



Gulfport Community Update

July 15 - 21, 2018

Gulfport on the Go! The City of Gulfport is pleased to announce the launch of our new mobile app. Visit www.mygulfport.us/cityapp for more information.

Hurricane Guides are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library & Fire Station. The Atlantic Basin Hurricane season ends November 30. 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

The **sidewalk on Beach Boulevard at 29th Avenue South is closed** through July 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.

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 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.

The **Tampa Bay Beach Bums Third Annual Dynamic Duos Tournament** on Gulfport Beach is Saturday & Sunday, July 28 & 29. Visit www.tampabaybeachbums.com for more information.

Join Gulfport Police & Fire at the Catherine Hickman Theater at 6 p.m. Thursday, August 2 for **Gulfport Night Out**, an annual community-building campaign that promotes police-community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie to make our neighborhoods safer, more caring places. This free event, organized by the Gulfport Police Department and the City of Gulfport, enhances the relationship between neighbors and law enforcement while bringing back a true sense of community, and provides a great opportunity to bring Public Safety staff and neighbors together under positive circumstances. For more information, call Gail Biron at 893-1049.

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 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.

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. Tickets \$20 in advance at the Gulfport Beach Bazaar, or \$25 the day of the event. For more information email bbanno916@gmail.com.

Interested in learning more about Gulfport? Everyone is invited to the **Welcome to Gulfport Workshop** at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 14 & 6 p.m. Thursday, August 16. Presented by the Gulfport Public Library and the Gulfport Neighbors. For more information, call 893-1074.

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. 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 next **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, August 11 at 9 a.m. A limited number of pickers will be available; if you have one please bring it. Meet at Gulfport Beach pavilion #4. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and make a difference in the community.

Join Community Resource Officer Zack Mills and his special guest, Vice Mayor Christine Brown for **Coffee with a Cop & Councilmember** at Scout Hall, 5315 28th Avenue, 9 - 11 a.m. Saturday, August 11. There's plenty of socializing and meeting old and new friends.

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	123
Self-initiated calls for service	474
Incident/offense reports	36
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	110
Ordinance violations	45
Residence checks	86

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 2600 block of 48th reported on July 12 that he used his debit card to purchase a phone at a Metro PCS store in St. Petersburg, and later that day discovered several fraudulent charges from online retailers.

A 2012 Jeep Grand Cherokee was stolen from a business in the 1400 block of 49th Avenue after the owner left the vehicle unlocked with the engine running.

A purse containing an undisclosed amount of cash was reported stolen from an unlocked car parked near the tennis courts in the 5300 block of 27th Avenue.

Officers responded to a report of a shooting at a residence in the 1000 block of 58th Street on July 13. Upon arrival they determined that a man was attempting to shoot himself when his girlfriend intervened and struggled with him for the gun which went off striking, his finger. The man was transported to the hospital under a Baker Act and Officer Sigsbee completed paperwork and served the man with a risk protection order.

A resident in the 6100 block 12th Avenue reported he left his debit card at McDonalds and later discovered it was used at a grocery store in St. Petersburg.

A resident in the 4900 block of 14th Avenue reported that her father was upset at her and lit a small gas can on fire in her backyard. He left before officers arrived.

Officers were dispatched to the 4600 block of 29th Avenue on July 14 after the mast of a small sailboat being towed behind a truck caught a low hanging power line, causing the power pole to snap and fall over, damaging a fence. Duke Energy temporarily shut down the power so the vehicle and boat could be removed. There were no injuries.

Three people were arrested on July 15 following an altercation at a residence in the 6300 block of 11th Avenue. The two men got into a fight, and a woman pointed a gun at them in an effort to make them stop. All three were transported to the Pinellas County Jail; the men were charged with battery, and the woman with aggravated assault.

Officer Ramos conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle with a head light out in the 5200 block of 11th Avenue on July 16. A records check revealed that the Pinellas County Sheriff's office had probable cause for the driver's arrest on narcotics charges. However, the probable cause affidavits were expired. Officer Ramos attempted without success to reach the deputy who originally issued the probable cause affidavits. She was able to get a current address for the driver, and issued him a

citation for driving while license suspended or revoked. The deputy called back a short time later and updated the affidavits, and Officer Ramos went to the driver's residence and arrested him.

