



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *December 16 - 22, 2018*

**Gulfport on the Go!** Visit [www.mygulfport.us/cityapp](http://www.mygulfport.us/cityapp) for information on our mobile app.

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.

Each room in the house presents particular dangers to visitors unaccustomed to the surroundings. Elderly people and small children pose a high risk for holiday injuries and health problems, but accidents can happen to anyone. A holiday home inspection will prevent many accidents, as well as observing common sense safety rules. The Gulfport Fire Department offers the following **indoor tips for a safe and healthy holiday:**

In the kitchen:

- Keep counter tops and food work areas clean and clutter-free.
- Avoid cross-contamination of raw foods, and refrigerate cooked foods right away after eating.
- Be sure pot handles point away from the edge of the stove so long sleeves won't catch the handles, and so children (or anyone else) can't bump the pot.
- Keep a working fire extinguisher close by and know how to use it.
- Be sure to store sharp knives and kitchen tools where children can't reach them.
- Keep appliance cords off the floor; don't allow a cord to dangle from a table where a child or pet might grab it.
- Do not use extension cords for appliances; the extra length can cause one to trip.
- Replace a worn appliance cord (fire hazard) or get a new appliance.
- Wipe up spills immediately to prevent falls.
- Keep cleaners out of reach of children.

In the living room or den:

- Be sure stacked firewood is secure so small children won't get hurt.
- Use a fireplace screen to protect anyone from getting hurt if they get too close.
- Stabilize cabinets or any furniture a child can pull over.
- Remove small items on display that a child might ingest (putting them high on bookshelves is dangerous as an unsupervised child may climb to reach the object).

Maintain Your Holiday Lights

- Inspect holiday lights each year for frayed wires, bare spots, gaps in the insulation, broken or cracked sockets, and excessive kinking or wear before putting them up.
- Use only lighting listed by an approved testing laboratory.
- Do not overload electrical outlets
- Do not link more than three light strands, unless the directions indicate it is safe. Connect strings of lights to an extension cord before plugging the cord into the outlet. Make sure to periodically check the wires - they should not be warm to the touch.
- Do not leave holiday lights on unattended

**The south end of the Gulfport Recreation Center outdoor basketball courts will be closed** beginning Friday, December 28 until the completion of the new skate park. Visit [www.mygulfport.us/skate-park-perspectives/](http://www.mygulfport.us/skate-park-perspectives/) or call the Gulfport Public Works Department at 893-1089 for more information.

**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](http://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](http://www.mygulfport.us/lateralrebate) for more information.

### **Upcoming Events:**

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](http://www.gulfportma.com), call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto: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](http://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 49<sup>th</sup> 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 31<sup>st</sup> 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](http://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](http://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 49<sup>th</sup> 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 61<sup>st</sup> Street.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Patrol**

Dispatch calls for service	130
Self-initiated calls for service	442
Incident/offense reports	50
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	131
Ordinance violations	56
Residence checks	68

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Katherine Hollomon was arrested for battery on December 13 after she and her boyfriend were involved in an altercation with another couple. Hollomon's boyfriend left the scene prior to officers' arrival and refused to return to the residence in the 5200 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue because he feared being arrested.

Officer Clague stopped Angelique Allaire in the 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard for not wearing her seatbelt. Allaire was cited two weeks earlier for driving on a suspended license, and had six prior convictions. She was arrested.

Adam Vachon was arrested on December 14 after he ran a stop sign in the 5600 block of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue. Vachon admitted he did not have a driver license, and a narcotics dog alerted to the presence of narcotics. Numerous syringes were found in the car, including two containing heroin/fentanyl.

A resident in the 2600 block of Upton Street reported 2 male subjects wearing dark clothing were rummaging through a neighbor's car. The vehicle was left unlocked but nothing was taken.

Tyler Pavlich was arrested on an outstanding warrant for failure to pay child support. He was taken into custody in the 1800 block of 60<sup>th</sup> Street.

Officers were dispatched to the 1000 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street on December 15 after a woman entered a business and confronted another woman, resulting in a physical altercation. Several items inside the business were damaged.

A driver lost control of his car at the corner of Kipps Colony Court & Kipps Colony Drive, and drove into the water. All occupants were removed from the vehicle and no injuries were reported.

Cash and several gift cards were reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 5300 block of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue on December 17.

