



Gulfport Community Update

November 25 - December 1, 2018

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

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:

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.

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.

Meet photographer and painter Barbara A. Busenbark during our **First Friday Art Reception** at the Catherine Hickman Theater 4 - 6 p.m. Friday, December 7. Free admission. For more information, call 893-1118.

The next **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is 9 a.m. Saturday, December 8. 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.

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.

Join your neighbors and spread some Holiday cheer with **Caroling on the Trolley** 6:30 - 9 p.m. Saturday, December 15. We'll board the Trolley at the Gulfport Casino. Participants may also

board the Trolley at any stop. All voices welcome! For more information call Lisa Kauffman at 703-517-6469.

Join the City of Gulfport as we celebrate trees and their importance to the environment during the **Annual Arbor Day Celebration** at Tomlinson Park at 3:30 p.m. Friday, January 18. Children from the School Year Child Care Program will read excerpts and the Gulfport Teen Council will serve refreshments. Free Sweetgum and Red Maple seedlings will be available to guests while supplies last. Call 893-1118 for more information.

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.

PAVA's 2Cool Art Show returns to the Gulfport Casino for the eighth year on Saturday & Sunday, February 2 & 3. Thirty-five juried artists will show and sell a variety of hand crafted visual and functional works in paint, wood, ceramics, photography, metal, glass, mixed media and jewelry. Admission and parking are free. This event is hosted by the Professional Association of Visual Artists, the City of Gulfport and the Gulfport Downtown Merchants Association.

The **Gulfport Merchants Association Fourth Annual Gulfport Fine Arts Festival** returns to Veterans Park, 5350 31st Avenue, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday & Sunday February 9 & 10. The juried art show will feature fine works of art from across the region, including; 2D, 3D, ceramic, glass, metal, mixed media, wood, acrylic, collage, oil, pastel, ink, fine photography, watercolor, and fine jewelry. Free parking and admission.

Gulfport Peace, Love & Pride 2019 comprises three events in one all happening in and around the Historic Gulfport Casino on Sunday, February 10, noon to 5 p.m. There's a chili cook-off, music festival and pride marketplace.

The **Sonia Plotnick Health Fund's Annual Lady in Red Ball for Women** in the Casino Ballroom is Saturday, February 9. Beginning Friday, February 15, the Gulfport Library's LGBTQ Resource Center will host **ReadOut 2019**, a three-day event celebrating lesbian authors. For more information, visit www.gulfportpride.com.

Shop original art work, choose your favorite cuisine and enjoy live music during **Art & Gallery Walk** 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	128
Self-initiated calls for service	514
Incident/offense reports	28
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	150
Ordinance violations	44
Residence checks	50

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Celeste Lamonte was arrested for battery to a person over 65 on November 22 after a coworker at the Boca Ciega Center reported she struck a bedridden resident.

Officers were dispatched to the 2400 block of 52nd Street after a caller with a trespass warning against a family member requested that another trespass warning be issued to a different family member. Due to the fact that it was Thanksgiving the caller just wanted the unwanted guests removed.

Officers were dispatched to 5000 block of 8th Avenue after a resident, upset about smoke coming from his neighbor's barbeque grill threatened to kill the neighbor. The suspect was eligible for Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion program, was given a referral and advised not to communicate with his neighbor.

Todd Kears was arrested on November 23 after employees of a business in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard asked him to leave the property because he was harassing and scaring customers. When officers made contact with Kears, he refused to give his name and leave the property. He was eventually identified by a fingerprint scanner.

A resident in the 1800 block of 58th Street reported on the morning of November 24 that a red and white BMW motorcycle was stolen from his residence sometime overnight.

Thomas Leverton was arrested for reckless driving after Officers Carter & Smith, working a countywide DUI Wolfpack detail monitoring traffic on US 19, observed Leverton's motorcycle traveling south at a high rate of speed. Their speed measurement device indicated the bike was traveling at 118 MPH in a posted 55 MPH zone.

A resident in the 5200 block of 9th Avenue was issued a notice to appear after officers responded to a report of two pit bulls running loose on November 25. There have been multiple calls to the PD recently regarding the dogs running loose.

A resident of Golden Sands condos reported that sometime overnight someone keyed her car in the parking lot.

Leonard Potts was arrested for DUI with serious bodily injury after he struck a bicyclist traveling south on 56th Street.

