



Gulfport Community Update

September 23 - 29, 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.

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.

Coffee with a Cop is moving to the Gulfport Lion's Club. It's still the same great coffee with an added bonus: Breakfast! The Gulfport Lions Club is cooking up all you can eat pancakes, scrambled eggs and sausages for a donation of \$7. If breakfast isn't your thing, come for coffee and conversation. If you have never been to the Gulfport Lions Club at 4630 Tifton Drive, it's a great opportunity to check out the amazing views of Boca Ciega Bay! This event is hosted by Community Resource Officer Zack Mills and his special guest, Councilmember Paul Ray. The chat and coffee takes place on Saturday, October 6 between 9 & 11 a.m. As always, there's plenty of socializing and meeting old and new friends.

Join Gulfport Mayor Sam Henderson & St. Petersburg Mayor Rick Kriseman on Saturday, October 13 as they co-host the **5th Annual Mayors' 49th Street Cleanup**. The event will feature community groups including Chart 411, Keep Pinellas Beautiful, Tampa Bay Watch, LOCAL Shops1, So49, Gulfport Merchant's Chamber, Plastic Free Gulfport, Child's Park Neighborhood Association, the Gulfport Public Library and others. The Urban Gypsies of Florida will kick off the event and energize volunteers with their innovative combination of Tribal, Gypsy, Disco, Bluegrass, 70's Rock, Folk & Funk. The event takes place on the Tangerine Greenway at 49th Street & Tangerine Avenue. Cleanup participants will be divided into four teams and will clean 49th Street and its adjacent alleys from the Pinellas Trail to Gulfport Boulevard/22nd Avenue. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m., Mayors' Welcome is at 9 a.m., and the cleanup begins at 9:15. Join Gulfport Police Chief Rob Vincent and St. Petersburg Police Chief Tony Holloway for the **4th Annual Chiefs' Chat Community Forum** at 10:30 a.m. Register at www.mygulfport.us/mayors-49th-street-cleanup-chiefs-chat/. For more information, call 893-1118.

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	142
Self-initiated calls for service	544
Incident/offense reports	43
Arrests	13
Traffic citations	135
Ordinance violations	42
Residence checks	90

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A juvenile was reported missing by her group home after leaving Boca Ciega High School in the middle of the day on September 20, and not reporting in. She was found later that evening.

Officers were dispatched to the 5000 block of 12th Avenue after a caller reported her 15-year old son was being disruptive. She told him to clean his room and when he didn't, she took a piece to his video game which prevented him playing it. He got angry and put a large hole in his bedroom door. She wanted to prosecute, and the teen was arrested for damaging the door.

Sergeant Vandenberg stopped a vehicle in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard on September 21 for an expired tag. The driver pulled into a parking spot, exited the car and refused to stop. Reshod Long was arrested inside a nail salon for driving on a suspended license and violation of felony probation for fleeing and eluding. The registered owner of the car, Asia Maxwell who was inside the nail salon, had a warrant for grand theft. Both were arrested.

Officers conducted a detail on the Casino docks on September 22 to enforce boat registrations.

Officers attempting to locate a juvenile with an active pick-up order and probable cause for arrest were dispatched to the 1800 block of 41st Street South. The subject was seen in the alley, and fled when he saw officers. A K9 attempted to track without success. On September 23, officers received a tip that he was back at the residence. Officers from the St. Petersburg Police Department and their K9s responded. The juvenile was taken into custody. While in custody, he confessed to multiple crimes committed the night prior, including a vehicle stolen from the 800 block of Gray Street, and a hit and run committed in Saint Petersburg, and involved injuries to the occupants of the vehicle he hit. He also admitted to 6 vehicle burglaries which occurred on 12th Avenue between 49th & 52nd Streets.

Kirkland Wawae was arrested for DUI following a vehicle crash in the 5900 block of Gulfport Boulevard. The driver of the car he hit was transported to Bayfront Hospital.

Kristina Jenness was arrested for DUI on September 24 after she struck a parked car while traveling eastbound in the 5300 block of 28th Avenue.

Officers Clague and Pope made contact with a suspicious person on a moped near Gulfport Elementary on September 25. He was asked to leave twice by school officials and kept returning. Officers asked for consent to search his backpack, and he admitted to having crystal meth in his bag. Officers also found prescription medications in the backpack. Eric Haas was arrested.

A resident in the 3000 block of Clinton Street reported that his car's glovebox was rummaged through, but nothing was stolen.

A resident in the 2900 block of 58th Street reported that her security video captured someone pulling on her car's door handles. The suspect was wearing a hooded jacket and had something covering his or her face.

A resident in the 2200 block of 53rd Street reported that someone he allowed to use his vehicle had not returned it and he wanted to report it stolen. The vehicle was entered as stolen and Officer Dillard saw it later in the evening. Driver Jacob Johnson was arrested for the theft.

