



Gulfport Community Update

August 19 - 25, 2018

Gulfport on the Go! Visit www.mygulfport.us/cityapp for more information on our new mobile app.

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

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

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 through September 30 by abstaining from giving plastic straws to customers unless requested. 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 **Annual Gecko Ball** has become known as Gulfport's party of the year! Our tenth 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 **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, September 8 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, Councilmember Paul Ray for **Coffee with a Cop & Councilmember** at Scout Hall, 5315 28th Avenue 9 - 11 a.m. Saturday, October 6. As always during Coffee with a Cop, there's plenty of socializing and meeting old and new friends.

The **Fifth Annual Mayors' 49th Street Cleanup & Fourth Annual Chiefs' Chat** along the Tangerine Greenway is Saturday, October 13. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. The Cleanup begins at 9, and Chiefs' Chat begins at 10:30. Visit www.mygulfport.us/mayors-49th-street-cleanup-chiefs-chat for more information.

Celebrate the 108th anniversary of the City's incorporation during **Founder's Day: A Celebration of Gulfport** on Saturday, October 13. Party with old and new friends! Daytime activities are 9:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kick up your heels and show off your best moves during Gulfport under the Stars from 7:30 until 10:30 p.m.

In partnership with the Ocean Conservancy, Keep Pinellas Beautiful will coordinate the **2018 International Coastal Cleanup** in an effort to eliminate the impact of marine and terrestrial debris within Pinellas County ecosystems, including Clam Bayou. Join the City of Gulfport for a rewarding day of community improvement, engagement and beautification on Saturday, October 20, 9 a.m. - noon. Visit www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-international-coastal-cleanup-clam-bayou-nature-preserve-tickets-48448459647 for more information.

It's almost that time again! Bring your Gulfport I.D. and your junk to the **Gulfport Neighbors Junk in the Trunk** at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Saturday, October 27, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Drop junk that works at the free trade table. Free bike registration and helmets, costume contest and games for kids, have coffee with a cop, and get gardening tips from the community garden team.

The City of Gulfport is accepting addresses for the permit free **Citywide Yard Sale** brochure. The sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 3. In the event of rain, the sale will take place on Sunday the 4th. Pick up a registration form at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53rd Street or the Gulfport Library, 5501 28th Avenue or register on line at www.mygulfport.us/city-wide-yard-sale no later than 4 p.m. Friday, October 26. No phone-in addresses please; one address per application. For more information, call 893-1118.

The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation and the Town Shores Masters Association will cohost the **Fifth Annual Monster Mash** at the Gulfport Casino 6 - 10 p.m. Saturday, October 27. Enjoy raffle

prizes, dance & costume contests while feasting on great eats. Everyone loves Halloween, so put on your best costume and join us!

Put on your best costume and bring the kids to the **Halloween Bash** at the Gulfport Recreation Center on Wednesday, October 31, 7 - 9 p.m. Carnival games, Costume Contest, Haunted House, Tot Boo Room and Snack Shack. For more information, call 893-1068.

Whether you served in the military or serve on the volleyball court, join the City of Gulfport, Stetson University and VETsports for **Heroes Weekend** on Saturday & Sunday, November 10 & 11. This is a great way for the community to participate in Veteran's Day while giving back to local Veterans. Get involved by entering in the parade or entering your team in the VETSports volleyball tournament. For more information or to register, visit www.mygulfport.us/heroesweekend.

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.

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.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	134
Self-initiated calls for service	525
Incident/offense reports	36
Arrests	7
Traffic citations	145
Ordinance violations	52
Residence checks	82

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 2200 block of 53rd Street reported on August 16 that two people took his car without permission. Carrie Baker and Jacob Thompson were arrested later in the day, and the vehicle was recovered.

A truck backed out of a parking spot in the City Hall parking lot on August 18, and struck a parked vehicle across the lot. There were no injuries and only minor damage reported.

