



Gulfport Community Update

January 20 - 26, 2019

The City of Gulfport & the Gulfport Recreation School Year Child Care Program celebrated trees during the **Arbor Day celebration** on January 18 (photos below). The children read excerpts on trees and Teen Council served refreshments, and a Live Oak tree was planted.



Mayor Henderson opened **M.L. King Day of Service** activities on January 19 (photos below) with a cleanup at Lincoln Cemetery. The American Red Cross of Central Florida partnered with the Gulfport Fire Department, Gulfport Neighbors & 50+ volunteers to install 250 free smoke alarms in 118 Gulfport homes. Girl Scout Troops 1506, 1532 & 1526 cleaned Scout Hall grounds. Coffee with a Cop was a huge success as Officer Zack Mills met with residents at Jax In & Out Neighborhood Café. Councilmember Paul Ray led a Porch Rebuild, Gulfport Community Garden provided expert garden advice, and a peace chain was created at the Library. Thank you to ALL volunteers & community organizations who participated.



Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Monday, February 18 in observance of **President's Day**. The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

The **BeVolley Showcase** on Gulfport Beach Saturday & Sunday, January 19 & 20 hosted 170 student athletes from 15 states and 21 colleges. Visit www.techandphoto.com/BeVolley-Showcase/ to view event photos.

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.

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.

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:

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.

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.

Gulfport voters are invited to **Meet the Candidates** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, January 29. 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 at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, February 9. This is a fun event with a silent auction, raffle prizes, light Hor d'oeuvres, sweet treats and music by DJ Lucy Blu! For tickets and more information, visit www.facebook.com/events/336644500463428.

Celebrate diversity with the **Gulfport Peace, Love & Pride Festival 2019** happening in and around the Historic Gulfport Casino noon - 5 p.m. Sunday, February 10. Live music on the deck, vendors inside will offer everything from rainbow flags to prosthetics for your pets. A day of special programming from ProSisters Radio will also be streaming inside. Guest speakers including Florida State Representative Jennifer Webb will kick things off, and women's beach volleyball will be happening right next door.

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	134
Self-initiated calls for service	412
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:

Officers were dispatched to the 5100 block of Tangerine Avenue on January 17 following a report of juveniles in possession of Marijuana. A records check revealed one had six outstanding pickup orders, and he was transported to the Pinellas Juvenile Assessment Center. No drugs were found at the scene.

Giuseppe Spadafina was arrested on an outstanding warrant for probation violation. He was taken into custody in the 1800 block of 60th Street.

A resident in the 900 block of Gray Street reported on October 19 that his registration and owner's manual were stolen from his unlocked car.

Wiktorija Fagan was arrested for driving under the influence on January 20 after Officer Marshall observed her flashing her cars headlights on Gulfport Boulevard. Initially he thought Fagan was attempting to flag him down, made a u-turn, began following and observed the car swerve over the center line. When he made contact with the driver he smelled alcohol. Fagan performed poorly on one field sobriety task and refused to perform others. She also refused to provide a breath sample.

Jeffrey Dubbs was arrested for driving without a valid license following a traffic stop in the 4900 block of 15th Avenue for an equipment violation. Dubbs' license was revoked in 2014.

Officer Priest attempted to stop a juvenile riding a motorcycle on the sidewalk in the 1700 block of 58th Street on January 22. The vehicles collided and the juvenile fell off of the bike. There were no injuries reported, and Florida Highway Patrol is conducting a crash investigation.

A resident in the 2700 block of 57th Street reported that the tires on two of their vehicles were punctured with a sharp object.

A resident in the 2100 block of 53rd Street reported on January 23 that a "pack & play" was stolen from their car. A spare car key was also taken. There was no sign of forced entry.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a fence on fire in the 5100 block of 8th Avenue. The Fire Department responded and extinguished the fire, and an officer conducted an investigation but there were no witnesses.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 17 hours this week. Seventeen boater contacts were made and Officer Marshall assisted patrol with locating a vessel that broke anchor.

Criminal Investigative Section

New cases reviewed: 8
Cases currently assigned: 26

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a theft, a fraud, an auto theft, and a burglary, and; participated in a detail to attempt to locate wanted persons.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for three thefts, an auto theft, a fraud, a violation of probation, a sexual battery and a death investigation; conducted research in attempt to locate people with active probable cause; participated in a detail to attempt to located wanted persons, and; conducted sex offender checks.

