



Gulfport Community Update

October 21 - 27, 2018

The Gulfport community came out in support of victims affected by Hurricane Michael, donating much needed supplies which were transported to the Florida panhandle on October 19 (photos below).



The Gulfport Neighbors and the City of Gulfport hosted another successful **Junk in the Trunk** on October 20 (photos below). Junk was dumped and treasures were found. Thank you to the volunteers, Gulfport Neighbors, CERT volunteers, Gulfport PD, Gulfport Community Garden and City Staff who helped with the event. 10.7 tons/3 pallets of junk were collected!



The Boca Ciega Robotics Team, Robots in Paradise participated in an event in the school gymnasium on October 20 (photos below).



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

The City of Gulfport will begin **construction of a new sidewalk on 59th Street South between 26th & 25th Avenues on Monday, October 29**. The Phase II sidewalk replacement project is expected to take approximately two weeks to complete. Please call the Gulfport Public Works Department at 893-1089 for more information.

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

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

Hurricane Evacuation Plan Advice for Residents with Special Needs:

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

- Start a personal support network of people you can count on during an emergency.
- Create an emergency health information card that is customized to you.

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Events:

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

The 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!

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

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 4th. Registration forms available at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53rd Street or the Gulfport Library, 5501 28th Avenue, or register online at 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 58th 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/.

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 49th Street 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, November 10 for the **Annual Household Electronics and Chemical Mobile Collection Event**. Call 464-7500 or visit www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste for more information.

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.

Interested in learning more about Gulfport? Everyone is invited to the **Welcome to Gulfport Workshop** at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, November 13 and 6 p.m. Thursday, November 15. Informative take home information and presentations. Presented by the Gulfport Public Library and the Gulfport Neighbors. For more information, call 893-1074.

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

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.

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. Stay for the **Boca Ciega Yacht Club 33rd Annual Lighted Boat Parade**. Parade participants can register at the club, 4600 Tifton Drive, or online at 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 49th Street. The **Marina District Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive. The **Strand Area Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard. The **Stetson Area Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Eleazer Hearing Room, 1401 61st Street.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	126
Self-initiated calls for service	459
Incident/offense reports	38
Arrests	5
Traffic citations	136
Ordinance violations	43
Residence checks	74

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 1800 block of 55th Street reported on October 18 that several juveniles were inside the concession stand at Tomlinson Park after hours. When Officer Dillard approached, 3 juveniles fled on foot. With assistance of St. Pete Police Department K9's and the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office helicopter, two were caught hiding at Gulfport Elementary School. They were charged with burglary and transported to the Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center.

Officers were dispatched to the 3000 block of Dupont Street on October 19 after a blue Hyundai sedan struck a pickup truck parked in a driveway and fled the scene. The Hyundai, which likely sustained damage to the passenger side, was last seen traveling eastbound on Shore Boulevard.

Officers arrested a juvenile on October 20 after she violated a temporary injunction for protection by walking across the property of the protected person. The incident was recorded by the resident's security cameras.

While off duty, Chief Vincent observed suspicious activity in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard, and stopped the individuals involved. One subject ran from the area and threw a bag into a dumpster as he fled. Several small baggies of marijuana packaged for sale were found inside.

A bag containing files, medication and clothes was reported stolen from one of two unlocked cars parked in the 6300 block of 13th Avenue on October 21.

Someone entered two unlocked cars parked in the 900 block of 59th Street, but nothing was taken. A neighbor inquired about police presence, and when he checked his unlocked work truck he discovered several items had been stolen.

Officers were dispatched to the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard on October 22 after a caller reported her car had just been stolen from a parking lot. The car was found a few blocks away on a tow truck. The driver had paperwork indicating the car was being repossessed.

An iPod Nano and loose change were reported stolen from an unlocked car parked in the 1700 block of Gray Street.

Leroy Smith was arrested for several active warrants on October 23 following a traffic stop in the area of 11th Avenue & 58th Street for an equipment violation. Smith identified himself by his brother's name before fleeing on foot. His passenger revealed his true identity, and additional charges against Smith are pending.

