



Gulfport Community Update

January 6 - 12, 2019

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be **closed on Monday, January 21 in observance of M.L. King, Jr. Day**. The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

The south end of the Gulfport Recreation Center outdoor basketball courts is closed until completion of the new skate park. Call the Gulfport Public Works Department at 893-1089 or visit www.mygulfport.us/skate-park-perspectives/ 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. 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 restrictions apply. Visit www.mygulfport.us/lateralrebate for more information.

Upcoming Events:

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.

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. - 3 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.

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.

Gulfport residents, businesses and civic organizations will join Americans across the U.S. on Saturday, January 19 for the **Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service**, stepping up as volunteers for community service-oriented projects. Gulfport Mayor Sam Henderson will lead a cleanup at Lincoln Cemetery, 600 58th Street from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. Please wear proper attire. For more information, call 893-1118 or visit www.mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice/.

The Red Cross in partnership with Gulfport Fire Rescue & Gulfport Neighbors will install smoke alarms in Gulfport homes during the annual **MLK Day of Service** on Saturday, January 19. Visit www.allforgood.org/projects/YQpxZaQ4 or call 262-0515 for information or to register.

Smell the aroma of fresh brewed coffee while you engage in casual conversation during **Coffee with a Cop** at Jax In & Out Neighborhood Café, 4928 Gulfport Boulevard, 9 - 11 a.m. Saturday,

January 19. As always during Coffee with a Cop, there is plenty of socializing and meeting old and new friends.

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.

Gulfport voters are invited to **Meet the Candidates** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 29. Moderated by Barry Rubin, the forum will allow the public to present questions to candidates on topics relative to Gulfport. The event will be broadcast live on Spectrum Cable GTV640, and online at www.mygulfport.us/gtv640. For more information, call the City Clerk's Office at 893-1012.

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.

The **Sonia Plotnick Health Fund's Annual Lady in Red Ball for Women** in the Casino Ballroom is Saturday, February 9. For more information, visit www.gulfportpride.com.

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.

Online registration is now open for the **Second Annual Gulfport ReadOut** Friday - Sunday, February 15 - 17. The event features three days of books for lesbians (and everyone else!), a keynote address, book readings and signings, writer's workshop and plenty of time to schmooze, including the popular meet the author events. Visit www.gulfportreadout.brownpapertickets.com for details, schedule of events and to register. All events are free, except for the Sunday workshop and Saturday evening show.

Come swing with us at **The Cotton Club Fundraiser for LEADS**, featuring Elder Ricardo Welch as Duke Ellington at the Gulfport Casino at 7 p.m. Friday, February 22 at 7 p.m. Finger food, entertainment, dancing & silent auction. Sponsored by Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity and directed by Dr. Cody Clark. Advance tickets \$30, \$25 for students, available at 307-8379, online at www.leads.events/cottonclub, or \$35 at the door the night of the show.

Check out cars from the past at the **49th Street Business Association So Classic Car Show** during the **Trolley Market Square Grand Opening** 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Saturday, February 23. Gates open at 7 a.m. FREE admission. For directions, Mapquest 4900 Tangerine Avenue South, Gulfport, FL 33707.

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.

Ready to Sashay by the Seaside? The **14th Annual Pink Flamingo Tour of Homes** is March 2 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Tour features homes in the neighborhoods west of Beach Boulevard

and south of Gulfport Boulevard. Tickets are available at the Gulfport Welcome Center, 3101 Beach Boulevard and the Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Boulevard. Pink Flamingo Tour of Homes is hosted by the non-profit Gulfport Merchants Chamber. For more information, visit www.pinkflamingohometour.com.

Shop original art work, choose your favorite cuisine and enjoy live music during **Art & Gallery Walk** on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront district 6 - 10 p.m. every first Friday & third Saturday of the month. For more information, call 322-5217.

The **Citywide Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the first Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street. The **Marina District Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Lions Club, 4630 Tifton Drive. The **Strand Area Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesday of each month at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard. The **Stetson Area Neighborhood Watch** meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the Eleazer Hearing Room, 1401 61st Street.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	140
Self-initiated calls for service	415
Incident/offense reports	44
Arrests	12
Traffic citations	103
Ordinance violations	43
Residence checks	19

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 5400 block of 30th Avenue reported on January 3 that his bank account was compromised and funds were withdrawn.

James Antoine was arrested on an outstanding warrant for violation of probation. He was taken into custody in the 3000 block of 49th Street.

