



Gulfport Community Update

September 30 – October 6, 2018

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

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

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

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

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

Hurricane Evacuation Plan Advice for Residents with Special Needs:

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

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

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

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

City Utilities residential sewer customers are eligible for a 50% rebate following replacement and inspection of a failing sewer lateral between a home and the City connection. The maximum

rebate is \$3,500, and certain restrictions apply. Visit www.mygulfport.us/lateralrebate for more information.

Upcoming Events:

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

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.

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

Celebrate the 108th anniversary of the City's incorporation during **Founder's Day: A Celebration of Gulfport** on Saturday, October 13. Party with old and new friends! Daytime activities are 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Kick up your heels and show off your best moves during **Gulfport under the Stars** from 6 until 10:30 p.m.

It's almost that time again! Bring your Gulfport I.D. and your junk to the **Gulfport Neighbors Junk in the Trunk** at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Saturday, October 20, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Drop junk that works at the free trade table. Free bike registration and helmets, costume contest and games for kids, have coffee with a cop, and get gardening tips from the community garden team.

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

The 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 permit free **Citywide Yard Sale** brochure. The sale is scheduled for Saturday, November 3. In the event of rain, the sale will take place on Sunday the 4th. Pick up a registration form at Gulfport City Hall, 2401 53rd Street or the Gulfport Library, 5501 28th Avenue or register online at www.mygulfport.us/city-wide-yard-sale no later than 4 p.m. Friday, October 26. No phone-in addresses please; one address per application. For more information, call 727-893-1118.

The WRD Restaurant Association and the Gulfport Neighbors will host the **Third Annual Gulfport Chief's Table** 6 - 10 p.m. Monday, November 5. This outdoor fine dining experience will highlight Gulfport's thriving food scene and feature the offerings of eleven local restaurants and chefs at a community table on Beach Boulevard in Downtown Gulfport. For more information visit www.facebook.com/events/28961215171973/.

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

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

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

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 and City Council. Santa will visit and listen to little ones' holiday wishes. For more information, please call 727-893-1118.

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

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	197
Self-initiated calls for service	330
Incident/offense reports	52
Arrests	08
Traffic citations	123
Ordinance violations	53
Residence checks	34

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A juvenile had gotten into a fight with his mother near the 2500 block of 49th Street South and fled the residence. Officers checked the area but could not locate him. Later on in the afternoon on September 27th he was located at school and recovered.

On September 27th Officers responded to the 2900 block of 57th Street South where a resident's tree had been caught on fire overnight. Witnesses stated an unknown male had been seen near the tree.

On September 28th a man was trying to fight another man regarding a woman at the 5200 block of 9th Avenue South. Sgt. Woodman witnessed the suspect punch the screen door, damaging it in the process. The suspect qualified for APAD (Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion) and was given a notice date.

Officers spoke with a complainant at the 5200 block of 10th Avenue South, who stated that her boyfriend had threatened her and her son. She stated that he has been drinking and arguing all day. On September 28th Officers spoke with subject who stated that they were arguing but he never threatened her. The complainant went to stay with her friend for the night.

Officers spoke with approximately eight people on Gulfport Beach on September 28th who stated that one person of the group smashed another's phone. The man who smashed the phone stated that he told victim repeatedly to stop recording him and wouldn't listen so he smashed the phone. The victim did not want to press charges.

Victim reported on September 29th that sometime overnight in the 5600 block of 17th Avenue South the passenger side tires on her vehicle were slashed. The victim claimed that her granddaughter had admitted to her son on the phone that she was responsible.

On September 29th the victim reported that sometime overnight in the 5800 block of 26th Avenue South her vehicle was broken into and her friend's laptop was stolen. The friend attempted to locate the laptop with a tracking software but was unsuccessful.

Kristen Forsythe was extremely intoxicated at the PYCC Clubhouse and called police claiming that her friend had tried to run her over. The friend was simply trying to get her to the airport so she could fly home. On September 29th Officers called an Uber for Ms. Forsythe to take her to the airport, but when it arrived she refused to get in and laid down in the road. Officers attempted to arrest her for disorderly intoxication and she ran from them to the back of her friend's car and grabbed him. When officers went to handcuff her, she tried to bite one of their hands.

On September 29th Officers responded to the 2600 block of 44th Street South location involving an attempted stolen vehicle and an accident from a resident's driveway. An unidentified male juvenile was seen exiting the driver side and running north bound from the area. The male had wrecked the vehicle in to another vehicle in the driveway. Detectives are currently working the case.

A resident in the 2600 block of 48th Street South stated she purchased concert tickets on September 30th from someone on Craigslist and never received the tickets. Case forwarded to the detectives.

