



Gulfport Community Update

November 4 - 10, 2018

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Monday, November 12 in observance of **Veterans Day**. The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Thursday & Friday, November 22 & 23 for **Thanksgiving**. Thursday's sanitation routes will be collected on Wednesday November 21, and Friday's routes will remain on schedule. There will be no yard waste pickup.

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

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

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

Hurricane Evacuation Plan Advice for Residents with Special Needs:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Upcoming Events:

The 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.

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.

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.

Bring your Gulfport I.D. and your junk to the **Gulfport Neighbors Junk in the Trunk** at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Saturday, January 26. Trash it, swap it or donate it. Free bike registration and helmets, have coffee with a cop, and get gardening tips from the community garden team.

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	170
Self-initiated calls for service	451
Incident/offense reports	52
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	132
Ordinance violations	50
Residence checks	47

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Officer Janovich was flagged down on November 11, and advised that a man driving an older white Saturn on Shore Boulevard appeared to be extremely intoxicated. Officer Janovich found the car near Williams Pier and made contact with driver Novell Waller. Waller performed poorly on field sobriety tasks and was arrested for driving under the influence. His BAC results were .399/.402, five times the legal limit.

A business owner in the 1000 block of 49th Street reported that a male entered the store and stole 2 bottles of motor oil. The suspect was last seen riding a bicycle into St Petersburg.

A resident in the 5000 block of 12th Avenue reported that her cat was killed in her yard by 2 pit bulls running at large.

A resident in the 5100 block of 16th Avenue reported on November 2 that his surveillance video recorded a person exiting a car on the morning of October 29, and stealing two metal chairs from his front yard.

A Save-a-Lot customer reported that she lost her credit card in the store, and someone picked it up and made several fraudulent charges.

A wallet, cell phone and laptop computer were reported stolen from an unlocked car parked in the 5300 block of 14th Avenue in the early morning hours of November 3.

A resident in the 6300 block of 13th Avenue reported on November 4 that multiple tools were stolen from his car, the second time it's been burglarized in recent weeks. The resident stated the vehicle was locked, but there were no signs of forced entry.

Christine Sheppard was arrested on November 6 following a traffic stop in the area of 49th Street & 17th Avenue. The car she was driving had an out of state tag that was not assigned to it. Sheppard did not have a valid driver license, and had marijuana and an open container in the car.

Officers were dispatched to the 5300 block of 26th Avenue after a caller reported a suspicious person pulling on vehicle door handles. While circulating the area, Officer Hutsko saw a blue Ford SUV without its headlights on fail to stop for a stop sign. He stopped the vehicle on 28th Avenue,

and the 17-year-old driver admitted he had just stolen the vehicle and was the person trying to open vehicle doors. The owner of the stolen vehicle did not want to prosecute. The suspect was on felony probation for burglary, and was arrested for violation of probation. Additional charges may be brought regarding the vehicle burglaries.

The marine unit was on the water 4 hours this week. Officers issued 2 citations and made 1 boater contact.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	134
Cases assigned:	3
Cases suspended-no leads:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Supplements received:	15
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	3
Cases still active:	11

Investigator Highlights

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

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary, an auto theft and a theft. She also Investigated property belonging to the City of Gulfport being sold on Craigslist, and a missing/runaway juvenile case.

School Resource Officers Motte and Sigsbee wrote 2 police reports; counseled 7 students; met with the parent, and; escorted 2 truants to the office:

Officer Motte assisted Boca Ciega High School with a trespasser; assisted with a missing juvenile investigation, and; facilitated a safety meeting and the Monday night Police Explorer meeting. The Explorers also volunteered at The Chefs Table event.

Officer Sigsbee visited all 42 classrooms this week to discuss expectations during Active Assailant drills. He also took part in the monthly Site and Safety meeting this week.

Crime Analyst, Margaret Palmisano compiled the October 2018 public monthly bulletin, and monthly officer activity information. She also reviewed property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper entry into FCIC.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	25
Supplements reviewed:	30
Public record requests:	33
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	0
Subpoenas processed:	8
Citizens assisted:	54

MARINA

Assisted with eighteen pump outs evacuating one hundred ninety-five gallons of waste.

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

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed 5 vessels this week.

Staff activities:

- Replaced leaking water valves on pier 6, slips 31 & 29.
- Replaced dock box on pier 7, slip 27.
- Installed security chain to vessel with delinquent slip fees on pier 4, slip 24.
- Inspected Casino dock.
- Inspected pier 2 and tightened dock board screws.
- Installed containers to organize materials & spare parts.
- Inspected pump out systems and filled pump oil reservoirs.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, October 29, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club*.

