



Gulfport Community Update

December 9 - 15, 2018

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Monday & Tuesday, December 24 & 25 in observance of Christmas, and on Monday & Tuesday, December 31 & January 1 in observance of the New Year. Tuesday's sanitation routes will be collected on Wednesday and there will be no Wednesday yard waste pickup.

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

Harbormaster Denis Frain reports that **Gulfport Municipal Marina was named a 2018 Boaters' Choice marina!** Thanks to your patronage and positive feedback, we are among the top 2% of US marinas listed on Marinas.com. Check out what other boaters are saying about Gulfport Municipal Marina on our Marinas.com profile page, and for the full list of Boaters Choice marinas visit the Boaters' Choice winners page. Thank you for your support throughout 2018 - we can't wait to see what 2019 has to bring!

It was a beautiful weekend full of shopping and volleyball. Vendors and exhibitors lined Beach Boulevard on Saturday, December 8 to offer patrons a one of a kind shopping experience during the **Holiday Hoopla** while the Tampa Bay Beach Bums got a little sandy during their **Winter Wonderland Volleyball Tournament** on Saturday & Sunday. Thank you to all the volunteers who made this another successful year! Photos by City of Gulfport Volunteer Ken Wishnick.



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.mygulport.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.mygulport.us/lateralrebate for more information.

Upcoming Events:

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 at any stop. All voices welcome! Call Lisa Kauffman at 703-517-6469 for more information.

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 your neighbors and help your community at the same time. The next **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, January 12, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Meet at Beach Pavilion #4. A limited number of pickers are available; if you have one please bring it. Water will be provided. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/gulfportneighbors.

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.

Animal lovers, get ready for the **Fifteenth Annual Gulfport Get Rescued** event on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on Saturday, February 23, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. This popular FREE ADMISSION event has evolved from a handful of animal rescue groups into a popular, festive event representing rescue groups from throughout the region, and is one of the largest animal rescue events in the state. Visit www.sikpromotions.com/events-calendar/view/1287 for more information.

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 | 139 |
| Self-initiated calls for service | 500 |
| Incident/offense reports | 42 |
| Arrests | 10 |
| Traffic citations | 131 |
| Ordinance violations | 56 |
| Residence checks | 68 |

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A purse was reported stolen from an unlocked car parked in the 5300 block of 17th Avenue on December 6.

Officers were dispatched to the 1400 block of Freemont Street after a caller reported she was struck by a resident numerous times. She did not have any visible injuries and did not wish to go to the hospital. Witnesses at the scene stated that nobody touched the woman, but they did ask her to leave the property because she was causing a disturbance. The battery complaint was unfounded.

Nick Wallace was arrested on an outstanding warrant on December 7 after he attempted to cut across traffic lanes at the intersection of Gulfport Boulevard & 53rd Street and crashed his bicycle into a car. Neither Wallace nor the driver were injured, and there was no damage to the car.

A resident in the 1000 block of 64th Street reported he was in his backyard when he heard the sound of his aluminum ladders being moved around, and observed an unknown man near the neighbor's house, and a ladder missing. The subject returned the ladder while the resident was on the phone with the communications center.

Officers were dispatched to the 1800 block of York Street on December 8 after a resident reported he argued with his roommate, and the roommate pushed him. The suspect left the area before officers arrived.

A bicycle was stolen from a garage in the 5700 block of 16th Avenue. The door had been left open.

Officers were dispatched to the 5100 block of 23rd Avenue after a caller reported her very intoxicated ex-boyfriend had fallen at her home and injured his face. He was refusing to go to the

hospital and wanted to walk home, but was in no condition to do so. He was transported to the hospital under the Marchman Act and then to jail to sober up.

An attempted vehicle burglary in the 1900 block of 54th Street was captured on surveillance video on December 10. The vehicle was not damaged and nothing was taken.

Jovan Gifford was arrested on an outstanding warrant for failure to pay child support following a vehicle stop for a traffic violation on 49th Street.

Carlos Gonzalez was arrested on a warrant for providing false name to law enforcement. He was taken into custody in the 5700 block of 12th Avenue.

A mail carrier found a loaded handgun in a holster lying in the street in the 4900 block of 29th Avenue on December 11. He contacted the GPD, and an officer met him at the Post office on 22nd Avenue. The owner was found and the weapon was returned.

A purse containing cash, a driver license and college ID was reported stolen from Soapy's after the owner left it unattended on top of a washing machine.

A car was reported stolen from a driveway in the 1500 block of 55th Street on December 12 after the owner left it running. It was recovered later that day in Tampa and three juveniles who reside in Gulfport & St. Petersburg were arrested.

A man reported he found an ad on Craig's list for a rental property in Gulfport and paid a person who claimed to be the property owner \$1550 for rent. When he did not receive the keys he went to the residence and realized he'd been scammed.

