



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *September 2 - 8, 2018*

It was a beautiful day for a festival full of character during the **18<sup>th</sup> Annual GeckoFest** on September 1! (photos below)



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

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

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

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

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

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

**City of Gulfport residential water customers** are eligible for a rebate of up to \$100 after the purchase and installation of a high efficiency water saving toilet. The application and guidelines are available at [www.mygulfport.us/toilet-rebate-program](http://www.mygulfport.us/toilet-rebate-program). Restrictions apply. Call 893-1016 for more information.

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

### **Upcoming Events:**

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

The **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, September 8 at 9 a.m. A limited number of pickers will be available; if you have one please bring it. Meet at Gulfport Beach pavilion #4. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and make a difference in the community.

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

So, you think you know Gulfport? Join the Gulfport Historical Society at 7 p.m. Friday, September 21 for a **Porch Party Quiz Show** at Scout Hall, 5315 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Members play free/nonmembers for a \$5 entry fee. Participants may join the night of the event. Doors open at 6:30. For more information, call 656-5420 or email [info@gulfporthistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@gulfporthistoricalsociety.org).

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

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

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

It's almost that time again! Bring your Gulfport I.D. and your junk to the **Gulfport Neighbors Junk in the Trunk** at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday, October 20, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Drop junk that works at the free trade table. Free bike registration and helmets,

costume contest and games for kids, have coffee with a cop, and get gardening tips from the community garden team.

In partnership with the Ocean Conservancy, Keep Pinellas Beautiful will coordinate the **2018 International Coastal Cleanup** in an effort to eliminate the impact of marine and terrestrial debris within Pinellas County ecosystems, including Clam Bayou. Join the City of Gulfport for a rewarding day of community improvement, engagement and beautification on Saturday, October 27, 9 a.m. - noon. Visit [www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-international-coastal-cleanup-clam-bayou-nature-preserve-tickets-48448459647](http://www.eventbrite.com/e/2018-international-coastal-cleanup-clam-bayou-nature-preserve-tickets-48448459647) for more information.

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

The WRD Restaurant Association and the Gulfport Neighbors will host the **Third Annual Gulfport Chef's Table** 6 - 10 p.m. Monday, November 5. This outdoor fine dining experience will highlight Gulfport's thriving food scene and feature the offerings of ten local restaurants and chefs at a community table in Downtown Gulfport on Beach Boulevard. For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/events/289616215171973/](http://www.facebook.com/events/289616215171973/).

The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation and the Town Shores Masters Association will cohost the **Fifth Annual Monster Mash** at the Gulfport Casino 6 - 10 p.m. Saturday, October 27. Enjoy raffle prizes, dance & costume contests while feasting on great eats. Everyone loves Halloween, so put on your best costume and join us!

Put on your best costume and bring the kids to the **Halloween Bash** at the Gulfport Recreation Center 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.

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

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

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

Shop original art work, choose your favorite cuisine and enjoy live music during **Art & Gallery Walks** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district 6 - 10 p.m. every first Friday & third Saturday of the month. For more information, call 322-5217.

The **Citywide Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49<sup>th</sup> Street. The **Marina District Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive. The **Strand Area Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard. The **Stetson Area Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Eleazer Hearing Room, 1401 61<sup>st</sup> Street.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Patrol**

Dispatch calls for service	118
Self-initiated calls for service	456
Incident/offense reports	39
Arrests	11
Traffic citations	98
Ordinance violations	24
Residence checks	73

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Jill Grasmick was arrested on August 30 after a resident in the 5700 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported Grasmick, who had previously been trespassed was at her home uninvited. She was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

Officers were dispatched to the 4900 block of Newton Avenue for a welfare check of a resident. They made contact with Arthur Hogue who had outstanding warrants issued by the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. He was arrested.

Officers responded to the 5500 block of Shore Boulevard on August 31, following a report of an intoxicated man attempting to leave on his motorcycle. When they arrived Donald Chappell was sitting on the motorcycle. He was argumentative and physically resisted officers' efforts to arrest him. Chappell was arrested for driving under the influence and resisting an officer without violence.

Officers were dispatched to the 2700 block of 57<sup>th</sup> Street on September 1 after a caller reported an intoxicated woman was refusing to leave a residence. They made contact with the woman and determined that due to her level of intoxication she was a danger to herself. She was taken into protective custody under the Marchman Act.

