



Gulfport Community Update

June 17 - 23, 2018

In an effort to reduce the effect of plastic straws on the environment, the City of Gulfport has created a **voluntary Strawless Summer Challenge** for City restaurants, bars and cafés. Participating businesses can participate by abstaining from giving plastic straws to customers between July 1 & September 30, unless requested. Visit www.mygulfport.us/strawless-summer-challenge for more information.

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 50% rebate following replacement and inspection of a failing sewer lateral between a home and the City connection. The maximum rebate is \$3,500, and 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. - 2 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 time to get creative with our long tradition of welcoming local businesses, organizations, family and friends to join the **City of Gulfport Independence Day Celebration** on Wednesday, July 4. The City of Gulfport has an amazing lineup of fun and exciting activities in the downtown waterfront district. Visit www.mygulfport.us/july_4th_celebration/ or call Kristin Ossola at 893-1118 for more information or to register for the parade.

The theme for the **4th Annual Art Gecko Show** at the Catherine Hickman Theater on Friday, August 3 is *Gecko Con*. Participating artists will create larger-than-life geckos depicting superheroes, villains, cult characters, imaginary locations and more from comics, books, movies, TV shows, animé and other media. The show will also feature selections from participating artists' regular body of work. The reception is free and open to the public. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cash bar will be available. For more information email Jhaugen@GulfportMA.com.

The **11th Annual Gecko Crawl** will help kick off *Gecko Season* in Gulfport with sample drinks at six locations, a poker run, and a festive after party in Gulfport's colorful Waterfront District. The Crawl will take place 4 - 9 p.m. Saturday, August 11, with the after party beginning at 9 p.m. Advance tickets will be available at the Gulfport Beach Bazaar beginning Wednesday, July 4 for \$20, or \$25 the day of the event. For more information email bbanno916@gmail.com.

The **Annual Gecko Ball** has become known as Gulfport's party of the year! This year's *GeckoCon* theme celebrates the touchstones and characters seen in popular Comic Con events held around

the world, including superheroes, villains, horror, animé, TV, film, comics, graphic novels and more. In addition to the live auction of the artists' geckos, the event includes dozens of silent auction items, costume contests, annual coronation of the Gecko Queen, catered tapas, cash bar, live music, dancing and more. The event will take place at the Gulfport Casino Ballroom 6-11 p.m. Saturday, August 25. Tickets \$35, available in advance beginning July 4 at Gulfport Beach Bazaar or online at www.VisitGulfportFlorida.com. A portion of proceeds will be donated to the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation, Operation Regroup and the Sonia Plotnick Health Fund.

The **18th Annual Gulfport GeckoFest** promises a full day of free family-friendly fun on Saturday, September 1. GeckoFest is preceded each year by the Gecko Art Show, Gecko Crawl and Gecko Ball. Events are hosted by the non-profit Gulfport Merchants Association, and a portion of proceeds will be donated to the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation, Operation Regroup and the Sonia Plotnick Health Fund. Free parking and admission. Pet and family friendly. For more information, visit www.Facebook.com/GeckoFest.

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

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	131
Self-initiated calls for service	353
Incident/offense reports	41
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	77
Ordinance violations	27
Residence checks	83

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Officer Hutsko was advised by the Senior Center Director on June 14 that a resident was the victim of a scam in which a person convinced her to sign paperwork to sell her house for well under market value. Officer Hutsko contacted the company, which voided the contract.

A resident in the 5700 block 16th Avenue reported that an acquaintance was in her home stealing prescription medication. Her husband followed the man, later identified as Kyle Nabors and officers found them on 58th Street. The victim positively identified Nabors as the person who was in her home, and he was arrested for burglary and grand theft.

A member of the HOME unit requested GPD officers attempt to locate a juvenile on felony home detention who failed to charge her monitoring device, a violation of the terms of her detention. She was found on June 15, and transported to the Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center.

A resident in the 5400 block of Newton Avenue reported that a neighbor saw 2 people going through her unlocked car. The suspects fled on foot, and nothing appeared to be missing.

