



Gulfport Community Update

September 16 - 22, 2018

Visit www.mygulfport.us/redtide for the latest City of Gulfport Red Tide updates.

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

The **sidewalk on Beach Boulevard at 29th Avenue South is closed** due to building construction. Pedestrians on Beach Boulevard are advised to use the crosswalks at 29th & 30th Avenues. Call the Gulfport Public Works Department at 893-1089 for more information.

Hurricane Guides are available at Gulfport City Hall, Library & Fire Station. The Atlantic Basin Hurricane season ends November 30. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits. Basic hurricane kit supplies to keep on hand:

- Flashlights and extra bulbs
- Water
- Battery-operated radio
- Fully charged battery-operated lanterns (no candles or kerosene lanterns)
- Extra batteries
- Matches
- Clock (wind-up or battery-operated)
- Plastic garbage bags
- Working fire extinguishers
- Scissors
- Clean change of clothes, rain gear, sturdy swamp boots

Hurricane Evacuation Plan Advice for Residents with Special Needs:

Whether or not you go to a special needs shelter, here is some good advice to keep in mind when preparing for hurricane season:

- Start a personal support network of people you can count on during an emergency.
- Create an emergency health information card that is customized to you.
- Create an emergency contact list with names and phone numbers of family members, friends, doctors, insurance information and hospital preferences.
- Conduct an ability self-assessment. Know what you can and cannot do. Talk with your health care provider about a realistic plan.
- Maintain a current list of medications and at least a two-week supply.
- Keep important equipment and assistive devices in a consistent, convenient and secure place.

In an effort to reduce the environmental effect of plastic straws, the City of Gulfport has created a **Voluntary Strawless Summer Challenge** for City restaurants, bars and cafés. Gulfport businesses can participate through September 30 by abstaining from giving plastic straws to customers unless requested. Visit www.mygulfport.us/strawless-summer-challenge for more information.

Free smoke alarms are available to elderly and low income households within Gulfport City limits. Call Fire Chief James Marenkovic at 893-1062 for more information.

City of Gulfport residential water customers are eligible for a rebate of up to \$100 after the purchase and installation of a high efficiency water saving toilet. The application and guidelines

are available at www.mygulfport.us/toilet-rebate-program. Restrictions apply. Call 893-1016 for more information.

City Utilities residential sewer customers are eligible for a 50% rebate following replacement and inspection of a failing sewer lateral between a home and the City connection. The maximum rebate is \$3,500, and certain restrictions apply. Visit www.mygulfport.us/lateralrebate for more information.

Upcoming Events:

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables, a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent. Visit www.gulfportma.com, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com for more information.

Think you know Gulfport? Join the Gulfport Historical Society at 7 p.m. Friday, September 21 for a **Porch Party Quiz Show** at Scout Hall, 5315 28th 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.

Join Community Resource Officer Zack Mills and Councilmember Paul Ray for **Coffee with a Cop & Councilmember** at Scout Hall, 5315 28th Avenue 9 - 11 a.m. Saturday, October 6. As always during Coffee with a Cop, there's plenty of socializing and meeting old and new friends.

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

Celebrate the 108th anniversary of the City's incorporation during **Founder's Day: A Celebration of Gulfport** on Saturday, October 13. Party with old and new friends! Daytime activities are 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kick up your heels and show off your best moves during Gulfport under the Stars from 6 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 49th 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 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 4th. Pick up a registration form at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53rd Street or the Gulfport Library, 5501 28th Avenue or register on line at www.mygulfport.us/city-wide-yard-sale no later than 4 p.m. Friday, October 26. No phone-in addresses please; one address per application. For more information, call 893-1118.

The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation and the Town Shores Masters Association will cohost the **Fifth Annual Monster Mash** at the Gulfport Casino 7 - 11 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 7 - 9 p.m. Wednesday, October 31. Carnival games, Costume Contest, Haunted House, Tot Boo Room and Snack Shack. For more information, call 893-1068.

The WRD Restaurant Association and the Gulfport Neighbors will host the **Third Annual Gulfport Chief'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 eleven local restaurants and chefs at a community table on Beach Boulevard in Downtown Gulfport. For more information visit www.facebook.com/events/28961215171973/.

