



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *August 26 - September 1, 2018*

**Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Monday, September 3 in observance of Labor Day.** The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

**Gulfport on the Go!** Visit [www.mygulfport.us/cityapp](http://www.mygulfport.us/cityapp) for more information on our new mobile app.

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 **Eighteenth Annual Gulfport GeckoFest** promises a full day of free family-friendly fun on Saturday, September 1. GeckoFest is 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 **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 **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.

The **Tampa Bay Beach Bums Superhero September Tournament** on Gulfport Beach is Saturday & Sunday, September 15 & 16. This tournament is the satellite qualifier for p1440 San Jose. For more information, visit [www.tampabaybeachbums.com](http://www.tampabaybeachbums.com) and [www.p1440.com](http://www.p1440.com).

So, you think you know Gulfport? Join the Gulfport Historical Society at 7 p.m. Friday, September 21 for a **Porch Party Quiz Show** at the Gulfport History Museum, 5301 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Members play free/nonmembers for a \$5 entry fee. Participants may join the night of the event. Doors open at 6:30. For more information, call 656-5420 or email [info@gulfporthistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@gulfporthistoricalsociety.org).

Join Community Resource Officer Zack Mills and his special guest, Councilmember Paul Ray for **Coffee with a Cop & Councilmember** at Scout Hall, 5315 28<sup>th</sup> 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' 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. Visit [www.mygulfport.us/mayors-49th-street-cleanup-chiefs-chat](http://www.mygulfport.us/mayors-49th-street-cleanup-chiefs-chat) for more information.

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.

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 49<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday, October 20, 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.

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 27, 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 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 4<sup>th</sup>. Pick up a registration form at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53<sup>rd</sup> Street or the Gulfport Library, 5501 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue or register on line at [www.mygulfport.us/city-wide-yard-sale](http://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 WRD Restaurant Association and the Gulfport Neighbors will host the **Third Annual Gulfport Chef's Table** 6 - 10 p.m. Monday, November 5. This outdoor fine dining experience will highlight Gulfport's thriving food scene and feature the offerings of ten local restaurants and chefs at a community table in Downtown Gulfport on Beach Boulevard. For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/events/289616215171973/](http://www.facebook.com/events/289616215171973/).

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](http://www.mygulfport.us/heroesweekend).

The Pinellas County Solid Waste division will visit the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, November 10 for the **Annual Household Electronics and Chemical Mobile Collection Event**. Call 464-7500 or visit [www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste](http://www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste) for more information.

The Special Events Trolley & the Gulfport Merchants Chamber will represent the City during the **LocalShops1 Annual Shopapalooza Festival** at Straub Park in St. Petersburg on Saturday, November 24. Visit [www.facebook.com/events/235752013742987](http://www.facebook.com/events/235752013742987) for more information.

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	141
Self-initiated calls for service	559
Incident/offense reports	33
Arrests	5
Traffic citations	123
Ordinance violations	38
Residence checks	118

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

James Thibodeau was arrested on August 23 for driving while license suspended. Sergeant Vandenberg attempted to stop Thibodeau's vehicle for an expired tag. Thibodeau initially pulled

onto 62<sup>nd</sup> Street and stopped before driving away. He was taken into custody at 64<sup>th</sup> Street & Gulfport Boulevard when he got stuck in traffic at the red light. His explanation for failing to stop was that he needed to deliver parts to his shop in St. Pete. Thibodeau's driver license has been suspended for 7 years.

Officers were dispatched to the 5100 block of Pine Grove Terrace after a caller reported black Ford Crown Victoria with a spotlight was seen going through the neighborhood. A woman got out of the vehicle and was looking into the windows of a residence. When the homeowner confronted her the vehicle fled. Officer Marshall saw the car the next day and attempted a traffic stop. The driver fled from him. The car has also fled from Kenneth City police.

A resident in the 5200 block of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that someone entered his home while he was away for a few hours, and stole \$25,000 worth of items including a Rolex watch, jewelry, and household items. The resident believes he may know who broke into his home.

A resident in the 4900 block of 31<sup>st</sup> Avenue reported that a handgun was stolen from the glovebox of her car. The owner was not sure when the theft occurred.