Sara Soly was arrested on September 26 on a burglary warrant issued by the Orange County Sheriff's Office. She was taken into custody at her parents' residence in the 5400 block of 12th Avenue.

Officer Marshall found a stolen vehicle backed into the property of known narcotics users in the 5200 block of 18th Avenue. After speaking with the victim and St. Petersburg Police Department detectives, it was determined the vehicle was traded for drugs. It was released back to the owner.

Officers were dispatched to the 1100 block of 60th Street after a caller reported a juvenile was loading a clip into a gun as he walked up the street. Officer Petit found him and recovered a Springfield 45 semi-auto handgun. The juvenile claimed he purchased the gun but would not say who sold it to him. A theft of firearms call came in shortly after he was arrested, and it was

discovered that 2 guns had been stolen from a safe in a nearby house. A second juvenile involved admitted the second gun had been thrown into some bushes where it was recovered and returned to the owner.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 17 hours this week. Officers made contact with 13 vessels, issued 2 marine citations, and assisted with the return of a dog who jumped from a vessel in the bay. Sergeant Woodman assisted with the removal of derelict vessels from Boca Ciega Bay in Bay Pines.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	13
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Supplements received:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	6

Investigator Highlights

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

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a fraud case and two thefts; conducted sex offender checks, and; attended a Neighborhood Crime Watch meeting.

Officer Motte counseled 4 students; met with the parent of a student; escorted two truant students to the office, and, provided security input at a school safety meeting with areas of concern at the school along with critiques for the active assailant drill that was performed the week prior.

Officer Embry counseled 2 students; met with the parent of a student; escorted 3 truants to the office; assisted SPPD in recovering a runaway juvenile; spoke with a student interested in law enforcement, and; provided security for a football game against Northeast High School which was cancelled due to weather.

Officer Sigsbee wrote 2 police reports; counseled 3 students; hosted 44 safety meetings; visited each classroom to discuss the active assailant hide drill, and; instructed 2 classrooms. Additionally, Officer Sigsbee and patrol officers responded to an off-campus disturbance between parents in the 4900 block of 20th Avenue that carried over to school the following day. Multiple students were involved in a verbal altercation at P.E., and two students were sent home. Patrol officers and SRO Sigsbee provided extra patrols for the remainder of the week, and there were no further issues.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled the Crime Analysis monthly briefing to be presented and the staff meeting; created and distributed a bulletin for Officer Janovich in an attempt to identify a criminal mischief suspect, and a bulletin for Officer Nieves in an attempt to identify a retail theft suspect, and; performed pawn checks on four cases with a known serial number, searchable property description or named suspect.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	11
Supplements reviewed:	22
Public records requests:	9
Reports disseminated:	26
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	3
Fingerprints:	2
Subpoenas processed:	15
Citizens assisted:	46

MARINA

Assisted with four pump outs evacuating forty-five 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 forty-five vessels.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed 1 vessel this week.

Staff activities:

- Repaired water pipe at spigot head at gas pumps 1 and 2.
- Tightened cleats on Casino courtesy dock.
- Inspected waste pump out systems and filled gas dock pump out system oil reservoir.
- Inspected piers, and tightened dock screws at various locations.
- Installed GFI outlet on pier 2, slip 22.
- Replaced dock line piling hooks on pier 5, slips 12 & 19.
- Installed new water spigot on slip for Marina pump out boat.
- Repaired trade show display unit in preparation for November St. Petersburg boat show.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, September 17 3 p.m. - *Science Club for grades K - 5.*

Tuesday, September 18, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, September 18, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club.*

Tuesday, September 18, 3 p.m. - *Trivia Night.*

Tuesday, September 18, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, September 19, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, September 19, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Wednesday, September 19, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, September 20, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, September 20, 11:30 a.m. - *Community Playdate.*

Thursday, September 20, noon - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Buddha in the Attic by Julie Otsuka.*

Thursday, September 20, 6 p.m. - *An Evening with Tim Dorsey*

Thursday, September 20, 7 p.m. - *Bees Learning*.

Friday, September 21, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, September 22, 1 p.m. - *Clowning Around Circus Crafts & Games for Grades K-5*.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, October 1, 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 cklasson@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 Club discussion of The March by E.L. Doctorow*. Copies available at the Circulation Desk. 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.

Monday, October 23, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic night*. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Tuesday, October 24, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults*: Nourish your body and spirit with mindful movement, breath work, and meditation. This slow-paced class welcomes all levels and each month will feature a different set of postures. Bring props if you 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.

Thursday, October 25, 11:30 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

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 16 - 22, 2018:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,597	1,254
Sun. 9/16	Library closed	
Mon. 9/17	291	228
Tue. 9/18	220	205
Wed. 9/19	256	187
Thu. 9/20	251	201
Fri. 9/21	311	183
Sat. 9/22	258	178

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 **Neighborhood 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.

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: Visions 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.

