



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *June 24 - 30, 2018*

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be **closed on Wednesday, July 4 in observance of Independence Day**. Sanitation routes will remain on schedule, but there will be no Wednesday yard waste collection.

The Gulfport Fire Department offers the following **tips for a safe and happy Independence Day**:

- Do not allow children to play with fireworks under any circumstances.
- Older kids should only be permitted to play with fireworks under close adult supervision.
- Light fireworks outdoors, away from dry areas and leaves.
- Keep a bucket of water nearby, and possibly a water hose.
- Do not relight malfunctioning fireworks.
- Make sure everyone is out of range before lighting fireworks.
- Never ignite fireworks in a container.
- Store fireworks in a cool dry place.
- Observe local laws.
- Don't experiment with homemade fireworks.
- Never position your body above fireworks.

The City of Gulfport and the Gulfport Merchants Association showed their **PRIDE** during the **Annual St. Pete Pride Parade** on June 23 (photos below). It was a hot but beautiful day, with even more beautiful people. Thank you all who attended!



**The Atlantic Basin Hurricane season ends November 30.** Hurricane Guides are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library & Fire Station. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits. Basic hurricane kit supplies to keep on hand:

- Flashlights and extra bulbs

- Water
- Battery-operated radio
- Fully charged battery-operated lanterns (no candles or kerosene lanterns)
- Extra batteries
- Matches
- Clock (wind-up or battery-operated)
- Plastic garbage bags
- Working fire extinguishers
- Scissors
- Clean change of clothes, rain gear, sturdy swamp boots

In an effort to reduce the environmental effect of plastic straws, the City of Gulfport has created a **Voluntary Strawless Summer Challenge** for City restaurants, bars and cafés. Gulfport businesses can participate by abstaining from giving plastic straws to customers unless requested between July 1 & September 30. Visit [www.mygulfport.us/strawless-summer-challenge](http://www.mygulfport.us/strawless-summer-challenge) 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.gulfportma.com), call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto:FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com) for more information.

The **City of Gulfport Independence Day Celebration** promises an amazing lineup of fun and exciting activities in the downtown waterfront district on Wednesday, July 4. The day's events begin with a Kids' Fishing Derby at the Recreation Center seawall at 8 a.m. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. Bring your own pole! The Family Sand Sculpture contest on Gulfport Beach from 10 a.m. until noon will have a Red, White & Blue theme. Bring your own tools and supplies. The Gulfport Historical Society's Annual Mullet Toss on the beach begins at 12:30 p.m. No 4<sup>th</sup> of July would be complete without a Parade on Beach Boulevard beginning at 6 p.m. Immediately following the parade the New Horizons Band of Gulfport will be playing music right outside the Casino. The day's celebration caps off with a spectacular fireworks display at 9 p.m. The trolley will begin looping offsite parking locations north of Gulfport Boulevard immediately following the parade. Visit [www.mygulfport.us/july\\_4th\\_celebration/](http://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 **4<sup>th</sup> 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 bodies 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](mailto:Jhaugen@GulfportMA.com).

The **Eleventh 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](mailto:bbanno916@gmail.com).

The **Tenth 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](http://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 **18<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 49<sup>th</sup> 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 61<sup>st</sup> 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	163
Self-initiated calls for service	341
Incident/offense reports	44
Arrests	5
Traffic citations	94
Ordinance violations	28
Residence checks	81

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Jason Flores was arrested on several warrants issued by Hillsborough County on June 21 after a resident in the 5600 block of Newton Avenue reported a suspicious person in the neighborhood.

Sherrod McClain was arrested for felony petit theft (two or more prior convictions) after police were notified that a theft suspect returned to a business in the 5000 Block Gulfport Boulevard. Officers interviewed McClain, who admitted to stealing several packages of crab legs two weeks earlier.

Police issued a trespass warning to a man who started a verbal altercation during a bingo game at the Gulfport Senior Center on June 22. When asked to leave, he shouted at other patrons and staff.

Police were dispatched to a report of an altercation in the 4900 Block of 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue after a man confronted his roommate about him acting oddly with his dog. Upon confrontation, the roommate pushed the complainant and a physical altercation ensued. One of the parties left prior to police arrival. Neither individual was charged.

Police were dispatched to a report of a Hit and Run in the 5500 block of Shore Boulevard after a caller reported an intoxicated woman backed into her vehicle several times and left the scene. Upon police arrival, officers spoke with the reporting party and independent witness. The suspect was hearing impaired and not intoxicated, but left because she did not feel safe with complainant.