Officers were dispatched to the 4300 block of 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue on August 24 after a resident reported a suspicious person in the neighborhood. The man was located and identified as Paul Jenkinson. A records check revealed Jenkinson had an outstanding warrant for sale of a controlled substance issued by the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office. The warrant was confirmed, and Jenkinson was arrested and transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

Officer Carter ran a license plate on a vehicle on August 25 and discovered the registered owner had a suspended driver license. He conducted a traffic stop determined that William Battersby was impaired. After conducting a roadside DUI investigation, Battersby was arrested and transported to the Gulfport Police Department for a breath test. His breath alcohol content was 0.195/0.201, more than twice the legal limit. Officer Clague assisted with the inventory of Battersby's vehicle and found two Percocet pills for which Battersby did not have a prescription. He was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

A coin purse and vehicle registration were reported stolen from a car parked in the 1900 block of 58<sup>th</sup> Street on August 26. There were no signs of forced entry.

A resident in the 1400 block of 61<sup>st</sup> Street reported on August 27 that their son took their car without permission.

A resident in the 2600 block of 48<sup>th</sup> Street reported that eight pieces of jewelry was stolen from her home sometime in the last few months. She last saw the pieces in late May or early June.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 17 hours this week. Marine operators made 11 vessel stops, 8 boater contacts, issued 4 citations for anchor light violations, investigated a derelict vessel and assisted with a disabled sailboat in the channel.

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

<b><i>New cases:</i></b>	17
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	14
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
<b><i>Supplements received:</i></b>	7
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
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 theft case, a fraud, a burglary, and a suspected automotive chop shop.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for an auto theft, and an alleged kidnapping; the allegation was unfounded.

School Resource Officers Motte, Embry, and Sigsbee wrote 2 police reports; counseled 11 students; hosted 4 safety meetings, met with the parents of 2 students, escorted 4 truant students to the office, and provided instruction for 3 classrooms on the topic of search and seizure. They also instructed the Gulfport Police Explorer meeting on the topic arrest, search & seizure on Monday evening.

Officer Motte investigated missing property; assisted with two parking lot traffic crashes; assisted with an active assailant drill, and; provided 6 classroom lessons regarding drug use & abuse.

Officer Embry investigated a case in which a male used a paintball gun to shoot several students from the high school; investigated reported thefts on campus and discovered no theft occurred – that students were playing pranks on each other, and; provided security at a football game against Lakewood High School.

Officer Sigsbee took part in three safety meetings with school staff; assisted with an investigation regarding possible child abuse, and; counseled two 5<sup>th</sup> grade students who took items that didn't belong them about activities that could be criminal; the items were returned and school consequences were given to the students.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano assisted Officer Palazzolo with researching pawn records; completed a review of property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper entry into FCIC, and; completed pawn checks on 7 cases with a known serial number, possible suspect or searchable property description

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed: 13  
Supplements reviewed: 46  
Public records requests: 51  
Background checks: 1  
Bike registrations: 5  
Fingerprints: 2  
Subpoenas processed: 5  
Citizens assisted: 39

### **MARINA**

Assisted with nineteen pump outs evacuating three hundred one gallons of waste.

Pumped four thousand four hundred forty-five gallons of gas and one thousand three hundred seventy-seven gallons of diesel fuel, fueling three hundred-one vessels.

### **Transient vessels:**

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

### **Staff activities:**

- Performed monthly marina slip electrical meter readings.
- Adjusted support bunks and guides pier 4, slip 2 on boat lift.
- Replaced overhead lights in ground floor restrooms.
- Inspected marina pump-out boat, and ran/flushed outboard motor.
- Inspected pump-out systems.
- Inspected dock boards on piers 2 & 3.

### **LIBRARY**

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

Monday, August 20, 5 p.m. - *Beauty of Nature Art Reception*

Tuesday, August 21, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, August 21, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

Tuesday, August 21, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, August 22, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, August 22, 1 p.m. - *Beginner Painting for Adults.*

Wednesday, August 22, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Wednesday, August 22, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, August 23, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, August 23, 4:30 p.m. - *Bees Learning Craft.*

Friday, August 24, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

#### **Upcoming Events:**

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 Southerland. 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 the 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, September 6, 7 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.

Monday, September 24, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic night*. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Tuesday, September 25, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults*: Nourish your body and spirit with mindful movement, breath work, and meditation. This slow-paced class welcomes all levels and each month will feature a different set of postures. Bring props if you want them. The class is taught by Christa Fairbrother, RYT and Certified Yoga for Arthritis Instructor. For more information and to sign up, call Cailey Klasson 893-1074.

Thursday, 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](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 August 12 - 18, 2018:**

#### **Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,648	1,241
Sun. 8/19	Library closed	
Mon. 8/20	268	243
Tue. 8/21	255	211
Wed. 8/22	280	186
Thu. 8/23	282	184
Fri. 8/24	261	193
Sat. 8/25	293	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 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 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.

