



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *October 14 - 20, 2018*

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

### **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](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.

The **Mayors' 49<sup>th</sup> Street Cleanup and Chiefs' Chat** on Saturday, October 13 were a huge success! More than 600 lbs. of trash and recycling were collected (photos below). Thank you to the Gulfport Neighbors, the City of Gulfport, the City of St. Petersburg and everyone who came out and helped.



The Gulfport Historical Society hosted a fun-filled **Founders' Day Celebration** on October 13, followed by a night of Dancing under the Stars (photos below). It was a day for everyone.



## Upcoming Events:

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.

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.

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

Join Community Resource Officer Zack Mills for **Coffee with a Cop** at the St Petersburg Ballet Conservatory, 1500 58<sup>th</sup> Street on Saturday, November 3, 8 - 10 a.m. As always, there's plenty of socializing and meeting old and new friends.

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 eleven local restaurants and chefs at a community table on Beach Boulevard in Downtown Gulfport. For more information visit [www.facebook.com/events/28961215171973/](http://www.facebook.com/events/28961215171973/).

The next **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, November 10 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 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.

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 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.

View the works of 17 artists in 15 Gulfport studios during the **Art Jones Studio Tour** on Saturday & Sunday, December 1 & 2. The tour will begin at 10 a.m. on Saturday and 11 a.m. on Sunday, and includes the works of painters, photographers, ceramicists, fiber artists, sculptors, fashion designers and more. There's something for every taste and budget. And it's free! For more information, visit [www.facebook.com/events/745355715803710](http://www.facebook.com/events/745355715803710).

Join us for song and good cheer during the **City of Gulfport Holiday Tree Lighting** in Clymer Park at 7 p.m. Monday, December 3. Enjoy an evening of light refreshments and festive music presented by the Gulfport Recreation division; meet the Mayor & City Council. Santa will visit and listen to little ones' holiday wishes. For more information, call 893-1118.

Enjoy festive music, hand crafted holiday items and roving characters during the **Tenth Annual Holiday Hoopla** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district, your one stop local shopping for the holidays, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday, December 8. Vendor information available at [www.sikpromotions.com/applicants/fall/holiday-hoopla](http://www.sikpromotions.com/applicants/fall/holiday-hoopla). Stay for the **Boca Ciega Yacht Club 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lighted Boat Parade**. Parade participants can register at the club, 4600 Tifton Drive, or online at [www.sailbcyc.org/ChristmasBoatParade](http://www.sailbcyc.org/ChristmasBoatParade).

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	70
Self-initiated calls for service	388
Incident/offense reports	41
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	128
Ordinance violations	29
Residence checks	56

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Guy Stokes was arrested on October 11 after Officer Priest observed a car at a repair shop in the 1800 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street with its emergency flashers on. As he pulled into the parking lot to investigate, he observed another vehicle on the lot with the brake lights on, and Stokes sitting in the driver's seat. Stokes admitted to entering the two vehicles, looking for spare change.

The father of a runaway juvenile found his daughter in Gulfport on October 12 with her boyfriend, also a reported runaway. She attempted to run and her father restrained her until officers arrived.

She was taken into protective custody under the Baker Act and transported to the Personal Enrichment through Mental Health Services center due to statements she made to officers. Her boyfriend was taken to the Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center as his parents could not be reached.

A resident in the 5200 block of Gulfport Boulevard reported that she lost more than \$1,000 in a fake sweepstakes. Officers determined the crime occurred out of Gulfport's jurisdiction and the case was sent to the appropriate agency.

Officers were dispatched to the 4900 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue on October 13 after a resident called 911 to report an out of control juvenile was breaking things in her house. When she and her son attempted to stop the girl, she punched the woman in the face. The victim did not wish to prosecute.

A Gulfport Storage Center customer reported that sometime in the last month someone cut the lock on his storage unit and stole property valued at more than \$500.