Dwayne Dalton was issued a notice to appear for criminal mischief after he became upset while intoxicated, and accused a resident of an apartment complex in the 3000 block of 49th Street of stealing his "weed and cigarettes". Dalton sustained a deep laceration on his arm while breaking windows at the complex, and was taken to a hospital for treatment of the injury.

Eric Cornell was arrested after a resident approached patrol officers in the area of 26th Avenue & 45th Street on June 16, advising there was a person sleeping in the woods. Officers found Cornell in the woods, and a records check revealed he was wanted for an outstanding domestic related battery case.

Officers were dispatched to a two-vehicle crash at the intersection of 49th Street & 20th Avenue South. Just before they arrived, one of the drivers left the scene without providing information to the other driver.

Officers Dillard and Carter stopped a vehicle with a headlight out. During the course of the investigation, officers determined that the driver had approximately nine grams of marijuana inside the vehicle. He was given a referral for the Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion program.

Edward O'Brien was arrested for probation violation on June 17 following an investigation of an illegally parked car. O'Brien's probation stipulated no driving, and his driver's license was restricted for business purpose only.

Officer Clague stopped a vehicle with the tag light out in the 4900 block of 18th Avenue. A records check of the driver revealed an outstanding warrant issued by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office for failure to appear. John Martin was arrested.

Officers were dispatched to the 5900 block of Gulfport Boulevard on June 18 after a passing motorist reported a man covered in blood, walking with a woman. When officers arrived, the man was uncooperative and indicated that he and the woman had an argument but everything was fine.

A resident in the 5000 block of 8th Avenue reported several fraudulent transactions on his credit card made in St. Petersburg and Hillsborough County. The card was last used by the victim in St. Petersburg.

A juvenile reported that his purple Trek bicycle was taken from him by force by four known suspects. During the investigation, the victim became uncooperative and refused to return to the scene where the crime occurred.

A resident in the 2500 block of 50th Street reported on the morning of June 19 that sometime overnight someone stole the rear tire and rim from her vehicle and left it propped up on a cinder block.

A resident in the 5100 block of 13th Avenue reported that 2 people attempted to steal bikes in his yard. When confronted they dropped a bicycle in a neighbor's yard and fled.

Sherry Goodwin was arrested for abusing the 911 system on June 20 after she called the service 14 times in 24 hours for various issues that were not emergencies. She was warned multiple times but kept calling, resulting in her arrest.

An auto repair shop owner reported that four vehicles parked in the 5000 block of 17th Avenue were burglarized overnight. Nothing was taken.

Surveillance video showed a man breaking into three vehicles at Safety Tire. Nothing was taken.

A boat owner docked at the Casino caught a juvenile stealing a fishing pole from his boat. The boat owner did not want to prosecute due to the juvenile's age.

A resident in the 6300 block of Pasadena Point Boulevard reported that his loaded Glock and two loaded magazines were stolen from his car's glove compartment sometime in the last 9 months.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 14 hours this week. Officers made 6 boater contacts & 6 vessel stops, and investigated 4 derelict vessel cases.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	11
Cases assigned:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	7
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Supplements received:	6
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	3

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a runaway case, a burglary and a fraud case. He also made an arrest in an uttering a forged instrument case.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed a supplemental report for a sexual battery case; reviewed data from several electronic devices in a sexual battery/child pornography case, and; assisted with the Summer Bridge program at Boca Ciega High School.

School Resource Officers Motte and Embry are accompanying our Explorers at the Florida Association of Police Explorers state competition.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled the May 2018 Criminal Investigative Section report. She also attended training for UCR/NIBRS.

Records

Reports reviewed	21
Supplements reviewed:	91
Public Records requests:	22
Background checks:	4
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	3
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted	37

MARINA

Assisted with thirty-eight pump outs evacuating seven hundred-fifty gallons of waste.

Pumped eight thousand seven hundred eighty-seven gallons of gas and three thousand one hundred seventy-four gallons of diesel fuel, fueling two hundred nine vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Installed towel hook in upstairs men's shower room.
- Assembled dock cart for general marina use.
- Replaced paper towel dispenser at maintenance sink outside downstairs ladies' restroom.

