



Gulfport Community Update

February 25 - March 3, 2018

Public Works Director Tom Nicholls reports he received the following **22nd Avenue Drainage Improvement Project update** from Pinellas County: TECO removed the previously abandoned asbestos gas line, and Citgo has completed removal of the contaminated material and is currently restoring the area; the contractor will begin night operations the week of March 4, which will include the installation of storm pipe across 22nd Avenue and structures on the south side of the road. 22nd Avenue will be reduced to one lane with a flagger operation during late night crossings, but crews expect to have the road back to two lane operation no later than 6 a.m. each morning. The contractor anticipates completing night work by the weekend of March 9, and day operations to resume the week of March 12. For more information, call Pinellas County Project Coordinator Wesley Merritt at 464-8821.

56th Street South will be closed between 28th & 29th Avenues during the week of March 5 for a road rehabilitation project. Residents are asked to use their alley access during construction. The Gulfport Public Works Department anticipates the project will be completed and the street reopened to traffic on Friday, March 9. For more information, call Public Works at 893-1089.

The **tennis courts at 5313 27th Avenue South will remain closed during the week of March 5** for resurfacing. For more information, call the City of Gulfport Parks Department at 893-1092.

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

Free smoke detectors are available to elderly and low income households within Gulfport City limits. Call Fire Chief James Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

Representatives from numerous pet rescue groups share information and adoption options with thousands of attendees during the annual **Get Rescued** event in the Gulfport Waterfront District on February 24 (photos below). For more photos Visit www.amazon.com/photos/share/cK0fmtSfkUEIeb7T8CYvXVtfwOXtdboZS4k4MzUU0Fc.



Upcoming Events:

The Third Annual Dance for Plants returns to the Gulfport Casino at 6:30 p.m. Friday, March 2 with music from WMNF DJ Cheryl Mogul's mix of swing, blues, soul, shag and zydeco. Festivities will include a raffle with prizes donated from the community, expert gardening advice and plant giveaways. Join your friends for a fabulous evening supporting our local Garden which donates produce to the Gulfport Senior Center food pantry. Tickets \$10 in advance, available at the Gulfport Casino, Beach Bazaar and Mangia Gourmet, or \$12 at the door. Come dressed to impress in plant themed costume and receive \$2 off at-door ticket price. Proceeds benefit the Gulfport Community Garden. For more information call George Zarillo at 845-242-7452 or visit www.GulfportCommunityGarden.org.

The **Pink Flamingo Tour of Homes** has become an annual ritual that loyal visitors, advertisers and sponsors have made the Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce's most successful fundraiser. Each year we seek out the best homes to represent our wonderful city. This year's event is scheduled for Saturday, March 3. The tour will begin at the registration area at Holy Name Church, 5800 15th Avenue. Tickets \$20 in advance, available at the Gulfport Welcome Center, Beach Bazaar or online at www.pinkflamingohometour.com/buy-tickets, or \$25 day of the tour. A free trolley and van will be circling the tour route from 11 a.m. until 5 p.m. We encourage walking or biking the 2.25-mile route. For more information email Karen Love at karenlovegfl@gmail.com or call 770-497-1139.

The **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 permit **FREE Citywide Yard Sale** is Saturday, March 10 from dawn to dusk. The deadline to get your address on the brochure ended March 2, but temporary signs will be permitted on public right of ways where the sale is being held, as long as it does not interfere/block pedestrian/vehicle traffic views or permanent street signs. Other temporary signs may be placed on private property with the permission of the owner or occupant. Please do not display signs more than 24 hours before the sale day. Signs must be removed by 7 p.m. the day of the sale. Vehicles may temporarily park in residential only or resident decal required parking the day of the sale as long as they do not interfere/block rights of way or traffic flow. All other parking provisions under state law are enforced. Please do not block driveways, or park on sidewalks or against the flow of traffic. Walking a little further may help you find the bargain of a lifetime! Call Kristin Ossola at 893-1118 for more information.

Help reduce pollution in our waterways and get rid of unwanted debris on Gulfport Beach during the **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 10. A limited number of pickers will be available; if you have one please bring it. The group meets at Gulfport Beach shelter #4. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and make a difference in the community.

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.

Interested in unloading nautical equipment or searching for cool fishing gear? Look no further than the Gulfport Marina's annual **Nautical Flea Market** on Saturday, March 18, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. 10x10 vendor spaces (bring your own table) are \$10; free for slip renters. Space is limited so sign up early at the Marina, 4630 29th Avenue. For more information call Denis Frain at 893-1071.