A resident in the 2600 block of 49th Street South reported that someone stole 5 plants from his garden on September 30th. There was a video of someone on a bicycle in the victim's yard that was captured on a neighbor's video camera.

On September 30th Ofc. Clague stopped a vehicle in the 4900 block of 12th Avenue South for a seatbelt violation and both passengers were extremely hyper and were attempting to conceal something between the seats. Ofc. Clague removed both passengers and searched the area they were reaching into and located a small bag with four prescription pills inside. The driver, Peter Walker, admitted the pills were his and he was arrested for possession without a prescription.

Officers responded to a burglary in progress call where a neighbor in the 5500 block of Newton Avenue South had seen a male enter a vacant house that has been condemned. On September 30th Officers located Craig Adams inside and he claimed he was hiding in the house because he had been in a fight with his girlfriend. Craig had previously been warned by code enforcement to stay out of the house since it was uninhabitable and being torn down. He was arrested for trespass after warning.

A resident in the 5400 block of 17th Avenue South called to report that someone had entered her vehicle and stole her purse sometime between 09/30 at 10:30 p.m., and 10/01 at 9:00 a.m. She was not sure if she locked her car and there were no signs of forced entry.

A 56-year-old man who was doing unlicensed and unpermitted tree work in the 4800 block of 29th Avenue South area fell from the top of a 35-foot lift crane. On October 1st he was transported to Bayfront but died from his injuries.

A vehicle, which showed no signs of forced entry, was broken into in the 3100 block of 59th Street South at some time over the past few days. The owner kept driving it as well. A firearm was stolen from the center console and entered into FCIC/NCIC.

Officers responded to a report of a Robbery in Progress in the 2400 block of 49th Street South. On October 2nd the caller informed dispatch that they had been robbed and beaten by 6 males and their bicycle was stolen in the process. Through the investigation and interview with the victim it was determined that the incident occurred in the area of 17th Avenue South and 47th Street South. The information was forwarded to the St. Petersburg Police Department.

The residents left their bicycles unlocked outside the building in the 5500 block of 27th Avenue South. 2 younger males approached and stole the bicycles on October 3rd. One male was last seen going north on 55th St S and the other west on 27th Ave S.

On October 3rd two vehicles traveling west bound on the 1700 block of Gulfport Boulevard South collided when one vehicle attempted to change lanes striking the vehicle next to them. Nobody was injured and both vehicles sustained minor damage.

Officer Carter saw a scooter driving north in the 1100 block of 49th Street South with no headlights activated and at a higher rate of speed than the posted speed limit of 35 MPH. Officer Carter made contact with the driver, Brian Bolan who appeared to be under the influence of alcohol and had a revoked driver's license. Bolan performed poorly on field sobriety tasks and was arrested on October 3rd for Driving Under the Influence. Bolan refused to submit to a breath alcohol test. Because had two prior convictions for DUI, this charge was a felony.

Officers responded to a residence in the 5100 block of 13th Avenue South where a woman showed up at the residence who had been previously trespassed. On October 3rd Officers located her on the property. Jill Grasmick was arrested for trespass after warning and transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

Marine Unit

The Marine Unit was used for 23.5 hours this week. 13 stops were made and 3 safety checks were conducted.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	13
Cases assigned:	06
Cases suspended-no leads:	03
Cases cleared with arrest:	00
Cases exceptionally cleared:	01
Cases unfounded/no crime:	03
Supplements received:	13
Cases cleared with arrest:	00
Previously cleared with arrest:	00
Cases suspended/no leads:	02
Cases unfounded/no crime:	00
Cases exceptionally cleared	00
Cases still active:	11

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a Death Investigation, Grand Theft, Fraud, and Burglary and was called out to investigate a possible drug overdose.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary, a fraud, and an auto theft.; covered Gulfport Elementary School for the SRO, and; attended a Neighborhood Crime Watch meeting.

Officer Motte assisted Boca Ciega High School with several petty acts of misconduct to include breaking up two minor fights, locating missing property, recovering a reported runaway, and completing two baker act assessments, neither of which met the criteria. He covered an after school special detail providing security coverage for a football game and taught the Monday night police explorer meeting covering the topic of in progress calls with search and arrest.

Officer Embry assessed 2 students for a baker act. Officer Embry also assisted a St. Pete Officer in recovering a runaway juvenile and for a threat to cause harm at another school.

Officer Sigsbee has continued to monitor the issues between parents on the East side of Gulfport Elementary. There has been a continuing staff and police presence on that side of the school. No issues have been observed, but students state that the issues continue on the St Petersburg side of 49th St S. He continued his classroom instruction referencing why police are at the school, how to act around police, and police equipment.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled and distributed the open case lists, compiled data for Det. Crowson to discuss at crime watch and the monthly officer activity data, and; Updated the sex offender/predator display and pamphlet adding 2 new offenders that moved into the city, worked with an analyst from another local agency showing her how to use ACISS and completed an analysis for Ofc. Mills on retail thefts.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	11
Supplements reviewed:	42
Public records requests:	45
Background checks:	04
Bike registrations:	00
Fingerprints:	02
Subpoenas processed:	08
Citizens assisted:	60

MARINA

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

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

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed 5 vessels this week.