A resident in the 3000 block of 50th Street reported on July 18 that sometime between November 2017 and the reporting date, his electric bicycle was stolen from a locked laundry room.

Three pairs of sunglasses were reported stolen from three unlocked cars parked at a residence in the 5800 block of 24th Avenue. The home's resident reported that he saw 2 people inside one of the vehicles and they ran south on 58th Street when he confronted them.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 6 hours this week. Sergeant Burkhart and Officer Carter checked on a vessel that had sunk, but was recently raised. Officer Carter has been investigating a derelict vessel complaint against the vessel and it appears the owner is addressing the matter. Officer Kellington also conducted two vessel stops, issuing two boating citations.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	12
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Supplements received:	18
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	15

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for an armed robbery case, a grand theft, a runaway, and a criminal mischief.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two fraud cases and a theft.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano Created and distributed a bulletin for Detective Pham for a hit and run investigation. She also started work on a traffic study following a citizen complaint.

Records

Reports reviewed	23
Supplements reviewed:	93
Public Records requests:	48
Background checks:	5
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	1
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted	38

MARINA

Assisted with forty-two pump outs evacuating six hundred ten gallons of waste.

Pumped four thousand two hundred fifty-seven gallons of gas and one thousand eight hundred eighty-one gallons of diesel fuel.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Replaced AC power connector cover on pier 4 slip 36.
- Replaced pier 2 slip 19 pump out valve.
- Replaced leaking freshwater valves on BCYC dock c.
- Replaced GFCI outlet on pier 2 slip 4.
- Checked and filled pump out motor oil.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

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

Monday, July 9, 1 p.m. - *Kids Read Aloud Book Club.*

Monday, July 9, 3 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Program: Doodle Bots.*

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

Tuesday, July 10, 4 p.m. - *Rob Sanders' History of the Pride Flag.*

Tuesday, July 10, 7 p.m. - *An Evening with Rob Sanders.*

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

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

Wednesday, July 11, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Program Glow Yoga.*

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

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

Thursday, July 12, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

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

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

Saturday, July 14, 10:15 a.m. - *Yoga in the Garden.*

Saturday, July 14, 1 p.m. - *Raven's Guild for ages 12 - 18.*

Upcoming Events:

Monday - Friday thru July 26, noon - 1 p.m. - *Summer BreakSpot Program:* Free lunches available to children 18 and younger during summer. No library card required.

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.

Monday, July 23, 10 a.m. - *Pinellas County Schools Bus Driver Recruitment Drive*: Representatives will be available outside the Library entrance to speak with anyone interested in driving a school bus. Call Field Operations Supervisor Sonya D. Roundtree at 893-1165, ext. 1003 for more information.

Monday, July 23, 1 p.m. - *Kids Read Aloud Book Club for grades 2-5*.

Monday, July 23, 3 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Program: Cardboard Rock Band*: Get ready to rock! We'll craft our own instruments out of cereal boxes and other household items and rock out in the library! Open to ages 5-10.

Tuesday, July 24, 10 a.m. - *Healthcare Navigators*: Pinellas County Human Services Certified Marketplace navigators will be onsite to provide information and assist with enrolling in a health insurance plan. For more information, email jthompson@pinellascounty.org.

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.

Wednesday, July 25, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Program Epic Water Balloon Fight*: Bring your friends and prepare for battle in our Reading Garden! Water balloons and super soakers will be provided. Open to teens in grades 6-12.

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

Thursday, July 26, 7 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Party Tampa Taiko Drumming*: Celebrate the end of the summer reading program with the rhythmic beats of Tampa Taiko's traditional Japanese drumming as they share the history of the music and put on a fun and interactive performance you won't want to miss!

Friday, July 27, 7 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Party*: Celebrate the end of the summer reading program with video games, pizza, prizes and fun!

Monday, July 30, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic night*.

Tuesday, August 7, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Saturday, August 11, 1 p.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! We'll screen a movie. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Thursday, August 16, 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, August 16, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*: Young readers boost their confidence by sharing a story with Maya, a specially trained Golden Retriever. She visits our children's area on the third Thursday of every month.