Officers were dispatched to the 1400 block of Gray street after a caller reported that two relative children came to her home and told her they hadn't seen their mother or eaten in two days. The abuse hotline was notified, and the children remained in the custody of the adult relative.

A resident in the 700 block of 60th Street reported on the morning of August 18 that sometime overnight someone stole items from the center console of his unlocked vehicle.

A resident reported that he found a driver license and credit cards in the bushes near his home. An officer contacted the owner of the cards and determined they were stolen from her unlocked car sometime overnight while it was parked in the 1800 block of 57th Street.

The marine unit responded to a reported altercation between two boaters near Mariner's Cove. Officers discovered that David Farrell, one of the parties involved had five open probable cause

affidavits for various drug charges issued by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office (PCSO). A PCSO marine unit responded and took Farrell into custody.

Officers were dispatched to Gulfport Beach after a caller reported that two women were intoxicated and had stripped naked and walked into the water. Officers located the women and issued Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion (APAD) notices for disorderly intoxication. They were also driven home to prevent them driving. One of the two was arrested later in the day for driving under the influence, and declared ineligible for APAD. Charges will be forwarded to the State Attorney's Office.

Several items were reported stolen from an unlocked car parked in the 6000 block of 9th Avenue.

Brenton Ellis was arrested on August 19 after he left the Dollar General store without paying for a drink and food. He thanked the cashier for the items as he was walking out of the store. Officer Marshall found Ellis in front of the Neighborhood Center. Ellis stated that he was going to turn himself in as soon as he finished eating the food he stole. He was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

A resident in the 3100 block of Dupont Street reported that sometime overnight someone threw a rock at the windshield of her rented moving truck and damaged it.

A wallet was reported stolen from an unlocked car parked in the 5600 block of 18th Avenue.

Officers made contact with two individuals in the 5700 block of Gulfport Boulevard on August 20 after a caller reported a bicyclist was riding with a child in a seat that did not look safe. The passenger was actually an adult, and a records check revealed that she had an outstanding warrant for retail theft. Teryn Schakel was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

Officers were dispatched to the 2600 block of Quincy Street on August 20 after a caller reported that she thought a man was urinating in her yard. They contacted the man who said he was just admiring all of the changes she had made. He was advised to stay out of her yard.

A man took several packages of meat products from a business in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard and ran from the store without paying for them. The responding officer reviewed surveillance video and may have identified the suspect as someone he's had contact with before.

Chief Vincent stopped a car at 64th Street & Gulfport Boulevard on August 22 after he observed the driver operating recklessly. When he made contact with the occupants, it was apparent that someone had been smoking marijuana. The driver did not have a valid driver license and was evaluated by a drug recognition expert due to signs of impairment. A records check of front seat passenger Devon Thompson revealed an outstanding warrant. Thompson asked officers to get his cell phone from the vehicle so he could take it to the jail with him. Thompson's cell phone was found in a bag that also contained 69 grams of marijuana, and gummy bears laced with THC oil. Thompson was arrested for felony possession of marijuana and the outstanding warrant. He was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 14 hours this week; officers made vessel stops, boater contacts, investigated a derelict vessel and handled a dispute between two boaters.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

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

Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	1
Cases still active:	3

Investigator Highlights

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

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for unattended death, and an unlawful sex with a minor case. She also investigated and arrested a 29-year-old man for having a sexual relationship with an under-age female.

School Resource Officers Motte, Embry, and Sigsbee counseled 13 students; hosted 3 safety meetings, met with the parents of 6 students, escorted 4 truant students to the office, and provided instruction for 12 classrooms.

Officer Motte discussed school safety and how to report crimes on campus fort 4 school assemblies; provided 6 classroom lessons regarding drug use and abuse, and; facilitated the weekly Police Explorer Post meeting.

Officer Embry assisted the St Petersburg Police Department with a battery case and a suspicious person case that occurred in St Pete. He was also informed that a student brought a gun on campus, and quickly determined the allegation was false.