Staff activities:

- Performed monthly electric meter counts for all rental slips and submitted to the City Administration Office.
- Removed dirt and debris from the entrance gate of pier 8 (dry dock area) and deposited it in the sink hole developing at the entrance of pier 5. This sink hole may require further fill dirt or stone to correct fully.
- Performed routine inspections of the waste pump out systems and filled oil reservoir for the gas dock pump out system.
- Construction of the finger pier replacement for the marina pump out boat lift slip was completed. Adjustments to the lift bunks and guides completed also to allow access to the pump out vessel.
- Investigation of issues with one of the Marina cameras initiated. Further troubleshooting will continue this week.
- Marina annual inventory completed. Auditing the inventory count currently in process.
- Construction begun to enclose the maintenance area under the new building. Also Marina perimeter fencing replacement has also been started.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, September 24, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for grades K - 5.*

Monday, September 24, 5 p.m. – *Open Mic.*

Tuesday, September 25, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults.*

Tuesday, September 25, 12:30 p.m. – *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, September 25, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, September 26, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, September 26, 12:30 p.m. – *Paper Bird Wall Art*.

Wednesday, September 26, 4 p.m. – *Preschool Storytime*.

Wednesday, September 26, 6 p.m. – *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, September 27, 10:15 a.m. & 11 a.m. – *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, September 27, 11:30 a.m. – *Community Playdate*.

Thursday, September 27, 5 p.m. – *Make a Diddley Bow*.

Thursday, September 27, 6 p.m. - *Bees Learning*.

Friday, September 28, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Upcoming Events:

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

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

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

Saturday, October 13, 1 p.m. - *Raven's Guild for ages 12 - 18*: Gather fans of anime, manga, gaming! We'll screen a movie. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

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

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

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

Thursday, October 18, noon - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The March* by E.L. Doctorow. Copies available at the Circulation Desk. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, October 18, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*: Young readers boost their confidence by sharing a story with Maya, a specially trained Golden Retriever. She visits our children's area on the third Thursday of every month.

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

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

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

Tuesday, October 24, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults*: Nourish your body and spirit with mindful movement, breath work, and meditation. This slow-paced class welcomes all levels and each month will feature a different set of postures. Bring props if you wish. The class is taught by Christa Fairbrother, RYT and Certified Yoga for Arthritis Instructor. For more information and to sign up, call Cailey Klasson 893-1074.

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

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

Every Tuesday, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*: Brush up on your fluency in a relaxed, very informal setting. All are welcome to practice and learn from each other.

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, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*: For more information call 893-1073.

Library Services/Statistic September 23 - 29, 2018:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,372	1,194
Sun. 9/23	Library closed	
Mon. 9/24	220	210
Tue. 9/25	214	209
Wed. 9/26	288	205
Thu. 9/27	211	162
Fri. 9/28	196	161
Sat. 9/29	233	174

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

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

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.

- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Created designs for e-newsletter.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.
- Continued preparation of October calendar.

Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Worried about your memory? St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic offers free, confidential **Memory Screenings** between 9 a.m. & noon on the second Monday of each month. The next screening is October 8. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

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

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

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

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

Take a historic tour of Safety Harbor Resort and Spa, one of America's oldest and finest spa resorts during our Thursday October 11 **GEMS Getaway**. Discover if Safety Harbor, known to be a haven where "healing waters flow", is the Fountain of Youth that Spanish explorer, Hernando De Soto, was looking for. Learn the rich history that this resort was built upon. After the tour, we'll stay for lunch at the resort's Fountain Grille Restaurant.

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

The Community Law Program provides **free legal assistance** at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. the third Friday of every month. The next meeting is October 19. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

The Senior Center offers free blood pressure and health screenings at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Our next **Monthly Mini Health Clinic** is October 25.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, October 26. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Recycle your old cell phone, General Mills Box tops, Campbell's labels, can tabs & eye glasses

at the Senior Center. Staff forwards the items to the proper organizations for reuse, recycle or education.

