



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *July 29 - August 4, 2018*

**Gulfport on the Go!** The City of Gulfport is pleased to announce the launch of our new mobile app. Visit [www.mygulfport.us/cityapp](http://www.mygulfport.us/cityapp) for more information.

The **sidewalk on Beach Boulevard at 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue South is closed** due to building construction. Pedestrians on Beach Boulevard are advised to use the crosswalks at 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> 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](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 next **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, August 11 at 9 a.m. A limited number of pickers will be available; if you have one please bring it. Meet at Gulfport Beach pavilion #4. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and make a difference in the community.

The **Eleventh Annual Gecko Crawl** will help kick off *Gecko Season* in Gulfport with sample drinks at six locations, a poker run, and a festive after party in Gulfport's colorful Waterfront District. The Crawl will take place 4 - 9 p.m. Saturday, August 11, with the after party beginning at 9 p.m. Tickets \$20 in advance at the Gulfport Beach Bazaar, or \$25 the day of the event. For more information email [bbanno916@gmail.com](mailto:bbanno916@gmail.com).

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

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](http://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](http://www.Facebook.com/GeckoFest).

The **Fifth Annual Mayors' 49<sup>th</sup> 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.

Celebrate the 108<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-international-coastal-cleanup-clam-bayou-nature-preserve-tickets-48448459647) for more information.

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!

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 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.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Patrol**

Dispatch calls for service	123
Self-initiated calls for service	478
Incident/offense reports	29
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	104
Ordinance violations	41
Residence checks	121

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Officer Nicita stopped a minivan with a nonworking tag light in the 5800 block of Gulfport Boulevard on July 26. A records check revealed multiple outstanding arrest warrants for driver Yovanny Cruz-Rodriguez, including a nationwide extradition warrant for trafficking marijuana. Cruz-Rodriguez was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

A Walgreens customer found a backpack full of narcotics in the store parking lot. Sergeant Vandenberg investigated the incident which led to the arrest of William Collins for trafficking in methamphetamine and possession of cocaine.

A resident in the 5400 block of 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on July 27 that she allowed a friend to borrow her car for emergencies. The friend did not return the car. Officer Smith spoke to the suspect who told him she thought she could use the vehicle and that she would return it immediately. The owner did not wish to prosecute.

Officers were dispatched to a residence in the 5800 block of Gulfport Boulevard after a cab driver reported that a passenger gave her \$8.00 for a \$46.00 fare. The resident did not have the money required to pay the driver, so a relative was called who paid the fare.

A cellphone charger and a pair of sunglasses were reported stolen from an unlocked car parked in the 1700 block of York Street on July 28.

Officer Carter stopped a bicyclist in the 5300 block of Tangerine Avenue on the evening of July 29 for riding without proper lighting after dark. A records check revealed Steven Cristofono, Jr. had an outstanding warrant for failure to appear for driving on a suspended license. Cristofono was arrested for the outstanding warrant and during a search a syringe was found in his shoe, and a morphine pill in his cigarette pack.

A resident in the 3000 block of 50<sup>th</sup> Street reported on July 30 that her medication was taken from a lockbox inside her residence sometime in the last 4 or 5 days. Nobody had access to the lockbox. Approximately 130 pills were taken.

Sergeant Vandenberg was on his way into work on August 1 when he observed a vehicle traveling 70 miles an hour in a 35 mile an hour zone and swerving on 49<sup>th</sup> Street North. He conducted a traffic stop, and when he made contact with driver David Rondon, he immediately noticed a strong odor of alcohol coming from his breath as he spoke. Rondon performed poorly on field sobriety tasks and was arrested. He refused to provide a breath sample.

A bag containing toys, two wallets, and approximately \$15.00 in change was reported stolen from an unlocked car parked in the 800 block of Gray Street.

A resident in the 2800 block of Beach Boulevard reported that sometime overnight someone took his 1970's Schwinn racing bike from his garage.

