



Gulfport Community Update

January 13 - 19, 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:

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 open the day's activities at 8:30 a.m. A cleanup at Lincoln Cemetery, 600 58th Street is scheduled from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. Please wear proper attire. Visit www.mygulfport.us/mlkdayofservice/ or call 893-1118 for more information.

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 engaging 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's plenty of socializing and meeting old and new friends.

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.

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.

Meet your neighbors and help your community at the same time. The next **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, February 9, 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 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.

Stroll Trolley Market Square and check out cars from the past at the **49th Street Business Association So Classic Car Show** 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	138
Self-initiated calls for service	406
Incident/offense reports	35
Arrests	3
Traffic citations	90
Ordinance violations	65
Residence checks	16

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A City employee reported on January 10 that water service had been cut off to a residence in the 4900 block of Newton Avenue for non-payment. A neighbor's surveillance camera recorded the resident using a garden hose to "straight pipe" the water meter to steal water.

Officers were dispatched to a business in the 1700 block of 49th Street following a report of a disorderly person. They spoke with a man who was upset that the store manager accused his girlfriend of stealing merchandise. An argument ensued between the caller and the manager's boyfriend who happened to be in the store. The caller wanted to press charges for assault, but there was no evidence to support the allegation.

Officers responded to Wells Fargo Bank of January 11 after a caller reported that a man in a trench coat and what appeared to be a bulletproof vest with ammunition strapped to it was walking toward the bank. Officers found two men in the parking lot matching the description provided, and one was wearing a tactical ammunition vest under his trench coat, but he had no armor or ammunition. The men told officers that their outfits were "street wear," and they did not intend to cause a disturbance. An alert was sent out to other agencies regarding their behavior.

A resident in the 6300 block of 10th reported that he had photos and text messages indicating an adult was providing his juvenile nephew with drugs.

HOME Task Force asked Gulfport officers to pick up juvenile Vinyai Rice for tampering with his ankle monitor on January 12. Rice, who was on home detention as a repeat offender left his home in the 1800 block of 55th Street and removed the monitor several blocks away. Airborne and K-9 units assisted with the search, but he was able to evade capture, and was later seen in a car reported stolen from the 1500 block of 52nd Street. The car was recovered in the 7000 block of 30th Avenue North in St. Petersburg on January 16, and Rice was arrested.

Thomas Bingham was arrested for violation of probation on January 13 after an officer found his car blocking the alleyway in the 1800 block of 55th Street. Bingham admitted to drinking, and that the beers in his car were his. He was on probation with a stipulation of no alcohol.

A resident in the 6000 block of Shore Boulevard reported an altercation in his building's elevator on January 14 with a man holding a deceased cat. The man was extremely intoxicated and was taken to a hospital. Documentation found in his backpack indicated that he euthanized his cat earlier in the day.

A resident in the 5100 block of 16th Avenue reported being contacted by a person claiming to be a federal agent who threatened him with arrest if he did not pay \$4000 in fines. The resident paid the money and later determined he was the victim of a fraud.

An argument at a residence in the 5200 block of 18th Avenue on January 15 escalated to a physical altercation, resulting in physical injuries to all parties involved, with one of the subjects transported to Bayfront Medical Center.

An abandoned vehicle found in the 5600 block of 11th Avenue was identified as being stolen from a residence in St. Petersburg. SPPD was notified of the recovery, and the owner made arrangements to have it removed from the scene but declined to allow it to be processed for evidence.

Officers secured the area as GFD tended to a downed wire in the 4900 block of 8th Avenue on January 16 after it was caught by an oversize truck attempting to pass underneath.

The marine unit was not on the water this week.

Criminal Investigative Section

New cases reviewed: 9
Cases currently assigned: 26

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a death investigation, a scheme to defraud, a theft, and a burglary. He also recovered a stolen lawn mower from a pawn shop.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two fraud cases and a theft.

School Resource Officers Motte, Embry & Sigsbee wrote 2 police reports; counseled 9 students; met with the parents of 3 students; attended a safety meeting, and escorted 4 truants to the office.

Officer Motte assisted with breaking up a minor fight and escorting a trespasser off campus; attended a safety meeting to discuss the upcoming Active Assailant Drill, and; facilitated the Monday Night Police Explorer meeting, covering the topic of search and arrest.

Officer Sigsbee assisted with locating an iPhone that had been removed from a teacher's desk. The phone, which was hidden in the classroom by a student who thought it would be funny was found and returned to the teacher. A battery investigation was completed regarding a student throwing a rock and striking a parent in the back.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano finished tabulating 2018 annual UCR report data; compiled the monthly PCSO call out report; completed a review of property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper entry into FCIC and pawn checks on 7 cases with a known serial number, named suspect or searchable property description, locating 1 stolen item; updated an analysis of criminal mischief cases; created and distributed a bulletin for Officer Priest regarding suspicious activity; instructed a new officer in UCR and crime analysis; compiled and distributed open case lists and monthly CIS report, and; compiled statistical data for the annual report.

