



Gulfport Community Update

April 29 - May 5, 2018

Gulfport residents got into the spirit of Earth Day on April 28, tossing, trading and donating unwanted household items during **Junk in the Trunk** (photos below). A record 15 participants signed up for the JITT Flip Flea Market Challenge record. Their creations will be available for purchase at the Gulfport Welcome Center, 3101 Beach Boulevard, during Gulfport Art & Gallery Walk on May 19. Tons of junk were collected in addition to salvageable items that found a new home. Officer Mills collected 11 boxes/67 lbs. of prescription drugs and we received a record amount of food for the Little Food Pantries. Thanks to the Gulfport Neighbors, CERT volunteers, Gulfport PD, Smokin' J's BBQ and City staff who helped with the event.



Public Works Director Tom Nicholls reports he received the following **22nd Avenue Drainage Improvement Project update** from Pinellas County: Gulfport Boulevard paving is finished, and sodding and cleanup 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:

Meet Patricia Hardwick and see a half century of her artistic works during the **First Friday Art Reception** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue 6 - 8 p.m. Friday, May 4. Free admission: cash bar & hors d'oeuvres. For more information, call 893-1118.

BCYC's Funday is Saturday, May 5, 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 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.

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.

The **Gulfport Community Garden will host a Workshop** at the garden, located at 5125 Preston Avenue at 10 a.m. Saturday, May 12. Everyone is welcome as the group creates a new raised bed, filling it with natural, healthy components that make up good soil. For more information, call George Zarillo at 845-242-7452.

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 & 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	124
Self-initiated calls for service	378
Incident/offense reports	44

Arrests	7
Traffic citations	106
Ordinance violations	29
Residence checks	84

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 1700 block of 55th Street reported on April 26 that someone cut the tires on her car sometime overnight.

A resident in the 5200 block of 13th Avenue accidentally injected herself with a Narcan pen. Sunstar transported her to a hospital for treatment.

Michael Watkins was arrested for disorderly conduct on April 27 after a caller reported a man sleeping on the steps at the Gulfport Casino. Watkins told officers he has slept under the casino on a regular basis when he could not get to a boat in the bay. Officer Dillard was issuing a trespass warning when Watkins began yelling obscenities and refused to sit down, resulting in his arrest. He was also issued a trespass warning for the Casino.

Officers stopped a vehicle pulling a boat on a trailer in the 1400 block of York Street because the trailer did not have tail lights. When Officer Smith made contact with the occupants he smelled marijuana. The passenger produced a glass jar containing what was believed to be marijuana. Officer Smith search the vehicle and found a small baggie of a substance believed to be marijuana as well. The passenger admitted that both the jar and baggie belonged to him. He was not eligible for APAD and given a notice to appear for possession of marijuana.

A resident in the 700 block of 60th Street reported on April 28 that a watch and \$800 in cash were stolen from her purse. She was unsure if the items were stolen from her home, or while she was at a wine tasting in South Pasadena.

A resident in the 5600 Shore Boulevard reported that his bicycle, which was chained to a tree was stolen.

A resident in the 5100 block of 9th Avenue reported on April 29 that his girlfriend keyed his truck. The girlfriend admitted to damaging the truck, but the victim did not want to prosecute.

Daniel O'Neill was arrested after he was observed sitting on the front steps of the Casino after being trespassed from the building and warned several times.

A man reported that he saw his 17-year-old niece with an older man in the 5700 block of Shore Boulevard. The girl stays with her aunt, but ran away a few months ago. The aunt waited to report her as a runaway because she said her niece runs away often and usually comes home after a few weeks. The man she was with was identified and interviewed, and the girl was entered as a runaway.

School Resource Officer Embry asked patrol units to monitor the Pinellas Trail after he received a report about students leaving school and hanging out on the trail. Officer Ross located three students on the trail spur on May 1 and obtained information on two who are students at BCHS. The other subject refused to talk to Officer Ross and walked away. Officer Ross provided the information to SRO Embry so that he can follow up with the students.

Officers assisted the Gulfport Fire Department during a residential fire in the 5500 block of Tangerine Avenue, directing traffic around the area. There were no injuries but the home and car were destroyed, and a family pet did not survive. GPD is working with local community groups to coordinate relief efforts.

Officers responded to call from a resident in the 5600 block of 30th Avenue who was having issues with his elderly mother inviting people into his home. The caller found several people inside his home drinking after being invited by his mother. The caller was given a list of services available to assist him and his mother.