Sgt. Vandenberg made contact with Chadwick Skinner in the beach parking lot in the early morning hours of June 23. A check of FCIC revealed there was an active injunction against Skinner for a resident in the 3100 block of Clinton Street. He was arrested for violation of the injunction because he was less than 500 feet from the residence.

Sgt. Vandenberg made contact with a woman sleeping on a picnic table in a Gulfport Beach picnic shelter on June 24. The woman gave her name, and Sgt. Vandenberg had to leave to respond to a traffic crash. It was later determined the woman lied about her name, and she had an active warrant for failure to appear. Officers are looking for her.

A Town Shores resident reported her credit card had been compromised, and was being used in Kissimmee. Officer Pope provided the Osceola County Sheriff's Office with the name of the liquor store and hotel where the card was being used. Deputies there found the man, a known criminal who has conducted similar frauds across the state. He was using the stolen card information for the room he reserved at the hotel. He fled and deputies are obtaining a warrant for his arrest.

A resident in the 1000 block of 55<sup>th</sup> Street reported that sometime overnight someone pushed in the screen to her front porch and stole three bikes. The suspect also left behind a bike in her front yard.

An unlocked bicycle was stolen from in front of a business in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard. The owner stated her blue Trek was left near the entrance doors of the business. Video shows a white male, possibly in his late teens wearing a red "Ecko" shirt and black pants riding off with the bike. The suspect was seen inside the store with other people shortly before the theft. The investigation is continuing.

A patron reported that he was battered by a bar employee in the 5700 block of Shore Boulevard after they argued over a female. The bar employee admitted to the battery and was referred to the adult pre-arrest diversion program.

An unknown subject entered three unlocked vehicles in the northwest area of the City on June 25, and rummaged through the glove compartments and center consoles. Nothing was taken.

Officers were dispatched to the 5000 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue on June 26 based on information that a juvenile had a warrant for her arrest for not charging her ankle monitor which was not tracking. She was found at a neighbor's house and taken into custody.

An orange tree was reported uprooted and stolen from a yard in the 1000 block of June 27.

The marine unit was on the water for 8 hours this week. Four vessel stops and 6 boater contacts were made. Officer Carter worked with FWC Ofc. Bibler conducting vessel stops as well.

### **Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)**

<b><i>New cases:</i></b>	7
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	4

Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
<b>Supplements received:</b>	10
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	3
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	7

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case, a theft, and an armed robbery. He also interviewed an inmate at the Pinellas County Jail and obtained a confession for an armed robbery that occurred in December 2017.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed a supplemental report for a fraud case, a grand theft auto, a theft, and a cyber-harassment; investigated a missing juvenile case; attended virtual currency training, and; gave a cyber-safety/cyber bullying presentation to children ages 6-14 at the Gulfport Recreation Center.

School Resource Officers Motte and Embry spent the week with the Explorers at the annual state competition in Palm Beach. The team placed 10<sup>th</sup> overall out of 27, and they earned a trophy in the category of traffic crash investigations.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano updated an analysis of vehicle burglaries and grand theft autos; completed pawn checks on 9 cases with a known serial number, named suspect or searchable property description; compiled and distributed open case lists; created and distributed a bulletin for Ofc. Pope in an attempt to ID a burglary suspect, and; set up a new laptop to be used for the sex offender display in the lobby.

## **Records**

Reports reviewed	18
Supplements reviewed:	48
Public Records requests:	56
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	0
Subpoenas processed:	3
Citizens assisted	32

## **MARINA**

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

Pumped seven thousand two hundred-twelve gallons of gas and two thousand two hundred sixty-three gallons of diesel fuel, fueling two hundred nine vessels.

### **Transient vessels:**

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

### **Staff activities:**

- Conversion to online POS system completed.
- Performed inventory count of all store merchandise and entered results into POS database.

- Replaced broken cleat on Casino floating dock.
- Retrieved the buoy from South Pasadena resident after it broke its mooring.
- Installed security gate cross brace on BCYC Dock A.
- Replaced florescent bulbs in ladies' downstairs restroom.
- Assembled new marina wet/dry vacuum cleaner.
- Repaired pier 2 security gate lock.