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.

Join Dr. Damon J. Stafford, DC of Professional Health Care of Pinellas, Inc. at 1 p.m. Tuesday, September 11 for **The Science Behind Stem Cells**. Dr. Stafford will discuss what stem cells are, what do they do, where they come from, what research shows, the safety of the process, and how it can help patients. Space is limited; call 893-5657 to preregister for this presentation.

Join Third Federal Savings and Loan at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 12 for **Common Types of Financial Exploitation**.

Find inspiration as you explore major works of American art created by founding, leading, current and emerging artists working in the field of studio glass during our Thursday, September 13 **GEMS Getaway to Imagine Museum Contemporary Studio Glass**. The featured exhibit is *Paul Stankard: Unseen Worlds*. Round-trip transportation & admission: GEMS members \$16; nonmembers \$18.

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.

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 September 27.

**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 21	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 14) 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 23) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 53)
Wednesday, August 22	10 a.m. - Public Works Association meeting (Turnout 12) 6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 205)
Thursday, August 23	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 14)
Friday, August 24	11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 27)
Saturday, August 25	6 p.m. - Gecko Ball (Turnout 400)

**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 (upcoming events):**

Sunday, September 2, 1 p.m. - *Don't Blow our Top Show of Shows featuring the Chrometones*; A benefit musical event to bring awareness of mountain top removal coal mining in our nation. General admission tickets \$30/premium tickets - includes swag - \$75 (cash only) available at Beach Bazaar, or at the door one hour before showtime.

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

Sunday, August 19 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 15)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

**Neighborhood Center (upcoming events):**

- Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
- Every first - third Sunday 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services
- Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crime Watch meeting

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

- Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
- Monday, August 20 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 23)

Tuesday, August 21 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 25)

**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 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, August 25 for a baby shower with 45 in attendance.

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.

Thirty-three 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**

Geno Green worked the room rental on Saturday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

**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.

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

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Replaced motor in Library time clock.
- Performed semi-annual inspection on fire suppression system at City Hall.
- Cleaned air vents in City Manager's office.
- Completed monthly filter replacement on all city a/c units.
- Moved furniture for carpet cleaning at Recreation Center.
- Set tile in Casino restroom.
- Hung sign for GeckoFest Ball.
- Replaced ballast at Library.
- Sprayed wasp nest and repaired a/c at Fire Station.
- Opened 3 facilities for use as voting precincts in August 28 primary election.
- Repaired 2<sup>nd</sup> floor a/c unit in Public Services building.
- Replaced sink faucet in Casino men's room.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks Maintenance**

- Removed dead palm tree at Caldwell Park.
- Raked beach and volleyball courts.
- Washed clay from ballfield edges.
- Relocated partitions in PD to storage.
- Replaced tile in Casino restroom.
- Cleared trash & excess foliage from Tomlinson pond.
- Line trimmed weeds along 49<sup>th</sup> Streetscape.
- Trimmed low branches in Clymer Park and along greenway.
- Mowed City complex, Senior Center, Library, Recreation Center & beach green spaces, Chase, Clymer, Veterans, Caldwell & Wood Ibis Parks, dog parks, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue median, PCYY entrance, & Hoyt perimeter.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation along Beach Boulevard.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.

- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Casino, Beach Streetscapes, City complex, Veterans Park, Library & Senior Center, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced carburetor on 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 #45, 46, 47 & 48 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 14 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 4 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 52 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 7 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 break at 1114 63<sup>rd</sup> Street.
- Painted 8 fire hydrants.
- Repaired fire hydrants at 6025 Shore Boulevard, and at 3201 58<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Placed 8 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.
- Cleaned and televised sewer at 1008 60<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Cored manhole, and installed 6" lateral for Tangerine Trolley Park.
- Installed pressure gauge at Lift station #2.
- Calculated flow rates and pressures for Lift Stations.

## **Stormwater**

- Cleaned catch basins throughout City.
- Installed placards on inlets throughout City.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced coolant sensor and spark plugs on Police vehicle #12.
- Serviced generator on Fire vehicle #P-12.
- Repaired fuel pump on Police vehicle #31.
- Replaced wiper blades on Fire vehicle #E-17.
- Replaced headlight on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- 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** continued this week in 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.

Beginning in September, Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 3 of the City, also referred to as the Southwest Neighborhood area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets to the City limits. 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).