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.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	116
Self-initiated calls for service	532
Incident/offense reports	26
Arrests	5
Traffic citations	115
Ordinance violations	41
Residence checks	86

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Officer Nieves he ran the tag on a vehicle in the 5700 block of Gulfport Boulevard on September 13. The registered owner had a suspended license and there was a seize tag order issued by the State of Florida. Gary Geiser Jr was arrested for driving on a suspended license. His tag was seized and his vehicle impounded.

While investigating a stolen bicycle, Officer Carter observed a male subject in the 5500 block of the Pinellas Trail after dark. Officer Carter activated his emergency lights and the subject fled. Pinellas County Sheriff's Office K-9 and flight units responded to assist, but were unable to locate him. Officer Carter was able to identify him, and charges are pending.

Officers were dispatched to the 1400 block of 59th Street following a report of a missing adult. During the investigation, the man returned. A records check revealed he had an outstanding warrant issued by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office for theft. William Tirpak was arrested.

Officer Carter stopped a car with an expired tag in the 5200 block of 17th Avenue on September 14. His investigation revealed the tag was not assigned to the car, and driver Ernesto Torna did not have a valid driver license. Torna was arrested, and his car impounded. During the inventory prior to impound, Officer Carter found crystal meth and heroin in the car. Torna and his passenger, Joseph Akey were charged with possession of meth and heroin.

A resident in the 800 block of 59th Street reported on September 15 that he had a surveyor place flags down the property line so he could show that his neighbor's fence is over his property line. The neighbor apparently removed the flags.

A resident in the 1400 block of 58th Street reported on September 16 that a female left the residence with his phone. Officers were eventually able to get her to return to the scene and give the phone back to the victim, who did not wish to press charges.

Officers were dispatched to the Save a Lot store on September 17 after store staff reported that video surveillance showed captured a man wearing dark pants and an open Hawaiian style shirt walking up to the front of the store at approximately 11:30 p.m. the night before, and throwing a glass coke bottle through the front door, shattering the glass. He returned at approximately 2:30 a.m. but didn't enter the store.

A resident reported that he saw a male in a red Dodge pickup truck stealing decorative rocks that belong to the city from the 4600 block of 29th Avenue. He allegedly drove directly toward the witness and fled the scene when he saw the witness attempting to get his tag information,.

Officers assisted with traffic control on September 18 after a car caught fire in the 5200 block of Gulfport Boulevard. The driver pulled into an alleyway, and the fire was extinguished. There were no injuries reported.

Officers responded to the 5500 block of Shore Boulevard after a report of noises inside the women's restroom. They encountered a woman who stated she was sleeping in the restroom and must have been dreaming. Sunstar transported her to the hospital for a high heart rate.

Officer Carter observed a juvenile male with an active felony arrest warrant in the 1800 block of 55th Street. When Officer Carter attempted to stop the subject he ran. Officers were unable to locate the juvenile.

Officer Priest stopped a vehicle in the 6400 block of Gulfport Boulevard for speeding on September 18. Driver William Jones did not have a valid driver's license and was arrested for driving on a suspended license.

Officers were dispatched to the 6100 block of 10th Avenue regarding a stolen cell phone that was reported to the Largo Police Department. The victim was able to track the location of the phone to a residence in Gulfport, and officers retrieved the phone from the resident who stated it was found on the side of the road.

The marine unit was not on the water this week.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases: 10
Cases assigned: 1

Cases suspended-no leads:	4
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	5
Supplements received:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	4

Investigator Highlights

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

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case and two thefts.

School Resource Officers Motte, Embry and Sigsbee wrote 3 police reports; counseled 17 students; met with the parents of 6 students; hosted a safety meeting, Baker Acted a student; escorted 13 truant students to the office, and provided instruction for 8 classrooms.

Officer Motte assisted with an active assailant drill, and taught the Monday night Explorer Post meeting.

Officer Embry investigated a theft and an incident involving sexting. He also provided security for a football game against Osceola High School.

