



Gulfport Community Update

April 15 - 21, 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 be finished on Wednesday, April 25 followed by, sodding, cleanup, and various construction punch list items. 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.

Upcoming Events:

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.

The **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, May 12 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.

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	143
Self-initiated calls for service	333
Incident/offense reports	57
Arrests	3
Traffic citations	68
Ordinance violations	47
Residence checks	63

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

An employee of a business in the 2800 block of Beach Boulevard reported on April 12 that her purse, containing several hundred dollars in cash was stolen from the restaurant during business hours.

A tablet was reported stolen from a car parked in the 2200 block of Premier Drive. The car was locked, and the owner believes the tablet was taken by someone they know.

A resident in the 5800 block of 27th Avenue reported on April 13 that her unlocked car was ransacked overnight. Officers collected fingerprint evidence at the scene.

A visitor from Georgia reported that her purse and jacket were stolen from the Catherine Hickman Theater while she was giving a presentation. The purse and its contents were found and returned to her but the jacket remains missing.

A jet trailered jet ski was stolen from a driveway in the 2800 block of 54th Street.

A driver experienced a medical episode while heading south on 49th Street and lost control of her SUV. The vehicle continued past the street end and off the seawall into Boca Ciega Bay. The water was about three feet deep at the time, and a witness helped the driver to shore. She was transported to the hospital by ambulance.

Officers were dispatched to a complaint of juveniles on the Gulfport Casino roof. Upon arrival, they found several juveniles on the sidewalk in front of the building but nobody on the roof. City employees advised that they had been riding their bicycles in an unsafe manner on the sidewalk

interfering with the pedestrian traffic, and on the boardwalk around the Casino. They were issued trespass warnings for the Gulfport Casino property.

Elizabeth Stenov was arrested on felony DWLSR charges on April 14 following a traffic stop for in the 1500 block of 54th Street for an equipment violation. Stenov had two prior arrests for the same offense, which resulted in the felony charge.

A resident in the 1100 block of Gray Street reported that someone broke into her car overnight. Her glove box was ransacked but nothing was taken. The car may have been left unlocked as there was no sign of damage.

A resident in the 5100 block of 15th Avenue reported that her wallet was stolen from her residence after she hosted a gathering. Her credit cards were used at Bed, Bath & Beyond, Best Buy and Macy's for several thousand dollars in fraudulent transactions.

A caller reported that an SUV backed into her vehicle in the 5700 block of Shore Boulevard and fled north on Dupont Street when she told the driver that she called police. The striking vehicle was described as an older model white Nissan Pathfinder with surf designs on the sides. The driver was described as a white male in his 30's with dreadlocks and tan skin. A white female passenger was with the suspect.

Thomas January was arrested for DUI following a traffic stop in the 900 block of 58th Street for violation of a traffic control device. His breath alcohol content was .216/.222.

Torian Johnson was arrested for DUI following a traffic stop on April 15 for driving inside the construction zone on Gulfport Boulevard. His breath alcohol content was .263/.255.

A resident in the 2600 block of 46th Street reported on April 16 that a package containing art supplies was stolen from her front porch sometime on April 14. A neighbor advised the victim that several juveniles on skateboards were seen in the neighborhood going through mailboxes.

The owner of Deb's Laundry reported on April 17 that someone damaged a dryer sometime overnight. Video surveillance showed a known suspect who had been issued a trespass warning for the location committing the vandalism.

A resident in the 5300 block of Havana Court called police when he saw a person he did not recognize take a delivery package from his neighbor's porch. The witness had surveillance video and provided the responding officer with footage of the suspect.

A resident in the 2500 block of 54th Street reported that someone damaged his outside utility light sometime overnight.

A resident in the 5000 block of 28th Avenue observed two people near the street tearing open what appeared to be a delivery package. She asked them what they were doing and they took the contents of the package and ran away. The package was found to have been stolen from a nearby residence.

A resident in the 5500 block of 11th Avenue reported that his bicycle was stolen from his fenced backyard.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a large group of juveniles fighting in the street in the 5500 block of 12th Avenue on April 18. The group left the area before officers arrived.

Officers were dispatched to a report of barking dogs in the 3100 block of 49th Street. Upon arrival they discovered that a neighbor who was upset about dogs barking let himself into the dog owner's house. The resident was sleeping and woke to find the neighbor in his kitchen. He did not wish to press charges.

Officers investigated the theft of a cell phone in the 5500 block of 27th Avenue and assisted the victim with contacting their cell service provider.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 3 hours this week. Sergeant Marotta conducted 1 vessel stop and made 1 boater contact.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	12
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	9
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Supplements received:	13
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	12

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a grand theft case a fraud, a runaway, and a burglary.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two fraud cases and a cyber-harassment case. She also reviewed recovered data from several electronic devices seized in a sexual battery/child pornography case.

Officer Motte investigated a battery case and referred the charge to the state attorney's office; escorted a trespasser off campus; identified students involved in a classroom disruption; escorted truant students to the office, and; facilitated the Monday night Police Explorer meeting, covering the topics of search & arrest, and crime scene processing.