Records Section

Reports reviewed: 29

Supplements reviewed:	90
Public record requests:	44
Background checks:	4
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	5
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted:	51

MARINA

Assisted with twenty-nine pump outs evacuating four hundred ninety gallons of waste.

Pumped two thousand seven hundred fifty-seven gallons of gas and one thousand six hundred thirteen gallons of diesel fuel, fueling two hundred fifteen vessels.

Staff activities:

- Repaired upper ladies room shower head and wear stripping on entry door.
- Mounted two channel marker signs to support frames.
- Opened service request to reinstate 5 security cameras to Marina network.
- Inspected Marina pump out systems and filled pump oil reservoirs.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed 13 vessels this week.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, January 7 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Monday, January 7, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club.*

Tuesday, January 8, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, January 8, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club.*

Tuesday, January 8, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, January 9, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, January 9 1 p.m. - *Shrinky Dink Jewelry & Keychains.*

Wednesday, January 9, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Thursday, January 10, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, January 10, 10:15 p.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, January 10, noon - *Lunch & Learn Indie Publishing.*

Thursday, January 10, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series.*

Friday, January 11, 3:30 p.m. - *Let's Get Loud.*

Friday, January 10, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Saturday, January 12, 1 p.m. - *Raven's Guild.*

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, January 19, 10 a.m. - *ML King Peace Chain Craft*: Help us make a community peace chain in honor of MLK Day. We will display our art piece in the children's area as a symbol of community spirit. Call 893-1074 or email cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Saturday, January 19, 1:30 p.m. - *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.

Tuesday, January 22, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults*: Nourish your body and spirit with mindful movement, breath work, and meditation. This slow-paced class welcomes all levels, and each month will feature a different set of postures. Bring props if you want them. The class is taught by Certified Yoga for Arthritis Instructor Christa Fairbrother, RYT. For more information or to sign up, call 893-1074.

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 discussion of Night Drop* by Marshall Thornton. Check the Circulation Desk for availability.

Tuesday, February 5, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga*: Taught by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa! Intended for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 to reserve your spot or email cklasson@mygulfport.us.

Thursday, February 7, 5 p.m. - *Spa Day for Teens*: Enjoy a relaxing day of spa inspired crafts! Make soap, lip balm, and body scrub. For Grades 6-12. Call 893-1134 for details.

Saturday, February 9, 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, February 11, 5:30 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop*. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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*. Ulysses is a shy and effeminate boy who finds himself coping with new responsibilities as man of the house after the death of his father. Living alongside his mother, younger brother, and conservative aunt, Ulysses is also struggling with questions about his gender identity. He finds an escape by creating a world of fantasy filled with dance and music. Ulysses' journey takes a turn for the better when he discovers a vibrant transgender community, who take him to a program for LGBTQ youth. (Not Rated) Call 893-1074 for title.

Thursday, February 21, 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, 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 January 6- 12, 2019:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,926	1,432
Sun. 1/6	Library closed	
Mon. 1/7	393	228
Tues. 1/8	285	252
Wed. 1/9	320	230
Thu. 1/10	341	250
Fri. 1/11	290	221
Sat. 1/12	287	187

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.
- Commenced preparation of February 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. Find us on Facebook at www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter. Help our page grow and get valuable daily information!

The **City of Gulfport Telephone Reassurance program** is much more than a morning wake-up call. This free service offers Gulfport residents 50 years or older - and their families comfort, security, and peace of mind. Volunteers provide daily phone calls to registered members. If the member cannot be reached, the volunteer follows specific procedures to confirm there are no major concerns. Registration is simple and free. If you or someone you know could use this service, call 893-2237 or stop by the Gulfport Senior Center at 5501 27th Avenue.

Gulfport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS) offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65 plus \$2 per ride. GEMS also offers transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital and the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

The Senior Center participates in the **Neighborly Dining & Meals on Wheels** program, offering lunches for seniors 60 and older. Call Joe at 344-2111 to inquire about the program or to lend a hand as a volunteer driver.

The **Gulfport Senior Center Pantry** is in need of peanut butter, tuna, dry cereal, pasta sauce, soups & canned meats. The pantry is open 1 - 3 p.m. every Monday & Thursday for qualified Gulfport residents 50 & older. Applicants should bring a photo I.D., a utility bill or bank statement and proof of income (SSI). For more information, please see Rachel or call 893-1231.