A resident in the 5300 of 14th Avenue reported that several items were stolen from her unlocked car, including a company bank card which was used at 3 local businesses. Officer Petit was able to identify the suspect from the surveillance video. Melissa Stackpole was arrested for fraudulent use of a credit card.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 6 hours this week: Sergeant Woodman and Detective Pham assisted with a water rescue, and; Sergeant Burkhart issued 3 marine citations and made 2 boater contacts.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	10
Cases assigned:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	1
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	7
Supplements received:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	8

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary case, a fraud, and a case involving written threats. He also attended rifle training.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two auto theft cases and a theft. She also attended rifle training.

Officer Motte investigated a theft and was able to recover the stolen property. He also attended a meeting regarding site security.

Officer Embry assisted Pinellas County Schools Police with a disruptive student on a school bus and provided security for a football game at Boca Ciega High School.

Chief Vincent visited Gulfport Elementary School and spoke with pre-k students. They viewed and sat in several police cars. They were also fingerprinted, and the cards were sent home to their parents.

A male subject was reported to be following students on the St. Pete side of 49th Street. Officer Sigsbee spoke with St. Pete PD and discovered the person has been committing burglaries and robberies in St. Pete.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano created and distributed a bulletin for Officer Nieves in an attempt to identify a theft suspect; reviewed property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper entry into FCIC, and; completed pawn checks on 10 cases with a named suspect, a known serial number or a searchable property description.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	15
Supplements reviewed:	33
Public records requests:	42
Background checks:	4
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	0
Subpoenas processed:	5
Citizens assisted:	39

MARINA

Assisted with seventeen pump outs evacuating three hundred fifty-five gallons of waste.

Pumped two thousand five hundred fifty-one gallons of gas and one thousand six hundred five gallons of diesel fuel, fueling fifty-one vessels.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed 4 vessels this week.

Staff activities:

- Replaced 240v circuit cable and repaired 50amp power connector on pier 5, slip 10.
- Ordered new water fittings for pier 6, slips 29 & 31.
- Troubleshooting nonworking pedestal lighting on pier five.
- Performed monthly electrical meter readings.
- Replaced 2 tires and brake pads & rotors, and installed ABS module on Marina work truck.
- Inspected, fuel sumps, pump-out systems and filled pump oil reservoirs.
- Installed Cat 6 connector on Marina camera cable and moved to alternate Ethernet port.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, October 16, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, October 16, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

Tuesday, October 16, 4 p.m. - *Lego Club.*

Tuesday, October 16, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, October 17, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, October 17, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Wednesday, October 17, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, October 18, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, October 18, noon - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The March by E.L. Doctorow.*

Thursday, October 18, 7 p.m. - *Bees Learning.*

Thursday, October 18, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series.*

Friday, October 19, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, October 20, 1:30 p. m. - *Free Family Movie Series.*

Upcoming Events:

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@mygulfport.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. - *Gulfport Trans Awareness Week Event*: Launch of our "Transcending Gender: Bodies and Lives" exhibit. Join us for a wine & cheese reception followed by 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@mygulfport.us for more information.

Thursday, November 8, 4 p.m. - *Teen Book Club*: Join us for "The Book was Better", for young adult books that have been adapted into recent movies. Our first selection is *Every Day* by David Levithan. We'll chat about the book and watch the movie. Snacks and drinks will be provided. For more information or to sign up call Cailey at 893-1074 or email cklasson@mygulfport.us.

Saturday, November 10, 1 p.m. - *Raven's Guild for ages 12 - 18*: Gather fans of anime, manga, gaming! This month, we will feature the "Imagination Station" Socratic seminar, in which Guild members will enjoy an open discussion about different manga/anime styles and learn skills they will use later in life while having fun! Conversations will be based on select sections in the text *Anime essentials: Everything a Fan Needs to Know*, by Gilles Poitras. We'll also have snacks and screen a movie. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Tuesday, November 13, 10:30 a.m. & Thursday, November 15, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshops*: Cohosted by Gulfport 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 Gulfport 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.