Officer Sigsbee spent time in a 4th Grade class discussing the importance of being safe and listening; ate lunch with a group of students as a reward for accomplishments during the first week of school, and; met with a 2nd grade student who was removing items from other students' backpacks; the student was taken to school administration for consequences.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	12
Supplements reviewed:	75
Public records requests:	27
Background checks:	5
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints:	1
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	39

MARINA

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

Pumped four thousand five hundred eighty-one gallons of gas and one thousand sixty gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred forty-two vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Replaced electrical meter and logic in pedestal on pier 6 slip 14.
- Inspected fuel sumps, pumped out water and inspected for leaks; none found.
- Caulked shower pans and floor tiles in men's & women's second floor shower areas.

- Recovered marina network connections following thunderstorm.
- Inspected pump out systems.
- Repaired emergency gate latch.
- Inspected Casino courtesy dock.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, August 14, 10:30 a.m. *Welcome to Gulfport! Workshop.*

Tuesday, August 14, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, August 14, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, August 15, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, August 15, 10 a.m. - *Healthcare Navigators.*

Wednesday, August 15, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Wednesday, August 15, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, August 16, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

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

Thursday, August 16, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws.*

Thursday, August 16, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport! Workshop.*

Friday, August 17, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, August 18, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Series.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

Monday, August 27, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic night.* Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, August 30, 1 p.m. - *Beginner Painting for Adults:* Follow along as we paint a beautiful scene of the Aurora Borealis! Use brushes, acrylic paints and a few unexpected items. Registration closed; class is full.

Saturday, September 1, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series:* Romantic and realistic view of what it might be like sharing one's last vacation with Alzheimer's. The subject is handled delicately and with humor as well as pathos. Enjoy a love story starring Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland. Rated R Call 893-1074 for title.

Tuesday, September 4, 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, September 6, 7:50 p.m. - *3D Paper Robots for Grades 4-7:* Use paper, tape and glue to create awesome robot sculptures. Registration required: call 893-1134 to sign up.

Saturday, September 8, 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, September 8, 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, September 13, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*: Marina is a transgender woman in Santiago, Chile whose older boyfriend Orlando becomes ill and unexpectedly dies. In the face of her grief Marina must cope with hostility and unacceptance from Orlando's family and their attempts to shut her out of Orlando's funeral and force her out of the home she shared with him. Winner of the 2018 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film. (Rated R) Call 893-1074 for title.

Saturday, September 15, 1:30 p. m. - *Free Family Movie Series*: A sweet and uplifting story of four friends and their decades-long book club. The film features great performances by Diane Keaton, Jane Fonda, Candace Bergen, Mary Steenburgen, and Andy Garcia. Rated PG-13.

Monday, September 17, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club discussion of Queerly Beloved By Jacob and Diane Anderson-Minshall*. Copies available at the Circulation Desk.

Tuesday, September 18, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*: Build with Legos, wood blocks and more! Open to children ages 4-10 with a caregiver.

Tuesday, September 18, 7 p.m. - *Trivia Night*: Are you a trivia buff? Do you love watching Jeopardy!? Want to show off your esoteric knowledge? Grab some friends and make a team. Light refreshments and prizes for the winning team.

Thursday, September 20, noon - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Buddha in the Attic* by Julie Otsuka. Copies available at the Circulation Desk. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, September 20, 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, September 20, 6 p.m. - *An Evening with Tim Dorsey*: Acknowledged as "Florida's king of mayhem," the author talks about his recently published novel *The Pope of Palm Beach*.

Saturday, September 22, 1 p.m. - *Clowning Around Circus Crafts & Games for Grades K-5*: We'll make a lion mask, clown hats and fake cotton candy, and play a few carnival games.

Thursday, September 27, 5 p.m. - *Make a Diddley Bow*: This one string guitar is made of a wooden dowel, old cigar box and various hardware found around your garage! Make it, play it, or give it to a friend! For Grades 6-12. Registration required: call 893-1134 to sign up.