Officers were dispatched to the 5000 block of 23rd Avenue on November 28 after a resident found a woman lying in the middle of the roadway. The victim stated she fell off her walker and hit her head on the street. She was transported to a hospital for treatment.

William Gale was arrested after he returned to a business in the 5000 block of Gulfport despite being issued a trespass warning several months prior.

Kristin Gonzalez was arrested on an outstanding warrant for driving on a suspended license. She was taken into custody in the 800 block of Hull Street.

While conducting patrol on the Pinellas Trail, Officer Carter saw two people riding their bicycles after dark. The trail closes at sunset. He activated his emergency lights and siren, and the subjects fled. One of the two, a juvenile taken into custody at 55th Street & 5th Avenue was on HOME (habitual offender monitoring and enforcement) detention and had seven active warrants for his arrest. He was charged with fleeing and eluding, resisting an officer without violence, violation of probation for a curfew violation, and for new criminal conduct, and transported to the Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center.

The marine unit was on the water for 11 hours this week. Officers conducted 3 vessel stops, made 12 boater contacts, and assisted the US Coast Guard with a vessel adrift in Boca Ciega Bay.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases: 17

Cases assigned:	4
Cases suspended-no leads:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Supplements received:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	1
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	9

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary case, a fraud, a missing person, a hit and run crash, and a grand theft; interviewed two suspects at the Pinellas County Jail, and; located a missing endangered adult.

Detective Crowson investigated a sexual battery case involving a juvenile.

Officer Motte broke up a minor fight and escorted a trespasser off campus; attended two safety meetings regarding lighting and tree overhang, and; instructed the topic of domestic violence investigations at the weekly Explorer Post meeting.

Officer Embry is on medical leave. Various officers and detectives filled in for him.

Officer Sigsbee spoke with teachers concerned about the November Active Assailant drill, and assisted Chief Vincent with the Great American Teach In.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano completed pawn checks on 10 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description, locating one stolen item; compiled and distributed open case lists, and; created and distributed a bulletin regarding an endangered missing person.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	17
Supplements reviewed:	40
Public record requests:	46
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	1
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	35

MARINA

Assisted with eighteen pump outs evacuating two hundred eighty gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand nine hundred one gallons of gas and seven hundred ninety-six gallons of diesel fuel, fueling ninety-eight vessels.

Staff activities:

- Replaced diesel fuel vent cap.
- Tested WIFI antenna prior to installation.

- Installed expanded network switch in communications closet in preparation for additional security cameras and other network devices.
- Inspected Marina pump out systems and filled pump oil reservoirs.
- Replaced lightbulbs in downstairs men's restroom.
- Installed security gate at maintenance area.
- Performed monthly electrical meter readings and sent results to City utility billing staff.
- Repaired fuel pump #4.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed 12 vessels this week.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, November 20, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*.

Tuesday, November 20, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*.

Tuesday, November 20, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday November 21, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Upcoming Events:

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.*

Monday, December 3, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club discussion of Her by Cherry Muhajni. Copies available at the Circulation Desk.*

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.*

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

Wednesday, December 12, 1 p.m. *Negative Space Collage*: Glue tissue paper, magazines, patterned paper and cardstock on canvas to create a colorful image using negative space. Choose your subject matter; animals, nature, love, etc. Limited supplies; call 893-1074 to register.

Thursday, December 13, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*: Rachel Weisz stars as a successful New York photographer who, hearing of the death of her father, returns to the London Jewish Orthodox community of her upbringing after having been shunned years earlier for her attraction to a childhood female friend. Navigating a range of emotions in her old community and a range of attitudes from hostile to welcoming among family and former friends, the attraction to her old friend, now married is rekindled. Rated R. Also starring Rachel McAdams. 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.

Saturday, December 15, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Series*: Join your favorite monster family as they embark on a vacation adventure on a luxury monster cruise ship so Drac can finally take a break from handling everyone else's vacation at the hotel. It's smooth sailing for Drac's pack as the monsters indulge in all of the shipboard fun the cruise has to offer, from monster volleyball to exotic excursions, and catching up on their moon tans. But they hit rocky waters when Mavis realizes that Drac has fallen for Ericka, the mysterious captain of the ship who hides a dangerous secret that could sink their plans for a dream vacation. Rated PG. Call 727-893-1074 for title.