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

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	147
Self-initiated calls for service	358
Offenses	35
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	74
Ordinance violations	41
Residence checks	37

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident reported on February 22 that after leaving a bar in the area of 20th Avenue & 49th Street a white male hit her in the face with a board and bricks, and stole her cell phone and prescription medication.

A resident in the 2600 block of Beach Boulevard reported on February 23 that sometime overnight someone damaged the solar landscaping lights in his front yard.

Gulfport Police impounded eight cars parked between the 2800 & 3100 blocks of Beach Boulevard on February 24 for parking in the Gulfport Get Rescued special event zone.

A City employee found an urn containing ashes on Gulfport Beach. Officer Clague returned it to the spouse.

Two juveniles knocked a resident off his bicycle in the 1800 block of 51st Street and attempted to take the bags he was carrying. The suspects left the area without the bags and were later found at McDonald's where the resident identified them. They initially denied involvement before admitting to being there, but denied they tried to rob the victim. They were taken to the Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center and their parents were notified.

Officers were dispatched to Tomlinson Park on February 25 after a caller reported a juvenile female armed with a knife and wearing a mask was frightening other children. Officers made contact with the girl and determined she had no intention of hurting anyone, and was apparently mimicking behavior she had seen in YouTube videos. She was released to her parents.

Dwayne McNeal was arrested for no valid driver license on February 26 after Officer Pope made contact with him for blocking the entrance to Boca Ciega High School during morning drop off. McNeal had a suspended identification card and has never had a driver's license issued.

A resident in the 1400 block of 62nd Street observed two juvenile suspects getting into a car. They ran when he confronted them. Gulfport officers and a Pinellas County Sheriff's Office K9 located them, and following an interview at GPD they admitted to vehicle burglary and provided additional information about crimes in St. Petersburg. St. Petersburg Police detectives interviewed the pair

which led to information on cases in their jurisdiction. Both suspects were charged with vehicle burglary and possession of burglary tools.

Ada Lewis was arrested on February 27 after a taxi driver reported she failed to pay her fair. She was taken into custody in the area of Shore Boulevard & 56th Street.

Dennis Mills was arrested for retail theft and providing a false name on February 28 after the manager at Save-A-Lot reported a white male fled the store with a backpack containing stolen items. Mills was located several blocks away and initially lied about his name, but a fingerprint scanner revealed his identity. Mills had prior theft convictions so the charges were upgraded to felony status.

Officer Carter arrested Dino Blake on a retail theft warrant from 1991. He was taken into custody in the 2000 block of 49th Street

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 8 hours this week. Four boater contacts were made and five marine citations were issued.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	11
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	10
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Supplements received:	14
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	1
Cases still active:	10

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a robbery case and multiple burglary cases.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for three auto thefts, two thefts, a death investigation, an armed robbery and a sexual battery; attended State Attorney Invests for a robbery case and a dealing in stolen property case, and; attended emotional survival for law enforcement training.

School Resource Officers Mott & Embry wrote 2 police reports this week; counseled 12 students; met with the parents of 6 students, and; attended a safety meeting.

Officer Motte provided security for a regional basketball game; attended emotional survival for law enforcement training; assisted patrol with shift coverage, and; taught the police explorers building clearing.

Officer Embry intervened when students had a verbal altercation during lunch to prevent the incident from becoming physical. He attended emotional survival for law enforcement training.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano presented the monthly crime analysis review at the staff meeting; completed pawn checks on 13 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description, and; celebrated her 25-year anniversary with GPD.

Records

Reports reviewed	25
Supplements reviewed:	66
Public Records requests:	44
Background checks:	4
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	1
Subpoenas processed:	6
Citizens assisted	57

MARINA

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

Pumped six thousand one hundred seventy-nine gallons of gas and two thousand seven hundred eighty-five gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred sixty vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Repaired pump-out hose on pier #6.
- Drove down loose decking screws along pier #6.
- Replaced damaged GFI on electrical pedestal for Pier #2.
- Replaced damaged line hangers on piers 7-B & 7-C.
- Inspected and cleaned pump out sensor rods, and performed routine maintenance on both pumping stations.
- Inspected Marina piers for repairs and hazards.
- Stocked/rearranged coolers and rotated merchandise.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, February 20, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, February 20, 1:30 p.m. - *German Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, February 20, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

Tuesday, February 20, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, February 21, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, February 21, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout/Knitting.*

Wednesday, February 21, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, February 22, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate.*

Thursday, February 22, 6 p.m. - *Black History Month Movie.*

Friday, February 23 - *AARP Income Tax Assistance.*

Friday, February 23, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, February 24, 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 filing is available through April 16. For more information, call 893-1073.