Thursday, September 27, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

Every Monday beginning September 10, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for grades K - 5*.

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, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime:* Join us for an afternoon story, songs, movement and crafts! Everyone welcome but geared for 2-5 year-olds.

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, 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 August 12 - 18, 2018:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1419	1201
Sun. 8/12	Library closed	
Mon. 8/13	285	238
Tue. 8/14	232	197
Wed. 8/15	199	178
Thu. 8/16	227	187
Fri. 8/17	262	170
Sat. 8/18	200	173

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 September 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 valuable daily 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.

Enjoy a delicious lunch & a craft beer when the **Out-to-Lunch Bunch** visits the Brass Tap on Monday, August 27. Then shop to your heart's desire at the Tyrone Square Mall's new stores. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$4/nonmembers \$6. Meal paid for separately.

Join All Care Medical Consultants Medical Director Dr. M.I. Yamani at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 28 for **About That Sugar... Addiction** to learn how sugar consumption leads to biochemical changes in the body.

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 August 30.

Maintaining good health, particularly for seniors involves much more than eating well, exercising daily, and taking medications as prescribed. The desire for social interaction is a basic need that continues for as long as one lives. New friends and renewed relationships can help to make the later years in life as rewarding as any other time. Join us at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 5 for **Ageing Well Through Social Connections**, a relevant conversation about the importance of maintaining social connections.

Discover the rich cultural heritage of Ybor City and learn about the role Ybor City played in Tampa's development, and its reputation as the Cigar capital of the world during our September 6 **GEMS Getaway to Ybor City Museum State Park**. Afterward, we'll visit the Columbia Restaurant, a Florida tradition since 1905. Round trip transportation and museum admission with guided tour: GEMS members \$20/nonmembers \$24. Meal paid for separately.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles and many other goodies during our next **First Friday Flea Market** at 9 a.m. Friday, September 7.

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, September 13.

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 September 10. 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 September 21. 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, September 28. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Casino (last week's events):

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Tuesday, August 14 | 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 12)
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 28)
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 58) |
| Wednesday, August 15 | 6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 164) |
| Thursday, August 16 | 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 12)
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 11) |

Friday, August 17 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 21)

Saturday, August 18 5:30 p.m. - Private party (Turnout 243)

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 Swingtime Admission \$8

Catherine Hickman Theater (*last week's events*):

Saturday, August 18 3 p.m. - Dazzling Diva Fall Showcase (Turnout 235)

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

Sunday, August 12 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 13)
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Neighborhood Center (upcoming events):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every first - third Sunday 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crime Watch meeting

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

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

Monday, August 13 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 23)

Tuesday, August 14 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 24)

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 1 - 5 p.m. Saturday, August 18 for a baby shower with 30 in attendance.

The game room is reserved 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, August 25 a baby shower.

Thirty-six 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.

Three children are registered for the **2018/19 Tot Time program**, and eight for **VPK**. Tot Time is a hands-on preschool program for children ages 3-5 that aims to make learning fun for children, and helps prepare them for Kindergarten. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply with Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas, Inc. and receive a Certificate of Eligibility to attend the program. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten, and are limited to 10 children each. Class begins Tuesday, September 4. 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.

Twenty-four teens are registered for the **2018/19 Teen Night Program**, a great hangout for teens in grades entering middle school through age 17. 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 and Tennis.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez and John Lapham chaperoned the Gulfport Teen Council at the Florida League of Cities Conference on Friday and Saturday.

Geno Green worked the room rental on Saturday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the City Council Meeting on Tuesday evening.