## **LIBRARY**

### **Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

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

Monday, June 18, 1 p.m. - *Kids Read Aloud Book Club for grades 2-5*

Monday, June 18, 3 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Program: Color Wheelz Kids Painting!*

Monday, June 18, 5 p.m. - *Basic Hand Embroidery.*

Tuesday, June 19, noon - *Lunch & Learn presents Can I Be Gay and Still be Spiritual?*

Tuesday, June 19, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, June 20, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, June 20, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Program Paranormal Ghost Hunting Tips & Tricks.*

Wednesday, June 20, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, June 21, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, June 21, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Redeployment by Phil Klay.*

Thursday, June 21, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Thursday, June 21, 6 p.m. - *Bees Learning mobile reading intervention program.*

Thursday, June 21, 7 p.m. - *Open Mic Night & Poetry Slam featuring special guest Gulfport Poet Laureate Peter Hargitai.*

Friday, June 22, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

### **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.

Monday, July 2, 3 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Program: Bottle Rockets Race:* Test Newton's third law of motion with us as we make homemade bottle rockets using baking soda and vinegar. 3-2-1- Blast off!

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@mygulfport.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.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.

Wednesday, July 11, 3 p.m. - *Glow Yoga*: Enjoy a unique twist on a vinyasa class with some glow flow! We'll darken the room, put on some beats and hand out complimentary glow sticks and glow paint. Open to teens in grades 6-12.

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! Take part in a world-wide trend that has everyone breathing fire like dragons! We'll also screen a movie. Due to limited supplies preregistration is required. Sign up at the Library, or call to place your name on the list. Parents of participating teens are required to sign a waiver. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, July 17, 10:30 a.m. & noon - *Child Developmental Screenings*: Join Help Me Grow Pinellas for a FREE playtime and screening for children ages 0-8 years old. Every family who completes a developmental screening will receive a Help Me Grow swag bag and a free children's book while supplies last. A Help Me Grow Care Coordinator will also to answer questions.

Thursday, July 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Good Lord Bird* by James McBride: 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.

Tuesday, July 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, July 26, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

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 Friday, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*: For more information call 893-1073.

### **Library Services/Statistic June 17 - 23, 2018:**

#### **Items Circulated   Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1653	1,200
Sun. 6/17	Library closed	
Mon. 6/18	271	216
Tue. 6/19	313	212
Wed. 6/20	234	179
Thu. 6/21	334	197
Fri. 6/22	264	197
Sat. 6/23	228	151

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport) to watch videos of recent City events, or access live & web stream rebroadcasts at [www.mygulfport.us/gtv640](http://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.
- Rode Gulfport Trolley and provided photographic coverage for St. Pete Pride parade.

### **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](http://www.mygulfport.us). Find us on Facebook at [www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter](http://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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

Join us at 3 p.m. Monday July 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.

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.

Questions about Social Security? We've Got Answers. It's important to understand your options before you retire, and the effect your decisions have on your retirement. Join us for **Social**

**Security: Your Questions Answered** at 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 9 at as Scott O'Berry of Edward Jones discusses and answers questions about Social Security.

New technology is popping up all around us. Learn the newest research on brain games, the pros & cons of home technology options, & which dementia technology really works. Join us at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 11 for **Healthy Aging with Dr. Cate: Technology & The Healthy Brain** as she brings the latest in research with humor & interactive discussion.

The Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections will visit the Gulfport Senior Center 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Thursday, July 12 to assist with **voter registration**, address, signature, name, or party affiliation changes, and applying to vote by mail. Call 464-8683 for more information.

Enjoy a delicious made-from-scratch meal with your friends when the **Out to Lunch Bunch visits Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen** on Thursday, July 12. After lunch we'll stop at The Shoppes at Park Place. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$6/nonmembers \$8. Meal paid for individually. Call 893-2242 to reserve your seat today.

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.

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 July 31.

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 19      10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 25)  
                                 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 20)  
                                 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 50)

Wednesday, June 20    6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 197)

Thursday, June 21      10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 24)

Friday, June 22        11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 30)

**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 17      9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (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 first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crime Watch meeting

**Scout Hall (last week's events):**

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

Monday, June 18 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 21)

Tuesday, June 19 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 17)

Friday, June 22 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 12)

**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 Gulfport Recreation Center will host a FREE **Family Sand Sculpture Contest** during the City of Gulfport's Independence Day celebration on Gulfport Beach 10 a.m. - noon Wednesday, July 4. Winners will be announced shortly after. The theme is Red, White and Blue. Participants must bring their own tools and decorations. All non-biodegradable decorations will need to be removed after the judging is completed. Call 893-1068 for questions or further information.