Saturday, March 3, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: Independent film about a surgeon who takes in a teenager when the boy's father dies on the operating table, and the effect this has on the rest of his family - especially when they begin to suspect the teen's true motives. It stars Colin Farrell and Nicole Kidman, and is rated R. This monthly series is intended to allow adults to enjoy more challenging and complex films in a quiet atmosphere, so we request that no children attend. Call 893-1074 for title.

Monday, March 5, 5:30 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop*: Third in a series of free monthly instructional sessions taught by Landis Braddock. Workshops will be presented as a three class cycle: Beginner, Advanced Beginner and Strum & Sing Jam.

Monday, March 5, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club discussion of Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin. Copies available at the Circulation Desk.

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

Thursday, March 8, 7 p.m. - *Still Aging Gracelessly: 50 Shades of Fay*: Fay Jacobs returns to the Catherine Hickman Theater for another hilarious evening! Tickets \$20, available at Gulfport Casino; Beach Bazaar or at the door. Sponsored by the Library's LGBTQ Resource Center.

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

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

Thursday, March 15, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*: Young readers boost their confidence by sharing a story with Maya, a specially trained Golden Retriever. She visits our children's area on the third Thursday of every month.

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

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club*: We'll try a fun new activity every week, explore engineering through building with Lego's, and meet other young scientists and engineers in the community! Email cklasson@mygulfport.us or call 893-1074 to register.

Every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. - *German Conversation Club*: Enjoy conversing in a relaxed atmosphere with others. All levels are welcome; this is not a class, simply an opportunity to engage with others interested in improving fluency.

Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*: Bring a dictionary and bag lunch. A different language group meets each weekday: Tuesday - French; Italian; Wednesday - Spanish; Friday - German. For more information call 893-1074.

Every Tuesday, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*. For more information call 360-9069.

Every first & third Tuesday, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*: Everyone is invited to join Allen Goldenson for some strummin' fun!

Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Every Wednesday, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout/Knitting*: Know how to knit? Want to learn or get better doing it? We'll supply the needles and yarn.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*: Email contact@gulfporttoastmasters.com for more information.

Every Thursday, 10:30 a.m. - *Storytime*: Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area. Cailey leads the group in singing songs, playing instruments & networking with other caregivers in our community.

Every Thursday, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*: Join us for an afternoon story, songs, movement and crafts! Everyone welcome but geared for 2-5 year-olds.

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

Library Services/Statistic February 18 - 24, 2018:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,560	1,429
Sun. 2/18	Library closed	
Mon. 2/19	Holiday - Library closed	
Tue. 2/20	258	360
Wed. 2/21	363	245
Thu. 2/22	311	228
Fri. 2/23	270	216
Sat. 2/24	333	192

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.

- Provided photographic coverage for annual Gulfport Get Rescued event.

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.

Did you know **70-80% of all visits to the doctor are for stress related illness**? Did you know people who experience heightened levels of anxiety are 4-5 times more likely to have a fatal heart attack or stroke? Join us at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 7 to learn how to manage stress as Dr. Desulme breaks down the affects stress has on your body physically, mentally, and emotionally.

Get up close and personal with the amazing murals throughout St. Pete During our next **GEMS Getaway** on March 8. Round trip transportation: Gems members \$6, nonmembers \$8.

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Community Law Program provides **free legal assistance** at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. the third Friday of every month. The next meeting is March 16. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

Join us 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, March 17 for **CarFit**, a FREE, interactive & educational program developed by AAA, AARP, and the American Occupational Therapy Association that shows participants how to make their personal vehicle "fit" them to increase safety & mobility when they hit the road. Call 893-5657 to schedule a 20-minute appointment. Space is limited so don't wait!