A customer at a business in the 4900 block of 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that he dropped his wallet inside the store. The manager reviewed store video and observed a child handing the wallet to a store employee. The wallet was recovered hidden in the toy section of the store. The owner did not wish to prosecute.

Officers were dispatched to the 5500 block of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue on December 18 after a caller reported two middle school-age children were hanging out near Tomlinson Park during school hours. Officer Marshall made contact with the two, and discovered that one had multiple pick-up orders for robbery and burglary charges.

A resident in the 1000 block of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street reported that a male subject on a bicycle threw an ID card and debit cards into her yard. The items were determined to have been stolen during a vehicle burglary. The suspect was not located.

A suspicious person call led to the arrest of a juvenile with an outstanding pick up order for possession of marijuana. The teen ran from Officer Dillard, and was found at his residence and arrested for resisting an officer without violence, and for the outstanding pick up order.

A resident in the 4900 block of Tangerine Avenue reported that his car was stolen by a female he knew as Jojo. The car was recovered by the victim when someone told him where Jojo was staying.

A resident in the 5100 block of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that her video system captured a male subject entering her unlocked vehicle. A pay stub and \$15 in lottery tickets were stolen. It was later discovered that a St. Petersburg Police Officer arrested him shortly after the crime occurred. He was charged with vehicle burglary.

A resident in the 4900 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported on December 19 that someone threw several golf balls through the front window of his residence sometime overnight.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 17 hours this week. Marine officers made contact with 5 boaters, conducted 2 vessel stops and 1 safety check, and several foot patrols at the Casino dock following complaints about visitors creating disturbances.

### **Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)**

<b><i>New cases:</i></b>	17
Cases assigned:	4
Cases suspended-no leads:	11
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
<b><i>Supplements received:</i></b>	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 grand theft case, a fraud, and a runaway.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for four fraud cases and a sexual battery.

Officers Mott, Embry & Sigsbee wrote 1 police report; counseled 10 students; met with the parents of 3 students, and; escorted 2 truant students to the office.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	33
Supplements reviewed:	67
Public record requests:	31
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints:	3
Subpoenas processed:	3
Citizens assisted:	115

### **MARINA**

Assisted with nineteen pump outs evacuating two hundred ninety-eight gallons of waste.

Pumped one thousand sixty-three gallons of gas and six hundred ninety gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred twelve vessels.

#### **Staff activities:**

- Remounted dock ladder on pier 3.
- Performed monthly inspected of fuel sumps.
- Replaced pedestals bulbs on piers 3, 4, 5 & 6.
- Relocated cleat and repaired dock boards on Casino courtesy dock.
- Purchased support boards and mounting hardware for new Marina entry signs. Mounted one sign in preparation for installation.
- Purchased and assembled new dock cart.
- Inspected Marina pump out systems and filled pump oil reservoirs.

#### **Transient vessels:**

Staff welcomed 6 vessels this week.

### **LIBRARY**

#### **Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, December 10, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for grades K-5.*

Monday, December 10, 4:30 p.m. - *State Representative Jennifer Webb Mobile Office Hours*

Tuesday, December 11, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, December 11, 4 p.m. - *Lego Club.*

Tuesday, December 11, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday December 12, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday December 12, 1 p.m. - *Negative Space Collage.*

Wednesday, December 12, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Wednesday, December 12, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, December 13, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, December 13, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*.

Friday, December 14, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Friday, December 14, 7 p.m. - *Winter Crafts*.

Saturday, December 15, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Series*.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Friday, December 21, 7 p.m. - *Family Blanket Fort Night*: Bring the kids and some old sheets for our 5<sup>th</sup> annual event. We'll build some fun forts and watch a family holiday movie. Feel free to wear your best holiday pajamas! Popcorn provided! Email [cklasson@mygulfport.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.us) or call 893-1074 for more information.

Thursday, December 27, 11:30 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Relax and unwind with your little ones in the midst of the holiday season with other caregivers after Storytime that morning.

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.

Thursday, January 8, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*: Build with Legos, wooden blocks and more! Open to children ages 4-10 with a caregiver.

Saturday, January 19, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Series*. Call 893-1074 for title.

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.