School Resource Officers Motte, Embry & Sigsbee wrote 4 police reports; made 3 arrests; counseled 10 students; met with the parents of 4 students, and; escorted 4 truants to the office.

Officer Embry arrested a student for aggravated battery on a law enforcement officer, and referred charges to the State Attorney's Office on another student for battery; assisted Pinellas Park Police with a case; met with a parent regarding her daughter's involvement in a fight on a school bus, and; provided security for a basketball game.

Officer Sigsbee arrested a student for a battery on campus and a battery off campus. The case was transferred from PJAC to Diversion. He also conducted an investigation into a counterfeit \$100 bill found by a student. An ACISS search determined there have been similar bills recovered in the county. Several students had lunch with Officer Sigsbee's as a reward for good behavior and accomplishments in the classroom.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano submitted 2018 UCR data to FDLE; compiled statistical data for the annual report, and; presented a crime analysis report at the monthly staff meeting.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	21
Supplements reviewed:	62
Public record requests:	26
Background checks:	38
Bike registrations:	2
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted:	35

MARINA

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

Pumped three thousand-thirty gallons of gas and one thousand thirty-one gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred fifteen vessels.

Staff activities:

- Network connection restored to all Marina security cameras; all cameras are back online.
- Replaced broken deck board on Casino courtesy dock, and scheduled replacement of two boards & cleats.
- Mounted 2 remaining channel markers to support boards in preparation for installation.
- Installed dock ladder on pier 2, slip 4.
- Replaced security lock on pier 7, gate C.
- Replaced mechanical link pin in diesel fuel pump 1 to correct metering issue.
- Inspected Marina pump out systems and filled pump oil reservoirs.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed 6 vessels this week.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, January 14 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Monday, January 14, 5:30 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop.*

Tuesday, January 15, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, January 15, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group.*

Tuesday, January 15, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, January 16, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, January 16, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Wednesday, January 16, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, January 17, 10:15 p.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, January 17, noon - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Story of Land and Sea by Katy Simpson Smith*.

Thursday, January 17, 5 p.m. - *Kawaii Charms & Key Chains*

Friday, January 18, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, January 19, 10 a.m. - *ML King Peace Chain Craft*.

Saturday, January 19, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Series*.

Upcoming Events:

Monday, January 28, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic*: Everyone is invited to share their performing talents, musical or 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.

Every Monday, 9:30 a.m. & every Friday beginning February 1, 10 a.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance*: Taxpayers MUST bring social security cards for all persons listed on their tax returns, a picture ID and all pertinent records such as W2s, 1099s, other income & credits and a copy of last year's return if available. Free electronic filing is available. Call 893-1073 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*: Second in a series of five sessions. Beginners and anyone wanting to learn and practice with an experienced teacher. 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.

Wednesday, February 13, 1 p.m. - *Felt Heart Pins & Magnets*: Use felt, needle, thread and embellishments to create lovable heart pins or magnets. Supplies are limited; call 893-1074 or email library.programs@mygulfport.us to sign up.

Thursday, February 14, 3:30 p.m. - *Valentine's Day Crafts*: If you're in Grades K-5, join us on Valentine's Day to make something special for a loved one! We will make heart shaped sun catchers, an embroidered heart card, and a delightful door hanger. Call 893-1134 for details.

Thursday, February 14, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*. Ulysses is a shy, 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. Call 893-1074 for title.

Friday - Sunday, February 15 - 17 - **ReadOut Books for Lesbians events**. All events are free, except the Saturday evening Poppy Champlin show & Sunday workshop. For a full schedule, details and to register visit www.gulfportreadout.brownpapertickets.com/.

Friday, February 15, 3:30 p.m. - *Romance is in the Air Afternoon Tea*.

Friday, February 15, 7 p.m. - *Wine & Cheese Meet & Greet*.

Saturday, February 16 10 a.m. - *Author Lesléa Newman*.

Saturday, February 16, 11:30 a.m. - *Author Readings*.

Saturday, February 16, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. - *Vendor sales*.

Saturday, February 16, 8 p.m. - *Comic Poppy Champlin at the Catherine Hickman Theater*.

