



Gulfport Community Update

July 22 - 28, 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 **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.

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.

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 **Fourth 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.

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 **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 at Gulfport Beach Bazaar or online at www.VisitGulfportFlorida.com. A portion of proceeds will benefit the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation, Operation Regroup and the Sonia Plotnick Health Fund.

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

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

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	157
Self-initiated calls for service	339
Incident/offense reports	41
Arrests	3
Traffic citations	76
Ordinance violations	19
Residence checks	100

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 6500 block of Debbie Lane discovered an unauthorized withdrawal from her bank account on July 19. The card was last used in Boynton Beach and the withdrawal occurred in Boca Raton.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a car stolen from the 1600 block of 58th Street. Upon arrival they determined the vehicle had been used in a home invasion robbery in the Lealman area, then involved in a hit and run crash while fleeing the scene. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office developed a suspect; the son of the owner. Upon learning their son was the suspect, the owner declined to report the vehicle as stolen. The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office will continue its investigation. The car was not used in any crimes reported in Gulfport.

Two people reported on July 20 that a juvenile male on a bicycle attempted to take their phones from their hands in the 3100 block of Beach Boulevard. The second victim last saw him head west on 31st Avenue.

Arthur Collins Jr. was arrested for felony criminal mischief after a caller in the 5100 block of 12th Avenue reported her ex-boyfriend came to her residence and broke her car windows out. Collins was located by police and admitted to breaking the windows, causing more than \$1,000 damage.

A caller reported on July 21 that he left his cell phone at a gas station in Gulfport the previous evening, and someone stole it from the counter. He called the phone before calling police, and a male answered and told him he would return the phone for \$40. Officers located the suspect at 47th Street & 22nd Avenue but he fled on foot. A K-9 tracked the subject but he is believed to have fled to a house where the occupants are known to not be cooperative with police. The suspect threw the phone to the ground when he ran, and it was later recovered and returned to the owner.

A pickup truck was stolen from a residence in the 5700 block of 20th Avenue. It was recovered in the Child's Park neighborhood on July 22, and a juvenile was arrested for the theft. The teen used a key he found in the glovebox to take the truck. He was also arrested for a second truck theft after a resident left his keys in his truck on July 22 while he went inside a business in the 5200 block of Gulfport Boulevard. It was found at the same location as the truck stolen the previous day. The teen, who was apprehended on a peninsula in the middle of Clam Bayou, was also charged with resisting arrest and felony violation of probation.

A resident in the 5000 block of 9th Avenue reported that several cat traps she had placed in order to catch stray cats for transport to a vet were stolen.

Officers were dispatched to the 2700 block of 44th Street on July 24 after several complainants stated their former landlord refused to return property valued at approximately \$1000. They moved out recently, and the landlord is hiding their property because she said they left the house

in bad condition. Officers spoke with the landlord who told them she does not have the items, and the tenants are upset because she is suing them for damaging the house.

A resident in the 5300 block of 20th Avenue reported on July 25 that a bicycle was stolen from their screened front porch sometime the previous evening. There are no leads, and the bicycle's serial number was not available.

The marine unit was used for 1 hour this week to train new officer Officer Janovich.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

<i>New cases:</i>	9
Cases assigned:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
<i>Supplements received:</i>	6
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	4

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

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for three fraud cases, two auto thefts, a death investigation, a theft and a cyber-sexual harassment case.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano completed pawn checks on 6 cases with a known serial number, named suspect or searchable property description; reviewed property reported stolen with a known serial number for proper entry into FCIC; compiled and distributed open case lists, and; presented the monthly crime analysis briefing at the staff meeting.

Records

Reports reviewed	14
Supplements reviewed:	58
Public Records requests:	30
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	1
Subpoenas processed:	11
Citizens assisted	34

MARINA

Assisted with twenty-three pump outs evacuating three hundred forty-five gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand one hundred fifty-nine gallons of gas and two thousand three hundred twenty-one gallons of diesel fuel, fueling two hundred eighty-nine vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Commenced Marina network cabling organization and relocation.
- Repaired firebox door on Casino courtesy dock, and continued inspection and repair of rub rail.
- Repaired shrimp tank lid brace.
- Replaced turn signal light on Marina work truck.
- Inspected fuel sumps.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

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

Monday, July 16, 1 p.m. - *Kids Read Aloud Book Club.*

Monday, July 16, 3 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Program: Harry Potter Day.*

Tuesday, July 17, 10:30 a.m. & noon - *Child Developmental Screenings.*

Tuesday, July 17, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, July 17, 12:30 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

Tuesday, July 17, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, July 18, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, July 18, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Program Harry Potter Trivia.*

Wednesday, July 18, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, July 19, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

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

Thursday, July 19, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws.*

Thursday, July 19, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Friday, July 20, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, July 21, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Series.*

Upcoming Events:

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

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

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.

Thursday, August 9, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series: 17-year-old Elio enjoys a close relationship with his father, a professor, and his mother, a translator. Elio's sophistication and intellectual gifts suggest he is already a fully-fledged adult, but there is much that remains innocent about him,*

particularly about matters of the heart. One day, Oliver, a charming American scholar working on his doctorate, arrives as the annual summer intern that assists Elio's father. Rated R. Call 893-1074 for title.

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, August 11, 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.

Tuesday, August 14, 10:30 a.m. & Thursday, August 16, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport! Workshops*: Cohosted by Gulfport Neighbors and the Library. Learn about the services available through the City and the Library. Find out how you can participate in our award-winning Gulfport Neighbors organization. Call 893-1074 for more information.