Thursday, January 10, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*: Thomas, a young German baker, is having an affair with Oren, an Israeli married man who has frequent business visits in Berlin. When Oren dies in a car crash in Israel, Thomas travels to Jerusalem seeking answers regarding his death. Under a secret identity, Thomas infiltrates into the life of Anat, his lover's newly widowed wife. The encounter with the unfamiliar reality will make Thomas involved in Anat's life in a way far beyond his anticipation, and to protect the truth he will stretch his lie to a point of no return. (Not Rated; Adults only suggested). Call 893-1074 for title.

Friday, January 11, 3:30 p.m. - *Let's Get Loud*: Our kid's craft program is musical this month. Make a kazoo, den den daiko drum, and maracas, then make some noise at the library! For grades K-5. call 893-1134 for more information.

Monday, January 14, 5:30 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop*: First in a series of five sessions. Instructor introduces four chords for beginners. Next lesson is February 11. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Tuesday, January 17, 5 p.m. - *Kawaii Charms & Key Chains*: If you're in Grades 6-12, join us for our monthly teen program! Use polymer clay to create adorable kawaii keychains & charms! All supplies included.

Saturday, January 19, 1:30 pm. - *Free Family Movie Series*: A story about teenage superheroes who head for Hollywood with stars in their eyes and a song in their hearts. When a Supervillain derails their plans, the team has to work together to save the Earth...and their dream of stardom. Stars the voice talents of Greg Cipes, Scott Menville, Khary Payton, Tara Strong & Will Arnett. Rated PG. Call 893-1074 for title.

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.

Thursday, January 17, noon - *Coffee/Talk Book Club*. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 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 Friday, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*: For more information call 893-1073.

### **Library Services/Statistic January 9 - 15, 2018:**

#### **Items Circulated Patrons**

Weekly Circulation:	1,513	1,177
Sun. 12/9	Library closed	
Mon. 12/10	287	240
Tues. 12/11	213	213
Wed. 12/12	283	203
Thu. 12/13	255	106
Fri. 12/14	249	184
Sat. 12/15	218	165

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport) to watch videos of recent City events, or access live & web stream rebroadcasts at [www.mygulfport.us/gtv640](http://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.
- Commenced preparation of January calendar.

### **Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center**

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday - Thursday, and Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us). Find us on Facebook at [www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter](http://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 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

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.

Did you know that as children we laugh over 300 times a day but as adults we laugh only 30 times a day? Scientific studies indicate that laughter may have medically beneficial effects, particularly to cardiovascular health and mood. Laughter yoga is a practice involving prolonged voluntary laughter. It is based on the belief that voluntary laughter provides the same physiological and psychological benefits as spontaneous laughter. Laughter yoga is one of the activities offered in Empath Health's PACE (Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly) program. The **Laugh Out Loud: Let's Learn About Laughter Yoga!** presentation will introduce you to the PACE Program and how we use Laughter Yoga with our participants. Join us on Monday, January 7, and prepare to try a little laughter yoga yourself.

Grab a slice of hand-tossed New York style pizza on our **Out-to-Lunch Bunch** trip to Fortunato's Italian Pizzeria. Not in the mood for pizza? No worries, they also serve salads, subs, wings, & more. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$4/nonmembers \$6. Meal paid for separately.

Join Steven Dante at 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 9 for **Life Insurance: What You Need to Know** and learn about your current policy, or one you may be considering. Donuts & coffee will be served; door prizes.

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 11.

Have you ever wondered if **CBD oil** is for you? Learn what it is and the medicinal benefits it provides at 2:30 p.m. Monday, January 14.

Join us for **Clubhouse Chatter** 10 a.m. - noon on the second Tuesday of each month. Open discussion about the MLB season and your hometown Ray's. The good, the bad and the ugly and what the season could have been. Topics include but not limited to: Player personnel, draft picks, farm system (minor leagues), coaching staff, spring season, ticket pricing, and the future of Tropicana Field. The discussion will be Moderated by John Dallam.

Don't miss the after Christmas deals at Ellenton Premium Outlet Mall on this fun **Gulfport Getaway** on Thursday, January 17. Shop at more than 100 different stores including Anne Taylor, Clarks, Dress Barn, Lane Bryant, and many more. Round-trip transportation: GEMS members \$15/nonmembers \$17.

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.