- Adjusted downstairs restroom doors to close properly.
- Replaced AC electrical outlet and breaker cover.
- Replaced mounting plate for 50 amp & 30 amp outlets on Pier 3 T-dock.
- Continued issuing mailbox keys to live-aboard owners.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday - Friday, noon - 1 p.m. - *Summer BreakSpot Program.*

Monday, June 11, 1 p.m. - *Kids Read Aloud Book Club for grades 2-5*

Monday, June 11, 3 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Program: Pirates Rock!*

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

Tuesday, June 12, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Tuesday, June 12, 6:30 p.m. - *Pulse Orlando Nightclub Vigil.*

Wednesday, June 13, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, June 13, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Program Self Defense Skills.*

Wednesday, June 13, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, June 14, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, June 14, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Thursday, June 14, 6 p.m. - *Bees Learning mobile reading intervention program.*

Thursday, June 14, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series.*

Friday, June 15, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, June 16, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Series.*

Upcoming Events:

Monday - Friday, noon - 1 p.m. - *Summer BreakSpot Program:* Free lunches available to children 18 and younger during summer. No library card required.

Tuesday, June 26, 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.

Wednesday, June 27, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Program Tarot Reading:* We'll be joined by local psychic Ani Crane for a fun and entertaining afternoon of tarot card reading. Ani will explain what the cards represent and the many interpretations they hold. Participants can have a temporary henna tattoo applied while they wait to have their cards read. This is just for fun; no fortunes or prophecies will be revealed.

Thursday, June 28, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate:* Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

Thursday, June 28, 6:15 pm. - *Fermented Foods Workshop:* Learn nutritious and delicious ways of fermenting food at home! Fermented foods are packed with probiotics, great for your gut health, and delicious too! We will be joined by Sarah Arrazola, founder of St. Pete Ferments who will teach us how to get started in your own kitchen.

Monday, July 2, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club discussion of Oscar Wilde: The Unrepentant Years* by Nicholas Frankel. Copies available at the Circulation Desk.

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

Thursday, July 5, 5 p.m. - *Lesbian Feminist Hot Spots in the South*: Press party celebrating the July 1 release of the quarterly journal, *Sinister Wisdom* featuring the topic Hot Spots in which it explores the southern spaces where lesbians gathered and organized, including stories from Gainesville, Miami, Nashville, Louisville, Atlanta, Richmond and Durham. Local writers will read their works and answer questions. Everyone is invited. Light refreshments will be served.

Saturday, July 7, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie series*: A twisted tale of two assassins carrying out a sinister mission, a teacher battling a fatal illness, an enigmatic janitor and a curious waitress leading a dangerous double life. Murderous consequences unravel in the dead of night as their lives all intertwine at the hands of a mysterious criminal mastermind hell-bent on revenge. Stars Margot Robbie, Simon Pegg, and Mike Myers. Not rated. Call 893-1074 for title.

Thursday, July 12, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*: Three bullied teenage girls are going through the throes of finding themselves in this Swedish fantasy feature. A seismic shift happens when they discover a curious plant in their greenhouse. It turns out to have mysterious magical qualities that, when consumed, transforms the girls temporarily into boys. But not only does their gender change, the world around them and their response to it is profoundly altered. Not rated. Call 893-1074 for title.

Saturday, July 14, 10:15 a.m. - *Yoga in the Garden*: We're taking it outside this summer! Tend your body and spirit with mindful movement & meditation in our lovely garden. This slow-paced class welcomes all levels. Bring props if you wish. Taught by Christa Fairbrother, Certified Yoga for Arthritis Instructor & RYT.

Saturday, July 14, 1 p.m. - *Raven's Guild for ages 12 - 18*: Gather fans of anime, manga, gaming! This month, we're hosting a spicy ramen challenge! Due to limited supplies preregistration is required. Sign up at the Library, or call to place your name on the list. Take part in a world-wide trend that has everyone breathing fire like dragons! We'll also screen a movie. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Thursday, July 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club*: Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, July 19, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*: Young readers boost their confidence by sharing a story with Maya, a specially trained Golden Retriever. She visits our children's area on the third Thursday of every month.

Thursday, July 19, 7 p.m. - *Open Mic Night*.