Officer Embry advised parent that a student at the high school pretended to be her daughter's father, and attempted to check her out of school, and intervened to prevent a fight between two students. He also received word from a teacher regarding Azalea Middle School students bullying kids at a bus stop in Gulfport, and notified patrol officers of the bus stop location and allegation.

Margaret Palmisano completed an analysis for a series of criminal mischiefs to mailboxes. She also compiled and distributed open case lists.

Records

Reports reviewed	16
Supplements reviewed:	68
Public Records requests:	10
Reports disseminated:	20
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	3
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted	47

Professional standards

Cmdr. Stone continued building files for our accreditation assessment scheduled for April 24 - 26.

Officer Marshall has completed 32 hours of a 40 hour interviews and interrogations course.

Twelve police officer applications are being processed.

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

Officer Mills and Jim Wright attended the Strand Neighborhood Watch meeting on April 18.

Detective Wiltse administered a second POST test to an applicant; assisted a citizen with ordinance questions; relisted a job posting on "PoliceOne"; performed applicant employer and neighborhood checks in Manatee County; followed-up with a potential applicant from Manatee County EOT class; assisted Detective Rossi in administering the physical abilities test, and; updated the training bulletin board with upcoming training in the Tampa Bay area

Detective Rossi administered the physical abilities test to an applicant and 5 agency members; continued working on two background investigations for police applicants, and; covered the records desk while administrative staff attended an appreciation luncheon.

MARINA

Assisted with thirty-seven pump outs evacuating six hundred sixty gallons of waste.

Pumped six thousand two hundred one gallons of gas and two thousand seven hundred ten gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred fourteen.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed twenty-one vessels of various type & size this week.

Staff activities

- Inspected/repared marina docks and downtown courtesy dock.
- Inventoried slips and cross-checked empty slips against current data.
- Installed shower dams in handicap shower stalls.
- Performed routine maintenance on new pump outs.
- Installed nonskid safety tape on fuel docks.
- Replaced gas nozzle on Pump #1, and fit nozzle head with green DEISEL slip cover.
- Replaced defective bulbs on Pier #7.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

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

Monday, April 9, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

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

Monday, April 9, 7 p.m. - *Clymer Park Reimagined.*

Tuesday, April 10, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, April 10, 1:30 p.m. - *German Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, April 10, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, April 11, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, April 11, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, April 12, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, April 12, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Thursday, April 12, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*.

Friday, April 13, 10 a.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance*.

Friday, April 13, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, April 14, 1 p.m. - *Recorder Concert*.

Upcoming Events:

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

Monday, 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.

Tuesday, May 8, 10:30 a.m. & Thursday, May 17, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport! Workshops*: Cohosted by Gulfport Neighbors and the Library. Learn about services available through the City and Library. Find out how to participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization. Call 893-1074 for more information.

Thursday, May 10, noon - *Lunch & Learn presents DIY Switchplate Covers*: Learn a fun decorating technique using alcohol ink and simple tools found in your home. We'll experiment on blank light switch plates, but this technique may be used on various other materials. The program has limited attendance, so please call 893-1073 to sign up.

Thursday, May 10, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*: Documentary chronicles six decades in the lives of two women known as the founders of the modern lesbian civil rights movement. Traces the emergence of lesbians from the fear of discovery to the expectation of equality. Refreshments available for donations for the LGBTQ Resource Center. Call 893-1074. For movie title

Saturday, May 12, 1 p.m. - *Raven's Guild for ages 12-17*: Want to talk about anime, manga or gaming? Come to our first gathering for a meet & greet. We'll also screen a movie. Make a Ninja star & enjoy a snack! Call 893-1074 for movie title

Tuesday, May 15 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*: Kids, indulge your passion for the tiny building blocks of creativity! Meets in the Youth Services area.

Thursday, May 17, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club*. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, May 17, 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.

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 April 8 - 14, 2018:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,644	1,334
Sun. 4/8	Library closed	
Mon. 4/9	358	271
Tue. 4/10	239	197
Wed. 4/11	281	251
Thu. 4/12	231	213
Fri. 4/13	281	219
Sat. 4/14	240	167

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.
- Continued 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 **Neighborhood 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.

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.

Check out a huge selection of cars at the weekly Car Cruise-In while you fuel up during **Larry's Car Show at Quaker Steak & Lube** on April 26. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$6/nonmembers \$8. Meal paid for individually.

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.

Join the Out-to-Lunch Bunch on Thursday, May 3 as they celebrate **Cinco de Mayo at TacoSun**, a family owned business serving fresh, delicious homemade food. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$4/nonmembers \$6. Lunch paid for individually.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles, and many other goodies at **First Friday Flea Market** on May 4 at 9 a.m.

A stroke happens when blood flow to the brain is cut off and cells die, leading to brain loss, long term disability and even death. We all need to be able to identify stroke symptoms sooner in order to get help fast enough to make a difference. Learn more about improving your health and keeping your family healthy at the next **HCA Health Talk: Stroke Won't Wait for You to get to the ER** at 2:30 p.m. Monday, May 7.

