



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *July 1 - 7, 2018*

**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 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 Com 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	141
Self-initiated calls for service	439
Incident/offense reports	35
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	83
Ordinance violations	31
Residence checks	105

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 2700 block of Tifton Street reported on June 28 that her neighbor pushed her to the ground after she went onto his property to check her water meter. The neighbor denied touching the victim who did not wish to prosecute. They were able to work out their differences and come to an agreement regarding the water meter.

Shirevell Williams was arrested on June 29 for outstanding warrants issued by Pinellas County.

A car was found crashed into the back of a car parked in the 2700 block of Beach Boulevard on June 30. The car was unoccupied and the air bags had deployed. Officers attempted contact the

owner with no success. The owner called police a short time later to report the incident and admitted to being the driver. The vehicle was impounded and a criminal traffic citation was issued.

While conducting a traffic stop in the 1100 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street an officer witnessed a car fail to yield the right of way while turning into a parking lot, causing another car to strike the rear fender at a high rate of speed. Both parties exited their vehicles and began to argue. Gulfport Police separated and calmed both parties while St. Petersburg Police responded as the accident occurred in their jurisdiction.

Leigh Anne Cyr was arrested for domestic battery and narcotics possession after she battered her father at a residence in the 5200 block of 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue. A search of Cyr revealed a bag of heroin and a bag of crystal methamphetamine.

Officers responded to the 5800 block of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue on July 1 after an elderly woman with dementia wandered away from church after mass. She was found several blocks away by a family member.

Officers were dispatched to a noise complaint at Salty's Bar. Upon arrival they took three noise measurements and determined that noise levels were significantly above the legal level of 65 decibels. Because there were multiple prior sustained complaints in the past 30 days, the owner was issued a noise ordinance violation.

An officer attempted to stop a vehicle in the 6000 block of Gulfport Boulevard for an inoperative tail light. The driver did stop but was not speeding or violating traffic laws, so the officer discontinued pursuit. He was able to see the driver's face and identified him as Alberto Pericchi De Jesus. De Jesus was later found by the Clearwater Police Department at his residence. A Gulfport officer responded and interviewed De Jesus who admitted to fleeing and alluding. De Jesus was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a domestic dispute in the 4900 block of 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue on July 2, the third call to the residence that day. The caller was unhappy that her ex-boyfriend had returned to the residence. The ex-boyfriend stated he wanted to remove his possessions and leave. He was advised to call police when he attempts to retrieve his property so an officer can keep the peace.

A cell phone was stolen from the fire hose box on the Gulfport Casino dock after the owner put it there while he went for a swim. When he returned the phone was gone.

A resident in the 5200 block of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on July 3 that he heard someone in his home and found a man in the bathroom attempting to light a marijuana cigarette. He asked him what he was doing and the suspect replied that he was being sought by St. Petersburg Police for a domestic incident. He fled the residence on foot was not located.

Warren Atkins was arrested for driving under the influence on July 4 after he passed Sergeant Vandenberg's marked patrol car while driving 90 mph on the Bayside Bridge. Sergeant Vandenberg made contact with Atkins and could tell he was impaired. A member of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office DUI squad responded and conducted an investigation.

Officers made contact with Michael Pinnow for what began as a domestic incident. He was driving and appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. After a DUI investigation was conducted he was arrested. His breath alcohol content was .161/.160.

John Hardison was arrested after staff at Salty's bar reported he was intoxicated and causing a problem. When officers made contact with Hardison he stated his unleashed dog ran into the bar and he was trying to find it. Bar staff reported that Hardison didn't believe them when they told him the dog ran out the back door. He became belligerent and they wanted him trespassing. Hardison ignored the notice and walked onto Salty's property, resulting in his arrest.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 16 hours this week to assist with the Independence Day celebration.

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

<b>New cases:</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 burglary case, a theft, a fraud, and a death investigation; investigated a suicide, and; assisted patrol with interviewing a suspect at the Pinellas County Jail. The suspect confessed to multiple vehicle burglaries.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case; reviewed multiple subpoena returns, and: assisted with the Fourth of July celebration.

Margaret Palmisano presented the monthly crime analysis briefing at the staff meeting, and commenced tabulating the 2018 semi-annual UCR report.

## **Records**

Reports reviewed	16
Supplements reviewed:	66
Public Records requests:	40
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	1
Subpoenas processed:	5
Citizens assisted	31

## **MARINA**

Assisted with twenty-five pump outs evacuating four hundred ninety gallons of waste.

Pumped two thousand nine hundred thirty-eight gallons of gas and two thousand seven hundred gallons of diesel fuel, fueling two hundred fifty vessels.

## **Transient vessels:**

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

## **LIBRARY**

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

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

Monday, June 25, 1 p.m. - *Kids Read Aloud Book Club.*

Monday, June 25, 3 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Program: Glow Yoga!*

Monday, June 25, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic*.

Tuesday, June 26, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults*.

Tuesday, June 26, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*.

Tuesday, June 26, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, June 27, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, June 27, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Program Tarot Reading*.

Wednesday, June 27, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, June 28, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, June 28, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*.

Thursday, June 28, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*.

Thursday, June 28, 6:15 pm. - *Fermented Foods Workshop*.

Friday, June 29, 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.

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.