Officer Sigsbee conducted training in all kindergarten classes this week explaining why there is a police officer at school, the items that a police officer carries as tools, and why only the police officer can touch those items.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled and distributed open case lists. She also created and distributed a bulletin for Officer Nicita in an attempt to locate a suspect. The suspect was taken into custody the following day.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	12
Supplements reviewed:	43
Public records requests:	46
Background checks:	8
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	0
Subpoenas processed:	8
Citizens assisted:	32

MARINA

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

Pumped two thousand four hundred seventy-two gallons of gas and one thousand four hundred twenty gallons of diesel fuel, fueling seventy-two vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Repaired water line leak under pedestal on transient dock.
- Replaced dock line hooks on pier 4, slips 4 & 26.
- Inspected waste pump out systems and filled gas dock pump out system oil reservoir.
- Inspected all marina piers.
- Repaired water leak at fish cleaning table.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

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

Tuesday, September 11, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, September 11, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, September 12, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, September 12, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Wednesday, September 12, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, September 13, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, September 13, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series.*

Thursday, September 13, 7 p.m. - *Bees Learning.*

Thursday, September 13, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*

Friday, September 14, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, September 15, 1:30 p. m. - *Free Family Movie Series.*

Upcoming Events:

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 wish. 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.

Wednesday, September 26, 12:30 p.m. - *Paper Bird Wall Art:* Join us for our monthly adult craft/art program! This month we'll use precut craft paper to create our scene, and paint to distress our picture frame. Supplies are limited; registration required. Call 893-1074 to sign up.

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.

Monday, October 2, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club discussion of Queerly Beloved by Jacob and Diane Anderson-Minshall.* Copies available at the Circulation Desk.

Tuesday, October 2, 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 for more information.

Tuesday, October 4, 6 p.m. - *Hispanic American Heritage Month*: We're celebrating with a family dinner, and a make and take craft. Traditional foods will be catered by Habana Cafe. Space is limited; call 893-1074 or email klasson@mygulfport.us to register.

Saturday, October 6, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series*: Toni Collette gives an outstanding lead performance in a horror movie written for mature viewers who appreciate building suspense, the subtleties of the genre as well as the occult. Rated R. Call 893-1074 for title.

Monday, October 8, 5:30 p.m. - *Talking With; An Evening with Poet Rob McCabe*: Rob discusses his life and literary background, and may share a few poems from his recently published collection. There will also be a Q & A session for the audience to learn more about our local author.

Wednesday, October 10, 1 p.m. - *Fall Themed String Art*: Use wood, nails, and colorful string to make a beautiful piece of art inspired by fall. Weave your string around in a pattern to create a gentle autumn leaf to display in your home or give as a gift. Supplies are limited: registration required. Call 893-1074 to register.

Saturday, October 13, 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.

Monday, October 15, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club*.

Tuesday, October 16, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*: Build with Legos, wood blocks and more! Open to children ages 4-10 with a caregiver.

Thursday, October 18, 11:30 - *Community Playdate*: Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

Thursday, October 18, noon - *Coffee/Talk Book*. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, October 18, 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, October 18, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*: The story of the "Tales of the City" author which moves between playful and poignant and laugh-out-loud funny. With help from friends including well-known actors, Armistead Maupin offers a disarmingly frank look at the journey that took him from the jungles of Vietnam to the bathhouses of 70's San Francisco to the front line of the American culture war. (Not Rated) Call 893-1074 for title.

Saturday, October 20, 1:30 p. m. - *Free Family Movie Series*. Enjoy an animated feature based on Latino culture that is quite a crowd pleaser! Aspiring musician Miguel, confronted with his family's ancestral ban on music, enters the Land of the Dead to find his great-great-grandfather, a legendary singer. The film features the voices of Anthony Gonzalez and Gael Garcia Bernal. Rated PG. Call 893-1074 for title.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Library Services/Statistic September 9 - 15 - 8, 2018:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,540	1,124
Sun. 9/9	Library closed	
Mon. 9/10	239	210
Tue. 9/11	320	168
Wed. 9/12	270	183
Thu. 9/13	268	176
Fri. 9/14	188	163
Sat. 9/15	244	134

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events, or access live & web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfport.us/gtv640. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Created designs for e-newsletter.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.
- Continued preparation of October calendar.

Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday - Thursday, and Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at www.mygulfport.us. Find us on Facebook at www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter. Help our page grow and get valuable daily information!

