



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *December 2 - 8, 2018*

Mayor Henderson and the Gulfport City Council welcomed everyone to the City's **Annual Holiday Tree Lighting** on December 3 (photos below). Children from the Recreation Center School Year Child Care & Tot Time programs filled Clymer Park with holiday song and the Gulfport Teen Council served refreshments. Thank you to the CERT team for assistance with parking and pedestrian safety.



The south end of the **Gulfport Recreation Center outside basketball courts is closed** until completion of the new skate park. Call the City of Gulfport Public Works Department at 893-1089 or visit [www.mygulfport.us/skate-park-perspectives/](http://www.mygulfport.us/skate-park-perspectives/) for more information.

**Gulfport on the Go!** Visit [www.mygulfport.us/cityapp](http://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](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:

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](http://www.sikpromotions.com/applicants/fall/holiday-hoopla). Stay for the **Boca Ciega Yacht Club 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Lighted Boat Parade**. Parade participants can register at the club, 4600 Tifton Drive, or online at [www.sailbcyc.org/ChristmasBoatParade](http://www.sailbcyc.org/ChristmasBoatParade).

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.

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 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).

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	112
Self-initiated calls for service	351
Incident/offense reports	31
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	103
Ordinance violations	47
Residence checks	34

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

William Gale was arrested for trespass after warning on November 29 after he returned to a business in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard despite a trespass warning issued in August.

Officer Clague stopped a driver in the 800 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street on November 30 for not wearing his seatbelt. The car smelled of marijuana and when Officer Clague searched it he found a bag of marijuana on the passenger seat. The driver was eligible for the Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion (APAD) program and was given a referral.

A dinghy was reported stolen from the dock behind the Gulfport Casino.

Rodney Demers was arrested on an outstanding warrant on December 1. He was taken into custody in the 1000 block of 59<sup>th</sup> Street.

An undisclosed amount of case was reported stolen from two unlocked cars parked in the 5500 block of 15<sup>th</sup> Avenue on December 3.

Antone Dunbar was arrested on an outstanding warrant on December 5 following a traffic stop in the 1600 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street.

The marine unit was on the water 16 hours this week. Marine unit officers made 15 boater contacts.

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

<b>New cases:</b>	13
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	7
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0

Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
<b>Supplements received:</b>	6
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	4

### **Investigator Highlights**

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary case, a fraud and a grand theft, and; interviewed a suspect at the Pinellas County Jail.

Detective Crowson is on vacation this week.

Officer Motte escorted a trespasser off campus; broke up a minor fight; located missing property, and; met with Mr. Vigue and Charles Yero to discuss site safety and the need for additional lighting on campus during nighttime hours. Three additional street lights will be installed on campus, and four damaged lights will be repaired.

Officer Embry intervened in a physical altercation between students. There were no injuries. He also instructed the Monday night Police Explorer meeting. The topic was mental health crisis intervention.

Officer Sigsbee facilitated the Active Assailant Drill with school staff; had lunch bunch with “check-in” students as a reward for getting through the week without negative agenda scores (misbehaviors), and; met with the parent of a student.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled the crime analysis briefing for presentation at the monthly staff meeting, and started an analysis of vehicle burglaries.

### **Records Section**

Reports reviewed:	15
Supplements reviewed:	79
Public record requests:	103
Background checks:	2
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints:	2
Subpoenas processed:	5
Citizens assisted:	47

### **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:**

Monday, November 26, 5 p.m. - *Science Club for grades K-5.*

Monday, November 26, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night.*

Tuesday, November 27, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, November 27, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday November 28, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, November 28 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Thursday, November 29, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Friday, November 30, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, December 1, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series.*

#### **Upcoming Events:**

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.

Monday, December 10, 4:30 p.m. - *State Representative Jennifer Webb Mobile Office Hours:* The Representative for State District 69 will meet with constituents to discuss issues of concern. Call 893-1074 for more information.

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 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! Call Cailey at 893-1074 or email [cklasson@mygulfport.us](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.us) 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.

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.

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:	1,641	1,411
Sun. 11/25	Library closed	
Mon. 11/26	436	275
Tues. 11/27	225	216
Wed. 11/28	262	199
Thu. 11/29	226	240
Fri. 11/30	229	197

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfpport.us](http://www.mygulfpport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfpport](http://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfpport) to watch videos of recent City events, or access live & web stream rebroadcasts at [www.mygulfpport.us/gtv640](http://www.mygulfpport.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.

### **Gulfpport Multipurpose Senior Center**

The Gulfpport 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.mygulfpport.us](http://www.mygulfpport.us). Find us on Facebook at [www.FB.com/GulfpportSeniorCenter](http://www.FB.com/GulfpportSeniorCenter). Help our page grow and get valuable daily information!

The **City of Gulfpport Telephone Reassurance program** is much more than a morning wake-up call. This free service offers Gulfpport 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 Gulfpport Senior Center at 5501 27<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

**Gulfpport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS)** offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfpport 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 **Gulfpport 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 Gulfpport 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 Gulfpport 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 Gulfpport? Call the **Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation GetGO free ride service** at 542-7757. The non-profit program transports residents to destinations within City limits free of charge.

Worried about your memory? St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic offers free, confidential **Memory Screenings** between 9 a.m. & noon on the second Monday of each month. The next screening is December 10. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

The holidays are upon us! Celebrate the season with **the New Horizons Band of Gulfport, Inc. 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.