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Casino (last week's events):

- Sunday, February 18 4 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 160)
- Tuesday, February 20 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 8)
10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 40)
Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 27)
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 79)
- Wednesday, February 21 8 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 44)
6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 329)
- Thursday, February 22 9 a.m. - Resource Property Management seminar (Turnout 150)
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 24)
- Friday, February 23 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 50)
- Saturday, February 24 8 p.m. - Birthday party (Turnout 150)

Casino (upcoming events):

- Friday, March 2 6:30 p.m. - *Dance for Plants*: Silent auction, costume contest & cash bar. Tickets \$10 in advance, \$12 at the door, or \$10 with plant inspired costume or attire
- 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):

Friday, February 23 7 p.m. - *Songs of Hope, Love & Courage* performed by husband-and-husband team Jon Arteron & James Mack (Turnout 173)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Saturday, March 3 7 p.m. - *Ferron in Concert*. Reserved premium seating \$38/general admission \$28, available at www.ferrongulfport.brownpapertickets.com, or call 216-406-6423

Sunday, March 4 3 p.m. - *It Was a Very Good Year*. One of a kind musical multi-media Frank Sinatra Tribute. Tickets \$20, available at Casino & Beach Bazaar

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events)

Sunday, February 18 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 16)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Neighborhood Center (upcoming events):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every first - third Sunday 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - Bible study

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

Scout Hall (last week's events):

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

Monday, February 19 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 18)

Tuesday, February 20 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 44)

Thursday, February 22 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 9)

Friday, February 23 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 22)

Scout Hall (upcoming events):

Every Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday 6 p.m. - Meditation class

Every Tuesday & Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class

Recreation Center

Seventy-eight children are registered for the **2017/18 School Year Child Care program** for children who will be entering Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents and \$188 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Eighteen children are registered for the **2017/18 Tot Time program**, and six for **VPK**. Tot Time is a hands-on preschool program for children ages 3-5 that aims to make learning fun for children, and helps prepare them for Kindergarten. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply with Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas, Inc. and receive a Certificate of Eligibility to attend the program. Thirteen Tot Time/VPK participants and eight parents visited the Great Explorations museum in St. Petersburg on Wednesday.

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

Contractual classes: Bootcamp, Heal your Life Book Club, Essential Oils, Karate, Third Eye Mindful Art Workshop, Pickleball, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tennis, Watercolor and Zumba.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez, Micheal Williams and Savannah Roderick attended R'Club Child Care, Inc.'s Behavior Management community training in St. Petersburg on Friday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff Meeting on Wednesday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport Tot Time/VPK participants to Great Explorations in St. Petersburg on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 58 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 2 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 3 C.O.'s
- 6 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-Inspection
- 2 Plans Review

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, Securing Scene Assessment and Transportation needs.

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

- Removed banners at Library, and repaired office equipment and locking mechanism on exterior doors.
- Performed maintenance and replaced door on ice machine at City Yard.
- Replaced 20-amp breaker in Senior Center exercise room.
- Performed monthly filter change on all City air conditioning units.
- Installed magnetic lock mechanism on front door at City Hall.
- Repaired upstairs a/c unit at Recreation Center.
- Repaired laundry rack at Fire Department.
- Replaced cord covers at Neighborhood Center Public Works Department office.
- Adjusted doors at Scout Hall.
- Replaced door closer and fan in men's restroom, and repaired paper towel dispenser at Casino.
- Replaced photocell in Police Department parking lot.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Prepared walls in Police Department break room for paint.
- Repaired water fountain at Wood Ibis Park.
- Replaced fence at Chase block tennis courts.
- Replaced banners on Gulfport Blvd.
- Installed bike racks at exercise area, Recreation Center, beach, Shore Boulevard, pier entrance & Casino.
- Installed trash/ recycle receptacles at volleyball courts, Shore Boulevard, pier entrance & Casino.
- Measured and priced new decking for Casino.
- Replaced worn flags throughout City.
- Mowed City complex, Senior Center & Library green spaces, 28th Avenue & Tanerine Greenway sign areas, Clymer Park & Dog Park.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Veterans & Caldwell Parks, and along Shore Boulevard streetscape.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Beach streetscape & parking lot, City complex, Senior Center & Clymer Park, 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 #45, 46, 47 & 48 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 23 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 4 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 127 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 22 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck and not recording water usage.
- Performed annual inspection and testing of 51 backflows due in February.

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.
- Located and marked water valves and water meters for proposed alley grading.

Stormwater

- Repaired broken lids at 5131 24th Avenue, and at 6226 Fairway Bay.
- Cleaned catch basin at 5325 11th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

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

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at

www.pced.org/entrepreneurs or call 464-7723. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

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

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

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.

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

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

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

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous. E-mail correspondence is considered a public record. If you wish to make a complaint using e-mail such communications are not anonymous.

To review Code Enforcement activities documents for more detailed information and a map of Code Enforcement areas visit the Special Documents section at www.mygulfport.us.

Planning and Development

March 14, 2018 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

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

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