A resident in the 5800 block of 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that 2 large pink flamingo yard decorations were stolen sometime between July 27 & August 1.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 6 hours this week; marine operators issued five boat citations and made one contact.

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

<b>New cases:</b>	14
Cases assigned:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	12
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
<b>Supplements received:</b>	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	6

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case, a grand theft and a burglary. He also conducted a surveillance detail at a local business following a threat from a previous employee.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case; conducted a surveillance detail at a local business following a threat from a previous employee, and; assisted with a death investigation.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano completed pawn checks on 7 cases with a known serial number, named suspect or searchable property description.

### **Records**

Reports reviewed	17
Supplements reviewed:	49
Public Records requests:	31
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	3
Subpoenas processed:	13
Citizens assisted	48

### **MARINA**

Assisted with thirty-five pump outs evacuating four hundred-eighty gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand two hundred ninety-four gallons of gas and two thousand one hundred twenty-eight gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred forty-three vessels.

### **Transient vessels:**

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

**Staff activities:**

- Restructured/organized network & power cabling in Marina store communications closet.
- Inspected fuel sumps.
- Troubleshooting electric meters on pier 6.
- Inspected pump out systems, and cleaned level rods.
- Monitored bait cooler for changes in temperature.
- Inspected Gulfport Casino dock
- Hung paintings in Marina store.
- Cleaned shrimp bait tank.

**LIBRARY****Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

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

Monday, July 23, 10 a.m. - *Pinellas County Schools Bus Driver Recruitment Drive.*

Monday, July 23, 1 p.m. - *Kids Read Aloud Book Club.*

Monday, July 23, 3 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Program: Cardboard Rock Band.*

Tuesday, July 24, 10 a.m. - *Healthcare Navigators.*

Tuesday, July 24, 10:30 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga.*

Tuesday, July 24, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, July 24, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, July 25, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, July 25, 3 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Program Epic Water Balloon Fight.*

Wednesday, July 25, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, July 26, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, July 26, 11:30 a.m. - *Community Playdate.*

Thursday, July 26, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Thursday, July 26, 7 p.m. - *Kids Summer Reading Party: Tampa Taiko Drumming.*

Friday, July 27, 7 p.m. - *Teen Summer Reading Party.*

**Upcoming Events:**

Saturday, August 4, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series:* Chilling suspense and amazing acting characterize this month's selection. Stars real-life married couple John Krasinski and Emily Blunt. Directed by Krasinski and rated a very creepy PG-13. Call 893-1074 for title.

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

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

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

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

Saturday, August 11, 1 p.m. - *Yoga in the Garden*: We're taking it outside this summer! Tend your body and spirit with mindful movement & meditation in our lovely garden. This slow-paced class welcomes all levels. Bring props if you wish. Taught by Christa Fairbrother, Certified Yoga for Arthritis Instructor & RYT.

Saturday, August 11, 1 p.m. - *Raven's Guild for ages 12 - 18*: Gather fans of anime, manga, gaming! We'll screen a movie. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

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

Thursday, August 16, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Lord of Misrule* by Jaimy Gordon. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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

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

Monday, August 20, 5 p.m. - *Beauty of Nature Art Reception*: Join us in our Friends meeting room for the launch of an exhibit of paintings by local artist Oliver Norden. Artworks on display through August 30.

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

Thursday, August 23, 4:30 p.m. - *Bees Learning Craft*: Activity for children provided by the mobile reading lab staff. Email [leahveal@beeslearning.org](mailto:leahveal@beeslearning.org) or call 404-308-0295 for more information.

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*.

Every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. - *German Conversation Club*: Enjoy conversing in a relaxed atmosphere with others. All levels are welcome; this is not a class, simply an opportunity to engage with others interested in improving fluency.

Every Tuesday, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*. For more information call 360-9069.

Every first & third Tuesday, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*: Everyone is invited to join Allen Goldenson for some strummin' fun!

Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*: call 537-9098 for more information.