Officers were dispatched to the 800 block of 59th Street regarding an injunction violation for stalking. It was discovered that the violator had been living two doors down for several years. Charges were forwarded to the state attorney's office for determination of prosecution.

Officers responded to a disturbance in the 3100 block of Clinton Street on May 2. A landlord who filed for a tenant eviction was waiting for the sheriff's office to serve the notice when another tenant confronted the soon to be evicted tenant and a verbal altercation ensued. The landlord was able to calm the situation before police arrived.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 8 hours this week: Sergeant Woodman took an Accreditation Assessor on a tour of our waterways, and; Officer Ross conducted 4 vessel stops, 8 boater contacts, and helped resolve an issue with a vessel taking on water.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	18
Cases assigned:	6
Cases suspended-no leads:	7
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Supplements received:	10
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	4
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	2
Cases still active:	1

Investigator Highlights

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

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two fraud cases. She also researched bank records for a 2017 fraud case.

Officer Motte assisted school officials with breaking up a minor fight and escorting a trespasser off campus; located missing property; escorted 6 truants to the office, and; facilitated the Monday night police explorer meeting covering building clearing/active shooter training.

Officer Embry met with a Pasco County parent who believed his daughter, who was reported as a runaway, was with a BCHS student, and discussed the matter with a Pasco County Sheriff Deputy. He also escorted a disruptive student off campus.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled and distributed the open case list; created and distributed a bulletin form Sergeant Marotta in an attempt to identify a suspect who attempted to pass counterfeit money; compiled monthly officer activity information, and; created and distributed a bulletin in an attempt to identify a subject cashing counterfeit checks.

Records

Reports reviewed	26
Supplements reviewed:	73
Public Records requests:	40
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	13

Fingerprints	1
Subpoenas processed:	3
Citizens assisted	39

MARINA

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

Pumped six thousand nine hundred eighty gallons of gas and four thousand eight hundred twenty-one gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred eighty-seven.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed thirty-two vessels of various type & size this week.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, April 23, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club*.

Tuesday, April 24, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults*

Tuesday, April 24, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*.

Tuesday, April 24, 1:30 p.m. - *German Conversation Club*.

Tuesday, April 24, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, April 25, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, April 25, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, April 26, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, April 26, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*.

Thursday, April 26, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*.

Thursday, April 26, 6 p.m. - *Bees Learning mobile reading intervention program*.

Thursday, April 26, 6 p.m. - *Clymer Park Reimagined Presentation*.

Friday, April 27, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Upcoming Events:

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 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 Workshop: 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 discussion of A Brief History of Seven Killings* by Marlon James. Copies available at the Circulation Desk. 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.

Saturday, May 19, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*: Latest film in a vast interstellar series. The two sides of the force are in sharp focus in this tragedy about acceptable casualties, facing the truth of family dysfunction, and how damaging expectations can be. Stars Daisy Ridley, John Boyega, Mark Hamill, and Carrie Fisher. Rated PG-13. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, May 22, 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, May 24, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

Saturday, May 26, 1 p.m. - *Silly Sock Monsters*: We'll supply the materials, you supply your imagination to design a goofy face for your creation. Craft for kids who are ages 8-12.

Monday, May 28, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night*: For more information call 893-1073.

Tuesday, June 5 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

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 22 - 28, 2018:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,922	1,295
Sun. 4/22	Library closed	
Mon. 4/23	470	265
Tue. 4/24	283	223
Wed. 4/25	303	202
Thu. 4/26	343	192
Fri. 4/27	258	178
Sat. 4/28	252	165

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.
- Distributed May calendar to Tuesday Market vendors and at City facilities.
- Commenced preparation of June calendar.
- Provided photographic coverage for Junk in the Trunk event.

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.

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.

Don your finest attire and join us for a **Mother's Day Afternoon Tea** at 2 p.m. Monday, May 14. Space is limited. Tickets **MUST** be obtained in advance; available on Monday, May 7. Sponsored by The Fountains at Boca Ciega Bay.

Join Steven Dante at 2 p.m. Wednesday, May 16 for information about your current **Life Insurance policy** or one you may consider purchasing. Donuts and coffee will be served.