Explore over 30 acres of cultivated gardens featuring native and exotic plants, tropical fruit and herb gardens, and an abundance of wildlife that has made the **Florida Botanical Gardens** their home on Thursday, May 10. We'll also stop by the **Village Inn** for lunch. Round trip transportation & admission: GEMS members \$8/nonmembers \$10. Lunch paid for individually.

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.

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 May 18. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Casino (last week's events):

- Sunday, April 8 6 p.m. - Soul Night with Swing Time (Turnout 150)
- Monday, April 9 8 a.m. - Keller-Williams seminar (Turnout 45)
- Tuesday, April 10 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 31)
 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 30)
 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 55)
- Wednesday, April 11 8 a.m. - Ichiyo School of Ikebana workshop (Turnout 100)
 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 279)
- Thursday, April 12 8 a.m. - Ichiyo School of Ikebana workshop (Turnout 100)
 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 11)
- Friday, April 13 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 54)
 8 p.m. - Friends of the Gulfport Groove Dance Party (Turnout 50)
- Saturday, April 14 3 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 67)

Casino (upcoming events):

- Sunday, April 22 3 p.m. - *Keith Coleman's Tribute to Johnny Cash with Special Guest Comedy Magician Elliott Smith*: Featuring a country band, dancing, fun, and surprises for all ages. Tickets \$25 in advance, available at the Casino & Beach Bazaar, or \$30 at the door. Call 541-7876 for more information.
- 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):

Tuesday, April 10, 8 a.m. - Ichiyo School of Ikebana workshop (Turnout 170)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Thursday - Saturday, April 19 - 21 & 26 - 28 8 p.m., and Saturday & Sunday, April 21 & 22, 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 8 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church service (Turnout 13)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Neighborhood Center (upcoming events):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - 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 9 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 32)

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

Thursday, April 12 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 5)

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 was reserved 6 - 11 p.m. Saturday, April 14 for a birthday party with 40 in attendance.

The game room is reserved 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday, May 5 for a birthday party; 4 - 8 p.m. Saturday May 12 for a banquet; 1 - 5 p.m. Saturday, May 19 for a baby shower, and; 4 - 9 p.m. Saturday, May 26 for a graduation party.

Registration us 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 eight 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, Essential Oils, Karate, Pickleball, Slow Flow Yoga, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tennis, Walking Club, Watercolor and Zumba.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting and 4th of July planning meeting on Wednesday. She also met with the City Manager to discuss the Recreation Division's FY 2018/19 Operating Budget.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday evening.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 35 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 5 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes

- 1 Water Rescue
- 3 Fires Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 16 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-inspections
- 1 Final Ansul Hood Inspection

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is May 17.

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

The Gulfport Fire Department participated in mid-county training at the SPC drill grounds, and structural firefighting operations with a commandeered house in Pinellas Park.

Inspector Lundh and the Building Official performed a walk thru at Stetson Law College on April 18.

Chief Marenkovic met with the City Manager to discuss the Fire Department's FY 2018/19 budget.

Chief Marenkovic and Firefighter Campbell attended the Pension Board meeting on April 19.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Performed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Cleaned out p-trap on kitchen sink at Fire Department.
- Installed electrical outlet in beach restrooms.
- Pressure-cleaned and painted beach pavilions.
- Repaired fence behind Neighborhood Center.
- Repaired outlet at Public Services building.
- Primed and painted exterior tiles at Casino.
- Repaired lights at theater.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Pressure washed signs at Fire Station & Caldwell Park, and benches & sidewalks at Clymer Park.
- Replaced dog box on trail spur.
- Groomed Volleyball courts on beach.
- Ran new wire for computers in Parks Department office.
- Caulked, primed and painted siding at Casino.
- Mowed beach parking lot.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at City Complex, 49th Streetscapes & Caldwell Park.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched 49th Streetscapes, Chase block, Recreation Center, Tennis courts, Library & Senior Center green spaces, and Clymer greenway and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.

- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced gaskets and cleaned carburetor on small mower.
- 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 #31, 32, 33, and 35 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 20 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 118 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 3 meters that were stuck or damaged and not recording water usage.
- Performed annual inspection and testing on 16 backflows due in April.
- Replaced 12 water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Repaired 6" water line at 54th Street & 31st Avenue.
- Worked on water line replacement project on Preston Avenue between 51st & 52nd Streets.
- Collected microbial samples for clearance on newly installed water lines on 15th, 16th, 17th & Preston Avenues.

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

- Replaced 8 feet of storm line at 5501 27th Avenue and repaired 3 joints.
- Replaced broken curb inlet lids at 5227 20th Avenue and 5080 15th Avenue.
- Repaired asphalt in roadway at 1401 61st Street.

Vehicle Maintenance

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

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building Division

Before you embark on your home improvement project give us a call at 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" at www.mygulfport.us under the Community Development Building Department tab in the Information & Regulations section. For questions regarding business tax receipts, please call 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 results:

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. APPROVED

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. APPROVED

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. APPROVED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO STATE

May 9, 2018 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

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.

V18-09; 5509 17th Avenue South; To reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 7 feet 6 inches, from 15 feet to 7 feet 6 inches to allow for the razing of two previously permitted accessory structures and the proposed construction of a new replacement accessory structure in the same location.