Jacqueline Tinson was arrested for no valid driver license after Officer Pope stopped her on Gulfport Boulevard at Horan Way for speeding.

Sergeant Marotta attempted to stop a white Mercury Cougar traveling at 57 mph in the 6000 block of Gulfport Boulevard, but the driver fled. The owner stated her nephew had the car. She then reported it stolen to the St. Petersburg Police Department.

Dwayne Dalton was arrested for driving on a suspended license, operating an unregistered vehicle, and possession of marijuana on October 14 after Officer Clague stopped him in the area of 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue for operating a van with no tag. Dalton was issued a criminal citation three weeks earlier for driving on a suspended license, and he admitted to the officer that he did not intend to show up for his court date.

Officers were dispatched to the Save-A-Lot after a customer got into an argument inside the store with his ex-girlfriend's brothers. They began fighting and eventually all parties left the store and fled the scene. The victim was found in the restroom at McDonalds but refused treatment.

Officers were dispatched to the 3000 block of 56<sup>th</sup> Street after a caller reported a juvenile inside her neighbor's truck. He fled with 2 other juveniles when he saw the witness. They were located a short distance away by Officer Palazzolo, and the juvenile seen inside the truck was arrested for vehicle burglary.

Officer Dillard stopped a car that had been parked at a closed business in the 5500 block of Gulfport Boulevard, and quickly left when he pulled into the parking lot. Driver Alannah Foreman had an outstanding aggravated battery warrant out of Fort Walton Beach. She was arrested.

Officer Petit received forensic evidence results related to 3 vehicle burglaries that occurred in July. A juvenile who resides in Gulfport was arrested on October 16 for the burglaries, and a grand theft.

Officer Priest has been investigating a case involving two people possibly exploiting an elderly man. One of the involved parties was arrested for stealing the victim's vehicle, and a judge put a no contact order in place, prohibiting the offender contacting the victim. Despite the no contact order, the suspect made 23 phone calls to the victim from jail, so Officer Priest added a charge on October 17 for violating the no contact order.

The marine unit was not on the water this week.

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

<b><i>New cases:</i></b>	9
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	5

Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
<b>Supplements received:</b>	6
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	5

### **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 an auto theft case, a burglary and a theft.

School Resource Officer Motte located missing property; escorted a trespasser off campus; conducted a safety meeting regarding the homecoming game and dance, and; provided security for the BCHS Homecoming football game and Homecoming dance.

School Resource Officer Embry assisted the St Petersburg Police Department with a case they are investigating; helped a student suffering from heat exhaustion get medical attention, and; spoke with a grandparent about her grandchild's behavior problems.

Officer Sigsbee contacted the Gulfport Fire Department to request a presentation for pre-kindergarten classes, and Fire Chief Marenkovic spoke with the students. Rescue 18 was also on display so the students could see the truck and interact with fire personnel.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	16
Supplements reviewed:	67
Public records requests:	30
Background checks:	4
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	4
Subpoenas processed:	5
Citizens assisted:	46

### **MARINA**

Assisted with twelve pump outs evacuating two hundred ninety gallons of waste.

Pumped two thousand four hundred ninety-three gallons of gas and two thousand six hundred eighty-two gallons of diesel fuel, fueling fifty-eight vessels.

### **Transient vessels:**

Staff welcomed 4 vessels this week.

### **Staff activities:**

- Reattached dock box to pier 3 slip 29.
- Replaced water hose for gas pumps 3 & 4.
- Replaced pedestal dock bulbs on pier 4 T-dock and slips 18 & 27.

- Retrieved and disposed of marker buoy that separated from mooring and washed up on Gulfport Beach.
- Cleaned & organized maintenance area under Marina administration office.
- Took Marina truck to shop for maintenance & minor repairs.
- Inspected pump out systems and filled pump oil reservoirs.
- Investigated loss of function of marina security camera.