Monday, October 29, 5:45 p.m. - *Open Mic*.

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

Tuesday, October 30, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Tuesday, October 30, 7 p.m. - *Trivia Night*.

Wednesday, October 31, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, October 31, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*.

Wednesday, October 31, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, November 1, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, November 1, 6 p.m. - *Verna McClain Art Reception*: Photographic exhibit on display through December 19.

Thursday, November 1, 7 p.m. - *Ashley Brundage Gulfport Trans Awareness Week Event*.

Thursday, November 1, 7 p.m. - *Bees Learning*.

Friday, November 2, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, November 3, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series*.

Upcoming Events:

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, wooden 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.

Friday, November 16, 3:30 p.m. - *Fall Crafts for Kids*: If you're in Grades K-5, then join us for Fall-themed crafts! We will make cards to give thanks, a turkey magnet, and a 3D pumpkin. Call 893-1134 for additional details.

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.

Tuesday, November 27, 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 29, 11:30 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

Through November 30: *Transcending Gender: Bodies and Lives*: Eight posters on display in the reading area in recognition of learning about and understanding transgender people.

Saturday, December 1, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series*: A safecracker from the Parisian underworld is framed for murder and condemned to life in the notorious penal colony on Devil's Island. Determined to regain his freedom, the title character forms an unlikely alliance with quirky convicted counterfeiter Louis Dega, who in exchange for protection, agrees to finance his conspirator's escape. This film is a thrilling adventure and a powerful portrait of the resilience of the human spirit, even in the face of utter inhumanity. Stars Charlie Hunnam, Rami Malek. Rated R. Call 893-1074 for title.

Tuesday, December 4, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on the first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Tuesday, December 4, 7 p.m. - *Bay Voices Holiday Concert*: Formed in 2007 after several members of the former Tampa Bay Gay Men's Chorus got together and realized how much they missed singing together, the group has grown in popularity and renown, and has performed concerts at venues including the Salvador Dali Museum, University of Tampa, International Plaza, the Sandpearl Resort and several local churches. Under the direction of Stephen L. Allen, they will perform Christmas and Chanukah favorites to ring in the season. Sponsored by the LGBTQ

Resource Center, a project of the non-profit Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Public Library. Join us for this fabulous holiday event and refreshments.

Thursday, December 6, 5 p.m. - *Modern Masterpieces for Grades 6-12*: Join us for a painting party! We'll use paint and tape to create beautiful modern masterpieces. No experience necessary. Supplies will be furnished. Space is limited; call 893-1134 to register.

Thursday, December 13, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*: Call 893-1074 for title.

Friday, December 14, 3:30 p.m. - *Winter Crafts for Grades K-5*: Join us to make seasonal decorations at the library! We'll be making adorable no-sew sock snowmen and polymer clay ornaments. Call 893-1134 for more information.

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 28 - November 3, 2018:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,471	1,133
Sun. 10/28	Library closed	
Mon. 10/29	263	233
Tue. 10/30	250	203
Wed. 10/31	187	172
Thu. 11/1	307	200
Fri. 11/2	229	105
Sat. 11/3	229	158

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.

Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

Technology is constantly changing, making it hard to keep up with the latest changes, devices and trends. Join us at 1:30 p.m. Friday, November 19 for **Tech Tips with Stetson: Smart Phones & Tablets** Space is limited; call 893-5657 to register.

Join us at 10 a.m. Monday, November 19 for a **Humana Health Talks 2019 Benefit review meeting**. Bring a Friend!

Join Dedicated Senior Medical Center & WellCare for a **Matinee Movie & popcorn** in the Catherine Hickman Theater at 1 p.m. Tuesday, November 20. The lives of four lifelong friends are turned upside down after reading the infamous *50 Shades of Grey*, catapulting them into a series of outrageous life choices. PG-13

Grab a bite to eat during our Tuesday, November 27 **Gems Getaway Out-to-Lunch Bunch to Smokey Bones** where good food and good service are a priority. Then start your holiday shopping at **Robert's Christmas Wonderland**, one of the largest & most beautiful Christmas & Collectibles Stores in America, and explore the magical holiday forest, home to 200 Christmas trees. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$6/nonmembers \$8. Meal paid for separately.

Join us for a **Fall Fashions Trunk Show** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, November 28 when Bon Worth brings the store to you for an afternoon of shopping adventure. Bon Worth has been recognized in the senior community for their mature women's designs in comfortable styles & easy-care fabrics at moderate prices that are suitable for Florida weather. Start your holiday shopping with special discounts, door prizes, & refreshments. See you there!