Officer Nicita conducted a traffic stop in the 5200 block of Gulfport Boulevard on September 2 because the driver was not wearing his seatbelt. When he made contact with the driver he could smell marijuana in the vehicle. A search revealed 11.8 ounces of marijuana, glass jars used for packaging and sale of marijuana, and \$7,700 in cash. Derek Wheeler was arrested for felony possession of marijuana with intent to sell.

David Knoll was arrested for arson on September 3 after a witness called 911 to report Knoll was seen on the front porch of the Gulfport Historical Society, and the building was on fire when he walked away. There was heavy damage to the porch and front exterior of the building. Knoll admitted to lighting an umbrella on fire and throwing it near a couch on the porch, causing the fire.

Kenyon Maxwell-Ford was arrested on 3 outstanding felony warrants following a traffic stop near the intersection of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue & Gulfport Boulevard.

Officer Petit stopped a vehicle in the 5200 block of Gulfport Boulevard for faulty equipment and discovered driver James Sermons had a revoked driver license. Sermons was arrested.

Officer Ramos stopped a car with no tail lights 5400 block of Gulfport Boulevard on September 4. When she made contact with the driver she could smell marijuana coming from the vehicle. The driver admitted he had marijuana in the car and gave the bag to Officer Ramos. The marijuana weighed 16.8 grams. The driver was eligible for an Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion referral and the marijuana was seized.

Miranda Bailey was arrested for violating a no contact order after a resident in the 4600 block of 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported his girlfriend threw items around the residence during an argument. The contact order was issued several days earlier to prevent Bailey having contact with the victim.

Officers found her at a business near the residence and she was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

A resident out for a walk found a purse and bag containing personal identification, clothes, and a firearm on the ground in the 3000 block of 56<sup>th</sup> Street. Attempts to contact the owner were unsuccessful and the items were entered into property/evidence.

Officer Clague conducted a traffic stop in the 1000 block of 64<sup>th</sup> Street on a car with no tag light. When he made contact with the driver he could smell marijuana coming from the vehicle. The driver also advised he had a gun, then put his car in drive and sped away. Edwin Colon was arrested a short time later with assistance from the Largo Police Department.

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

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

<b>New cases:</b>	7
Cases assigned:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	2
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	4
<b>Supplements received:</b>	4
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	2

### **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a theft case, a burglary, and an arson. He also assisted with an investigation of the fire at the Gulfport Historical Museum, and arrested David Knoll for the offense.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two theft/forgery cases, and assisted Ofc. Palazzolo with collecting evidence in a theft/dealing in stolen property case.

School Resource Officers Embry, and Sigsbee wrote 3 police reports; counseled 4 students; hosted 4 safety meetings; met with the parents of 2 students, and; escorted a truant student to the office.

Officer Motte provided instruction for 3 classrooms on the topic of search and seizure.

Officer Embry spoke with a parent about after school pick up, and with another parent regarding counseling for her child; searched for a student on campus possibly with a gun; the alleged student was not on campus.

Officer Sigsbee helped facilitate activate assailant training and an active assailant drill; assisted a child protection investigator with two child abuse investigations, and; created a classroom lesson plan to assist students with interactions with police officers outside the school environment.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed: 15

Supplements reviewed:	66
Public records requests:	38
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	0
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted:	27

## **MARINA**

Assisted with twenty-five pump outs evacuating five hundred fifteen gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand fifty-one gallons of gas and one thousand three hundred thirty-eight gallons of diesel fuel, fueling ninety-seven.

### **Transient vessels:**

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

### **Staff activities:**

- Repaired/tightened docking cleats on Casino courtesy dock.
- Replaced pedestal light bulbs on pier 3, slips 5/6 & 7/8.
- Organized and cleaned marina work truck.
- Installed equipment mounting clips on pump out boat.
- Inspected waste pump out systems & all piers.
- Inspected GFI, and replaced dock line hooks on piers 3 & 4.
- Ordered tires for marina dock cart.
- Ordered replacement electrical meters for pier 6.

## **LIBRARY**

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

Monday, August 27, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic night.*

Tuesday, August 28, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults.*

Tuesday, August 28, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, August 28, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, August 29, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, August 29, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Wednesday, August 29, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

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

Friday, August 31, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, September 1, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

Saturday, September 8, 1 p.m. - *Yoga in the Garden:* We're taking it outside! Tend your body and spirit with mindful movement & meditation in our lovely garden. This slow-paced class welcomes all levels. Bring props if you wish. Taught by Christa Fairbrother, Certified Yoga for Arthritis Instructor & RYT.