Thursday, August 16, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Lord of Misrule* by Jaimy Gordon. 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.

Saturday, August 18, 1:30 p.m. - Free Family Movie Series: British film about a woman who, after discovering her husband is having an affair, seeks out her unconventional older sister. Once she allows her sister to drag her to a dance class, she begins to once again find her feet. Stars Imelda Staunton, Timothy Spall, Joanna Lumley, and Celia Imrie. Rated PG-13. Call for movie title.

Thursday, August 23, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

Tuesday, August 28, 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.

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 Thursday, 6 p.m. - *Bees Learning*: Mobile reading intervention program. Classes held in RV parked in front of Library. **Registration required.** Email leahveal@beeslearning.org or call 404-308-0295 for more information.

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

Library Services/Statistic June 15 - 21, 2018:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1677	1206
Sun. 7/15	Library closed	
Mon. 7/16	257	197
Tue. 7/17	333	219
Wed. 7/18	252	176
Thu. 7/19	285	191
Fri. 7/20	280	198
Sat. 7/21	250	150

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. 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. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information!

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.

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 and 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 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.

Wander through galleries filled with antiquities, old masters & modern visionaries from the Ringling Museum's permanent collection & traveling exhibitions, and leisurely explore the 66 acre Bayfront Gardens on our Monday, August 6 **GEMS Getaway to The Ringling Art Museum & Bayfront Gardens**.

A growing body of research has pointed to the social, emotional, and physical health benefits of volunteering. Learn how volunteering can keep you mentally stimulated and add more zest to your life during **Empath Health Chat: Volunteers Change Lives** at 3 p.m. Monday, August 6

The Citizens Emergency Response Team (CERT) is an iatrical part of Citizen Corps, the grass-roots movement that actively involves everyone making our communities & nation safer, stronger, & better prepared. Learn what CERT is, what teams do in an emergency, how CERT helps the community, & the benefits of training when the **Gulfport PD presents CERT** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 8

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.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, August 31. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Casino (last week's events):

Sunday, July 15 6 p.m. - Ballroom Dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 29)

Tuesday, July 17 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 20)
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 16)
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 66)

Wednesday, July 18 6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 227)

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

Sunday, July 15 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 15)
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 16 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 23)
Tuesday, July 17 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 21)

Scout Hall (upcoming events):

Every Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga
Every Tuesday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing
Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class
Every Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

RECREATION CENTER

The game room was reserved 4 - 8 p.m. Saturday, July 21 for a Baby Shower with 30 in attendance.

The game room is reserved 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturday, August 4 for a Baby Shower.

Three children have been registered **2018/19 School Year Child Care program** for children who will be entering Kindergarten thru age 14. Two are nonresidents. 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-five 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, Essential Oils, Hatha Yoga, Karate, Pickleball, Slow Flow Yoga, Table Tennis, Tennis & Zumba.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez and Joanne McRoberts interviewed one Preschool Recreation Leader applicant on Friday.

Geno Green worked the room rental on Saturday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

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.

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

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired roof leak at Coast Guard Station.
- Cleared blocked drain in Recreation Center janitorial closet, and repaired foosball table.
- Acid washed and prepped beach restroom floors for sealing.
- Repaired 3 chairs and installed water fountain at Casino.
- Pressure-washed handicap ramp at Scout Hall.
- Installed TV camera monitor in Senior Center Director's office.

- Treated for ants at Library.
- Installed outlet at City Hall.
- Installed water fountain outside Beach restrooms.
- Cleaned carpets at Neighborhood Center.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Pressure washed Scout Hall exterior, and made miscellaneous preparations for Chamber event.
- Removed debris from shelter tops along Chase block.
- Stripped and sealed beach restroom floors.
- Cleared seaweed from beach.
- Trimmed low branches around Clymer greenway.
- Trimmed low branches and palms at Tomlinson Park, weeded hedges and removed tree shoots.
- Mowed City complex, Senior Center, Library, Neighborhood Center, Marina & Recreation Center green spaces, Clymer, Veterans & Caldwell Parks, and 14th Avenue median.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Recreation Center & Tangerine Greenway.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Neighborhood Center, Recreation Center, Marina, Lions Club, & City complex green spaces, Chase block, and York & 49th Street termini, 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 #31, 32, 33 & 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 11 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 3 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 107 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 8 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 1 water meter which was 20+ years old with E-Coder R900i meter.
- Installed 4" conduit across Tangerine Avenue for future communication service.
- 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.
- Cleared sewer stoppage at 5606 20th Avenue.
- Inspected 102 sanitary sewer manholes.

Stormwater

- Cleaned storm drain line at 56th Street & 14th Avenue.
- Cleaned sand and debris from storm line along 23rd Avenue at Beach Boulevard.
- Cleaned sediment from swale along 29th Avenue between Miriam & 45th Streets.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced 2 tires on Police vehicle #103.
- Replaced battery on Police vehicle #7.
- Replaced power steering pump on Police vehicle #12.
- Replaced power steering cap on GEMS vehicle #93.
- Repaired grabber arm on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced 3 batteries on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Repaired spotlight wire on Police vehicle #54.
- Replaced headlight, and dash assembly on Sanitation vehicle #40.
- Replaced tire on Sanitation vehicle #47.
- 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.

Beginning in August Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast area which generally extends north to 7th Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58th Street and east to 49th 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.

August 1, 2018 Planning & Zoning Board and August 21 City Council/CRA meeting(s):

C18-02; 5602 Gulfport Boulevard South; Conditional use application for a request for site plan approval with outdoor seating as an accessory use, for an approved conditional use drive-through facility accessory to a permitted use (restaurant).