Officer Nicita made contact with four individuals in Veterans Park on January 4 and discovered one had been smoking marijuana. The man was eligible for the Adult Pre-Arrest Diversion (APAD) program and was given a referral.

Ralph Cleveland was arrested on January 5 for an outstanding trespassing warrant issued by Pinellas County. He was taken into custody in the 2800 block of Beach Boulevard.

Officer Marshall came upon a crash that had just occurred on January 6 in which a man in a Ford Taurus ran the stop sign at 62nd Street and hit the back of a Honda Civic travelling east on Gulfport Boulevard. The driver of the Ford fled the scene, but the victim got a good look at his face. About an hour later Officer Nicita spotted the suspect vehicle in the neighborhood near Stetson College. Driver Domenick Scotti was intoxicated and had marijuana and methamphetamine in the car. He was arrested for driving under the influence, hit and run, possession of marijuana, possession of methamphetamine, and possession of paraphernalia. Scotti's breath test results: 0.097/0.097.

A resident reported that she left her wallet on the counter of a business in the 1600 block of 58th Street. Store video showed two white males in their 50's taking the wallet.

Breanna Thompson was arrested on January 7 following a traffic stop at Gulfport Boulevard & Gray Street. Thompson admitted she did not have a valid license and had multiple prior suspensions for failure to appear. She was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

A former resident reported that someone possibly forged a document to a home she owns in Gulfport that is in foreclosure.

Officers were dispatched to the 5300 block of Gulfport Boulevard on January 8 after a driver backed out of a parking lot, accelerated across Gulfport Boulevard, left the roadway and struck a palm tree. The driver was transported to a hospital with minor injuries.

A wallet was reported stolen from an unlocked vehicle parked in the 900 block of 60th Street.

Officers were dispatched to the 5300 block of 31st Avenue following a call about a man and woman committing sex acts in the roadway. Officer Ramos observed the behavior as she arrived, and spoke with the calling party. Penny Snoots and Thomas Lewis were arrested for lewd and lascivious behavior. Snoots was also charged with possession of Marijuana.

Indian Shores Officer Bittrich requested Gulfport officers attempt to locate Nicholas Arthur at a Gulfport address on January 9. Officer Bittrich had probable cause for Arthur's arrest for aggravated battery and witness tampering. Arthur was found at an address in the 1200 block of 60th Street and arrested.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 25 hours this week. Officers made contact with 25 boaters and conducted several foot patrols at the Casino dock following complaints of visitors creating disturbances.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	23
Supplements reviewed:	20
Public record requests:	23
Reports disseminated:	35
Background checks:	6
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	3
Subpoenas processed:	0
Citizens assisted:	44

Other

Chief Vincent represented the Florida Police Chiefs Association at the Inaugural ceremony for the governor & new cabinet members

Commander Stone attended annual winter FPCA training program in Orlando.

Chief Vincent was sworn in for the tenth consecutive year as a member of the board of directors for the Tampa Bay Area Chiefs of Police Association.

New Police Officer Richard Bynum began his three-week orientation period on January 8.

MARINA

Assisted with forty-two pump outs evacuating five hundred eighty gallons of waste.

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

Staff activities:

- Returned tables and chairs to Neighborhood Center following community event.
- Repaired gate lock on pier 2.
- Picked up beverages from Sam's Club to restock Marina store.

- Removed POD storage unit from Marina parking lot.
- Inspected Marina pump out systems and filled pump oil reservoirs.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed 14 vessels this week.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Wednesday, January 2, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers*.

Wednesday, January 2, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*.

Thursday, January 3, 11:30 a.m. - *Community Playdate*.

Thursday, January 3, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Friday, January 4, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, January 5, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series*.

Upcoming Events:

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.

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.

Thursday, January 17, noon - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Story of Land and Sea: a novel by Katy Simpson Smith*. Copies available at the Circulation Desk. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. 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.

Thursday, January 24, 11:30 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Relax and unwind with your little ones and other caregivers after Storytime.