Get into the holiday spirit with a special evening **Gems Getaway Holiday Tour 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 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.

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.

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):**

Sunday, November 25	3:30 p.m. - Contra Dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance (Turnout 61)
Monday, November 26	10 a.m. Yoga (Turnout 9) 7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance (Turnout 74)
Tuesday, November 27	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 37) 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 9) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango (Turnout 75)
Wednesday, November 28	6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 223)
Thursday, November 29	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 29) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera (Turnout 15)
Friday, November 30	10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 29) 7 p.m. - Impacs Sock Hop (Turnout 309)
Saturday, December 1	7:30 p.m. - Portkey to Magic holiday party (Turnout 130)

#### **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 (*upcoming events*):**

Friday, December 7                4 p.m. - Barbara Busenbark Art reception

Saturday, December 8, 3 & 6:30 p.m., and Sunday, December 9, 2:30 p.m. - *St. Pete Music Acting & Dance presents The Little Mermaid Jr.* featuring a cast of first thru sixth graders. Call 202-3268 for ticket information.

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

Sunday, November 25                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 26                11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 12)

Tuesday, November 27                10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 12)

Thursday, November 28                11:30 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 4)  
    6 p.m. - Free Thinkers AA group meeting

Friday, November 30                10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 9)

**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 17<sup>th</sup>. 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-four 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, Jami Rowell, Savannah Roderick, Joanne McRoberts & Caroline Dunning attended the City's Holiday Tree Lighting on Monday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

Teen Councilmembers Cameron Althaus, Katelyn Latragna, Connor Rowell, Robert Wolf and Haley Wyble served cookies & punch at the City's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Monday evening.

## **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

### **Calls for Service:**

- 49 Emergency Medical Call
- 2 Structure Fires
- 4 Fire Alarms
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak
- 3 Outside Structure Fires

### **Life Safety:**

- 6 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-inspection
- 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.

Chief Marenkovic met with a representative from the American Red Cross to discuss the 2019 MLK day of Service Sound the Alarm program. We will be installing smoke detectors.

The Gulfport Fire Department participated in the annual Christmas Tree lighting on December 3. Santa Claus arrived on the 1925 La France Fire engine, accompanied by the Fire Chief, Engine 17 & Pumper 17.

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 for 2914 Beach Boulevard with Community Development staff.

Chief Marenkovic participated in Code Enforcement Officer interviews this week.

Inspector Lundh reviewed plans for this weekend's Holiday Hoopla.

## **PUBLIC WORKS**

### **Building Maintenance**

- Installed Menorah at Clymer Park.
- Replaced windows and outlets in Recreation Center lobby.
- Repaired light in 49<sup>th</sup> Street storage area.
- Removed hand sanitizer dispenser at Casino and repaired walls.
- Disposed of broken freezer from Marina.
- Repaired broken window at Art building.
- Sealed tile floor in beach restrooms, and caulked & painted walls.
- Adjusted fountains at Neighborhood Center.
- Repaired wire rail on waterfront fence.
- Repaired drywall at Senior Center.
- Registered vehicles at DMV.
- Installed cabinets and relocated electrical conduit at History Museum.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Building & Finance Departments.

## **Parks Maintenance**

- Set up bleachers, chairs & PA system in preparation for Tree Lighting, and removed equipment following event.
- Posted NO PARKING signs on Beach Boulevard in preparation for Holiday Hoopla.
- Cleaned Graffiti off car charging station and picnic table at Veteran's Park.
- Cleaned and organized shop area.
- Spread shell around art sculptures on Clymer Greenway.
- Lowered flag to half-staff.
- Repaired/adjusted security cameras at Recreation Center
- Continued monitoring effects of Red Tide on Gulfport Beach.
- Mowed Beach, Recreation Center & Neighborhood Center green spaces, Caldwell Park & 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue medians.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Relocated irrigation control wires and repaired zone line breaks at Recreation Center.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Beach streetscapes, Casino planter beds & Clymer Park, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and repaired stick edger & line trimmer.
- All City park trash and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playgrounds.

## **Streets & Sanitation**

- Completed billable work orders for pick-up of brush, electronics & appliances, trash & furniture, and items requested for pick-up by Code Enforcement.
- Picked up residential bagged leaves as requested.
- Delivered/replaced residential recycling bins with information sheets.
- Assembled & delivered new automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers as requested.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout the City.
- Patched asphalt throughout City as needed.

## **Water**

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #9, 10, 11 & 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 44 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 11 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 176 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 4 water old water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Cleaned, inspected and painted 3 fire hydrants.
- Repaired water break at 5625 27<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.
- Televised 2 new lateral lines for sewer lateral rebate program.
- Televised new lateral at 6113 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue for sewer lateral rebate program.

## **Stormwater**

- Backfilled and compacted areas excavated for new Skate Park storm lines, graded berm and surrounding areas surrounding, and disposed of debris from construction activity.

## **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Replaced 4 hose fittings on Parks vehicle #706.
- Changed oil on Police vehicle #524.
- Replaced 2 tires on GEMS vehicle #93.
- Replaced tire on Public Service vehicle #13.
- Replaced tire on Sanitation vehicle #31.
- Replaced grabber arm sensor on Sanitation vehicle #47.
- Repaired leak on Sanitation vehicle #45.
- Replaced marker lamps on Sanitation vehicles #40 & 49.
- Replaced taillight bulb on Parks vehicle #710.
- 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** have moved 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 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.mygulfpport.us](http://www.mygulfpport.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.