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 January 18. 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, December 10      4:30 p.m. - Boley Center holiday party (Turnout 375)

Tuesday, December 11      10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 30)  
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 11)  
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 65)

Wednesday, December 12      6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 204)

Thursday, December 13      10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 22)  
6 p.m. - Keller-Williams holiday party (Turnout 250)

Friday, December 14      11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 22)  
7 p.m. - Soul Night with Swing Time (Turnout 96)

Saturday, December 15      8:30 a.m. – Sorority breakfast and fashion show (Turnout 265)

**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*):**

Sunday, December 9 2:30 p.m. - M.A.D. presents The Little Mermaid Jr. (Turnout 155))

Tuesday, December 11 7 p.m. - New Horizons Band concert (Turnout 60)

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

Sunday, December 9 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 14)  
6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

**Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):**

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every first - third Sunday 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crime Watch meeting

**Scout Hall (*last week's events*):**

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

Monday, December 10 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 26)

Tuesday, December 11 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 15)

Thursday, December 13 11:30 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 10)  
6 p.m. - Free Thinkers AA group meeting

**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**

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. Eleven Tot Time/VPK participants and twelve adults visited the Glazer Museum in Tampa on Wednesday.

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 attended a Traffic Crash Review meeting on Thursday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport: a group of Gulfport Elementary students to visit Santa at Caldwell Realty on Friday; School Year Child Care participants to the Gulfport Boca Ciega Nursing Center on Tuesday to sing Christmas carols, and a group of Tot Time/VPK participants to the Glazer Museum in Tampa on Wednesday.

**Gulfport Teen Councilmembers** Katelyn Latragna, Connor Rowell and Haley Wyble assisted Operation Santa with shopping on Friday.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Calls for Service:**

- 50 Emergency Medical Call
- 1 Structure Fire
- 1 Structure Collapse
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Water Rescue

#### **Life Safety:**

- 10 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-inspection
- 1 C.O.

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting is January 21.

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

Pinellas County Fire/EMS Radio and technology visited the Gulfport Fire Station to update our Mobile Data Terminals with new software enhancements.

The Gulfport Fire Department took delivery on the new Scott X3 Pro Air-Packs. The project was approved by City Council. We are inventorying the shipment.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Refurbished Casino restroom doors.
- Patched walls and installed bike rack at Senior Center.
- Repaired and painted walls at Fire Department.
- Replaced worn faded flags around City.
- Repaired dog bag dispenser at Clymer Park.
- Assisted Piper with inspection of fire alarms at Library.
- Repaired paper towel dispenser and 2 outlets at Police Department.
- Set up security monitor and replaced toilet seat at Recreation Center.
- Repaired light timer at beach restrooms, and replaced incandescent lights with LED.
- Repaired photocell on Dog Park light.
- Installed toolbox on Parks truck.
- Replaced/repainted fences at Wood Ibis Park.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks Maintenance**

- Continued aerating and seeding ballfields.
- Repaired volleyball fence screen.
- Ran piping to Tangerine planters.
- Continued beach restroom upgrades.
- Continued repairs to Casino dock lights.
- Mowed Hoyt perimeter and Neighborhood Center, City Hall, Library & Senior Center green spaces, Veterans Clymer & Caldwell Parks, and 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue median.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at baseball fields, Recreation Center and along Chase block.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched City complex, Chase block & Casino green spaces, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and continued replacement of 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 #31, 32, 33 & 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 19 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 11 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 138 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 8 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 10 water old water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Repaired water break at 2402 Gulfport Boulevard.
- Replaced 2" water meter and installed backflow at 5825 17<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Stormwater**

- Inspected outfall pipe at Beachway Mobile Home Park.
- Repaired storm structure at 1120 53<sup>rd</sup> Street.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced tie rod ends on vehicle #69.
- Changed oil on vehicle #69 & #111.
- Sprayed bed liner on Parks Department Kubota.
- Replaced brakes on vehicle #524.
- Repaired a/c on vehicle #31.
- Replaced hydraulic valve on vehicle #46.
- Replaced radiator on vehicle #02.
- Replaced fuel sensors on vehicle P-17.
- Bad wiring harness on vehicle #42 was repaired by Rush Trucks.
- Repaired oil leak on vehicle #711.
- Repaired wheel wiring issue on vehicle #35.
- 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](http://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](http://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](http://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 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Gulfport Boulevard and east from 64<sup>th</sup> Street to 58<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.mygulfport.us).