Through December 19 - *Verna McClain Art Exhibit*: Digitally manipulated photographs of Gulfport scenes on display in our Friends Room. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, December 20, noon - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Lucky Us* by Amy Bloom: Copies available at the Circulation Desk. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Friday, December 21, 7 p.m. - *Family Blanket Fort Night*: Bring the kids and some old sheets for our 5th annual event. We'll build some fun forts and watch a family holiday movie. Feel free to wear your best holiday pajamas! Popcorn provided! Call Cailey at 893-1074 or email cklasson@mygulfport.us 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 November 18 - 24, 2018:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,239	882
Sun. 11/18	Library closed	
Mon. 11/19	284	204
Tues. 11/20	311	92
Wed. 11/21	322	205
Thu. 11/22	Holiday - Library closed	
Fri. 11/23	Holiday - Library closed	
Sat. 11/24	261	205

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.
- Sent December calendar to printer.

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.

Holidays are a time to celebrate. But for those who have lost someone it can be a time of deep sorrow. Even years after a loss, many people find the holidays are still hard. Join us at 3 p.m. Monday, December 3 for **Empath Health Chats: Can We Talk**, focusing on ways to honor and remember our loved ones who are gone. We'll discuss coping strategies, and provide a checklist to help you discuss your feelings with your family and loved ones.

Get into the holiday spirit with a special evening **Gems Getaway Holiday Light Tour to the Florida Botanical Gardens** on Tuesday, December 4, and to the **Lights of Lake Park Estates** on Thursday, December 13 & Tuesday, December 18. 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.

Join Andy Malivuk from Seniors Helping Seniors on Wednesday, December 5 as he discusses important tips for **Successful Aging**. This discussion will cover excerpts from the New York Times Bestseller *The Blue Zones* which offers individuals and caregivers lessons for living longer.

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.

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 December 10. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

The holidays are upon us and you can celebrate the season by joining **the New Horizons Band of Gulfport, Inc. for a FREE concert** in the comfort of the Catherine Hickman Theater at 7 p.m. Tuesday, December 11. The band will play familiar holiday tunes and pop hits.

Join us at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 12 for **Money Smart for Older Adults** and learn important points to consider in planning for a more secure financial future, including how to guard against identity theft & other financial exploitation, and how to prepare financially for unexpected life events & disasters. Presented by Third Federal Savings & Loan.

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. See front desk volunteer for details on accepted insurances.

The Alzheimer's Association & Pinellas County Human Services is bringing the **Memory Mobile** to Gulfport 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Tuesday, December 18. Sign up today to guarantee your spot on this interactive brain bus. Learn what research tells us, develop a road map to form healthy habits, gain resources, & discover ways to help with advance research. Call 893-5657 to register.

Join Dedicated Senior Medical Center & Wellcare for **popcorn & a matinee movie** in the Catherine Hickman Theater at 1 p.m. Tuesday, December 18. This month's movie, *The Christmas Shoes* is a story of a young boy who tries to get a pair of special shoes for his dying mother while a lawyer tries to deal with the break-up of his marriage. Not rated.

It's sweater weather! Join us as we eat, drink, & be tacky during the **Ugly Holiday Sweater Party** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, December 19. Enjoy an ugly sweater contest, caroling karaoke, games, food, & fun! Tickets \$2; available December 3.

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 December 21. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

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

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, November 19	5 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 130)
Tuesday, November 20	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 26) 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 7) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 38)
Wednesday, November 21	6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 340)
Saturday, November 24	6 p.m. - Wedding reception (Turnout 60)

Casino (upcoming events):

Friday, November 30	7 p.m. - Impacs Sock Hop. Live 50's & 60's music until 10 p.m. Advance tickets \$15 each/2 for \$25 at Casino & Beach Bazaar
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*):

Sunday, November 18 1 p.m. - Woodward concert event (Turnout 15)

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

Sunday, November 18 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, November 19 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 23)

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

Santa and his elves will judge the **Holiday Decorations Contest** on Monday evening, December 17. No one knows what time the big red sleigh will travel through the City of Gulfport. Deadline to enter the contest is noon, on the 17th. There are two theme categories: general for single homes only, and commercial for single business and professional locations, including home occupations. A plaque will be awarded to one winner of each theme category and plaques will be presented at the Gulfport City Council meeting (televised) at 7 p.m. Tuesday, January 15.

The Gulfport Recreation Center will offer **full-day activities** 7:45 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. (extended care until 6 p.m. for an extra fee) Wednesday - Friday, December 26 - 28 & January 2 - 4 for children in Kindergarten through age 14. The children will participate in arts & crafts, field trips, sports and much more!