Thursday, January 24, 7 p.m. - *Circle of Friends Annual Meeting*: Everyone is invited to join us at this open meeting which includes musical entertainment by Juniper Trio. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Monday, January 28, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic*: Everyone is invited to share their performing talents, both musical and otherwise. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Tuesday, January 29, 7 p.m. - *Trivia Night*: Are you a trivia buff? Do you love watching Jeopardy? Want to show off your esoteric knowledge? Grab some friends, make a team, and come to our after-hours event. We'll have light refreshments; prizes (including bragging rights) for the winning team! Call Cailey at 893-1074 or email cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Through January 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, February 2, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series*: Enjoy a thought-provoking film with powerful acting and a fast-moving plot. Called timely considering what's going on in the world today, and based on a controversial novel. Cast includes Amandla Stenberg, Regina Hall, Russell Hornsby, and Anthony Mackie. Rated PG-13. Call 893-1074 for title.

Monday, February 4, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club*.

Tuesday, February 12, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*: Build with Legos, wooden blocks and more! Open to children ages 4-10 with a caregiver.

Thursday, February 14, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*. Call 893-1074 for 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, 4:30 p.m. - *Bees Learning*: Mobile reading intervention program for grades K-5. Classes held in RV parked in front of Library. **Registration required.** For more information email leahveal@beeslearning.org, or call 404-308-0295.

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 December 30, 2018 - January 5, 2019:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,451	1,314
Sun. 12/30	Library closed	
Mon. 12/31	Holiday - Library closed	
Tues. 1/1	Holiday - Library closed	
Wed. 122	384	329
Thu. 1/3	395	270
Fri. 1/4	257	247
Sat. 1/5	329	231

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.

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 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.

As a business owner, you probably have your hands full with day-to-day activities. Are you taking advantage of the financial strategies & tools available to help you run your business more

effectively? Join us at 5:30 p.m. Monday, January 14 for **Edward Jones Presents: The Entrepreneurial Equation** to learn strategies to help you save time, attract & retain employees, & preserve your business for yourself & your heirs. Network with other business owners. Refreshments will be served.

Learn the **latest in Hearing Technology** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 16 when Dr. Anne Carter, Ph.D., CCC-A discusses current hearing aid technology, over-the-counter options, assistive devices, & changes in the pricing structure for hearing devices.

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

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.

Join Dedicated Senior Medical Center & Wellcare at 1 p.m. Tuesday, January 22 for **popcorn and a matinee movie** in the Catherine Hickman Theater. *Victoria & Abdul* is the true story of an unexpected friendship in the later years of Queen Victoria's rule. Rated PG-13. 1h 52m.

Spark your creative side during **Devoted Health Plans' Arts & Crafts Workshop** at 2:30 p.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month. We'll be making personalized Mason jars on January 22. Space is limited; call 893-5657 to preregister.

There's a lot of misinformation about guardianship, how it works, & who it can help. Join us for the **Guardianship Q&A**, an open discussion with a Professional Guardian and Attorney at 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 23.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, January 25. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles and many other goodies during our next **First Friday Flea Market** at 9 a.m. Friday, February 1.

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center at 10 a.m. Thursday, February 14. See front desk volunteer for details on accepted insurances.

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

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.

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.

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 30 9 p.m. - New Year's Eve party (Turnout 325)
- Tuesday, January 1 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 57)
- Wednesday, January 2 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 300)
- Thursday, January 3 10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 29)
6 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 30)
- Friday, January 4 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 51)

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, January 4, 6 p.m. - Larry Busby Art Reception (Turnout 175)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Thursday - Saturday, January 10 - 13 & 17 - 19, 8 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday, January 13 & 14 and 19 & 20, 2 p.m. - *Gulfport Community Players Present Never Too Late*: a good old-fashioned domestic farce set in the 60s Tickets \$18 in advance at Beach Bazaar (cash only), \$20 at the door within one hour of performance, or online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org.

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

Sunday, December 30 6 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*):

Sunday, December 30 3 p.m. - Birthday party (Turnout 20)

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

Thursday, January 3 11:30 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 10)
6 p.m. - Free Thinkers AA group meeting

Friday, January 4 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 14)

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 game room was reserved 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, January 5 for a workshop with approximately 50 in attendance.

The game room is reserved 7 p.m. - midnight Saturday, January 26 for a birthday party.

Fifty-two children are registered **2018/19 School Year Child Care program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. Two are nonresidents. Program hours are until 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra charge. Monthly fees are \$150 for residents and \$188 for

non-residents. Bus transportation is available from Pasadena Fundamental, Gulfport Elementary, Bear Creek Elementary and Douglas Jamerson Elementary.