Saturday, July 21, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Series*: Mary is an ordinary young girl stuck in the country with her great-aunt Charlotte and seemingly no adventures or friends in sight. She follows a mysterious cat into the nearby forest, where she discovers an old broomstick and the strange fly-by-night flower, a rare plant that blossoms only once every seven years and only in that forest. Together the flower and the broomstick whisk Mary above the clouds, and far away to Endor College - a school of magic run by headmistress Madam Mumblechook and the brilliant Doctor Dee. But there are terrible things happening at the school, and when Mary tells a lie, she must risk her life to try to set things right. It stars the voice talents of Kate Winslet and Jim Broadbent, and is rated PG. Call for movie title.

Every Monday, 1 p.m. - *Kids Read Aloud Book Club for grades 2-5*: We read a different book every week and snacks are provided by our Circle of Friends. Volunteer to read out loud or follow along with the group. For more information, call 893-1134.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Program*: For more information, call 893-1074. For kids age 5-12.

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, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*: call 537-9098 for more information.

Every Thursday, 10:15 & 11 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 June 10 - 16, 2018:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1604	1211
Sun. 6/10	Library closed	
Mon. 6/11	314	215
Tue. 6/12	263	205
Wed. 6/13	220	179
Thu. 6/14	291	208
Fri. 6/15	292	175
Sat. 6/16	212	159

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.

- Attended City app webinar training.

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.

Struggling to keep up with Technology? Join us at 3 p.m. Monday June 25 for **Tech Tips with Stetson**. This month's topic will help you navigate Facebook, video chat with your grandkids and guide you on changing your profile picture. Space is limited; call 893-5657 to register.

Go from opinion to knowledge by learning the facts about FHA reverse mortgages during **A Look Inside Reverse Mortgages** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 27. Questions welcome. Refreshments will be served.

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 June 28.

Enjoy going back in time? Hop on the GEMS bus on June 28 for this great **getaway trip to Heritage Village**. Visit the 21-acre living history museum with 33 historic attractions including a variety of historic homes, general store, railroad depot, 2 schools, church, & more! Afterwards, we'll stop for a delicious meal & pie at the Pie Factory. Round-trip transportation: GEMS members \$8/nonmembers \$10. Meal paid for individually.

Join us at 3 p.m. Monday June 2 when **Empath Health Chats** presents *East Meets West*, an introduction to Integrative Medicine, healing-oriented medicine that takes account of the whole person - body, mind, and spirit. By joining modern medicine with proven practices from other healing traditions, integrative practitioners are better able to relieve suffering, reduce stress, maintain the wellbeing, and enhance the resilience of their patients. Common therapies include aromatherapy, acupuncture, massage therapy, and Reiki. Discover more about this interesting approach to medicine and learn what the Empath Health Integrative Medical Clinic has to offer.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles, and many other goodies at **First Friday Flea Market** on July 6 at 9 a.m.

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 July 9. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

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, July 12.

The Community Law Program provides **free legal assistance** at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. the third Friday of every month. The next meeting is July 20. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, July 27. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

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

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

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

Join us at 1 p.m. every Wednesday for **Clubhouse Chatter**, 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 & eye glasses at the Senior Center. Staff forwards the items to the proper organizations for reuse, recycle or education.

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

Casino (last week's events):

- Tuesday, June 12 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 19)
 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 24)
 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 59)
- Wednesday, June 13 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 244)
- Thursday, June 14 1 p.m. - Keller Williams seminar (Turnout 48)
- Friday, June 15 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 29)

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 Swingtime Admission \$8
- Every fourth Monday 7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance: members \$5, non-members \$8
- Every Tuesday 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 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 second Friday 7 p.m. - Soul Night with Swing Time Admission \$8

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

- Sunday, June 10 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 11)
 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
- Saturday, June 16 5 p.m. - Family dinner (Turnout 33)

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 first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crime Watch meeting

Scout Hall (last week's events):

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

Monday, June 11 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 19)

Tuesday, June 12 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 17)

Scout Hall (upcoming events):

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

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

Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class

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

RECREATION CENTER

One hundred seventeen children are registered for the **2018 Summer Recreation Program** for 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 893-1068.