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, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis & Tennis.

Staff Activities

Building Maintenance staff member Eric Nelson opened the Recreation Center for the floor company on Saturday morning.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Skate Park meeting on Tuesday and the Senior Staff Meeting on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 48 Emergency Medical Call
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 2 Structure Fires
- 4 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Water Rescue
- Outside Structure Fire

Life Safety:

- 14 Fire Inspections

- 1 Re-inspection

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting is December 17.

The Gulfport Firefighters IAFF 4966 are still in contract negotiations with the City.

Santa will arrive at the City of Gulfport Annual Holiday Tree Lighting in Clymer Park at the corner of Gulfport & Beach Boulevards by fire truck at 7 p.m. Monday, December 3. Holiday music; refreshments will be served at this traditional Gulfport event.

Two SPC Paramedic students are doing their clinical ride time with the “B” and “C” Shifts.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Assisted contractors with restoration of beach restroom.
- Repaired 2 exterior lights at Recreation Center.
- Repaired damaged drywall at Senior Center.
- Repaired broken podium and installed office fridge at Casino.
- Placed Historical Museum neon clock into storage, and assisted contractors with museum repairs.
- Repaired exterior door at Library.
- Unlocked restrooms at Little League for Walkers.
- Collected and disposed of garbage from Library & Senior Center.
- Repaired lights in City Hall restrooms.
- Updated electrical outlet at Little League Snack Bar to GFCI protected.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Building & Finance Departments.

Parks Maintenance

- Pressure washed Library walkways.
- Cleaned and mulched planter beds at Clymer Park in preparation for wedding.
- Trenched asphalt for wire run behind Parks Shop.
- Sanded Toro bed in preparation for bed liner application.
- Cleaned graffiti off concrete at Recreation Center, Gulfport Beach & Beach streetscape.
- Removed beach restroom partitions in preparation for renovation.
- Pressure washed sidewalks, and decorated Clymer Park for Holiday tree lighting.
- Continued monitoring effects of Red Tide on Gulfport Beach.
- Mowed Senior Center, Library, Clymer & Veterans Parks.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park & City Complex, ran new zone wire cables at City Complex, and rerouted irrigation main line & raised 3 valve sleeves for Trolley Market Square project.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Senior Center, Library & Recreation Center green spaces and 28th Avenue sign area, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and repaired 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.
- Patched asphalt throughout City as needed.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #45, 46, 47 & 48 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 26 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 6 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 52 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 10 Sunshine One-Call, Call before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected drinking water microbial samples on City distribution system.
- Replaced 2 water old water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Cleaned, inspected and painted 3 fire hydrants.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 and #2.
- Daily rainfall checks and documentation, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily ground water elevation recording (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations #1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Beach, Clam Bayou & Marina for quality testing.
- Televised 2 new lateral lines for sewer lateral rebate program.
- Installed rebuilt pump at Lift Station #2.

Stormwater

- Constructed two D.B.I. structures, and laid 110' of storm pipe at Skate Park.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced alternator on Sewer Division vehicle #80.
- Replaced fuel pump on GEMS vehicle #93.
- Replaced battery in Streets vehicle #34.
- Replaced tires on Police vehicle #16.
- Replaced tires on Sanitation vehicle #48.
- Replaced tires on Police vehicle #02.
- Sprayed bed liner in Parks Division Toro Workman #704.
- Repaired hydraulic lines on Parks Division mower #706.
- Replaced fuel filters in Sewer Division vehicle #26.
- Installed air compressor on Garage vehicle #51.

- 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? Check 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 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. Any personal information you provide becomes part of the public record, which any other citizen has the right to review. E-mail correspondence is considered a public record. If you wish to make a complaint using e-mail such communications are not anonymous.

Beginning in December Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 1 of the City, also referred to as the Stetson Area which comprises the northwest portion of the City and generally extends south from 7th Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64th Street to 58th Street. 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

December 12, 2018 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

V18-19; 2801 Seabreeze Drive South; Variance request to reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 3 feet, from 20 feet to 17 feet to allow for the construction of an outdoor kitchen and relocating existing pool equipment.

V18-20; 2801 Seabreeze Drive South; Variance request to reduce the right-hand side outer one-third setback requirement by 10.67 feet, from 26.76 feet to 16 feet to allow for the construction of a proposed new boatlift.