Every Monday, 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 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 July 8-14, 2018:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1622	1244
Sun. 7/8	Library closed	
Mon. 7/9	312	259
Tue. 7/10	298	198
Wed. 7/11	244	194
Thu. 7/12	309	180
Fri. 7/13	263	182
Sat. 7/14	187	141

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events, or access live & web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfport.us/gtv640. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Created designs for e-newsletter.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.
- Continued preparation of August Calendar.

Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday - Thursday, and Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at www.mygulfport.us. Find us on Facebook at www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter.

The **City of Gulfport Telephone Reassurance program** is much more than a morning wake-up call. This free service offers Gulfport residents 50 years or older - and their families comfort, security, and peace of mind. Volunteers provide daily phone calls to registered members. If the member cannot be reached, the volunteer follows specific procedures to confirm there are no major concerns. Registration is simple and free. If you or someone you know could use this service, call 893-2237 or stop by the Gulfport Senior Center at 5501 27th Avenue.

Gulfport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS) offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65 plus \$2 per ride. GEMS also offers transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital and the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** program, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or to lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Senior Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Monday & Thursday for qualified Gulfport residents 50 & older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information, please see Rachel or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center has **many volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center for more information.

Need a ride in Gulfport? Call the **Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation GetGO free ride service** at 542-7757. The non-profit program transports residents to destinations within City limits free of charge.

Join YMCA Director of Healthy Communities Kieran Gabel at 3 p.m. Monday July 23 for **Healthy Living & Disease Prevention with the YMCA** and learn about Medicare coverage of the Diabetes Prevention Program, Enhance Fitness Arthritis Program & *All of Us* Research Program.

Join Meridien Research at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 25 for **Living with Colitis** as Outreach Manager Lynn Drowne covers the signs and symptoms of ulcerative colitis, suggestions for management & clinical trial opportunities.

Join the **Out to Lunch Bunch** Thursday July 26 for a tour of the Dr. Carter G. Woodson African American Museum. We'll stop first for lunch company at Beef 'O' Brady's, then off to the museum which presents a historic voice of one segment of the St. Petersburg community in the perspective of local, regional, & national history.

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.

Technology is constantly changing, making it hard to keep up with the latest changes, devices, and trends. Join us at 3 pm Monday, July 30 for **Tech Tips with Stetson** as students from the Elder Law Society teach seniors about Smartphones and the wide uses of apps, providing tips for beginners and advanced users.

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.

Join the **Out-to-Lunch Bunch** on Tuesday, July 31 as we venture to Romano's Macaroni Grill. Savor your mid-day break with new flavors & lunch-friendly servings of Italian classics. After lunch, discover all the new & exciting stores at Tyrone Square.

Join Dr. Mary Burton for **Beyond Hearing Aids: Advances in Hearing Technology and Hearing Solutions** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 1. Dr. Burton will discuss how the hearing system works, causes of hearing loss and various treatment options available, including hearing aids and other devices.

Experience the fascinating world of monumental sculpture during our next **GEMS Getaway to the St. Petersburg Sculpture Experience** on Thursday, August 2. Check out more than 100 sculptures, relax with Mark Twain on the patio and see 42 Studio Master Sculptures you'll never see anywhere else! Afterwards we'll stop at Po' Folks for some hearty, home-style cooking.

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, August 9.

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 August 13. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

The Community Law Program provides **free legal assistance** at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. the third Friday of every month. The next meeting is August 17. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

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

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

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

Join us 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, July 10 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 25)
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 18)
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 64)

Wednesday, July 11 6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 209)

Thursday, July 12 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 29)

Friday, July 13 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 30)
7 p.m. - Soul Night with Swing Time (Turnout 230)

Saturday, July 14 6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 210)

Casino (upcoming events):

Every first & third Sunday 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
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 first & third Thursday 7 p.m. - Salsa Dance/Lesson 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

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events):

Thursday, July 12 8 p.m. - *Gulfport Community Players (GCP) Summer One Acts* (Turnout 14)

Friday, July 13 8 p.m. - *GCP Summer One Acts* (Turnout 26)

Saturday, July 14 2 p.m. - *GCP Summer One Acts* (Turnout 39)
8 p.m. - *GCP Summer One Acts* (Turnout 58)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Thursday - Saturday, July 19 - 21, 8 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday, July 21 & 22, 2 p.m. - *Gulfport Community Players Summer One Acts*: Ten original one act plays by local and Florida playwrights. Tickets \$18 in advance at Beach Bazaar or online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org, or \$20 at the door (cash only) one hour before show time

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (*last week's events*):

Sunday, July 8 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 14)
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, July 9 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 26)

Tuesday, July 10 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

The game room is reserved 4 - 8 p.m. Saturday, July 21 for a Baby Shower.