Every Thursday, 10:15 & 11 a.m. - *Storytime*: Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area. Cailey leads the group in singing songs, playing instruments & networking with other caregivers in our community.

Every Thursday, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*: Join us for an afternoon story, songs, movement and crafts! Everyone welcome but geared for 2-5 year-olds.

Every Thursday, 6 p.m. - *Bees Learning*: Mobile reading intervention program. Classes held in RV parked in front of Library. **Registration required.** Email [leahveal@beeslearning.org](mailto: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 July 22 - 28, 2018:**

#### **Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1682	1185
Sun. 7/22	Library closed	
Mon. 7/23	241	222
Tue. 7/24	294	190
Wed. 7/25	287	186
Thu. 7/26	262	197
Fri. 7/27	296	167
Sat. 7/28	291	154

## **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. 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). Help our page grow and get daily valuable information!

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

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

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

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

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, August 9.

Worried about your memory? St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic offers free, confidential **Memory Screenings** between 9 a.m. & noon on the second Monday of each month. The next screening is August 13. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

Do you suffer from back pain or leg pain when you stand or walk? Pain when you sit for long periods of time? Leg numbness or tingling? Join Physical Therapist Wayne Whittle for the **Back Pain and Sciatica Workshop** at 1 p.m. Tuesday, August 14, and learn the three most common causes of back pain and sciatica and what successful treatment looks like without medication, injections or surgery. Space is limited: call 893-5657 to preregister.

Taste and learn to prepare healthy food, and to read food labels during the **Healthy Recipes Cooking Demo** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, August 15. Space is limited: call 893-5657 to preregister.

Wager on your favorite greyhounds, practice your best poker face, or just watch the high-energy fun during our **GEMS Getaway to Derby Lanes** on Thursday, August 16. Enjoy lunch at the Derby Club, offering a casual menu and full bar. This trip is going to the dogs!

Learn the basic functions of your Apple iPhone or iPad during the next **iPhone/iPad Instruction Class** at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, August 16. 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 August 17. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **Casino (last week's events):**

Sunday, July 22	3:30 p.m. - Contra Dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance (Turnout 80)
Monday, July 23	7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance (Turnout 101)
Tuesday, July 24	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 18) 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 20)

6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 66)

Wednesday, July 25 6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 244)

Thursday, July 26 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 17)

Friday, July 27 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 25)

**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):**

Sunday, July 22 2 p.m. - *Gulfport Community Players (GCP) Summer One Acts* (Turnout 111)

Friday, July 27 7 p.m. - *PLAY Performing Arts presents The Addams Family* (Turnout 172)

Saturday, July 28 1 p.m. - *PLAY Performing Arts presents The Addams Family* (Turnout 70)  
4 p.m. - *PLAY Performing Arts presents The Addams Family* (Turnout 60)

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

Friday, August 3, 6 p.m. - Art Gecko Show Opening Reception featuring nine larger-than-life geckos created by local artists that will be the centerpiece of a live auction at Gecko Ball to benefit local charities. The show will also feature selections from participating artists' regular body of work in a variety of media. Free & open to the public. Cash bar; complimentary hors d'oeuvres.

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

Sunday, July 22 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

**Neighborhood Center (upcoming events):**

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

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

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

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

Monday, July 23 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 19)  
5:30 p.m. - GMA/COC merge launch party (Turnout 70)

Tuesday, July 24 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 22)

**Scout Hall (upcoming events):**

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class

Every Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

**RECREATION CENTER**

The game room is reserved 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, August 4, 1 - 5 p.m. Saturday, August 18 & 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, August 25 for Baby Showers.

One hundred twenty-five children are registered for the **2018 Summer Recreation Program** for children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Hours of registration: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Summer program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra fee. For more information, call 893-1068.

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

Registration is underway for the **2018/19 Tot Time & VPK Programs**. Tot Time is a preschool, hands-on program for children ages 3 - 5. Two, three or five-day monthly options are available. Proof of residency is required for Gulfport residents to receive resident rates. The 5-day VPK Program is for children who turn 4 years of age by September 1, and live in Florida. VPK is FREE but parents must apply at the Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas, Inc. to receive a Certificate of Eligibility. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for

Kindergarten, and are limited to 10 children each. Program hours are 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Hours for registration are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. Call 893-1068 for more information.

