cleanup-Clam Bayou Cleanup and Health & Wellness Expo.

Multipurpose Senior Center

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Join Clubhouse Chatter for **Let's Play Ball** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 4. Meet Tampa Bay Rays Summer Baseball Camp Coaching Coordinator and Rays' Official Home Game Scorer Bill "Skip" Matthews to learn what goes on behind the scenes of a major league baseball team, how to develop a batting order, profiling a player to develop a positional player, and scoring at the major league level.

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.

If you're nearing or entering retirement and interested in a strategy designed to help build an income stream and make your retirement last, join us at 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 9 for **Who Will Pay Your Income during Retirement After the Paychecks Stop?** We'll explore how to budget for retirement expenses, examine potential sources of retirement income and identify ways to address potential risks. Refreshments will be served.

Happy is a contemporary tune that has captured airwaves for several years. It is an upbeat dance tune that can be heard in the car or the grocery. The lyricist defines happiness as 'a room without a roof'. But what does it take to be happy? Join Dr. Cate at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 11 for **Happiness and the Healthy Brain** as she brings the latest in research with humor and interactive discussion.

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.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, April 27. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

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 11	6 p.m. - Soul Night with Swingtime (Turnout 157)
Monday, March 12	7 p.m. - New Horizons Band free concert (Turnout 350)
Tuesday, March 13	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 8) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 42) Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 23) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 84)
Wednesday, March 14	8 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 37) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 320)
Thursday, March 15	9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 6) 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 39) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 17)
Friday, March 16	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 44)

6 p.m. - Impacs sock hop (Turnout 458)

Saturday, March 17 10 a.m. - Health & Wellness Expo (Turnout 300)

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):

Thursday, March 15 8 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Becky's New Car* (Turnout 47)

Friday, March 16 8 p.m. - GCP presents *Becky's New Car* (Turnout 105)

Saturday, March 17 2 p.m. - GCP presents *Becky's New Car* (Turnout 30)
8 p.m. - GCP presents *Becky's New Car* (Turnout 53)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Thursday - Saturday March 22 - 24, 8 p.m., and Saturday & Sunday, March 24 & 25, 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 11 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 23)
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 12 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 39)
- Tuesday, March 13 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 38)
- Thursday, March 15 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 8)
- Friday, March 16 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 18)
- Saturday, March 17 Noon - Private party (Turnout 34)

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. Sixteen Tot Time/VPK participants and five parents visited the Petersburg Main Library on Monday.

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, Micheal Williams and Savannah Roderick attended R'Club training in St. Petersburg on Friday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport Tot Time/VPK Program participants to the St. Petersburg Main Library on Monday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 54 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 5 Fire Alarms
- 5 Vehicle Crashes
- 3 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Wires Down

Life Safety:

- 8 Fire Inspections
- 4 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.
- 2 Plan Review
- 2 Fire Investigations

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is April 19, and will take place at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street.

Chief Marenkovic attended the EMSLG meeting on March 20 to discuss EMS issues with other EMS Chiefs and County Staff. He also attended the monthly Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association meeting on March 22.

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

- Performed annual sprinkler and alarm inspection at Casino and monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Purchased sink, faucet, and microwave for PD breakroom, and installed cabinets.
- Repaired paper towel dispenser at Casino.
- Converted "shop light" to LED, and repaired bay door motor and hinge at Garage.

- Installed Historical Museum sign.
- Patched wall in City Hall.
- Repaired drawer and door stop at Senior Center, and lights in garden.
- Repaired leaky toilet in beach restrooms.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Set up trash & recycling bins for Clam Bayou cleanup & St. Patrick's events.
- Covered permit parking signs along beach and secured Senior Center parking lots in preparation for events.
- Picked up/dropped off supplies from Keep Pinellas Beautiful for Clam Bayou clean up.
- Inspected roof at Public Service building.
- Continued resurface of Chase block tennis courts.
- Pressure washed event trashcans and barricades, and tennis court practice wall & court.
- Dropped tables off at Casino for health fair.
- Repaired Tomlinson exercise equipment and ordered parts.
- Assembled furniture at Police Department.
- Repaired fence at Wood Ibis Park.
- Mowed City complex, Veterans, Wood Ibis & Clam Bayou Parks, and trail spur.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer & Veterans Parks and Library.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Recreation Center, Library & Senior Center green spaces, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced drive chains on reel mowers and adjusted 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 #31, 32, 33 & 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 17 locations for non-payment of service.

- Completed 2 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 7 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Performed annual inspection and testing on 5 backflows due in March.
- Finished annual water distribution system flushing.
- Repaired fire hydrant at 53rd Street & 29th 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.
- Performed proactive quarterly cleaning of sewer lines on Essex Avenue, in alleyway between 31st Avenue & Shore Boulevard, and from Beach Boulevard to 58th Street.

Stormwater

- Removed debris and rebuilt storm water structure at 56th Street & 29th Avenue.
- Removed debris and replaced curb inlet top at 51st Street & 15th Avenue.
- Replaced broken curb around underdrain at 5702 27th Avenue.
- Removed debris from 30 storm drains following heavy rains.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced brakes, cab bushing & hazard lights on Parks' vehicle #712, and changed oil.
- Replaced 2 tires on Sewer vehicle #75.
- Replaced brake pads and brake rotors, fuel filter and alternator on Police vehicle #155, and changed oil.
- Replaced air regulator valve and 2 hydraulic hoses on Sanitation vehicle #43
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles as needed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

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

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

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on

more complex construction projects, larger projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

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

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

Code Enforcement activities continued this week in Section 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.

Beginning in April, code enforcement will move to Section 3 of the City, also referred to as the Southwest Neighborhood area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58th Street & 59th Streets to the City Limits. 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

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.

Consideration of a Gulfport City Council ordinance amending the City of Gulfport Comprehensive Plan pursuant to the evaluation and appraisal process of section 163.3191, Florida statutes, and the amendment process of section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, adopting new goals, objectives, and policies, and maps as presented herein below; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date.

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.