## **LIBRARY**

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

Monday, October 8, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for grades K - 5.*

Monday, October 8, 5:30 p.m. - *An Evening with Poet Rob McCabe.*

Tuesday, October 9, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, October 9, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

Tuesday, October 9, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

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

Wednesday, October 10, 1 p.m. - *Fall Themed String Art.*

Wednesday, October 10, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Wednesday, October 10, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, October 11, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, October 11, 7 p.m. - *Bees Learning.*

Friday, October 12, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, October 13, 1 p.m. - *Raven's Guild for ages 12 - 18.*

### **Upcoming Events:**

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.

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.

Thursday, October 25, 5 p.m. - *Skull String Art:* If you're in Grades 6-12, join us for our Halloween inspired string art! We'll use wood, nails, and string to create a spooky looking skull to display in your room or give to a friend. Call 893-1134 for additional details.

Thursday, October 25, 7 p.m. - *Friends Helping Friends:* Everyone is invited to this very special and worthy event in support of the Gulfport Historical Society. Wine & cheese reception (donations accepted) precedes singer-songwriter Brittany Baldwin Brown performing classic rock covers and original music in the atrium at 7:30 p.m. Speakers include GHS President Cathy Salustri. Call 893-1074 for more information.

Monday, October 29, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic night*. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Tuesday, October 30, 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 plus prizes for the winning team. Call Cailey Klasson at 893-1074 or email [cklasson@mygulfpport.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulfpport.us) for more information.

Thursday, November 1, 5 p.m. - *Painted Rock Cacti for Grades 6 - 12*: Join us in the Reading Garden for a rock painting party! Decorate a collection of rocks, then assemble them to look like an adorable cactus that you'll never need to water! Call 893-1134 for additional details.

Thursday, November 1, 6 p.m. - *Verna McClain Art Exhibit & Reception*: Exhibit will be on display in our Friends Room during November & December. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, November 1, 7 p.m. - *Gulfpport Trans Awareness Week Event*: Launch of our "Transcending Gender: Bodies and Lives" exhibit. Join us for a wine & cheese reception followed by dynamic guest speaker Ashley Brundage discussing her personal journey through discrimination and harassment to rise above and find employment with a major U.S. bank. She self-identified during the interview process as a male to female transgender woman and was subsequently hired. She is a significant activist and has an inspiring story to share.

Saturday, November 3, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series*: If you're in the mood for wild and at times over the top social satire, you'll enjoy rapper Boots Riley's writing and directorial debut. Rated R. Call 893-1074 for title.

Monday, November 5, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club discussion of No Ashes in the Fire* by Darnell Moore. Copies available at the Circulation Desk.

Tuesday, November 6, 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@mygulfpport.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulfpport.us) for more information.

Saturday, November 10, 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 Gulfpport Library. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, November 13, 10:30 a.m. & Thursday, November 15, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfpport Workshops*: Cohosted by Gulfpport Neighbors and the Library. Learn about the services available through the City and the Library. Find out how you can participate in our award-winning Gulfpport Neighbors organization. Call 893-1074 for more information.

Tuesday, November 20, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*: Build with Legos, wood blocks and more! Open to children ages 4-10 with a caregiver.

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. - *Gulfpport 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. - *Gulfpport 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 October 7 - 13, 2018:**

#### **Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,514	1,188
Sun. 10/7	Library closed	
Mon. 10/8	217	203
Tue. 10/9	238	196
Wed. 10/10	263	183
Thu. 10/11	239	206
Fri. 10/12	320	178
Sat. 10/13	225	148

### **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 Mayors' Cleanup, Founders Day & Gulfport Under the Stars.
- Continued preparation of November 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](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.

Has your balance become unsteady? Have you fallen in the past? Afraid of falling again? If so, the **Balance & Fall Prevention Workshop** at 1 p.m. Tuesday, October 23 may be life changing for you! Presented by Wayne Whittle, PT. Space is limited: call 893-5657 to register.