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center has **many volunteer opportunities** available. If you want to make a difference and help your community, join the volunteer program at the Senior Center. It's a great way to meet new friends and to get acquainted with more than 50 programs, classes and workshops. Volunteers assist as Lobby Receptionist, Fitness Center Attendants, Reassurance Callers, Class/Activity Instructors, Special Events, Food Pantry, Clerical Support, Flea Market, Promotions, Bingo, Card/Magazine organizing, etc. Call Rachel at 893-1231 or stop by the Center for more information.

Need a ride in Gulfport? Call the **Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation GetGO free ride service** at 542-7757. The non-profit program transports residents to destinations within City limits free of charge.

Join us on January 22 for our next **Gems Getaway to the award-winning Sea Breeze Island Grill & Raw Bar** waterfront seafood restaurant for a delicious lunch. Afterward, we will tour the 1.5-acre beachfront **Suncoast Seabird Sanctuary** for sick, injured or orphaned birds. Watch the pelican hand-feeding demonstration and screech owl presentation. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$8/nonmembers \$10. Meal paid for separately.

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.

Join Wendy at 10:30 a.m. Monday, January 28 for **Health Talk with Humana**. This month's topic: Preventing Falls.

Everyone is invited to our monthly **Healthy Cooking Class**. Join us to at 3 p.m. Monday, January 28 and learn to make *Turkey Stuffed Peppers*. Space is limited: call 893-5657 to preregister.

Join us at 5:30 p.m. Monday, January 28 for **NEW! Big Ideas: An Evening with TED (Talks)** monthly viewing & discussion of an inspirational TED Talk.

The **Second Annual Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament** is scheduled for 12:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 29. Register as a 4-person team or be assigned to a team. Call 893-5657 to register.

Join Acupuncture Physician Rebecca Gibbons, RN at 2 p.m. Wednesday, January 30 for **The Art of Acupuncture**, a discussion of the history & science of Acupuncture, and how it helps treat pain, anxiety, depression, & other numerous disorders.

Join us on January 30 and "Exercise your mind during our **GEMS Getaway to the Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI)** and rediscover your love of learning." Discover what's new in science & technology on this exciting trip. Round trip transportation, admission & guided tour: GEMS members \$26/nonmembers \$28.

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.

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 February 11. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

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

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 February 15. 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.

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):

- Sunday, January 6 7 p.m. - Ballroom dance with Dan Fugazzotto (Turnout 31)
- Monday, January 7 10 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 39)
- Tuesday, January 8 10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 36)
 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 31)
 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 84)
- Wednesday, January 9 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 323)
- Thursday, January 10 10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 35)
 6 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 19)
- Friday, January 11 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 44)
 7 p.m. - Soul Night with Swing Time (Turnout 227)

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*):

Thursday, January 10 8 p.m. - *Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present Never Too Late* (Turnout 31)

Friday, January 11 8 p.m. - *GCP presents Never Too Late* (Turnout 76)

Saturday, January 11 2 p.m. - *GCP presents Never Too Late* (Turnout 65)
8 p.m. - *GCP presents Never Too Late* (Turnout 65)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Thursday - Saturday, January 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, January 6 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 15)
6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Thursday, January 10 2:30 p.m. - Juvenile Welfare Board meeting (Turnout 20)

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, January 7 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 41)

Tuesday, January 8 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 28)

Thursday, January 10 11:30 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 14)
6 p.m. - Free Thinkers AA group meeting

Friday, January 11 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 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.

Eight 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. Tot Time/VPK participated in the Statewide Great Tornado Drill on Wednesday morning. The children know exactly what to do; duck & cover!

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:

- 41 Emergency Medical Call
- 3 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Hazmat Incident
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest

Life Safety:

- 11 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-inspection
- 1 C.O.
- 1 Fire final

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center at 7 p.m. on the third Monday of the month. The next meeting is January 21. The standard operating and field operating procedures (SOPs/FOGs) have been completed, and members will receive and sign for a copy.

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.

IAFF 4966 and the City reached a tentative agreement in contract negotiations, and are awaiting an official vote by Gulfport Fire staff.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired stucco around new power panels at Theater.
- Replaced toilet paper dispensers at Beach restroom.
- Inspected playgrounds at Caldwell, Tomlinson & Tonkin Parks, and beach.
- Replaced grips on exercise equipment at Tomlinson Park.
- Took vehicle to shop for maintenance.
- Assisted AV installers in Council Chambers.
- Installed removable volleyball courts on Gulfport Beach.
- Replaced bulbs in City Hall lobby.
- Adjusted storage room shelving at City Hall.
- Assisted Pest Control company at Dog Park, Scout Hall, History Museum & Coast Guard Station.
- Removed garbage at Library and Senior Center.
- Removed and stored holiday decorations.
- Restocked paper supplies for restrooms.
- Repaired benches at Clam Bayou & Little League Field.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Continued Museum kitchen repairs/upgrades.
- Continued preparation of beach for setup of 2 removable volleyball courts.
- Leveled and seeded rear entrance bank at Wood Ibis Park.
- Watered newly located palms at beach daily.
- Removed fence at basketball courts.
- Cleaned up seaweed and debris along 49th Street terminus.
- Tilled and cleaned ballfields, replaced base anchors and bases, and rebuilt mound at Little league fields.
- Ran internet wire under casino.
- Removed and stored holiday lights.
- Mowed City complex, Senior Center, Library, Marina & Lions Club green spaces, Veterans, Clymer & Caldwell Parks, Chase block, Hoyt perimeter, 14th Avenue median, and York & 49th Street termini.

- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Little League & Hoyt fields, and Clymer Park.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Tomlinson & Wood Ibis Parks, 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 #31, 32, 33 & 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 21 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 8 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 101 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 21 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 5 water old water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Repaired water break at 2613 48th Street.
- Cleaned and painted 38 fire hydrants.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 and #2.
- Daily rainfall checks and documentation, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily ground water elevation recording (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations #1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Beach, Clam Bayou & Marina for quality testing.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 5111 Gulfport Boulevard.
- Replaced sewer lateral and installed clean-out at 6138 8th Avenue.

Stormwater

- Repaired stormwater structures at 5330 23rd Avenue.

- Repaired inlet at 5823 9th Avenue.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Changed oil on Police vehicles #2377, #1976 and 2181.
- Replaced front brakes on Police vehicle #2375.
- Replaced 2 tires on Police vehicle #2377.
- Replaced tire on Parks vehicle #1484
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles, as needed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building Division

Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss your plans and see what permits and inspections may be necessary, and code requirements to help you through the process. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, many elect to do these projects themselves. Building Division staff tries to take extra time to work with homeowners embarking on these do-it-yourself (DIY) projects.

On anything other than small and simple DIY projects we recommend homeowners consider using a licensed contractor. Unless you are very handy and have the necessary skills to take on more complex construction projects, larger jobs can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction practices and management.

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board helps guide homeowners in hiring a licensed contractor for home improvements

Hiring an unlicensed contractor can put residents' homes in jeopardy, produce safety hazards and cost extra money to homeowners when work is not done correctly.

The function of the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board is to regulate construction and home improvement contractors practicing in all Pinellas jurisdictions.

The licensing board can tell you if a contractor has a license. They must be licensed by the board or the state of Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation and be registered with the board. Licensed contractors have passed a competency exam and perform electrical, plumbing or structural work in compliance with the building codes.

The state requires licensed contractors to have workers' compensation and liability insurance and the board monitors their insurance coverage. Without these, if a worker gets injured on the job or damages property, the homeowner is liable. Many insurance policies will not pay claims if an unlicensed contractor was doing the work.

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

- Talk to friends and neighbors for recommendations.
- Home improvement contractors of various skills must be licensed with the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board. The license number must be displayed on advertising as well as on contracts. You can verify a contractor's license number and check any complaints by contacting the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board at 582-3100.
- Check with the Department of Justice and Consumer Services at 464-6200 to determine the number of complaints against a business.
- Ask the contractor for references and follow through with verifying them.
- Ask the contractor for proof of insurance.
- Never deal with anyone who solicits or appears at your home unannounced.

- Obtain a minimum of two bids for the work to be done.

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.
- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.
- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.
- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

For more information call the board at 582-3100 or visit www.pcclb.com.

Business Tax Receipts

A Business License is good from October of the current year through September 30 of the following year. For questions regarding business tax receipts, call Lisa Giddens at 893-1063.

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the City's website for the "City of Gulfport New Business Checklist" at www.mygulfport.us under the Community Development Building Department tab in the Information & Regulations section. Call Lisa Giddens at 893-1063 for more information.

Call the Small Business Development Center at Pinellas County Economic Development at 464-7332 or visit www.pced.org/entrepreneurs for information, including a number of workshops on starting a new business. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

Code Enforcement activities continued this week in Section 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.

February 13, 2019 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

V19-01; 5421 Essex Avenue South; Variance requests:

1. To reduce both side yard setback requirements by 3 feet, from 6 feet to 3 feet to allow for the proposed construction of new balconies on the east and west sides, and the front and rear of a proposed new single family house; and
2. To reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 6 feet 1 inch, from 25 feet to 18 feet 11 inches to allow for the proposed construction of new balconies onto the rear of the proposed new single family house.

V19-02; 3026 57th Street South; Variance requests:

1. To reduce rear yard setback requirement by 17 feet, from 25 feet to 8 feet to allow for the proposed addition to the existing garage; and
2. To reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 17 feet, from 25 feet to 8 feet to allow for the proposed relocation and construction of a new exterior stairway to the living space located over the existing garage.