A resident in the 5100 block of Tangerine Avenue reported that someone keyed the passenger side of her car.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 29 hours this week. Officers assisted with the Boca Ciega Yacht Club Christmas boat parade, made contact with 13 boaters, conducted 3 vessel stops & 1 safety check, and posted two vessels moored at the Casino dock past the 4-hour limit.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

| | |
|-------------------------------------|----|
| <i>New cases:</i> | 11 |
| Cases assigned: | 1 |
| Cases suspended-no leads: | 12 |
| Cases cleared with arrest: | 0 |
| Cases exceptionally cleared: | 1 |
| Cases unfounded/no crime: | 1 |
| <i>Supplements received:</i> | 8 |
| Cases cleared with arrest: | 0 |
| Previously cleared with arrest: | 0 |
| Cases suspended/no leads: | 0 |
| Cases unfounded/no crime: | 2 |
| Cases exceptionally cleared | 0 |
| Cases still active: | 6 |

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a scheme to defraud case, a burglary case, a missing person and a theft; interviewed a suspect at the Pinellas County Jail, and; spoke by phone with a runaway juvenile missing for more than a year.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two auto thefts and two burglaries.

Officer Motte assisted school staff with breaking up several minor fights; escorted a trespasser off campus; located missing property, and; assisted with the monthly Active Assailant drill.

Officer Embry Officer Embry has been on leave this week due to an injury sustained while breaking up a fight between students last week.

Officer Sigsbee investigated a late reported battery that occurred between two students.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled November officer activity data and the November PCSO call out report; completed an analysis on criminal mischief in the downtown area, and; completed pawn checks on 7 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description.

Records Section

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| Reports reviewed: | 13 |
| Supplements reviewed: | 92 |
| Public record requests: | 96 |
| Background checks: | 6 |
| Bike registrations: | 0 |
| Fingerprints: | 3 |
| Subpoenas processed: | 8 |
| Citizens assisted: | 90 |

MARINA

Assisted with twenty-two pump outs evacuating four hundred fifteen gallons of waste.

Pumped two thousand eight hundred five gallons of gas and one thousand two hundred ninety gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred thirty-four vessels.

Staff activities:

- Relocated new fuel dock security camera to widen view.
- Repaired clothes dryer.
- Replaced light bulbs in ladies' lower level restroom.
- Replaced 7 light bulbs on pier 2.
- Inspected Marina pump out systems and filled pump oil reservoirs.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed 17 vessels this week.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

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

Monday, December 3, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club.*

Tuesday, December 4, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga.*

Tuesday, December 4, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, December 4, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

Tuesday, December 4, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Tuesday, December 4, 7 p.m. - *Bay Voices Holiday Concert.*

Wednesday December 5, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, December 5, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Thursday, December 6, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, December 6, 5 p.m. - *Modern Masterpieces Craft.*

Friday, December 7, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, December 8, 1 p.m. - *Raven's Guild for ages 12 - 18.*

Upcoming Events:

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.

January 2-31 - *Carol Lore Art Exhibit:* The local artist invites everyone to view her paintings on display in our Friends Room. Call 893-1074 for more information.

Saturday, January 5, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series:* Follow native New Yorker Rachel Chu (Constance Wu) as she accompanies her longtime boyfriend, Nick Young (Henry Golding), to his best friend's wedding in Singapore. Excited about visiting Asia for the first time but nervous about meeting Nick's family, Rachel is confronted with a few big surprises about the guy she thought she knew. Rated R. Call 893-1074 for title.

Monday, January 7, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club discussion of Juliet Takes a Breath* by Gabby Rivera. Check for availability at the Circulation Desk

Wednesday, January 9, 1 p.m. - *Shrinky Dink Jewelry & Keychains:* Make earrings, a necklace, or a keychain from decorated shrink plastic. Call 893-1073 to register.

Thursday, January 10, noon - *Indie Publishing:* Printing a book is easier than ever! This workshop provides all the basics for people who've always wanted to take the next step but weren't sure how. The focus will be on indie (self) publishing, but will include information about other options as well. Presented by Alison Solomon who has published novels and in numerous newspapers and journals.

Saturday, January 12, 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.

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 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: | 1,511 | 1,273 |
| Sun. 12/2 | Library closed | |
| Mon. 12/3 | 306 | 238 |
| Tues. 12/4 | 244 | 196 |
| Wed. 12/5 | 281 | 189 |
| Thu. 12/6 | 275 | 225 |
| Fri. 12/7 | 225 | 171 |
| Sat. 12/8 | 170 | 170 |

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 **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.

Join Wendy from Humana at 10:30 a.m. Monday, December 17 as she shares with information on **Preventing Falls** and creating a fall-proof home.

Get into the holiday spirit with a special evening **Gems Getaway Holiday Tour to the Lights of Lake Park Estates** on 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.

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.

Learn the basic functions of your Apple iPhone or iPad during our next **iPhone/iPad Instruction class** at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, December 27. Call 893-5657 to register. Presented by the Gulfport Library.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, December 28. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

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.

