



Gulfport Community Update

March 25 - 31, 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.

Public Works Director Tom Nicholls reports that **sanitary sewer pipe work** is underway throughout the City. The process will take approximately 18 months. Beginning the evening of Tuesday, March 27th throughout the rest of the week, there will be nightly lane closures on Gulfport Blvd. due to sanitary sewer pipe relining. If you have any questions, please call the City of Gulfport Public Works Department at (727) 893-1089.

The **sidewalk on Beach Boulevard at 29th Avenue South is closed** until June due to a new building being constructed. 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.

Upcoming Events:

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 **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 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.

Friends of the Gulfport Groove present, “**A Dance Just for Fun!**” Friday, April 13th from 8 – 11 p.m. at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom, 5500 Shore Blvd. S. Songs from the 60’s through today will be played by our very own DJ ZK and the Mayor. Tickets are \$10 in advance or at the door. Advance tickets available at the Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Blvd S., and online at <https://www.facebook.com/events/2077978159152347>.

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 & 8k** 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.runsignup.com/Race/FL/Gulfport/HippieDash 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	131
Self-initiated calls for service	367
Incident/offense reports	24
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	89
Ordinance violations	31
Residence checks	74

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

On Thursday, March 22nd a person called 911 and said “robbery” and hung up. This occurred during dismissal at Gulfport Elementary School. Officers checked the area at the 2000 block of 51st St. S., while Commander Farrand called the cell phone number provided by dispatch. After several calls a juvenile answered the phone. He hung up several times, would not identify himself or tell her where he was located. The juvenile did say that they thought their bikes had been stolen from the elementary school, but that they were not stolen. Officers made contact with Gulfport Elementary School personnel, who knew nothing of any incidents involving their bicycle compound. Officers remained in area until the students left the school.

Leonard Sermon was stopped at the 1500 block of 49th St. S. for speeding on Friday, March 23rd. Sermon admitted that he was never issued a driver’s license. Sermon had an extensive driving history despite never having a driver’s license. He was arrested.

Officers responded to a 911 call at the 5900 block of Bayview Circle S., on Saturday, March 24th from a female who said she needed help getting someone out of her trunk. The female provided her address, but when the car alarm started going off she was unable to communicate with the 911 operator so she hung up. The 911 call taker called the number back and was able to determine that a man and woman were having an argument, and the boyfriend had locked himself in the trunk of his car. Approximately 40 minutes later, an officer located a spare set of keys and opened the trunk only to find that it was empty. The man was located inside the residence. The officers determined that the man and woman had an argument and there was no violence.

Sergeant Parks pulled over a car at the 900 block of 49th St. S., on Sunday, March 25th, because the driver, later identified as Alton Rowe, was not wearing his seat belt. Research of Rowe’s driving history revealed his license had been suspended for narcotics violations and had two prior convictions for driving on a suspended license. He was placed under arrest for a third offense of driving on a suspended license, a felony due to the priors.

On Monday, March 26th, Officer Marshall pulled over a vehicle at the 700 block of 49th St. S., because the license plate was registered to a different car than the one it was attached to. The driver, William Gates, had a suspended license so he was arrested for that and for attaching a tag not assigned. The passenger, Brenden Duffy, found to be in possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia, was also arrested.

On Tuesday, March 27th, a resident, living at 1602 53rd St. S., reported that she left for work a screen to her sunroom was on the ground. She believes that someone removed the screen. There was nothing missing from the residence and there was no indication that entry was made to the residence. The resident stated that she had just removed, cleaned and replaced all the screens over the prior weekend.

On Tuesday, March 27th, a business owner at the 1800 block of 49th St. S., called to report that he had done thousands of dollars of work on a vehicle and he believes that the owner may have used a spare key to come and get the car. The investigating officer spoke with the owner of the vehicle by phone who stated the vehicle must have been stolen because it should still be at the business. The vehicle was entered as stolen.

The **marine unit** was on the water for 6 hours this week. Five contacts were made and two marine citations were issued.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases: 9
Cases assigned: 3

Cases suspended-no leads:	4
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Supplements received:	10
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	4
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	4

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a theft, an armed robbery, and a burglary.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a death investigation, a sexual battery, and two thefts. She also conducted research on persons with outstanding probable cause arrest affidavits and warrants.

School Resource Officer Motte and Embry were on vacation during the public schools' spring break.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano put together crime prevention tips to be posted on Facebook, presented the monthly crime analysis briefing at the staff meeting, completed a review of property reported stolen to ensure proper entry into FCIC and completed pawn checks on 5 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description.

Records

Reports reviewed	20
Supplements reviewed:	57
Public Records requests:	27
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	1
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted	36

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, March 19, 9:30 a.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance.*

Monday, March 19, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

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

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

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

Tuesday, March 20, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club.*

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

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

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

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

Thursday, March 22, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, March 22, 11 a.m. – *Community Playdate*.

Thursday, March 22, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*.

Thursday, March 22, 6 p.m. - *Bees Learning mobile reading intervention program*.

Thursday, March 22, 7 p.m. - *From Baroque to Classical: Gulfport Chamber Players concert*.

Friday, March 23, 10 a.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance*.

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

Saturday, March 24, 10:30 a.m. - *Home Buyer's Seminar*.

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. Volunteer preparers will be available Mondays and Fridays at above hours through April 16, 2018 which is IRS filing deadline this season. Free Electronic filing is available at all sites. FMI, call 727-893-1073.

Saturday, March 31, 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, April 2, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club discussion of Giovanni's Room* by James Baldwin.

Tuesday, April 3, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

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

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

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

Saturday, April 7, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: Guillermo del Toro's beast this time is a South American river creature considered a god by the local population. View a newly anointed Oscar winner! Rated R. This monthly series is intended to allow adults to enjoy more challenging and complex films in a quiet atmosphere, so we request that no children attend. Call 893-1074 for title.

Monday, April 9, 5:30 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop*: First in a series of free monthly instructional sessions taught by Landis Braddock. Workshops will be presented as a three class cycle: Beginner, Advanced Beginner and Strum & Sing Jam.

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

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

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

Monday, April 23, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night*: For more information call 893-1073.

Tuesday, April 24, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults*: Nourish your body and spirit with mindful movement, breath work, and meditation. This slow-paced class welcomes all levels and each month will feature a different set of postures. Bring props if you want them. The class is taught by Christa Fairbrother, RYT and Certified Yoga for Arthritis Instructor. For more information and to sign up, call Cailey Klasson 893-1074.

Thursday, April 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, 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 18 - 24, 2018:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,805	1,292
Sun. 3/18	Library closed	
Mon. 3/19	318	287
Tue. 3/20	303	227
Wed. 3/21	322	257
Thu. 3/22	288	149
Fri. 3/23	342	161
Sat. 3/24	221	131

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.

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.

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 18	6 p.m. – Ballroom Dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 55)
Tuesday, March 20	9 a.m. – Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 7) 10:30 a.m. – Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 38) 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 23) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 56)
Wednesday, March 21	10 a.m. – Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 37) 6 p.m. – Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 284)
Thursday, March 22	9 a.m. – Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 5) 10:30 a.m. – Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 30) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 24)
Friday, March 23	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 47)
Saturday, March 24	5 p.m. – Thorpe-Robinson wedding (Turnout 150)

Casino (upcoming events):

Select Sundays	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom dance Admission \$8
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- Every second Sunday 6 p.m. - Soul Night with Swing Time Admission \$8
- Every fourth Monday 7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance: members \$5, non-members \$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 dancing 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
 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
 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
 8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8
- Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom
- Every third Friday 7 p.m. – Sock Hop with The Impacs

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events):

- Sunday, March 18 2 p.m. - GCP performance of "Becky's New Car" (Turnout 170)
- Thursday, March 22 8 p.m. - GCP performance of "Becky's New Car" (Turnout 100)
- Friday, March 23 8 p.m. – GCP performance of "Becky's New Car" (Turnout 131)
- Saturday, March 24 2 p.m. – GCP performance of "Becky's New Car" (Turnout 80)
 8 p.m. - GCP performance of "Becky's New Car" (Turnout 75)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

- Friday, April 6 6 p.m. - Art Reception with Senior Center watercolor group.
 Free and open to the public. Cash bar.

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events)

- Sunday, March 18 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church (Turnout 21)
 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 7)

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. - Faith Cathedral International Bible study

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. – Crime Watch meeting

Scout Hall (last week’s events):

Monday, March 19 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (Turnout 14)
11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 39)

Tuesday, March 20 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (Turnout 16)
10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 32)

Wednesday, March 21 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (Turnout 16)

Thursday, March 22 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (Turnout 11)
11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 10)

Friday, March 23 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (Turnout 18)
10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 17)

Scout Hall (upcoming events):

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

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

Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class

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

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.

Twenty-four 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. Eighteen Tot Time/VPK participants and six parents visited the Petersburg Main Library on Monday.

Thirty-seven 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

John Lapham took the school bus to Dynamic Diesel in Clearwater on Friday afternoon to get the school bus's annual inspection.

Marivel Gutierrez and John Lapham interviewed one (1) applicant for the Summer Junior Counselors positions on Tuesday morning.