Wednesday, November 14, 1 p.m. - *Holiday Cards & Gift Tags*: Join us for some holiday cheer and crafts! We'll be designing and decorating cards and gift tags! Templates, stamps and embellishments will be provided. Supplies are limited; call 893-1074 to register.

Thursday, November 15, noon - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* by Karen Joy Fowler. Copies available at the Circulation Desk. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Saturday, November 17, 1:30 p. m. - *Free Family Movie Series*: Screening the long-awaited sequel about a family of superheroes who wear fabulous red uniforms (with *NO CAPES!*) This animated feature stars the voice talents of Craig T. Nelson, Holly Hunter, Sarah Vowell, Huck Millner, Bob Odenkirk, and Samuel L. Jackson. Rated PG. Call 893-1074 for title.

Tuesday, November 20, 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, November 29, 11:30 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Library Services/Statistic October 14 - 20, 2018:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,426	1,200
Sun. 10/14	Library closed	
Mon. 10/15	297	239
Tue. 10/16	231	198
Wed. 10/17	236	187
Thu. 10/18	204	183
Fri. 10/19	277	197
Sat. 10/20	169	136

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

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

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Created designs for e-newsletter.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.
- Provided photographic coverage for Junk in the Trunk event.
- 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. Find us on Facebook at www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter. Help our page grow and get valuable daily information!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

November is National Hospice Month, a good time to learn more about the compassionate care that Suncoast Hospice provides to our community. Did you know that patients & families who choose hospice care live longer, and report feeling better both emotionally & physically? Did you know that there is rarely any out-of-pocket expense for hospice care? Join us at 3 p.m. Monday, November 5 for **Empath CHAT: What You Learn About Hospice May Surprise You & Name That Tune!** as we learn about and dispel the myths surrounding hospice care. We need some fun after all that learning so let’s play an exciting game of 50s, 60s & 70s Name That Tune!

Join Attorney Catherine Blackburn at 2 p.m. Wednesday, November 7 for **Taxes, Trusts, & Inheritance**. This free presentation is jam-packed with great legal information: how estate, gift & income taxes work, how Revocable Living Trusts and Wills work, how inheritance with or without a will or trust works, and more. Don’t miss out!!

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.

Join us on Thursday November 8 for our **Gems Getaway to the Florida Aquarium**, and discover many of Florida’s aquatic & terrestrial animals and ecosystems. Explore the large simulated wetlands environment under a tall glass atrium, shallow bays & beaches, and a coral reef ecosystem encompassed in half a million gallons of natural seawater. Round-trip transportation & admission: GEMS members \$36/nonmembers 41.

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.

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 November 29.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month’s birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. November 30. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

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

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

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

Join us at 1 p.m. every Wednesday for **Clubhouse Chatter**, offering open discussion about the MLB season and your hometown Rays; the good, the bad and the ugly and what the season could have been. Topics will include Player Personnel, Draft Picks, Farm System (Minor Leagues),

Coaching Staff, Spring Season, Ticket Pricing, and of course the future of Tropicana Field. Rays staff and players will be invited attend.

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

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

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

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

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

Casino (last week's events):

Monday, October 15	10 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 13)
Tuesday, October 16	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 27) 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 22) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 68)
Wednesday, October 17	6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 191)
Thursday, October 18	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 20) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 20)
Friday, October 19	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 26) 7 p.m. - Soul Night with Swing Time (Turnout 140)
Saturday, October 20	12:30 p.m. - Life Celebration (Turnout 120)

Casino (upcoming events):

Saturday, October 27	7 p.m. - <i>Monster Mash 2018</i> : Live Music by Four of a Kynd Band, dancing, costume contests, raffle prizes, memory quilt drawing. Reserved tables available. Tickets \$20 at Beach Bazaar, Town Shores office, Senior Center & Casino
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 Monday	10 a.m. - Yoga
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

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

Sunday, October 7 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church service (Turnout 14)
 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 15 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 25)

Tuesday, October 16 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)