Monday, July 9, 3 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Program: Kids Doodle Bots*: Join us for this fun and creative activity! Call 893-1134 for more information.

Tuesday, July 10, 4 p.m. - *Rob Sanders' History of the Pride Flag*: Children will have a chance to make Pride flags while learning the history of this colorful celebration of LGBTQ contributions to American culture. Celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rainbow Pride Flag with the author of the first picture book to tell its remarkable and inspiring history! Rob is a teacher and has published several children's books.

Tuesday, July 10, 7 p.m. - *An Evening with Rob Sanders*: Celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rainbow Pride Flag. Rob will also share his experiences as a public school teacher and proud gay author. Audience Q & A. will follow.

Wednesday, July 11, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Program 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 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](mailto: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.

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

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](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.us) for more information.

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 24 - 30, 2018:**

#### **Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1657	921
Sun. 6/24	Library closed	
Mon. 6/25	283	187
Tue. 6/26	255	138
Wed. 6/27	323	162
Thu. 6/28	289	119
Fri. 6/29	291	165
Sat. 6/30	229	120

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://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.

### **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 **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.

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.

Join the GEMS Getaway gang on Monday, July 16 when we visit the **Ringling Art Museum & Bayfront Gardens**. Wander through galleries filled with antiquities and the works of old masters & modern visionaries from the Ringling Museum's permanent collection & traveling exhibits, and explore the 66 acre Bayfront Gardens. Round trip transportation & admission: GEMS members, \$15/nonmembers \$20.

Learn creative ways to enhance the flavor of your food without increasing your sodium intake. Join Wendy for **Health Talk with Humana: Just a Dash** at 10:30 a.m. Monday, July 16.

Learn what you need to know to make an informed decision about your Medicare Options during **Medicare 101** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, July 18. Presented by Senior Benefit Solutions.

Learn the basic functions of your Apple iPhone or iPad during the next **iPhone/iPad Instruction Class** at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, July 19. Call 893-5657 to register. Presented by the Gulfport Library.

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):**

Sunday, June 24            3:30 p.m. - Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance Contra Dance (Turnout 86)

Monday, June 25      7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance (Turnout 84)

Tuesday, June 26      10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 23)  
                                  12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 15)  
                                  6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 60)

Wednesday, June 27    6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 226)

Thursday, June 28      10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 23)

Friday, June 29        11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 30)

Saturday, June 30      12:30 p.m. - ACLU Families Together event (Turnout 450)

**Casino (upcoming events):**

Friday, July 6            6 p.m. - Collegiate Shag Lesson  
                                  7 p.m. - East Coast Swing Lesson  
                                  8 p.m. - July Jitterbug Jump Swing Dance With Ace Jackson & The Jump Kings Admission \$12

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

**Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):**

Friday, July 6, 6 p.m. - Meet July's featured artist Gene Norris, a prize-winning member of many professional art societies, and enjoy a display of digital fine art images. Free and open to the public. Cash bar.

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

Sunday, June 24 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 25 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 20)

Tuesday, June 26 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**

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 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 and Zumba.

## **Staff Activities**

Marivel Gutierrez, Jami Rowell, John Lapham and Joanne McRoberts worked the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Family Sandsculpture Contest on Wednesday.

Jami Rowell assisted the Teen Council during the City's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade.

Teen Councilmembers Cameron Althaus, Katelyn Latragna, Connor Rowell and Haley Wyble walked in the City's 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade on Wednesday evening.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 47 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 3 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

### **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. Lealman CERT is hosting a basic CERT class in July. The dates are Tuesday July 17, 19 & 21. Members that have not attended this class are encouraged to sign up. The class is free and on Saturday the 21, lunch and snacks will be provided. There are twenty seats available.

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

Special Rescue 17, Pumper 17, Engine 17 and Command GP100 staffed the July 4<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Chief Marenkovic, conducted fire inspections and staffed the Unified Command Post in the Casino with Police Commander Mary Farrand. Special Rescue 17 responded to 2 medical emergencies inside the event location.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Repaired a/c units at Scout Hall & Fire Department.
- Cleared blocked toilet at City Hall.
- Adjusted doors at beach restrooms.
- Repaired wire fence on Shore Boulevard.
- Installed plaque on Little Library.
- Repaired rocking chair at Historical Museum.
- Replaced timer switches at Parks Division shop.

- Cleaned and removed debris from roof and gutters at Scout Hall.
- Adjusted Dog Park gate.
- Repaired electrical outlet at Recreation Center.
- Repaired neon lights at Casino.
- 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).
- Disconnected water service at 16 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 4 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 22 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 11 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 13 water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Replaced 3 meters that were stuck or damaged and not recording water usage.
- Replaced 13 water meters which were 20+ years old with a new style water meters.
- Repaired water main breaks at 5017 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue & 1705 56<sup>th</sup> Street.

- Installed new service line at 6286 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **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.
- Televised and cleaned sewer laterals at 1325 Gray Street and 5305 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Dug up and installed cleanout to grade at 1105 Freemont Street.

### **Stormwater**

- Poured concrete curb, and installed sod after storm line repair at 1847 59<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Cleaned storm inlet box at 2519 Beach Boulevard.
- Cleaned Suntree box at 4911 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Formed and poured 12 concrete storm inlet lids.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- 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** have moved 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 7th Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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.
  
- 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 reorientation 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.

**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.