Sunday, February 17, 9:30 a.m. - *Workshop with Lesléa Newman: **Registration required***.

Sunday, February 17, 1 p.m. - *Author Panel*.

Thursday, February 21, noon - *Coffee/Talk Book Club* Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Saturday, February 23, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Series*: This magical adventure tells the spine-tingling tale of 10-year-old Lewis (Owen Vaccaro), who goes to live with his uncle in a creaky old house with a mysterious tick-tocking heart. But his new town's sleepy appearance jolts to life with a secret world of warlocks and witches. Based on the beloved children's classic book. Rated PG. Call 893-1074 for title.

Tuesday, February 26, 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, February 28, 11:30 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Relax and unwind with your little ones and other caregivers after Storytime.

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 13 - 19, 2019:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,724	1,361
Sun. 1/13	Library closed	
Mon. 1/14	300	255
Tues. 1/15	278	226
Wed. 1/16	322	215
Thu. 1/17	260	200
Fri. 1/18	321	220
Sat. 1/19	231	181

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.
- Continued preparation of February calendar.
- Provided photographic coverage for Arbor Day celebration & MLK Day of Service.

Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center

The Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center invites everyone 50+ to sign up for free. The Center is open 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Monday - Thursday, and Friday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at www.mygulfport.us. Find us on Facebook at www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter. Help our page grow and get valuable daily information!

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

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

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

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

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

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

Join Wendy 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.

Looking for art, or just a night on the town? Stop by the Senior Center's **Watercolor Class Art Reception** at 6 p.m. Friday, February 1. Meet the artists and learn more about the class!

Did you plan to become a caregiver? Probably not. It's usually a sudden life change that we never saw coming. Caregiving can be emotionally and physically challenging. It's a rewarding and selfless act, but it shouldn't come at the expense of your own health and wellbeing. Join us for **Empath Health Chats 10 Powerful Tools for the Caregiver** at 3 p.m. Monday, February 4, and learn about 10 powerful tools to help you get organized, informed and practice good self-care.

Honor Flight Network is a non-profit organization created solely to honor America's veterans for their sacrifices, transporting our heroes to Washington, D.C. to visit and reflect at their memorials.

Top priority is given to senior veterans. World War II survivors and other veterans who may be terminally ill. Of all of the wars in recent memory, it was World War II that truly threatened our very existence as a culturally diverse, free society. According to the Department of Veterans Affairs, an estimated 640 WWII veterans die each day. Our time to express our thanks to these brave men and women is running out. Learn more about Honor Flight and the volunteer opportunities that will make a difference in the lives of those who served this country at 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 6.

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.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate February's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, February 22. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

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.

The **Gulfport Senior Citizens Harmonica Club** meets every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. All levels of experience are welcome: come learn if you're a beginner, or share your expertise and knowledge if you're experienced. Over the last year this well-known musical group has performed at many venues, entertaining a variety of people throughout the county. We hope to see you as our group expands. Great people, lively conversation and fun music for all to enjoy.

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, January 14 10 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 30)

Tuesday, January 15 10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 36)

12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 25)
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 78)

Wednesday, January 16 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 296)

Thursday, January 17 10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 39)
6 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 22)

Friday, January 18 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 50)
7 p.m. - Sock Hop with the Impacs (Turnout 271)

Casino (upcoming events):

Every first & third Sunday 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson
7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom dance Admission \$8

Every second Sunday 6 p.m. - Soul Night with Swingtime Admission \$8

Every Monday 10 a.m. - Yoga

Every fourth Monday 7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance: members \$5/non-members \$8

Every Tuesday 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing Admission \$8
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons
8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8

Every Wednesday 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn
6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8

Every Thursday 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8

Every first & third Thursday 7 p.m. - Salsa Dance/Lesson Admission \$8

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom

Every second Friday 7 p.m. - Soul Night with Swingtime Admission \$8

Catherine Hickman Theater (*last week's events*):

Sunday, January 13 8 p.m. - *Gulfport Community Players (GCP) present Never Too Late* (Turnout 111)

Thursday, January 17 8 p.m. - *GCP presents Never Too Late* (Turnout 81)

Friday, January 18 8 p.m. - *GCP presents Never Too Late* (Turnout 98)

Saturday, January 19 2 p.m. - *GCP presents Never Too Late* (Turnout 72)
8 p.m. - *GCP presents Never Too Late* (Turnout 95)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Sunday, January 27, 4 p.m. - *The Rat Pack Together Again*: A thrilling night of great music and song. Frank, Dean, and Sammy perform a wonderful mix of song, comedy, sketches and brilliant musical arrangements. Tickets \$25 at Casino, Beach Bazaar or at the door.

