



Gulfport Community Update

December 30, 2018 - January 5, 2019

Gulfport on the Go! Visit www.mygulfport.us/cityapp for information on our mobile app.

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 certain restrictions apply. Visit www.mygulfport.us/lateralrebate for more information.

Upcoming Events:

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables, a wide variety of foods, hand-made arts & crafts, bath, body & wellness products, live music and more. Over 50 vendors and exhibitors participate each Tuesday, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Bring donations of non-perishable food, toiletries and personal needs for the Gulfport Multipurpose Center Pantry to the Gulfport Merchants Association tent. Visit www.gulfportma.com, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com for more information.

Meet your neighbors and help your community at the same time. The next **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, January 12, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Meet at Beach Pavilion #4. A limited number of pickers are available; if you have one please bring it. Water will be provided. For more information, visit www.facebook.com/gulfportneighbors.

Join the City of Gulfport as we celebrate trees and their importance to the environment during the **Annual Arbor Day Celebration** at Tomlinson Park at 3:30 p.m. Friday, January 18. Children from the School Year Child Care Program will read excerpts and the Gulfport Teen Council will serve refreshments. Free Sweetgum and Red Maple seedlings will be available to guests while supplies last. Call 893-1118 for more information.

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

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.

PAVA's 2Cool Art Show returns to the Gulfport Casino for the eighth year on Saturday & Sunday, February 2 & 3. Thirty-five juried artists will show and sell a variety of hand crafted visual and functional works in paint, wood, ceramics, photography, metal, glass, mixed media and jewelry.

Admission and parking are free. This event is hosted by the Professional Association of Visual Artists, the City of Gulfport and the Gulfport Downtown Merchants Association.

The **Gulfport Merchants Association Fourth Annual Gulfport Fine Arts Festival** returns to Veterans Park, 5350 31st Avenue, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday & Sunday February 9 & 10. The juried art show will feature fine works of art from across the region, including; 2D, 3D, ceramic, glass, metal, mixed media, wood, acrylic, collage, oil, pastel, ink, fine photography, watercolor, and fine jewelry. Free parking and admission.

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

Gulfport Peace, Love & Pride 2019 comprises three events in one all happening in and around the Historic Gulfport Casino on Sunday, February 10, noon to 5 p.m. There's a chili cook-off, music festival and pride marketplace.

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

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

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

Animal lovers, get ready for the **Fifteenth Annual Gulfport Get Rescued** event on Beach Boulevard in the Waterfront District on Saturday, February 23, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. This popular FREE ADMISSION event has evolved from a handful of animal rescue groups into a popular, festive event representing rescue groups from throughout the region, and is one of the largest animal rescue events in the state. Visit www.sikpromotions.com/events-calendar/view/1287 for more information.

Ready to Sashay by the Seaside? The **14th Annual Pink Flamingo Tour of Homes** is March 2 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. The Tour features homes in the neighborhoods west of Beach Boulevard and south of Gulfport Boulevard. Tickets are available at the Gulfport Welcome Center, 3101 Beach Boulevard and the Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Boulevard. Pink Flamingo Tour of Homes is hosted by the non-profit Gulfport Merchants Chamber. For more information, visit www.pinkflamingohometour.com.

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

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	153
Self-initiated calls for service	518
Incident/offense reports	28
Arrests	4
Traffic citations	152
Ordinance violations	79
Residence checks	49

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A man working on a house in the 2400 block of 51st Street on December 27 was advised by a neighbor that someone was inside his work truck. He discovered his wallet had been stolen from the center console.

Officer Clague stopped a car driven by Deshawn Williams in the area of 48th Street & 13th Avenue on December 28 for a tint violation. There was a strong odor of marijuana coming from the car and a search revealed marijuana, ecstasy, and crack cocaine hidden in the dashboard. Williams was arrested and charged with multiple drug offenses.

An officer was flagged down by the owner of a business in the 3100 block of Beach Boulevard, who stated that a person entered the outside bar several nights earlier while the business was closed, and took a shirt. The business owner did not wish to press charges but wanted officers to be aware of the incident and try to issue a trespass warning to the subject.

A patron of a bar in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard reported that a man entered the bar, told him that he was in possession of a firearm, went to the restroom and left the bar in a grey Jeep Renegade. Officers located the person driving northbound on 58th Street and performed a traffic stop. The driver was cooperative and allowed officers to search the vehicle. No firearm was found in the vehicle, nor did the driver have a firearm on him. The reporting party left the area before officers could make contact with him.

Gulfport officers assisted the St. Petersburg Police Department with crime scene and setting a perimeter for a K-9 to track a suspect following a stabbing at a business in the 4800 block of 11th Avenue in St. Pete on December 30.

William Dougherty was arrested for driving under the influence after he was stopped in the 1700 block of 49th for having a taillight out, and swerving in his lane. Dougherty showed signs of impairment. He refused a breath alcohol test, and was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

Officers were dispatched to the 5100 block of 56th Street on December 31 following a report that a woman was struck by a vehicle. She was checked by rescue personnel, refused treatment, and walked home under her own power. The driver stated he did not believe he hit the woman.

Parks Department employees reported finding more graffiti on Williams Pier on January 2, with the same pink paint as previous reports in the beachfront area.

Sergeant Marotta made contact with a 14-year-old walking near the beach. She was wearing a backpack, and there have been recent acts of vandalism in the area. During a consensual contact she was asked if she would consent to a search of her backpack. She stated she wanted to talk to her mother who was working at a nearby restaurant. When she entered the restaurant, she dropped the backpack and exited the rear of the business. When her mother opened the backpack she found a bottle of wine with a small amount of alcohol left in it.

The **marine unit** was on the water for approximately 26 hours this week. Officers made contact with 16 boaters, issued 4 marine citations, assisted the Coast Guard with a search for a jumper

from the Skyway Bridge, and conducted several foot patrols at the Casino dock following complaints about visitors creating disturbances.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

<i>New cases:</i>	9
Cases assigned:	0
Cases suspended-no leads:	5
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
<i>Supplements received:</i>	2
Cases cleared with arrest:	5
Previously cleared with arrest:	0
Cases suspended/no leads:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	5

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	37
Supplements reviewed:	27
Public record requests:	4
Reports disseminated:	15
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted:	30

MARINA

Assisted with fifty-seven pump outs evacuating eight hundred fifteen gallons of waste.

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

Staff activities:

- Repaired pump out vacuum pipe under pier 5 gate entrance area.
- Installed security chain and lock on Lions Club entry gate.
- Kayak storage racks removed from west end of Marina; will be repositioned soon.
- Picked up 10 tables and 55 chairs from Neighborhood Center for community party.
- Purchased up 20 bags of ice for holiday stock.
- