



Gulfport Community Update

April 8- 14, 2018

Public Works Director Tom Nicholls reports he received the following **22nd Avenue Drainage Improvement Project update** from Pinellas County: Gulfport Boulevard paving is scheduled to begin Wednesday, April 18. The work will take place between 7 p.m. & 7 a.m. The contractor anticipates the project will be completed by May 4. For more information, call Pinellas County Project Coordinator Wesley Merritt at 464-8821.

The **sidewalk on Beach Boulevard at 29th Avenue South is closed** through June due to building construction. 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.

City Utilities residential sewer customers are eligible for a rebate of 50% up to \$3,500.00 after the replacement, purchase, installation, and inspection of a failing sewer lateral between the home and the city connection. Certain restrictions apply; visit www.mygulfport.us/lateralrebate for more information.

An enchanted village, costumed faeries, great live music and whimsical roving characters entertained hundreds of guests during the Gulfport Area Chamber of Commerce's **24th Annual Springfest Garden Art and Faerie Festival** in Clymer Park on April 7 & 8 (photos below).



Upcoming Events:

Join the **Friends of the Gulfport Groove for A Dance Just for Fun!** at the Gulfport Casino at 8 p.m. Friday, April 13. Music from the 60s through today will be played by our very own Mayor Sam Henderson and DJ ZK and. Tickets \$10, available in advance at Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard, online at www.facebook.com/events/2077978159152347, or at the door.

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.

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables, 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. Visit www.gulfportma.com, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com for more information.

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 learn about Boca Ciega Yacht Club's 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.

Gulfport's Shore Boulevard will transform into a mecca of activity during the **Second Annual Gulfport Grand Prix**, featuring the NGK Spark Plugs Formula One Powerboat Championship and Boat Show Friday-Sunday, June 1-3. Visit www.gulfportgrandprix.com for more information.

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 140

Self-initiated calls for service	386
Incident/offense reports	33
Arrests	2
Traffic citations	73
Ordinance violations	20
Residence checks	51

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 5300 block of 21st Avenue reported on April 5 that his prescription medication was stolen from his room.

A resident in the 2700 block of 54th Street reported that she heard a loud noise overnight, and discovered her mailbox on the ground. Police discovered several other mailboxes in the 2700 & 2800 blocks of 54th Street were also knocked down by unknown subjects.

A Boca Ciega High School student was reported as a runaway by his parents on April 7 after he failed to return from school the day before. He was eventually located at his aunt's home in Largo.

A former tenant reported that she moved out of her rental property in the 5400 block of 10th Avenue and left behind a broken wheelchair and wheelchair ramp, advising the property manager she would have the items picked up. They were gone when a mover arrived. Upon further investigation it was learned that the management company disposed of the chair, ramp and other items after not hearing from the former tenant more than six weeks. The case was closed as a civil matter.

A resident in the 2200 block of York Street reported on April 8 that her former boyfriend forced his way into her home and choked her, then fled with her car keys. He is wanted for burglary, domestic battery and theft.

A Beachway Mobile Park resident reported that someone rummaged through her car, and stole her bicycle from her carport.

Three mailboxes in the 5600 block of 29th Avenue were knocked over during the night. One of the boxes was damaged.

A Town Shores resident reported that his bicycle was stolen sometime overnight. The bicycle, valued at over \$1000 was chained to a bike rack and apparently cut free.

Officers were dispatched to a report of juveniles on the Gulfport Casino roof. They did not observe anyone on the roof, but a City employee saw the group riding their bicycles recklessly around the Casino and requested they be trespassed. Damage was later discovered on the roof and rooftop equipment, but it is unclear if the juveniles were responsible.

Dar Randy Grimes-Brown was arrested on April 9 after an officer made contact with him for a reported incident, and discovered Officer Ross had an open probable cause affidavit for Grimes-Brown for a grand theft auto case.

A resident in the 4500 block of 26th Avenue reported on April 10 that her wallet was removed from her car, and her driver license, birth certificate, two bank cards and cash were taken before the wallet was left on the ground outside the car. The victim stated the car was locked at the time of the incident, and was locked when she discovered the theft.

A resident in the 2000 block of Gray Street reported on the morning of April 11 that someone entered her unlocked vehicle some time overnight. Nothing was reported missing.

A resident in the 5100 block of 14th Avenue reported that someone destroyed items inside her residence. She told officers she believed a relative damaged the property and the suspect is being sought for questioning.

Ashleigh Beatty was arrested for DUI following a traffic violation stop. Her breath alcohol content was .183/.180.

The marine unit was on the water for 11 hours this week. Officer Marshall conducted 13 vessel stops for violation of the mooring field construction project exclusion zone. The vessel operators were given warnings. Sergeant Burkhart made contact with 3 boaters and issued 2 citations for no anchor light.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	17
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	10
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Supplements received:	15
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	4
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	11

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary case, a theft, and a fraud; assisted patrol in obtaining video evidence for a theft case, and reviewed video evidence for an armed robbery case.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for three fraud cases and a theft. She also attended Risk Protection Order training.

Officer Motte wrote one police report; counseled 4 students; met with the parents of a student; instructed three classes; initiated a Baker Act; escorted 4 truants to the office; assisted school staff with breaking up a fight; trespassed a suspended student, and; located a missing bicycle.

Officer Embry wrote one police report; counseled 6 students; met with the parents of 4 students; escorted 6 truants to the office; and facilitated the Gulfport Police Explorer meeting this week.

Margaret Palmisano created and distributed a bulletin for Ofc. Mills in an attempt to identify grand theft suspects; submitted the quarterly seatbelt citation data to DHSMV; updated the sex offender display and pamphlet, removing an offender who moved out of the city, and adding two new offenders who recently moved to the city; compiled monthly public crime analysis bulletin for posting to Facebook, and the March 2018 PCSO call out report; reviewed property with a known serial number to ensure proper entry into FCIC, and; completed pawn checks on 7 cases with a known serial number, named suspect or searchable property description.

Records

Reports reviewed	16
Supplements reviewed:	49
Public Records requests:	7
Reports disseminated:	31
Background checks:	6
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	4
Subpoenas processed:	5
Citizens assisted	54

Professional standards

The following policies have been updated and distributed to personnel: 131 - Interview Room Procedures; 315 - Promotions; 326 - Use of the Internet; 341 - Report Writing; 422 - Field Interviews; 450 - Special Operations, and; 508 - Criminal Intelligence

Cmdr. Stone continued building accreditation files for our upcoming accreditation assessment. A mock assessment in January resulted in positive comments and feedback. The final onsite assessment will be take place April 24 - 26.

Fifteen sworn members completed a risk protection orders three-hour training block during this reporting period.

Cmdr. Stone provided a thirty-minute equal opportunity employment training block to Detectives Rossi & Wiltse

Officer Carter has completed 32 hours of a 40 hour firearms instructor course.

Eleven police officer applications are being processed.

Cmdr. Stone is acquiring firearms training equipment to be purchased with seizure funds.

Officer Mills & Jim Wright facilitated the Marina District Neighborhood Watch meeting on April 4.

Detective Wiltse provided property and evidence refresher training to all personnel; worked on two background investigations, and; attended risk protection orders training at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office.

Detective Rossi attended risk protection orders training on at the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office; worked on two background investigations; scheduled an applicant for the physical abilities test, and; administered the POST officer exam to two applicants.

MARINA

Assisted with forty-seven pump outs evacuating seven hundred seventy gallons of waste.

Pumped six thousand two hundred one gallons of gas and four thousand eight hundred seventy-eight gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred ninety-six vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, April 2, 9:30 a.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance.*

Monday, April 2, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

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

Tuesday, April 3, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults.*

Tuesday, April 3, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga.*

Tuesday, April 3, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, April 3, 1:30 p.m. - *German Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, April 3, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, April 4, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, April 4, 1 p.m. - *Native American Flute Class*.
Wednesday, April 4, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout/Knitting*.
Wednesday, April 4, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.
Thursday, April 5, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.
Thursday, April 5, noon - *Lunch & Learn: Poetry Reading by Peter Hargitai*.
Thursday, April 5, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*.
Thursday, April 5, 6 p.m. - *Bees Learning mobile reading intervention program*.
Thursday, April 5, 7 p.m. - *Virginia Woolf Contemplation*.
Friday, April 6, 10 a.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance*.
Friday, April 6, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.
Saturday, April 7, 10:30 a.m. - *Home Buyer's Seminar*.
Saturday, April 7, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*.
Saturday, April 7, 4 p.m. - *Blues Documentary Screening*.

Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, April 16 Monday, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance*: LAST DAY TO FILE. 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 at all sites. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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

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.

Monday, April 30, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night*: For more information call 893-1073.

Tuesday, May 1, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 cklasson@mygulfpport.us for more information.

Saturday, May 5, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: A coming of age drama which follows a young woman's senior year in high school, her strained relationship with her mother, and her journey towards adulthood. It garnered five Academy Award nominations, and stars Saoirse Ronan and Laurie Metcalf. It is rated "R". Call 727-893-1074 for title.

Monday, May 7, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club discussion of Another Mother Tongue: Gay Words, Gay Worlds* by Judy Grahn. Copies available at the Circulation Desk.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfpport Toastmasters*: 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 April 1 - 7, 2018:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,731	1,404
Sun. 4/1	Library closed	
Mon. 4/2	422	282
Tue. 4/3	265	249
Wed. 4/4	305	243
Thu. 4/5	259	200
Fri. 4/6	269	204
Sat. 4/7	211	156

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 A/V coverage for Springfest.
- Commenced preparation of May calendar.

Gulfport 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.

Brave. Honorable. Patriot. These are words we use to describe the many men & women who answered the call of duty during wartime. Families of Wartime Veterans & Surviving Spouses are invited to the **VA Improved Pension with Aid & Attendance Benefit** informational session at 3 p.m. Monday, April 16. Refreshments will be served. Hosted by AAWV & Freedom Square.

Put on those blue suede shoes & poodle skirts and get ready to Shake, Rattle, & Roll during the annual **Spring Fling** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 18. Enjoy food, drinks, & entertainment. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare & Dedicated Senior Medical Center. **Tickets MUST be obtained prior to the event; limit 2 per person.**

Check out eleven world-class sculptors as they create elaborate sand sculptures during this month's **GEMS Getaway to Clearwater's famous Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival** on Thursday, April 19. We'll stay for lunch at *Shorty's on the Deck*, a wonderfully hidden gem. Round trip transportation & admission: GEMS members \$12/nonmembers \$14. Lunch paid for individually.

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, April 19. 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 April 20. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

Home Share Pinellas is a program that matches people looking for housing with homeowners who have space to rent. The service is free and provides each party with security. Come discover why this program is so successful at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 25.

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 April 26.

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, May 10.

Worried about your memory? St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic offers free, confidential **Memory Screenings** between 9 a.m. & noon on the second Monday of each month. The next screening is May 14. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

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, April 1 5 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 176)
- Tuesday, April 3 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 26)
 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 32)
 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 31)
 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 76)
- Wednesday, April 4 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 279)
- Thursday, April 5 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 5)
 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 35)
 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 12)
- Friday, April 6 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 54)

Casino (upcoming events):

- Select Sundays 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson
 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom dance Admission \$8
- 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):

Friday, April 6, 6 p.m. - *Senior Center Watercolor Group Art Reception* (Turnout 40)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Thursday - Saturday, April 19 - 21 & 26 - 28 8 p.m., and Saturday & Sunday, April 21 & 21, and 28 & 29, 2 p.m. - The Gulfport Community Players present *Mornings at Seven*, a family comedy by Paul Osborn. Tickets \$18 in advance at Beach Bazaar, \$20 at the door within one hour of performance, or online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org.

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

Sunday, April 1 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church Easter service (Turnout 30)
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. - Faith Cathedral International Bible study

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

Scout Hall (last week's events):

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

Monday, April 2 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 36)

Tuesday, April 3 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 39)

Thursday, April 5 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 5)

Friday, April 6 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 13)

Scout Hall (upcoming events):

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

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

Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class

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

RECREATION CENTER

The game room is reserved 6 - 11 p.m. Saturday, April 14 for a birthday party.