Saturday, September 8, 1 p.m. - *Raven's Guild for ages 12 - 18*: Gather fans of anime, manga, gaming! We'll screen a movie. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

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

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

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

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

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

Thursday, September 20, 11:30 - *Community Playdate*: Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

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

Thursday, September 20, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*: Young readers boost their confidence by sharing a story with Maya, a specially trained Golden Retriever. She visits our children's area on the third Thursday of every month.

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

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

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

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

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

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](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.us) for more information.

Saturday, October 6, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series*: A romantic and realistic view of what it might be like sharing one's last vacation with Alzheimer's. The subject is handled delicately and

with humor and pathos. Enjoy a love story starring Helen Mirren and Donald Sutherland. Rated R. Call 893-1074 for title. 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](mailto:leahveal@beeslearning.org) or call 404-308-0295 for more information.

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

### **Library Services/Statistic August 26 - September 1, 2018:**

#### **Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,563	1,241
	1,156	Library closed
Mon. 8/27	228	218
Tue. 8/28	254	201
Wed. 8/29	262	175
Thu. 8/30	245	187
Fri. 8/31	340	182
Sat. 9/1	226	128

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **Technical Events**

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

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Created designs for e-newsletter.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.
- Provided photographic coverage for Geckfest.



## **Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, September 13.

Worried about your memory? St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic offers free, confidential **Memory Screenings** between 9 a.m. & noon on the second Monday of each month. The next screening is September 10. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

Join Wendy for tips on how to get a better night's rest during **Health Talks with Humana: Healthy Sleep** at 10:30 a.m. Monday, September 17.

Enjoy a beautiful view of the St. Petersburg Marina on Monday September 17 when the **Out-to-Lunch Bunch visits Fresco's Waterfront Bistro**. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$4/nonmembers \$6. Meal paid for separately.

Join **Dedicated and Wellcare** at the Catherine Hickman Theater at 1 p.m. Tuesday, September 18 for a matinee & popcorn. *I Can Only Imagine* is an inspiring true story of ultimate hope, and a gripping reminder of the power of true forgiveness.

Learn how to proactively handle the threat of an aggressive intruder or active shooter event during **Active Shooter Preparedness & Response Training** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, September 19.

Shop, grab a bite to eat, or sit back and watch the dolphins when we visit **John's Pass Village & Boardwalk** on Thursday September 20. This quaint turn-of-the-century fishing village offers 100+ specialty shops and restaurants. Round-trip transportation: GEMS members \$5/nonmembers \$7.

Learn the basic functions of your Apple iPhone or iPad during our next **iPhone/iPad Instruction Class** at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, September 20. Space is limited; Call 893-5657 to pre-register. Presented by the Gulfport Library.

Technology is constantly changing, making it hard to keep up with the latest changes, devices, & trends. Join us at 1:30 p.m. Friday, September 21 for **Tech Tips with Stetson: Smart Phones & Tablets**. Space is limited; call 893-5657 to pre-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 September 21. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

The Senior Center offers free blood pressure and health screenings at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Our next **Monthly Mini Health Clinic** is September 27.

**Happy Birthday to You!** Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, September 28. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

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.

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, August 26	3:30 p.m. - Contra Dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance (Turnout 62)
Monday, August 27	7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance (Turnout 81)
Tuesday, August 28	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 12) 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 13) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 37)
Wednesday, August 29	6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 161)
Thursday, August 30	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 15)
Friday, August 31	11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 22)

#### **Casino (upcoming events):**

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

- Every Thursday                      10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato  
    6:30 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera  
    8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8
- Every first & third Thursday   7 p.m. - Salsa Dance/Lesson Admission \$8
- Every Friday                            11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom
- Every second Friday                7 p.m. - Soul Night with Swingtime Admission \$8

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

Friday, September 7, 6 p.m. - Art Reception: Fine Art & Design by Robert Tillberg. His work includes a wide variety of subject matter, style, technique, size, substrate and palette, with an emphasis on colors & contrast. Free & open to the public. Cash bar.