Get into the holiday spirit with a special evening **Gems Getaway Holiday Light Tour to the Florida Botanical Gardens** on Thursday, November 29. Delight in the shimmering lights, holiday entertainment, beautiful flora, and warmth of the season. Round trip transportation & suggested admission donation: GEMS members \$8/nonmembers \$10.

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.

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, December 7.

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center at 10 a.m. Thursday, December 13. Get your **flu shot** at the same time. Bring your insurance card & photo ID. See front desk volunteer for details on accepted insurances.

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 29	10 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 12)
Tuesday, October 30	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 38) 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 15) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 7)
Wednesday, October 31	6 p.m. - Swing dance with Swingtime (Turnout 348)
Thursday, November 1	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 29) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 12)
Friday, November 2	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 28)
Saturday, November 3	4:30 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 150)

Casino (upcoming events):

Every first & third Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom dance Admission \$8
Every second Sunday	6 p.m. - Soul Night with Swingtime Admission \$8
Every 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

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

- Thursday, November 1 8 p.m. Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present *Jerome Bixby's The Man from Earth* (Turnout 18)
- Friday, November 2 4 p.m. - Art Reception (Turnout 55)
 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Man from Earth* (Turnout 14)
- Saturday, November 3 2 p.m. - GCP presents *The Man from Earth* (Turnout 16)
 8 p.m. - GCP presents *The Man from Earth* (Turnout 25)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Thursday - Saturday, November 8 - 10, 8 p.m., and Saturday & Sunday, November 10 & 11, 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present *Jerome Bixby's The Man from Earth*: Tickets \$18 in advance at Beach Bazaar; \$20 at the door (cash only) within one hour of performance, or online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org.

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

- Sunday, October 28 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church service (Turnout 11)
 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 29 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 28)
- Tuesday, October 30 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)
- Friday, November 1 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 10)

Scout Hall (upcoming events):

Every Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class

Every Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

RECREATION CENTER

Forty-eight children are registered **2018/19 School Year Child Care program** for children in 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

Recreation Center Staff worked the Annual Spooktacular Halloween Bash on Tuesday evening. More than seven hundred 700 people attended throughout the evening.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff Meeting on Wednesday.

Teen Councilmembers Katelyn Latragna, Connor Rowell & Haley Wyble worked the Halloween Bash Boo room on Wednesday evening.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Prepared City Council chambers for Election.
- Disassembled Haunted House and cleaned up debris following Halloween Bash, and repaired light and fabricator on rain downspout at Recreation Center.
- Replaced broken file folder at Police Station.
- Repaired leaking water fountain near volleyball courts.
- Installed banner, reinstalled television, and repaired security alarm at Library.

- Repaired electrical short in a/c unit at Scout Hall.
- Repaired loose ceiling tiles at Casino and cable fence near Casino, and treated Casino exterior for algae growth.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Building & Finance Departments.

Parks Maintenance

- Set up tables & chairs in preparation for Chef's Table event, and returned to City facilities following event.
- Pressure washed front of Library.
- Disassembled Haunted House and returned to storage at Recreation Center.
- Continued monitoring effects of Red Tide on Gulfport Beach.
- Mowed City complex, Senior Center & Library green spaces, Clymer & Caldwell Parks, Pasadena entrance & 14th Avenue median.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Senior Center, Library, Clymer Park & along Chase block, and continued tracking control wire issues at City complex.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Recreation Center green spaces, lift station, Beach Boulevard streetscape, and 28th Avenue sign area & triangle bed, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, 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 #9, 10, 11, and 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 17 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 5 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 98 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call, Call before You Dig Utility Locates
- Collected bi-weekly microbial sampling on water distribution system
- Collected quarterly TTHM and HAA5's samples required by FDEP
- Placed 1 Code Enforcement Notice of Violation door hangers for cleaning of easement
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.

- Collected drinking water microbial samples on City distribution system.
- Replaced 2 water old water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Cleaned, inspected and painted 14 fire hydrants
- Repaired water breaks at 2795 Kipps Colony Drive, 5137 30th Avenue and at 5730 15th Avenue.

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.
- Replaced 8" butterfly valve at Lift Station #2.
- Televised new line for sewer lateral rebate program.

Stormwater

- Replaced storm water pipe and constructed 6 stormwater catch basins across DuPont Street at 30th Avenue.
- Cleaned Suntime treatment box at 49th Street & 29th Avenue.
- Graded fill at new Skate Park site.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced battery on Police vehicle #54.
- Replaced tires on Parks Division vehicle #709.
- Replaced horn on Recreation Center Bus #68.
- Replaced hydraulic hoses on Sanitation vehicles #40 & 43.
- Replaced mirror on Sanitation vehicle #47.
- Replaced tire on Police vehicle #529.
- 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 5 of the City, also referred to as the 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.

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.

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.