Registration is underway for the **2018/19 Tot Time & VPK Programs**. Tot Time is a preschool, hands-on program for children ages 3 - 5. Two, three or five-day monthly options are available. Proof of residency is required for Gulfport residents to receive resident rates. The 5-day VPK Program is for children who turn 4 years of age by September 1, and live in Florida. VPK is FREE but parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas, Inc. to receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten, and are limited to 10 children each. Program hours are 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Hours for registration are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. Call 893-1068 for more information.

One hundred eighteen 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.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 41 Emergency Medical Calls
- 2 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Elevator Rescue

### **Life Safety:**

- 14 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-Inspections
- 1 Plans Review
- 2 C.O.s
- 3 Smoke Detectors

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.

Interviews are underway to fill the vacant Fire Fighter/Paramedic position. The posting remain open until the position is filled.

Chief Marenkovic met with the City Manager and the IAFF 4966 President on June 27 to continue negotiations for the Collective Bargaining Firefighters contract which expires September 31.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Repaired fence, and assembled file cabinet & desk hutch at Neighborhood Center.
- Assembled hockey table and Little Library at Recreation Center.
- Performed annual fire alarm inspection at Senior Center/Theater & Neighborhood Center.
- Performed monthly replacement of filters on all City a/c units.
- Patched holes and retouched paint in beach restrooms, and repaired door in ladies' room.
- Repaired closet door at Police Station.
- Repaired Dog Park fence.
- Replaced sensor light on garage door at Fire Station.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks Maintenance**

- Drove trolley for St. Pete Pride Parade.
- Primed and painted trim boards at Casino.
- Repaired fence at Veterans Park.
- Removed seaweed from beach.
- Mowed Marina & Lions Club green spaces, York & 49<sup>th</sup> Street termini, Tangerine Greenway, Tomlinson Park & trail spur.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Veterans Park and along Beach streetscape.

- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Beach streetscape, Veterans Park, Recreation Center & 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue sign area, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades and replaced carburetor on street saw.
- 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 #45, 46, 47 & 48 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 22 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 1 non-pay recheck to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 111 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 12 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Tested 21 backflow preventers.
- Replaced 2 water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Replaced meter box at 2406 56<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **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 inspected grease trap at Gulfport Casino.
- Replaced broken sewer clean-out at 5519 Shore Boulevard.
- Performed inspections on 128 sanitary sewer manholes.
- Installed 21 new inflow protectors under sanitary manhole lid.
- Cleaned line and vacuumed grout residue from sanitary manhole.
- Repaired leak in sanitary manhole on Del Rio Way.

## **Stormwater**

- Inspected and cleaned 14 storm structures throughout City.
- Cleaned, repaired and replaced top on storm inlet at 50<sup>th</sup> Street & Tangerine Avenue.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced hood struts, TPMS, radiator, and cooling fans on Police vehicle #12.
- Replaced brakes on Fire Engine #E-17.
- Replaced hydraulic hoses on Sanitation vehicle #88.
- Replaced Drive Belt on Streets vehicle #35
- Replaced fuel pump on Police vehicle #9.
- Remanufactured piston on Garage vehicle #64.
- Replaced 2 hydraulic hoses on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue to the water and east from 49<sup>th</sup> 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.

Beginning in July Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 1 of the City, also referred to as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> Street. 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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

**July 17, 2018 City Council/CRA meetings:**

OE18-01; 3038 Beach Boulevard South; Application request for an Outdoor Entertainment permit for an 8' x 8' area for an existing restaurant.

**July 11, 2018 Board of Adjustment Meeting:**

- V18-12; 6327 Pasadena Point Boulevard South; Variance request:
  - 1) To reduce the right-hand side outer one-third setback requirement by 0.67 feet, from 40.67 feet to 40 feet to allow for the construction of a new lower landing extension; and
  - 2) To reduce the right-hand side outer one-third setback requirement by 12.67 feet, from 40.67 feet to 28 feet to allow for the installation of a new personal watercraft lift.
  
- V18-13; 2808 Skimmer Point Drive South; Variance request to reduce the right-hand side outer one-third setback requirement by 2.12 feet, from 18.12 feet to 16 feet to allow for the construction of a proposed new boatlift.
  
- V18-14; Vacant Lots 1 & 2, Southwest corner of the intersection of 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 53<sup>rd</sup> Street South; Variance request:
  - 1) For the re-orientation of a proposed new house on a corner lot from 25<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 53<sup>rd</sup> Street South; and
  - 2) To reduce the front yard setback requirement by 9 feet 1 inch, from 25 feet to 15 feet 11 inches in order to protect and preserve one of two mature oak trees as the result of the proposed location of the new house.