Teen Councilmembers Katelyn Latragna, Connor Rowell, Robert Wolf, Haley Wyble, Advisor Marivel Gutierrez and City chaperone John Lapham attended the Florida League of Cities

Conference in Hollywood, FL on Saturday. The conference also hosted a Youth Program facilitated by Scott C. Paine, PhD who presented many topics on Government.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 43 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 4 Fire Alarms
- 1 Vehicle Crash
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 15 Fire Inspections
- 1 Reinspections
- 1 C.O.
- 1 Standpipe Pressure Test
- 2 Smoke Detectors

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is September 20.

John Tricarico and Jake Bray have been selected to fill the two vacant Fire Fighter/Paramedic positions. Their first day of employment will be September 4.

Chief Marenkovic attended the EMS Leadership Group Meeting on August 21, and the Pinellas County Fire Chief Association meeting on August 23

Lt. Erick Fuchs attended the Pinellas County Training officers group on August 13.

Gulfport Fire Department Paramedics began their Emergency Pediatric Care (EPC) online course with practical skill training. This 16 credit-hour course was created by the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Gulfport Firefighters IAFF 4966 are still in negotiations with the City. The next meeting is August 29.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Grouted tile in City Hall men's restroom.
- Replaced outlet covers on Casino stage and painted restroom windows.
- Replaced two outlets in vendor set up area on Beach Boulevard.
- Inspected and tightened exercise equipment behind Recreation Center.
- Repaired fence at Tomlinson Park.
- Cleared blocked urinal in beach men's room.
- Installed bike racks on Beach Boulevard.
- Repaired sink drain in Senior Center kitchen.
- Replaced cable for cones on Tangerine Avenue for Crossing Guards.
- Set up Council Chambers in preparation for voting day.
- Replaced loose cable on fence between Casino and Pier.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Raked beach and volleyball courts.
- Cut sod and cleared clay from ballfield edges.
- Spread new shell at Clam Bayou.
- Hung park hours signs at Tomlinson Park.
- Replaced flex sticks at trail spur entrance.
- Performed daily checks for red tide in Boca Ciega Bay.
- Inspected power outlets along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed Recreation Center, beach, City complex, Senior Center & Library green spaces, Caldwell, Tomlinson, Wood Ibis, Clymer & Veterans Parks, Dog Parks, Chase block, 14th Avenue median, PYCC pocket park, Hoyt perimeter, Tangerine greenway & trail spur.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park, City Hall & Hoyt Field.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched City complex, Casino and Beach Streetscapes, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced engine on edger & carburetor on line trimmer.
- All City park trash and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playgrounds.

Streets & Sanitation

- Completed billable work orders for pick-up of brush, electronics & appliances, trash & furniture, and items requested for pick-up by Code Enforcement.
- Picked up residential bagged leaves, as requested.
- Delivered/replaced residential recycling bins with information sheets.
- Assembled & delivered new automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers, as requested.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout the City.
- Patched asphalt throughout City as needed.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #31, 32, 33 & 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 14 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 9 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 118 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 18 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 3 water meters which were 20+ years old with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Continued annual water distribution system flushing and fire hydrant inspection.
- Continued cleaning and painting City fire hydrants.
- Repaired water breaks at 5832 9th Avenue, and at 5144 27th Avenue.
- Replaced 2" water valves at Freemont Street and 9th & 11th Avenues.

- Placed 2 Code Enforcement “Notice of Violation” door hangers.

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 at Gulfport Beach, Clam Bayou & Marina for quality testing.
- Inspected 2 sanitary sewer manholes.
- Televised sewer main line at 1401 54th Street; found small leak found in main, and repaired roadway.
- Cleared sewer stoppage at Dog Park.

Stormwater

- Replaced broken lids at 4501 27th Avenue, and at 5125 11th Avenue.
- Cleaned storm inlets at 19 locations.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced hydraulic hoses on Sanitation vehicle #49, Sanitation vehicle #88 and Streets vehicle #79.
- Replaced a/c compressor and fuel filters on Sanitation vehicle #45.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles, as needed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building Division

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 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.

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.

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

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). APPROVED