Join the GEMS Getaway gang on our Tuesday, October 23 tour of **Creative Clay & Consignment Shop**, an art center that focuses on helping people with disabilities achieve full and inclusive lives through access to the arts. Afterwards, we will stop by Baskin Robbins for ice cream. Round trip transportation & admission: GEMS members \$4/nonmembers \$6. Ice cream paid for separately.

Learn what you need to know to make informed Medicare option decisions during **Medicare 101: Understanding Your Benefits** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, October 24. Presented by Steve Reiser of Senior Benefit Solutions.

Learn the basic functions of your Apple iPhone or iPad during our next **iPhone/iPad Instruction class** at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, October 25. Space is limited: call 893-5657 to register. Presented by the Gulfport Library.

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.

Celebrate Oktoberfest with us on Friday, October 26 when the Out-to-lunch Bunch visits **Hofbrauhaus**. Steeped in Bavarian tradition, Hofbrauhaus brings beer, food & fun to the table. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$4/nonmembers \$6. Meal paid for separately.

**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.

Joint pain is extremely common. Many different conditions can lead to painful joints; the good news is you don't have to suffer any longer. Learn about the latest advancements in joint surgery during **HCA Health Talks: Chronic Joint Pain - Time to Look for a Solution** at 2:30 p.m. Monday, October 29. Presented by Dr. Rafat Nashed, MD.

**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. Tuesday, October 30. Space is limited; call 893.-5657 to register.

Learn **The Science Behind Stem Cells** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, October 31 when Dr. Damon Stafford, DC of Professional Health Care of Pinellas, Inc. discusses the science behind stem cells and where research is taking us.

Join us on Monday, November 1 for our **GEMS Getaway to William Dean Chocolates**, where chocolate and art become one. Enjoy an afternoon tea and exclusive tour of the candy kitchen where every piece of artisan chocolate is handmade offering a “multi-dimensional palette: the opportunity to create a beautiful, outward appearance for the shell with amazing flavor combinations hidden within.” You’ll have the chance to show your creative style and make your own chocolate bar. Round-trip transportation, afternoon tea, guided tour & chocolate bar: GEMS members \$35/nonmembers \$37.

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, November 2.

It’s important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center at 10 a.m. Thursday, November 8. Get your **flu shot** at the same time. Bring your insurance card & photo ID. See front desk volunteer for details on accepted insurances.

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 November 12. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

The Community Law Program provides **free legal assistance** at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. the third Friday of every month. The next meeting is November 16. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sunday, October 7            6 p.m. - Ballroom dance with Dan Fugazzotto (Turnout 20)

Monday, October 8            10 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 15)

Tuesday, October 9            10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 23)  
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 16)  
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 54)

Wednesday, October 10      9 a.m. - Keller-Williams seminar (Turnout 80)  
6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 125)

Thursday, October 11        10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 24)  
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 12)

Friday, October 12            11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 29)  
7 p.m. - Soul Night with Swing Time (Turnout 172)

Saturday, October 13        6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 75)

**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, October 7 3 p.m. - *Synchrony Arts Productions presents Mary Poppins* (Turnout 85)

Friday, October 12 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Historical Society Presents Changes Along the Bayou; Gulfport Then and Now Art Reception*

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

Sunday, October 7 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church service (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, October 8 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 25)

Tuesday, October 9 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)

Friday, October 12 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 9)

**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**

Forty-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.

Seven 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.

Fifty-one 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, Kai Chi Do, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tennis and Watercolor.

### **Staff Activities**

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

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

- 46 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Elevator Rescue
- 1 Water Rescue
- 1 Gas Leak
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest

#### **Life Safety:**

- 6 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-inspection
- 1 C.O.

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center.

Gulfport Firefighters IAFF 4966 will meet with City staff on Wednesday, October 31 to discuss contract negotiations.

Chief Marenkovic and Lt. Fernandez attended the EMS-LG (PALS) conference call meeting on October 16. Discussions were over system updates and the Medical Directors new orientation draft plan. We also spoke about equipment changes in the system and Continuing Medical Education.