Marivel Gutierrez and John Lapham interviewed three (3) applicants for the Summer Junior Counselors positions on Wednesday afternoon.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 49 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Citizen Assist
- 1 Wires Down
- 1 Transformer/Pole Fire

Life Safety:

- 6 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-Inspections
- 1 C.O.
- 1 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. Please plan to attend. This Saturday is our yearly Fun in the Sun Event. We will be at the Gulfport Recreation Center from 10:00am to Noon. Some members will be assisting Stetson School of Law with food preparation. We need members to help out with manning barricades and crowd survey. There will be an Easter egg hunt, so bring your kids, grandkids, family and friends and enjoy a nice weekend day.

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

Chief Marenkovic, attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association meeting on March 22 to have the annual monthly meeting.

Chief James Marenkovic, and the Finance Administrator Cheryl Hannafin are working on the ALS First Responder Program Budget for FY 2018/19. The submissions are due to the county April 6, 2018.

Chief Marenkovic, gave an informational CPR/First Aid class for the Senior Center on March 28, 2018.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced lamps on poles at the Neighborhood Center, Little league Field, and Basketball Court at the Recreation Center.
- Repaired air conditioning unit at the Marina.
- Repaired air conditioning unit to computer and phone room at City Hall.
- Caulked new tiles on the exterior of the Casino.
- Installed bulletin board kiosk at the volleyball courts.
- Replaced “GFI” on Pavilion #6 at the Beach.
- Installed magazine rack in the lobby of City Hall.
- Repaired bench at the Library.
- Repaired flushometer on the urinal in the Men’s Restroom at the Fire Department.
- Repaired table at City Hall.
- Replaced wiring above stairway at the Public Services Building, to keep birds out.
- Installed lights in the closet at the Recreation Center
- Repaired gate in front of Garage.
- Replaced clock batteries on the roof at the Historical Building.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Set up and break down for Beach Bums volleyball tournament.
- Cleaned and prepped walls for cabinets in the Police Department break room.
- Hung blinds up at the Police Department.
- Installed an information kiosk at the beach volleyball courts.
- Repaired pavilion #6 electrical outlet.
- Assembled shed for the Recreation Center.
- Filled a hole along the seawall at the Marina.
- Removed a large pipe from the small dog park.
- Mowed Recreation Center and Tangerine signage area.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at City Complex, Clymer & Veterans Parks and Library.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Recreation Center, Fire Station, City Complex, 49th Streetscapes 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.

Streets & Sanitation

- Completed billable work orders for pick-up of brush, electronics & appliances, trash & furniture, and items requested for pick-up by Code Enforcement.
- Picked up residential bagged leaves, as requested.
- Delivered/replaced residential recycling bins with information sheets.
- Assembled & delivered new automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers, as requested.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout the City.
- Completed asphalt patchwork, as needed, throughout the City.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #45, 46, 47, and 48 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 19 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 3 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 110 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 18 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 10 meters that were stuck or damaged, and not recording water usage.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 and #2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily ground water elevation recording (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations #1 and #2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Collected bay water samples, (twice a week), at Gulfport Beach, Clam Bayou, and Marina, for quality testing.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 2019 56th Street South.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 5401 Shore Boulevard South.

Stormwater

- Removed debris and rebuilt storm water structure at 1301 Gray Street South
- Constructed storm water junction box for future access at 1301 59th Street South.
- Removed debris out of 24 storm drains following rain event.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced (2) Batteries on Parks Division's vehicle #719.
- Replaced (2) Washer Nozzles on Police vehicle #16.
- Replaced (2) lift supports on Police vehicle #19.
- Replaced fan clutch motor on GEMS vehicle #11.
- Replaced Radiator on Sewer Division's vehicle #26.
- 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

Before you embark on your home improvement project give us a call at (727) 893-1024 to discuss your plans and see what permits and inspections may be necessary, to explain code requirements and to help you through the process. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, many elect to do these projects themselves. Building Division staff tries to take extra time to work with homeowners embarking on these do-it-yourself (DIY) projects.

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 jobs can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction practices and management.

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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.

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 (727) 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at (727) 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.

Business Tax Receipts

A Business License is good from October 1st of the current year through September 30th of the following year. If you have any questions regarding business tax receipts, please contact Lisa Giddens at (727) 893-1063.

Thinking of starting a new business? Checkout out the City's website for the "City of Gulfport New Business Checklist". You'll find it at <http://www.mygulfport.us/> under the Community Development Building Department tab in the Information & Regulations section. If you have any questions regarding business tax receipts, please contact Lisa Giddens at (727) 893-1063.

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business contact the Small Business Development Center at Pinellas County Economic Development. Visit their website at www.pced.org/entrepreneurs, or call (727) 464-7332. They also do personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

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.