The **City of Gulfport Telephone Reassurance program** is much more than a morning wake-up call. This free service offers Gulfport residents 50 years or older - and their families comfort, security, and peace of mind. Volunteers provide daily phone calls to registered members. If the member cannot be reached, the volunteer follows specific procedures to confirm there are no major concerns. Registration is simple and free. If you or someone you know could use this service, call 893-2237 or stop by the Gulfport Senior Center at 5501 27th Avenue.

Gulfport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS) offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65 plus \$2 per ride. GEMS also offers transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital and the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** program, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or to lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Senior Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Monday & Thursday for qualified Gulfport residents 50 & older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information, please see Rachel or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center has **many volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center for more information.

Need a ride in Gulfport? Call the **Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation GetGO free ride service** at 542-7757. The non-profit program transports residents to destinations within City limits free of charge.

Celebrate National Senior Center Month with an **Open House** 4 - 7 p.m. Monday, September 24. Invite your friends & family to see what makes the Gulfport Senior Center so unique. Take a tour of the center, workout in the state-of-the-art fitness center, view or participate in program demonstrations & meet the instructors. Light hors d'oeuvres & beverages will be served.

Take a historic tour of Safety Harbor Resort & Spa, one of America's oldest and finest spa resorts during our September 25 **GEMS Getaway**. Discover if Safety Harbor, known to be a haven where "healing waters flow", is the Fountain of Youth that Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto was looking for. Learn the rich history that this resort was built upon. After the tour, we'll enjoy lunch at the resort's Fountain Grille Restaurant.

Explore the Benefits of Acupuncture with us on Wednesday, September 26. Acupuncture may be new in the US but has been practiced in China for over 2,000 years. Acupuncture Physician Rebecca Gibbons will discuss the history and science of Acupuncture, and how it helps treat pain, anxiety, depression and other numerous disorders.

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.

Join us at 3 p.m. Monday, October 1 for **Empath CHAT: Can We Talk?** We'll cover the basics of advance care planning, provide information about Living Wills, and look at effective communication techniques to help you discuss your wishes with your family. Afterwards, we'll play some bocce ball.

Our October 4 **Gems Getaway takes us to the Dali Museum for Clyde Butcher: Visions of Dali's Spain**. "To create this special exhibition, The Dali invited Clyde Butcher, the renowned nature photographer often called 'Florida's Ansel Adams' to explore and visually document Salvador Dali's homeland. Clyde Butcher: Vision's of Dali's Spain provides a technically brilliant, epically scaled view of Dali's beloved environs, to creates a euphoric experience of immersion." Round trip transportation, admission & guided tour: GEMS members \$23/nonmembers \$25.

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, October 5.

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 October 8. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

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, October 11.

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 October 19. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

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, September 9 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance with Carol Baker (Turnout 31)

Tuesday, September 11 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 22)
 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 19)
 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 59)

Wednesday, September 12 6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 178)

Thursday, September 13 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 165)
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 19)

Friday, September 14 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 260)
7 p.m. - Soul Night with Swing Time (Turnout 182)

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*):

Friday, September 14 7 p.m. - *Rising Starz present Guys & Dolls* (Turnout 43)

Saturday, September 15 7 p.m. - *Rising Starz present Guys & Dolls* (Turnout 53)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Saturday, September 22, 8 p.m. - *The Betty Fox Brass Band with Beth McKee*: The Betty Fox Brass Band is throwing a party with the full horn section and keys! And Beth McKee's amazing band will start the show. This will be their last performance before they hit the road to record a new album. Tickets \$25, available at www.Eventbrite.com.

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

Sunday, September 9 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 11)
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, September 10 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 24)

Scout Hall (upcoming events):

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

RECREATION CENTER

The game room is reserved 2-6 p.m. Saturday, September 22 for a birthday party.

Thirty-eight 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.

Six children are registered for the **2018/19 Tot Time program**, and nine 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.

Forty-five teens are registered for the **2018/19 Teen Night Program**, a great hangout for teens 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, Gentle Yoga, Hatha Yoga, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tennis and Watercolor.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Skate Park meeting on Friday.

Marivel Gutierrez and John Lapham interviewed one Recreation Leader applicant on Tuesday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 45 Emergency medical calls
- 3 Structure fires
- 1 Vehicle fire
- 3 Fire alarms
- 2 Vehicle crashes
- 1 Electrical hazard

Life Safety:

- 13 Fire inspections
- 1 Re-inspection
- 1 Permit final
- 2 Plan reviews
- 4 C.O.s

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. A basic CERT class will take place in early October (date TBD). The class will be limited to 25 students.