Registration is underway for the **2018/19 School Year Child Care program** for children who will be entering Kindergarten thru age 14. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents and \$188 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

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 twenty-four 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-nine 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, Hoop Jam, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tennis & Zumba.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Gulfport Teen Council meeting on Friday.

Alton Hooker worked the room rentals on Saturday.

Teen Councilmembers Cameron Althaus, Katelyn Latragna, Connor Rowell, Robert Wolf and Haley Wyble presented the children's Lil' Library the City Council meeting on Tuesday evening.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 41 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarms
- 5 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak

Life Safety:

12 Fire Inspections
0 Re-Inspections
0 Plans Review
3 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 August 16.

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

Gulfport Fire Department continued annual fire pump testing with the apparatus this week. This NFPA requirement is reviewed by the ISO every two years for compliance.

The State of Florida Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services will conduct a site visit for renewal of GFD's Advanced Life Support License through August 2019.

Gulfport Firefighters have begun their annual Health Screening physicals, and a series of tests for Firefighter Safety and Wellbeing required under NFPA 1500.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Replaced motor for front entrance doors at City Hall.
- Cleared blocked drain at Dog Park.
- Removed and disposed of old refrigerator at Dog Park.
- Completed monthly pest control on all city buildings.
- Repaired a/c at City Hall.
- Cleaned Casino carpet, patched screw holes and primed and painted trim deck trim
- Repaired railing at Recreation Center.
- Painted scratched sign at beach restrooms and installed toilet paper dispenser in men's room.
- Repaired handicap door button at Senior Center.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Raked leaves at Scout Hall.
- Delivered 2 picnic tables to Scout Hall and moved cleats to city yard for relocation.
- Install parking stops at Parks shop.
- Installed baseboard on Casino deck.
- Installed little library at Recreation Center.
- Tilled beach playground and volleyball courts.
- Installed trash can at kayak launch, bench at 49th Street bus stop, and air conditioner in Recreation Center Caring and Sharing Room
- Cleared rocks from Beach Boulevard between 29th & 30th Avenues.
- Removed seaweed from beach.
- Mowed City complex, Senior Center, Library, Clymer, Veterans & Caldwell Parks, Neighborhood Center & Recreation Center green spaces, 14th Avenue median, and Chase block/Dog Park.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Recreation Center, Tangerine Greenway & Clymer Park.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched City complex, Chase block & Recreation Center, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced 2 line trimmer heads.
- 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 #23, 24, 25, 26 & 27 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 13 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 7 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 115 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected drinking water microbial samples on City distribution system.
- Replaced 10 water meters which were 20+ years old with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Tested 29 backflow preventers due in July.
- Repaired water break at 5017 17th Avenue.
- Continued annual water distribution system flushing and fire hydrant inspection.

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.

Stormwater

- Rebuilt curb inlets at 56th Street & 15th Avenue.
- Cleared rocks and debris from storm structure at 29th Avenue & Beach Boulevard.
- Removed broken storm box, and constructed new curb inlet at northwest corner of 23rd Avenue & Beach Boulevard.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced LED Light on Sanitation vehicle #49.
- Adjusted grabber arm and replaced air-line seal on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced brakes and coolant sensor on Sanitation vehicle #43.
- Replaced battery on Police vehicle #25.
- Installed light bar on Garage vehicle #51.
- Replaced light bar on Sanitation vehicle #30.
- Balanced tires on Police vehicle #524.
- 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 1 of the City, also referred to as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7th Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64th Street to 58th Street.

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.

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. ALL REQUESTS APPROVED
- 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. APPROVED
- V18-14; Vacant Lots 1 & 2, Southwest corner of the intersection of 25th Avenue & 53rd Street South; Variance request:
 - 1) For the reorientation of a proposed new house on a corner lot from 25th Avenue to 53rd 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. ALL REQUESTS APPROVED

July 17, 2018 City Council/CRA meeting results:

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