Tuesday, January 29, 6:30 p.m. - *Meet the Mayoral Candidates and Candidates for City Council Wards 2 & 4*. This forum will allow the public to present questions to the candidates on topics relevant to Gulfport.

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

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 52)

Tuesday, January 15 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 28)

Thursday, January 17 11:30 a.m. – Meditation class (Turnout 9)
6 p.m. - Free Thinkers AA group meeting

Friday, January 18 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 14)

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 14 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 41)

Tuesday, January 15 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 28)

Thursday, January 17 11:30 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 14)
6 p.m. - Free Thinkers AA group meeting

Friday, January 18 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-three 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. Three children from the School Year Child Care Program participated in the City's Annual Arbor Day Celebration at Tomlinson Park on Friday afternoon, reading excerpts and a poem.

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.

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.

Staff Activities

Marivel Gutierrez attended VPK training in St. Petersburg on Thursday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport School Year Child Care Program participants to Tomlinson Park. for the City's Annual Arbor Day celebration on Friday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

Teen Councilmembers Katelyn Latragna and Connor Rowell served cookies and punch to guests attending the City's Annual Arbor Day celebration on Friday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

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

Life Safety:

- 6 Fire Inspections

- 1 Re-inspection

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 February 18. 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.

Chief Marenkovic and Firefighter Brian Campbell attended the City of Gulfport Firefighters' retirement pension plan meeting on January 17.

Inspector Lundh attended the Pinellas County Fire Marshal's meeting in Oldsmar on January 24.

Lieutenant Fuchs attended the Pinellas County Training Officers meeting the drill ground on January 24.

Chief Marenkovic, attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association meeting at the Epi-Center in Largo on January 24.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired Recreation Center a/c unit and flag light, replaced ballast on security light, and moved furniture following floor cleaning.
- Repaired lock on toilet paper dispenser in beach restroom.
- Walked through all City facilities with cleaning company prospects.
- Painted wall around new power panels at theater.
- Installed sink at History Museum.
- Replaced ballasts & 18 bulbs at Library.
- Built and installed shelf at Casino, commenced reconditioning of doors, and assisted with installation of WiFi connection outside Casino.
- Assisted Street crew with removal of rebar at Marina.
- Repaired a/c unit at Theater.
- Installed nets on new volleyball courts.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Continued Museum kitchen repairs/upgrades.
- Watered newly located palms at beach daily.
- Cut clay edges and removed overgrowth at Little League fields.
- Watered Arbor Day tree at Tomlinson Park daily.
- Installed split rail fence along Tangerine Greenway.
- Mowed Recreation Center & beach green spaces.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Senior Center & City complex.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Tomlinson Park, Marina green spaces, Hoyt perimeter & 49th Streetscapes, 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 3 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 81 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 1 water old water meter with E-Coder R900i meter.
- Repaired water breaks at 3025 Dupont Street and at 5501 28th Avenue.
- Cleaned and painted 5 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 laterals at 6275 10th Avenue and at 5185 25th Avenue.
- Replaced sewer lateral and installed clean-out at 6103 9th Avenue.

Stormwater

- Cleaned storm lines and structures at 5719 29th Avenue & at 5940 9th Avenue.
- Replaced section of storm line at 901 59th Street.
- Removed section of asphalt at Gulfport Marina in preparation for planter installation.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Changed oil on Police vehicle #2453 and Water vehicle #1513.
- Replaced 5 tires on Police vehicle #2378.
- Replaced tire on Parks vehicle #2157
- Replaced hydraulic hose on Sanitation vehicle #1536.

- Changed oil and replaced cab mounts on Parks vehicle #1287.
- 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.

Beginning in February, Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 3 of the City, also referred to as the Southwest Neighborhood area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58th Street & 59th Streets to the City limits. 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

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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.