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, January 4.

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center at 10 a.m. Thursday, January 10. See front desk volunteer for details on accepted insurances.

Worried about your memory? St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic offers free, confidential **Memory Screenings** between 9 a.m. & noon on the second Monday of each month. The next screening is January 14. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

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):

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|-----------------------|--|
| Sunday, December 2 | 7 p.m. - Home Depot holiday party (Turnout 97) |
| Monday, December 3 | 10 a.m. Yoga (Turnout 25) |
| Tuesday, December 4 | 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 37) 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 11) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 72) |
| Wednesday, December 5 | 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 223) |
| Thursday, December 6 | 8:30 a.m. - Keller-Williams seminar (Turnout 60) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 264) |
| Friday, December 7 | 10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 31) 6 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 16) |
| Saturday, December 1 | 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 33) |

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*):

- Friday, December 7 4 p.m. - Barbara Busenbark Art reception (Turnout 17)
- Saturday, December 8 3 p.m. - St. Pete Music Acting & Dance (SPMAD) presents *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* (Turnout 145)
6:30 p.m. - SPMAD presents *The Little Mermaid, Jr.* (Turnout 150)

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

- Sunday, December 2 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, December 3 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 32)

Tuesday, December 4 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 14)

Thursday, December 6 11:30 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 7)
6 p.m. - Free Thinkers AA group meeting

Friday, December 7 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 11)

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 the 17th at noon. 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!

Fifty-one 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. A group of children from the School Year Child Care Program performed songs at the City's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Monday evening.

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. The children

from the Tot Time/VPK Program performed songs at the City's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Monday evening.

Fifty-five 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, Women's Support Group and Zumba.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez and John Lapham met with Matt from Records Management on Thursday to go through old records.

Marivel Gutierrez attended a Skate Park planning and Teen Council meeting on Tuesday, and the Senior Staff Meeting on Wednesday.

Four **Gulfport Teen Councilmembers** attended the monthly meeting on Tuesday. Advisor Marivel Gutierrez facilitated. Topics discussed; Advisor Report, Approval of the October minutes, Upcoming Events, Old Business and New Business.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 49 Emergency Medical Call
- 3 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 3 Outside Structure Fires

Life Safety:

- 19 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-inspections
- 1 Site Plan Review

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.

Gulfport Fire EMT and Paramedics have commenced their December 2018 Continuing Medical Education (CME) with the online. This month's topic is Protocol updates with the Medical Operations Manual.

Chief Marenkovic attended a Site Plan Review with Community Development staff. He also participated in Code Enforcement Officer interviews.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Installed outlets at Little League.
- Repaired window at City of Imagination building.
- Assembled sink at Historical Museum.

- Repaired walls & urinal at Fire Department.
- Replaced lights at Casino with LED.
- Patched drywall at Senior Center.
- Repaired exterior lights at Dog Park.
- Removed trash from Library, and replaced fluorescent lights.
- Replaced soap dispenser and repaired duct insulation at Recreation Center.
- Inspected gate at Neighborhood Center.
- Repaired handrail and HVAC heater at Scout Hall.
- Stocked Supplies.
- Painted and installed lights in beach restrooms.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Aerated and seeded ballfields.
- Tilled volleyball courts.
- Replaced clay on bocce court.
- Continued beach restroom upgrades.
- Installed camera at Recreation Center.
- Repaired Casino dock lights, and sanded and painted Casino restroom doors.
- Mowed Hoyt perimeter and Neighborhood Center, City Hall & Marina green spaces.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Police compound, Clymer Park, Tangerine greenway & Recreation Center.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched beach green spaces & streetscapes, Casino planter beds, Senior Center, & City Hall green spaces and little league scorekeeper area, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced broken/missing beacon lights on Parks vehicles.
- 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 #23, 24, 25 & 26 of monthly meter reading schedule.

- Disconnected water service at 24 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 8 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 92 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 11 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 8 water old water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Cleaned, inspected and painted 3 fire hydrants.
- Repaired water break at 5112 28th Avenue.
- Relocated water service at 1620 55th Street & 2406 51st Street.
- Repaired water meter in City yard.

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.
- Pressure jetted and televised sewer at 5130 Pinegrove Terrace.
- Cleaned sewer mainlines throughout the city that are on the quarterly maintenance schedule.

Stormwater

- Replaced inlet structure at 19th Avenue & 54th Street.
- Repaired inlet structures at 1325 Freemont Street & 5727 30th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Changed oil on Police vehicle #524
- Changed oil & tires on Police Vehicle #18.
- Replaced wiper blades & marker lights on Sanitation vehicle #40.
- Replaced battery on Police vehicle #19 & Fire vehicle #E-17
- Installed light bar on Parks vehicle #24
- Replaced 2 tires on GEMS vehicle #9.
- 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 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.

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.

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 results:

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. APPROVED

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. APPROVED