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

Sunday, August 26      6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

**Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):**

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

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

- Monday - Friday            7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
- Monday, August 27    11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 20)
- Tuesday, August 29   10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 25)

**Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):**

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

**RECREATION CENTER**

The game room 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-one teens are registered for the **2018/19 Teen Night Program**, a great hangout for teens in grades entering middle school through age 17. Teen Night provides recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects.

**Contractual classes:** Bootcamp, Essential Oils, Gentle Yoga, Hatha Yoga, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis and Tennis.

### **Staff Activities**

Micheal Williams drove the trolley on Saturday for Geckofest.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

- 45 Emergency Medical Calls
- 4 Structure Fires
- 1 WFF
- 4 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

#### **Life Safety:**

- 9 Fire inspections
- 1 Re-inspection
- 1 Fire investigation
- 1 Smoke detector
- 4 C.O.s

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

New Gulfport Firefighter/Paramedics were measured for Turnout Bunker Gear coat, pants & gloves for Structural Firefighting.

Gulfport Firefighters IAFF 4966 are still in negotiations with the City. The next meeting is September 12.

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

Chief Marenkovic met with the Finance Director and City Manager to discuss Union negotiations on September 5 & 6.

The Gulfport Fire Department staffed a Special Rescue with a Firefighter/EMT and Firefighter/Paramedic for Geckofest on September 1. Fire inspections were also conducted for vendors prior to the start of the event.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Tested/repared electrical outlets on Beach Boulevard in preparation for GeckoFest.
- Constructed planter for Tot-Time Program, removed TV from Tot-Time classroom and secured furniture with anti-tip measures.
- Caulked windows inside casino.
- Replaced bulbs at Senior Center.
- Installed door locks on History Museum back door.
- Removed branches obstructing signs on 49th Street.
- Ran new internet wire across library.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks Maintenance**

- Removed dead palm tree at Caldwell Park.
- Raked beach and volleyball courts.
- Washed clay from ballfield edges.
- Relocated partitions in PD to storage.
- Replaced tile in Casino restroom.
- Cleared trash & excess foliage from Tomlinson pond.
- Line trimmed weeds along 49<sup>th</sup> Streetscape.
- Trimmed low branches in Clymer Park and along greenway.
- Mowed City complex, Senior Center, Library, Recreation Center & beach green spaces, Chase, Clymer, Veterans, Caldwell & Wood Ibis Parks, dog parks, 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue median, PCYY entrance, & Hoyt perimeter.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation along Beach Boulevard.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Casino, Beach Streetscapes, City complex, Veterans Park, Library & Senior Center, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced carburetor on line trimmer.
- All City park trash and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playgrounds.

### **Streets & Sanitation**

- Completed billable work orders for pick-up of brush, electronics & appliances, trash & furniture, and items requested for pick-up by Code Enforcement.
- Picked up residential bagged leaves, as requested.
- Delivered/replaced residential recycling bins with information sheets.
- Assembled & delivered new automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers, as requested.

- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout the City.
- Patched asphalt throughout City as needed.

## **Water**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #9, 10, 11 & 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 48 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 2 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 143 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 6 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 1 water old water meter with E-Coder R900i meter.
- Continued annual water distribution system flushing and fire hydrant inspection.
- Installed backflow at 6131 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Cleaned and painted 10 fire hydrants.
- Placed 2 Code Enforcement “Notice of Violation” door hangers.

## **Sewer**

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 and #2.
- Daily rainfall checks and documentation, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily ground water elevation recording (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations #1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Beach, Clam Bayou & Marina for quality testing.
- Adjusted sewer manhole ring & cover in alley between Beach Boulevard and 54<sup>th</sup> Street.
- Tested pump pressures at both lift stations.

## **Stormwater**

- Cleaned storm inlets at 25 locations.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles, as needed.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

### **Building Division**

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

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on

more complex construction projects, larger jobs can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction practices and management.

### **Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors**

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

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

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

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

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

#### **WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:**

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

#### **WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:**

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

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit [www.pcclb.com](http://www.pcclb.com).

### **Business Tax Receipts**

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

Thinking of starting a new business? Checkout out the City's website for the "City of Gulfport New Business Checklist" at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) under the Community Development Building



Department tab in the Information & Regulations section. Call Lisa Giddens at 893-1063 for more information.

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

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

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous. E-mail correspondence is considered a public record. If you wish to make a complaint using e-mail such communications are not anonymous.

To review Code Enforcement activities documents for more detailed information and a map of Code Enforcement areas visit the Special Documents section at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us).