Registration is underway for the **2018 Summer Recreation Program** for Gulfport residents currently enrolled in the School Year Child Program. Non-resident and weekly registration begins Monday, May 1 for a maximum of 30 children. The program is available to children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Hours of registration: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Summer program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra fee. For more information call the Recreation Center at 893-1068. To date four children have been registered. One child has also been registered for swim class.

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.

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

Contractual classes: Bootcamp, Gentle Yoga, Heal Your Life Book Club, Essential Oils, Karate, Pickleball, Slow Flow Yoga, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tennis, Walking Club, Watercolor and Zumba.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez and John Lapham interviewed a Summer Recreation Leader applicant on Tuesday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting and Leisure Services Department meeting on Wednesday

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 55 Emergency Medical Calls
- 6 Structure Fires
- 6 Fire Alarms
- 1 Wire Down
- 2 Fires Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 6 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-inspection
- 1 Plans Review

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.

The Gulfport Fire Department commenced their April online CME. This month's topics: Violent Patients; Special Needs Patients, and; Medical/Legal and Narrative Documentation.

Inspector Lundh performed a walk thru at the new Stetson Law College electrical building on April 11.

2018 Hurricane Guides will be released in May. They will be available for pick-up at City Hall, the Gulfport Library and Fire Station. Hurricane season in the Atlantic begins June 1 and ends November 30. Please join us for the annual Hurricane Seminar at the Catherine Hickman Theater on May 31.

Chief Marenkovic met with City Staff to discuss planning and preparations for the upcoming Independence Day celebration.

Chief Marenkovic, and Inspector Lundh reviewed sprinkler alarm system plans for a building under construction at 2901 Beach Boulevard.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Performed annual fire alarm inspection at City Hall & Police Station.
- Installed first aid kit in Garage, lights at Clymer Park and door stop at Police Station.
- Applied caulking and painted several areas at Casino.
- Repaired table saw in Parks Division's office.
- Repaired gutter at Historical Museum.
- Built cabinet for safe at Police Station.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Tilled volleyball courts, and replenished sand.
- Replaced signs at bocce ball courts.
- Repaired railing and kick plate on Williams Pier.
- Removed sea weed from beach.
- Installed security devices in PD.
- Dropped off barricades on DuPont Street for street closure.
- Replaced fence at Wood Ibis Park.
- Mowed Marina & Recreation Center green spaces, York & 49th Street termini, Caldwell & Veterans Parks, 14th Avenue medians, Pasadena entrance area & City Complex.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Senior Center & Caldwell Park.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Recreation Center & City complex 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.

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 #23, 24, 25, 26, and 27 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 17 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 10 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 121 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 16 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 1 meter that was stuck or damaged and not recording water usage.
- Performed annual inspection and testing on 3 backflows due in April.
- Repaired water line at 54th Street & 31st Avenue.
- Replaced water line on 16th Avenue between 51st & 52nd Streets.

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 & 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.

Stormwater

- Removed debris and rebuilt stormwater structure at 1300 Gray Street.
- Cleaned storm drain structures at 2401 53rd Street, 1617 49th Street, 1301 Gray Street, and at 5401 Shore Boulevard.
- Replaced broken storm structure lids at 5730 Shore Boulevard, 5840 30th Avenue & 5940 30th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced oil pan gasket, and dipstick tube on Sanitation vehicle #40.
- Replaced batteries on Sanitation vehicle #45
- Replaced circuit breaker on Parks Division vehicle #719.
- 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 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.

Business Tax Receipts

A Business License is good from October of the current year through September 30 of the following year. If you have questions regarding business tax receipts, call Lisa Giddens at 893-1063.

Thinking of starting a new business? Check 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 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 464-7332. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

Code Enforcement activities continued this week in 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.

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

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. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.

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. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.

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. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.

April 11, 2018 Board of Adjustment Meeting Results:

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). APPROVED

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. CONTINUED TO NEXT MEETING.

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. APPROVED

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. APPROVED