The Gulfport Fire Department Paramedics began their Emergency Pediatric Care (EPC) Course online with practical skill training this is a 16 Credited hour course. This course is created by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Final exam will be in November.

Inspector Lundh attended a NFPA course for Ansul Hood Systems in Ocala on October 18.

Chief Marenkovic and Firefighter Campbell attended the City of Gulfport Firefighters Retirement Pension Fund meeting on October 18.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Delivered food donations to Senior Center, repaired restroom latches, and replaced two ballasts.
- Set-up haunted house at Recreation Center.
- Repaired timer at volleyball courts.
- Patched drywall damage at Theater and repaired drainage issue on a/c above lobby.
- Repaired paper towel dispenser at Parks Office.
- Replaced grips on Tomlinson Park exercise equipment.
- Patched wall at Library.
- Repaired a/c in Public Services building.
- Completed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Building & Finance Departments.

### **Parks Maintenance**

- Commenced construction of Recreation Center Haunted House.
- Mowed Senior Center, Neighborhood Center & Library grounds, Clymer, Veterans, Wood Ibis, Clam Bayou & Caldwell Parks, 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue sign area, Dog Parks, and 55<sup>th</sup> Street & Clymer Greenways.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Recreation Center, Dog Parks & along Chase block.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Neighborhood Center & Library green spaces and 49<sup>th</sup> Streetscape, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- All City park trash and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playgrounds.

### **Streets & Sanitation**

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

### **Water**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #31, 32, 33 & 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 17 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 9 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.

- Completed 122 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 9 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected drinking water microbial samples on City distribution system.
- Replaced 2 water old water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Cleaned, inspected and painted 2 fire hydrants
- Installed and painted car stops & bollards at 5010 Gulfport Boulevard.
- Repaired water break at 2026 51<sup>st</sup> Street.

### **Sewer**

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 and #2.
- Daily rainfall checks and documentation, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily ground water elevation recording (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations #1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Beach, Clam Bayou & Marina for quality testing.
- Televised sewer lateral at 5310 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Repaired sewer manhole at 5621 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

### **Stormwater**

- Cleaned and inspected 14 storm inlets.
- Repaired storm inlet at 5325 Tangerine Avenue.
- Replaced curb at Save-A-Lot rear entrance.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced fan clutch, and water pump on Water Division vehicle #80.
- Replaced 4 tires on Police vehicle #501.
- Replaced transmission on GEMS vehicle #11.
- Replaced tire on Sanitation vehicle #48.
- Replaced grabber arm cylinder on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles, as needed.

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

### **Building Division**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

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

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

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

### **Business Tax Receipts**

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

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

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

**Code Enforcement activities** continued this week in Section 4 of the City, also referred to as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49<sup>th</sup> Street 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets.

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).

## **Planning and Development**

### **November 14, 2018 Board of Adjustment Meeting:**

V18-16; 2619 54<sup>th</sup> Street South; Variance request to:

1. reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 13 feet, from 15 feet to 2 feet; and
2. reduce the separation distance requirement from the existing house by 9 feet, from 12 feet to 3 feet to allow for the proposed construction of a detached accessory structure (20' x 25' carport) at the rear of the property.

V18-17; 4412 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue South; Variance request to reduce the front yard setback requirement by 24 feet, from 25 feet to 1 foot to allow for the proposed construction of a new two-car garage and laundry room to the front of the existing single-family house.

V18-18; 2908 56<sup>th</sup> Street South; Variance request to:

1. Reduce the separation distance requirement from the existing detached accessory structure (garage) by 8 feet, from 12 feet to 4 feet; and
2. To reduce the side yard setback requirement by 0.18 feet, from 6 feet to 5.82 feet to allow for the proposed construction of a new bathroom to an existing bedroom and to match the existing side yard setback of the house.