Gulfport Firefighters IAFF 4966 are still in negotiations with the City.

Gulfport Fire Department Paramedics continued their Emergency Pediatric Care (EPC) online course this week. This 16 credit-hour course was created by the American Academy of Pediatrics. The final exam will take place in November.

All Paramedics and EMT's are renewing their Department of Health, State of Florida Certifications. Certifications will be renewed by December 1.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Completed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Cleared blocked urinal at Garage.
- Repaired a/c unit and cabinet door at Fire Department.
- Removed benches and fountain at location of new skate park.
- Replaced water filter in kitchen at Recreation Center.
- Repaired three door stops at Theater.
- Installed 8' whiteboard behind stage at Senior Center.
- Built cement collar for flag pole at Veterans Park.
- Inspected exercise equipment behind Recreation Center.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Daily red tide checks continue.
- Removed playground equipment from behind Recreation Center in preparation for skate park installation.
- Raked beach and volleyball courts

- Mulched 49th Streetscape beds, and trimmed low branches.
- Repaired metal swing on beach playground.
- Mowed City complex, Senior Center & Library green spaces, dog parks, PYCC entrance area, and Clymer, Veterans & Caldwell, Parks.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Dog Park & Recreation Center.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Clymer Park, and Library & Lions Club green spaces and along 49th Streetscape, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and calibrated mower deck.
- All City park trash and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playgrounds.

Streets & Sanitation

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

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #31, 32, 33, and 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 24 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 7 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 15 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 7 water old water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Continued annual water distribution system flushing and fire hydrant inspection.
- Installed new water service at 5302 9th Avenue.
- Collected bi-weekly microbial sampling on water distribution system.
- Repaired water breaks at 5149 Preston Avenue, 2502 58th Street, 2840 Skimmer Point Drive, and 2213 57th Street.
- Cleaned and painted 10 fire hydrants.
- Placed 3 Code Enforcement "Notice of Violation" door hangers for high grass/trash in easements.

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.
- Televised sewer lateral at 5414 17th Avenue for rebate program.
- Replaced sewer lateral at 5602 12th Avenue.

Stormwater

- Cleaned storm inlets at 11 locations throughout City.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced fuel filter on Sewer Division vehicle #26.
- Replaced throttle body unit on Parks Division vehicle #716.
- Replaced TPS on Sanitation vehicle #712.
- Replaced crank sensor, ECM, and two fuel filters on Police vehicle #12.
- Replaced TPMS on Police vehicle #2.
- Repaired crash damage on Police vehicle #54.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles, as needed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building Division

Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss your plans and see what permits and inspections may be necessary, and code requirements to help you through the process. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, many elect to do these projects themselves. Building Division staff tries to take extra time to work with homeowners embarking on these do-it-yourself (DIY) projects.

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger jobs can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction practices and management.

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board helps guide homeowners in hiring a licensed contractor for home improvements

Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

The function of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board is to regulate construction and home improvement contractors practicing in all Pinellas jurisdictions.

The licensing board can tell you if a contractor has a license. They must be licensed by the board or the state of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and be registered with the board. Licensed contractors have passed a competency exam and perform electrical, plumbing or structural work in compliance with the building codes.

The state requires licensed contractors to have workers' compensation and liability insurance and the board monitors their insurance coverage. Without these, if a worker gets injured on the job or damages property, the homeowner is liable. Many insurance policies will not pay claims if an unlicensed contractor was doing the work.

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.
- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.
- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.
- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.
- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit www.pcclb.com.

Business Tax Receipts

A Business License is good from October of the current year through September 30 of the following year. For questions regarding business tax receipts, call Lisa Giddens at 893-1063.

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the City's website for the "City of Gulfport New Business Checklist" at www.mygulfport.us under the Community Development Building Department tab in the Information & Regulations section. Call Lisa Giddens at 893-1063 for more information.

Call the Small Business Development Center at Pinellas County Economic Development at 464-7332 or visit www.pced.org/entrepreneurs for information, including a number of workshops on starting a new business. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

Code Enforcement activities continued this week in Section 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 58th Street & 59th Streets to the City limits.

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.