Registration is underway 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:** Boot Camp, Essential Oils, Hatha Yoga, Karate, Pickleball & Tennis.

### **Staff Activities**

Marivel Gutierrez and Tom Nicholls met with Anne Carter from ASK Janitorial Professionals on Thursday afternoon to discuss the Recreation Center lobby floor.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Calls for Service:**

- 44 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Outside
- 1 Elevator Rescue

#### **Life Safety:**

- 12 Fire Inspections
- 3 Re-Inspection
- 3 C. O.s
- 1 Permit Review

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is August 16.

Two finalists have been selected to fill the two vacant Fire Fighter/Paramedic positions. They are currently undergoing health and background screenings.

Gulfport Fire Department continued annual fire pump testing with the apparatus this week. This NFPA requirement is reviewed by the ISO every two years for compliance. A few transmission problems and valve failures were reported with the E-One 2004 back-up reserve Pumper.

The State of Florida Department of Health Bureau of Emergency Medical Services will conduct a site visit to renew the Gulfport Fire Department's Advanced Life Support License through August 2019.

Gulfport Firefighters IAFF 2699 is continuing contract negotiations with the City.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **Building Maintenance**

- Performed semi-annual inspection of hood systems at Fire Department, Little league, Senior Center, and on GEMS Bus suppression system.
- Replaced filters on all City a/c units.
- Adjusted gate chain at 49<sup>th</sup> Street holding area.
- Repaired drywall in men's restroom at City Hall.

- Caulked water fountains at beach restrooms.
- Installed electrical power for “Insta Heat” in Historical Museum restroom and kitchen.
- Replaced photo cell at Senior Center for outside lights.
- Cleared blocked kitchen drain at Fire Department.
- Repaired a/c at Police Department, podium & cabinet door at Casino, toilet in Theater changing area and locks in Theater lobby.
- Move chairs at Council Chambers for carpet cleaning.
- Hung art at Library.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks Maintenance**

- Remove shelter at Tonkin park.
- Edged and cleaned brick pads along Beach Boulevard.
- Installed water heater in Historical Museum.
- Replaced 2 benches behind Recreation Center.
- Trimmed palms at City Hall, Marina and along Beach Boulevard.
- Mowed City complex, Senior Center, Library, Clymer, Veterans & Caldwell Parks, Marina green spaces, Chase block and Dog Park.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Veterans Park and baseball fields.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Marina & Lions Club green spaces, Chase Block, and York & 49<sup>th</sup> Street termini, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- All City park trash and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playgrounds.

### **Streets & Sanitation**

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

### **Water**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #45, 46, 47 & 48 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 18 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 5 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 48 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 9 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.
- Collected quarterly TTHM/HAA5 water samples.
- Replaced 4 water meters which were 20+ years old with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Placed 5 Code Enforcement “Notice of Violation” door hangers for high grass, or trash in easements.
- Flushed water mains through bi-annual hydrant flush program.
- Painted 11 fire hydrants.
- Replaced fire hydrant at 6318 Pasadena Point Boulevard.
- Repaired water breaks at 6319 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 5517 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 5325 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and 6515 Flamingo Way.

## **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.
- Cleaned and televised sewer at 2526 52<sup>nd</sup> Street.
- Inspected 73 sanitary sewer manholes.

## **Stormwater**

- Cleaned catch basins throughout City.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced fuel rail on Police vehicle #111.
- Replaced 2 fuel filters on Sanitation vehicle #49.
- Replaced 2 hydraulic hoses on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Replaced camshaft sensor on Parks vehicle #716.
- Replaced light bar on Police vehicle #25.
- 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](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 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast area which generally extends north to 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58<sup>th</sup> Street and east to 49<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).

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

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