Seven children are registered for the **2018/19 Tot Time program**, and nine for **VPK**. Tot Time is a hands-on preschool program for children ages 3-5 that aims to make learning fun for children, and helps prepare them for Kindergarten. VPK is FREE for children who live in Florida and who turn 4 years of age by September 1. Parents must apply with Early Learning Coalition of Pinellas, Inc. and receive a Certificate of Eligibility to attend the program. Both programs aim to make learning fun for children and help prepare them for Kindergarten, and are limited to 10 children each. Class begins Tuesday, September 4. Program hours are 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Hours for registration are 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday. Call 893-1068 for more information.

Fifty-six 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: Ballet/Tap Combo, Bootcamp, Essential Oils, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tennis, Walking Club, Watercolor, Women's Support Group, Yoga for Balance, Yoga for a Better Life and Zumba.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 51 Emergency Medical Call
- 3 Structure Fire
- 2 Gas Leaks
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas leak
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest

Life Safety:

- 15 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 staff continued their January 2019 online Continuing Medical Education (CME) this week. This month's topics: Cardiac and Respiratory and Altered Mental Status.

The Statewide Great Tornado Drill is scheduled for 10 a.m. Wednesday, January 16.

Two St. Petersburg College students, one paramedic and one EMT, continue to ride with Gulfport Fire utilizing Gulfport paramedics as preceptors/mentors.

IAFF 4966 and the City are still in contract negotiations. They will meet again on January 16.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Assembled two chairs at Casino, replaced room light fixture and ballast in men's restroom, and repaired paper towel dispenser in ladies' room.

- Removed Library Christmas tree, rehung stained glass picture and replaced faucet in ladies' restroom.
- Installed 3 basin sinks, spouts, water heater and electrical at History Museum.
- Stained beach bench and installed dedication plaque.
- Cleaned and painted over graffiti in Dog Park restroom.
- Tested lighting and electrical in theater following installation of new panels.
- Repaired gate, replaced mounts for security monitor, hung file box, adjusted a/c unit, and touched up paint in Senior Center hallway.
- Removed and stored City Hall Christmas tree.
- Assisted Old Time Roofing tech in locating leaks at City Hall & Scout Hall.
- Remounted *Emergency Exit* signs at Scout Hall.
- Replaced a photo cell and light bulbs at Tennis Courts.
- Delivered ladder to City Hall Council Chambers in preparation for sound work.
- Repaired paper towel dispenser at Police Department.
- Replaced electrical box and LED at Wood Ibis Park.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Continued Museum kitchen repairs/upgrades.
- Prepared beach for setup of 2 removable volleyball courts.
- Leveled and seeded rear entrance bank at Wood Ibis Park.
- Relocated palms at beach and watered daily.
- Removed graffiti from pier and benches.
- Removed fence at Tangerine and graded in preparation for new sod.
- Installed trash can on Shore Boulevard sidewalk between Casino & Pier.
- Cleaned seaweed off pier ramp and railing following heavy storms.
- Mowed and seeded all Rye areas and baseball fields.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Little League field, Senior Center and along Chase block.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Tomlinson & Wood Ibis Parks and Hoyt Field, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, and sharpened/replaced blades.
- All City park trash and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playgrounds.

Streets & Sanitation

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

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system, (includes Saturday & Sunday).

- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #9, 10, 11 & 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 37 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 17 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 167 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 6 Sunshine One-Call, Call before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected drinking water microbial samples on City distribution system.
- Replaced 2 water old water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Repaired water breaks at 1513 62nd Avenue, 5517 15th Avenue, and at 4600 Tifton Drive.
- Cleaned and painted 9 fire hydrants.
- Relocated water meters & backflows at Scout Hall, Historical building & Tennis courts.
- Repaired broken backflow at 3020 57th Avenue.
- Removed meters at 5322 & 5326 Newton 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.
- Cleaned and televised sewer laterals at 2019 56th Street, 714 Hull Street, 5235 26th Avenue, and at 6138 8th Avenue.
- Replaced sewer lateral and installed clean-out at 6301 11th Avenue.

Stormwater

- Cleaned storm structure at 4725 Tradewinds Drive.
- Removed existing storm structures at Skate Park and installed new structures at different location.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Changed oil on Police vehicles #2374, #2506, 2139 and 2032.
- Sprayed bed liner on Parks Department Kubota.
- Replaced mirror and weld repaired Sanitation vehicle #1536.
- Replaced battery on Police vehicle #2031.
- 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 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast area which generally extends north to 7th Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58th Street and east to 49th 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.