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.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, May 25. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

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 May 31.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles, and many other goodies at **First Friday Flea Market** on June 1 at 9 a.m.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Casino (last week's events):

Sunday, April 22 3 p.m. - Johnny Cash tribute (Turnout 220)

Tuesday, April 24 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 27)
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 24)
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 70)

Wednesday, April 25 8 a.m. - Keller-Williams seminar (Turnout 45)
6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 277)

Thursday, April 26 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 26)
 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 10)

Friday, April 27 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 46)
 7 p.m. - Lakewood High School Prom (Turnout 180)

Saturday, April 28 6 p.m. - Girls Inc. Father-Daughter Ball (Turnout 80)

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):

Sunday, April 22 8 p.m. - *Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present Mornings at Seven*
 (Turnout 115)

Thursday, April 26 8 p.m. - *GCP presents Mornings at Seven presents* (Turnout 50)

Friday, April 27 8 p.m. - *GCP presents Mornings at Seven* (Turnout 44)

Saturday, April 28 2 p.m. - *GCP presents Mornings at Seven* (Turnout 38)
 8 p.m. - *GCP presents Mornings at Seven* (Turnout 66)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Friday, May 4, 6 p.m. - *First Friday Art Reception showcasing the works of Patricia Hardwick.*
 Free admission; cash bar & hors d'oeuvres.

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

Sunday, April 22 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 23 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 32)

Tuesday, April 24 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (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 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 is underway for the **2018 Summer Recreation Program** for Gulfport residents currently enrolled in the School Year Child Program. 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 eighteen children have been registered. Two children have also been registered for swim class.

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.

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.

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, Table Tennis, Tennis and Zumba.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 35 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 WFF
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak
- 2 Fires Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 10 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-Inspections
- 2 Permit Reviews
- 1 Plan Review
- 1 C.O.
- 2 Fire Investigations

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is May 17. CERT will display the Rehab unit at the BCYC fun day on Saturday, May 5.

The Gulfport Fire Department has commenced their May 2018 CME. This month's topics: Environmental Emergencies, Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Patients Under the Influence.

Chief Marenkovic and Timothy Burton are updating the Special Needs Hurricane Evacuations list for this year. We have also worked Rachael Cataldo from the Senior Center to evaluate potential evacuees and eliminated non-current evacuees. This is an ongoing process now that we are going into hurricane season.

The CERT team has purchased 3 portable radios for communication between team members during events.

Chief Marenkovic conducted a fire investigation with the State Fire Marshal at 5514 Tangerine Avenue on May 1. The cause of the fire appears to be accidental, and we are awaiting the outcome of the formal investigation.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Installed file holder and wall décor at Casino, and replaced deck.
- Replaced flooring in Recreation Center lobby.
- Assembled mail sorting table at City Hall.

- Replaced exterior lighting at beach restrooms with new LED fixtures.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Set up trash & recycle containers, tables, etc. in preparation for Junk in the Trunk, and removed following even.
- Continued replacement of Casino deck.
- Ran new phone and computer cables in City Hall & Library.
- Replaced electrical panel for lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Replaced outside lights at beach restroom.
- Covered floors at Recreation Center in preparation for construction work.
- Ordered signs for Marina District.
- Replaced flags throughout City.
- Ordered hand grips for Tomlinson Park exercise equipment.
- Filled in washouts along seawall at marina.
- Ground tree stumps at beach.
- Mowed Wood Ibis, Clam Bayou & Tomlinson Parks, Tangerine Greenway & trail spur.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer, Veterans & Caldwell Parks, Senior Center, Library, City complex, and along Beach streetscape.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched 49th Streetscapes, Casino, City Complex and library, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced belt on reel 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).
- Disconnected water service at 26 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 5 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 88 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 18 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 3 meters that were stuck or damaged and not recording water usage.

- Performed annual inspection and testing on 23 backflows due in April.
- Replaced 5 water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Repaired water breaks at 6219 12th Avenue, and 4922 Gulfport Boulevard.
- Installed water meters and connected new service lines on 16th, 15th, Preston & 17th Avenues.
- Collected monthly bacteriological samples and quarterly TTHM/Haa5 samples.
- Relocated 5 water services in 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard.
- Installed new service taps at 5701, 5705 & 5709 Tangerine Avenue.
- Installed new service at 1601 52nd Street.

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.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 5626 Newton Avenue.
- Inspected 8 sanitary sewer manholes.

Stormwater

- Cleaned storm structures on 31st Avenue between 49th & 54th Streets.
- Cleaned dry retention ponds on Tangerine Avenue between 51st & 52nd Streets.

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 have moved to Section 4 of the City, also referred to as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49th Street to 58th & 59th Streets.

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

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.