Friday, October 19 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 7)

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

Ready to get into the spooky spirit? With Halloween just around the corner we're looking for some scary decorated homes, haunted houses or business' to enter this year's **Halloween Decorations Contest**. Stop by the Gulfport Recreation Center or City Hall to pick up an application to enter. All applications must be dropped off to the Gulfport Recreation Center. Deadline to enter the contest is noon, Monday, October 29. No one knows what time the hearse will travel through the City of Gulfport, but please be ready by 6:30 p.m. on the 29th. There are three theme categories: general, for single homes only; haunted house for single haunted houses only, and; commercial for single business or professional locations, including home occupations. A plaque will be awarded to one winner of each theme category at the Gulfport's City Council meeting (televised) at 7 p.m. Thursday, November 15. It's time to show off your scary creations!

The City of Gulfport Recreation Division is preparing for the **2018 Spooktakular Halloween Bash** scheduled for Wednesday, October 31. Spooktakular festivities will begin at 7 p.m. The bash will include Trunk-or-Treat, an out-of-this-world Haunted House, a Boo-Room for toddlers, carnival games with candy/prizes, and a Costume Contest for the children and their families. The Haunted Snack Shack will sell hot dogs for a \$1, "potion" for 50¢, chips for 50¢ and popcorn for 50¢. The Costume Contest will begin at 8 p.m. Winners will be chosen from eight age categories: 0-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-12, 13-17 and Family. There will be three awards given in each age category. The fun ends at 9 p.m. Plan to be there, as we are "dying" to see you!

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.

Teen Councilmember Robert Wolf volunteered during the Fifth Annual Mayor's 49th Street Cleanup on the Tangerine Greenway on October 13.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 52 Emergency medical calls
- 3 Structure fires

- 6 Fire alarms
- 1 Elevator rescue
- 1 Water rescue
- 1 Gas leak
- 1 Fire outside structure
- 1 Odor/smoke invest
- 1 Haz-Mat incident

Life Safety:

- 10 Fire inspections
- 1 Re-inspections
- 2 C.O.s
- 2 Final plans

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.

The Gulfport Fire Department Paramedics continued their Emergency Pediatric Care (EPC) Course online with practical skill training this week. The 16-credit hour course was created by the American Academy of Pediatrics. Final exam will be in November.

Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief Association meeting on October 25 at SPC.

Inspector Lundh and Chief Marenkovic reviewed the site plan for the Gulfport Recreation Center's Haunted house.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Assisted roofers, replaced lightbulbs, and reset restroom clock timers at Casino.
- Repaired paper towel dispenser at Garage.
- Assisted with construction of Recreation Center haunted house, and replaced 2 outlets in gym.
- Replaced ballast at City Hall, and repaired door lock at City Hall entrance.
- Repaired holes in drywall at Theater.
- Assisted Piper Fire with inspection of sprinklers at City Hall & Police Department.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Building & Finance Departments.

Parks Maintenance

- Continued construction of Recreation Center Haunted House.
- Replaced events banners on Gulfport Boulevard.
- Mowed Beach, Marina Lions Club & Recreation Center green spaces, and York & 49th Street termini.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Recreation Center, Clymer Park, Library, Senior Center & along Chase block.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.

- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched lift station area, and Recreation Center & beach green spaces, 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 #45, 46, 47 & 48 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 24 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 10 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 138 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 3 water old water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Cleaned, inspected and painted 2 fire hydrants
- Cleaned, inspected and painted 19 fire hydrants.
- Located and marked water valves in streets in preparation for start of annual paving.

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 main line at 800 61st Street for sewer lateral rebate program.

Stormwater

- Cleaned and inspected 10 storm inlets.
- Inspected storm inlet at 5857 26th Avenue in preparation for installation of new sidewalk.

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.

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

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

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

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

Beginning in November Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 5 of the City, also referred to as the Marina District which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26th Avenue to the water and east from 49th Street to City boundaries. 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.

Planning and Development

November 14, 2018 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

V18-16; 2619 54th 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 27th 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 56th 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.