As you consider your long-term goals, how do stocks measure up? In less than 60 minutes you can evaluate how this type of investment may fit your overall strategy. Join Scott O'Berry of Edward Jones at 5:30 p.m. Monday, October 8 for **Stocks: The Nuts & Bolts**. Refreshments will be served.

Bring a friend at 10 a.m. Tuesday, October 9 for a **Humana 2019 Benefit review meeting**. Space is limited: RSVP to Wendy at 482-0734.

Learn how music is processed in the brain, what music adds to our emotions and memories, and how it improves productivity & creativity during **Healthy Aging With Dr. Cate: Music-Food for Your Brain & Soul** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, October 10

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center at 10 a.m. Thursday, October 11. Get your **flu shot** at the same time. Bring your insurance card & photo ID. See front desk volunteer for details on accepted insurances.

Take a historic tour of Safety Harbor Resort and Spa, one of America's oldest and finest spa resorts during our Thursday October 11 **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 stay for lunch at the resort's Fountain Grille Restaurant.

Publish on Amazon for FREE! Learn how to publish your novel, memoir, cookbook, joke book, or anything else on Amazon for free. Local author Tom Raif has written and self-published 3 books, and will share with you how to do it yourself at 1 p.m. Thursday, October 11, and Tuesday, October 30. Space is limited; call 893.-5657 to register.

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.

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 October 25.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, October 26. 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, September 18	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 28) 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 17) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 90)
Wednesday, September 19	6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 209)
Thursday, September 20	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 24) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 21)
Friday, September 21	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 25)

Casino (upcoming events):

Every first & third Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom dance Admission \$8
Every second Sunday	6 p.m. - Soul Night with Swingtime Admission \$8
Every fourth Monday	7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance: members \$5/non-members \$8
Every Tuesday	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing Admission \$8 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8
Every Wednesday	10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime

8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8

Every Thursday 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8

Every first & third Thursday 7 p.m. - Salsa Dance/Lesson Admission \$8

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom

Every second Friday 7 p.m. - Soul Night with Swingtime Admission \$8

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

Sunday, September 20 4 p.m. - *Project Free presents Guys & Dolls* (Turnout 70)

Saturday, September 22 8 p.m. - Betty Fox Band (Turnout 21)

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

Sunday, September 16 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 16)
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 17 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 20)

Tuesday, September 18 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 9)

Friday, September 21 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 11)

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

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 instructed a training module for R'Club on Friday.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 49 Emergency medical calls
- 4 Structure fires
- 3 Fire alarms
- 2 Vehicle crashes
- 1 Electrical hazard

Life Safety:

- 10 Fire inspections
- 2 C.O.s
- 1 Smoke detector

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 October (date TBD). The class will be limited to 25 students.

Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association in Largo on September 27.

Gulfport Firefighters IAFF 4966 are still in negotiations with the City. The next meeting is scheduled for October 11.

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

- Repaired kitchen faucet, cleaned gutters, and removed toys from roof at Recreation Center.
- Repaired bench at Williams Pier.
- Removed cameras in Police Department parking lot.
- Replaced fire strobe in men's restroom at Neighborhood Center.
- Replaced broken sign in Dog Park ladies' restroom.
- Modified cabinets in Police Department.
- Installed electrical outlet at Tangerine Park.
- Delivered canned goods to Senior Center Food Pantry.
- Replace breaker at Coast Guard Station.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Filled in for absent Sanitation staff.
- Built and installed shelf unit for Detectives office.
- Replaced outlets on Tangerine block.
- Removed wet wall board and ceiling tiles at Fire Station, and pressure washed north & east exterior walls.
- Repaired meter box at Shore Boulevard car charging station.
- Removed broken cameras at City Hall.
- Installed deadbolt on History museum.
- Mowed City complex, Beach, Recreation Center, Marina, Lions Club & Neighborhood Center green spaces, dog parks, Hoyt perimeter, Clymer greenway, and York & 49th Street termini.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park, Fire Department, Beach & Recreation Center.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Clymer & Caldwell Parks and Library green spaces, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and cleaned carburetor on Little League infield mower.
- 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 22 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 6 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 130 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 10 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.
- Replaced 8" section of water line at 2631 47th Street.
- Repaired backflow at 5509 20th Avenue.
- Repaired water break at 5214 20th Avenue.
- Placed 6 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.
- Cleaned and televised sewer laterals at 5314 12th Avenue & 1026 64th Street.
- Replaced sewer lateral at 5526 21st Avenue.

Stormwater

- Cleaned storm inlets at 10 locations throughout City, and drain pipe in island at Recreation Center.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Performed oil change on Water vehicle #80, and Police vehicles #4 & 28.
- Replaced brakes on Police vehicle #24.
- Replaced hydraulic hose on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Replaced starter and air receiver/dryer on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced 2 tires on Gems vehicle #11.
- Replaced radiator hose 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.

Beginning in October Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 4 of the City, also referred to as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49th Street 58th & 59th Streets. 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.