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

Casino (last week's events):

- Sunday, September 23 3:30pm – Contra Dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance (Turnout 76)
- Monday, September 24 7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance (Turnout 73)
- Tuesday, September 25 10 a.m. – Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 28)
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 19)
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 21)
- Wednesday September 26 6 p.m. – Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 193)
- Thursday, September 27 10 a.m. – Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 21)
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 14)
- Friday, September 28 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 23)

Casino (upcoming events):

- Select Sundays 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom dance Admission \$8
- Every fourth Monday 7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance: members \$5, non-members \$8
- Every Tuesday 10 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 with Kathleen & Steve Prucher
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8
- Every Wednesday 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 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 Friday 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom
- Every second Friday 7 p.m. - Soul Night with Swing Time Admission \$10

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events):

No public events scheduled at Theater last week.

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Friday October 5 – Sunday, October 7 Synchrony Arts Productions presents “Mary Poppins”
Specially adapted production for the cast of adults with developmental disabilities. For tickets call 727-269-3343
Friday & Saturday at 7:00pm, Sunday matinee at 3:00pm

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

Sunday, September 23 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting (Turnout 10)

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, September 24 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (Turnout 10)
11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 21)

Tuesday, September 25 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (Turnout 14)
10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)

Wednesday September 26 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (Turnout 12)

Thursday, September 27 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (Turnout 18)

Friday, September 28 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting (Turnout 10)
10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 12)

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 Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

RECREATION CENTER

Thirty-eight children have been registered **2018/19 School Year Child Care program** for children who will be entering Kindergarten thru age 14. Two are nonresidents. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents and \$188 for non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Six children are registered for the **2018/19 Tot Time program**, and nine for **VPK**. Tot Time is a hands-on preschool program for children ages 3-5 that aims to make learning fun for children, and helps prepare them for Kindergarten. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply with Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas, Inc. and receive a Certificate of Eligibility to attend the program. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten, and are limited to 10 children each. Class begins Tuesday, September 4. Program hours are 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Hours for registration are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. Call 893-1068 for more information.

Forty-six 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 met with Katie from Finance on Thursday afternoon to go over the Recreation Center's Inventory List.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Traffic Crash Review Meeting on Thursday afternoon.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Skate Park Meeting on Tuesday morning.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday morning.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 32 Emergency medical calls
- 2 Structure fires
- 2 Fire alarms
- 2 Vehicle crashes
- 0 Electrical hazard
- 1 Gas Leak

Life Safety:

- 15 Fire inspections
- 3 C.O.s
- 1 Smoke detector
- 1 Consultation

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

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

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

All Paramedics and EMT's are renewing their Department of Health, State of Florida

Certifications. Certifications will be renewed by December 1.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired toilet at the Casino.
- Completed monthly filter change on all City a/c units.
- Replaced grip on exercise equipment at Tomlinson Park.
- Replaced LED lights on William's Pier.
- Painted practice area at the Tennis Court.
- Repaired air handler at the Recreation Center.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Mowed City Hall, Senior Center, Library, Veterans Park, Recreation Center, Wood Ibis, Clam Bayou, Tomlinson Park, Tangerine Greenway, Clymer Park, Caldwell Park, 14th Ave. median, Pasadena entrance.
- Installed border on Tomlinson exercise pad.
- Tilled beach playground and added sand.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park, Fire Department, Beach & Recreation Center.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Library, Clam Bayou, Wood Ibis and removed invasive plants from around the pond at Wood Ibis.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced pull cord on pressure washer.
- 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.
- Completed asphalt patchwork, as needed, throughout the City.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #9, 10, 11, and 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 43 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 10 non-pay recheck to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 143 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 12 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.

- Replaced 2 water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Repaired water break at 6025 Luana Lane South.
- Replaced service line at 2914 56th Street South.
- Installed new meter and backflow at 6020 Kipps Colony Drive East.
- Repaired water break at 5518 16th Avenue South.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 and #2.
- Daily rainfall check and documentation, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily ground water elevation recording (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations #1 and #2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Collected bay water samples, (twice a week), at Gulfport Beach, Clam Bayou, and Marina, for quality testing.
- Televised sewer lateral at 5407 28th Avenue South, and found it to be customer problem.
- Televised sewer at 2601 49th Street South for lateral rebate program.

Storm Water

- Replaced storm inlet top at 5019 20th Avenue South.
- Reset storm water inlet lid at 1120 53rd Street South.
- Cleaned storm water inlet, and replaced grate at 6085 Gulfport Boulevard South.
- Cleaned storm inlets at 18 locations.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced alternator on Water Division's vehicle #80
- Replaced battery on Streets Division's vehicle #85.
- Replaced fuel pump on GEMS vehicle #93.
- Replaced transmission pan gasket in GEMS vehicle #11.
- Replaced tires on Police vehicles #9 & #24.
- Replaced hydraulic hoses on Sanitation vehicles #31 & #47.
- 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 Began working in Section 4 of the City, also referred to as the Art District which extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49th Street S. to 58th Street S. & 59th Street South.

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.