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

Contractual classes: Bootcamp, Essential Oils, Hatha Yoga, Karate, Pickleball, Slow Flow Yoga, Table Tennis, Tennis and Zumba.

Gulfport Teen Councilmembers Cameron Althaus, Katelyn Latragna, Connor Rowell and Haley Wyble have been working on the Children's Little Library. A Charter sign and number have been ordered.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 42 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 2 Elevator Rescues

Life Safety:

- 6 Fire Inspections

- 1 Re-Inspections
- 1 Plans Review
- 2 C.O.s

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is July 19.

The Gulfport Firefighter/Paramedics continued their June 2018 Face to Face CME. This month's topics include violent patient and de-escalation of a patient on scene with situational awareness. Inspector Lundh and Chief Marenkovic, attended a Seimens NFSA and AFAA course in Tampa on June 20.

Chief Marenkovic met with the City Manager and the IAFF 4966 President to begin negotiations for the Collective Bargaining Firefighters contract which expires September 31.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired and welded railings on Casino deck.
- Installed safety lock switch on main doors at City Hall.
- Replaced ladies' restroom door and frame at Dog Park.
- Installed railing in front of O'Maddy's & Manatees.
- Repaired electronic handle on back door of ladies' restroom at beach.
- Repaired photo cell on tennis court light.
- Treated algae on exterior of Library.
- Repaired light at Historical Museum.
- Installed hand dryer in men's restroom at beach.
- Completed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Installed paper towel machine in men's restroom in Theater lobby.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Groomed volleyball courts and beach for tournament.
- Removed graffiti from pavilion behind Recreation Center.
- Primed and painted trim boards at Casino.
- Installed parking stops at wash bay in City yard.
- Installed concrete borders around the beds at Neighborhood Center.
- Sodded Dog Park.
- Replaced the sinks in beach restrooms.
- Installed numbers on beach volleyball courts.
- Removed seaweed from beach.
- Mowed City Complex, Clymer, Veterans & Caldwell Parks, Senior Center, Library & Recreation Center green spaces, 28th Avenue sign area, 14th Avenue medians and Pasadena entrance area.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park, Library, Senior Center & Recreation Center.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Veterans Park, 58th Street terminus, Senior Center & Beach Streetscapes, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and replaced bump heads on line trimmers.

- 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.
- Patched asphalt throughout City as needed.

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 & 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 14 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 6 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 123 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 15 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Tested 30 backflow preventers.
- Replaced water main across Tangerine Greenway.
- Replaced water valve in Tangerine Avenue alley between 49th & 51st Streets.
- Replaced water valve on Tangerine Avenue easement between 49th & 50th Streets.
- Located valves, adjusted valve boxes, and poured concrete pads at 8 locations.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 and #2.
- Daily rainfall checks 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 checked grease trap at Gulfport Casino.
- Replaced broken sewer clean-out at 5519 Shore Boulevard.

Stormwater

- Inspected and cleaned 5 storm structures throughout City.
- Cleaned, repaired and replaced top on storm inlet at 54th Street & Shore Boulevard, and grate at 54th Street & 25th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced air brake valves and air brake chambers on Sanitation vehicle #46.

- Recharged air on Police vehicle #19.
- Installed camera on Sanitation vehicle #47.
- Replaced fuel filter and cleaned fuel system on Parks vehicle #711.
- Replaced 6 hydraulic hoses on Parks vehicle #709.
- Replaced tires on Streets vehicle #69, and Police vehicle #18.
- Replaced distributor, plug wires and spark plugs on Streets vehicle #85.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles, as needed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building Division

The longer daylight hours of summer create opportunities for those do-it-yourself projects you may have put off until now. Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss your plans and see what permits and inspections may be necessary, and code requirements 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. For 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. Call Lisa Giddens at 893-1063 for more information.

Call the Small Business Development Center at Pinellas County Economic Development at 464-7332 or visit www.pced.org/entrepreneurs for information, including a number of workshops on starting a new business. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

Code Enforcement activities continued this week in Section 5 of the City, also referred to as the Marina District which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26th Avenue to the water and east from 49th Street to City boundaries.

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.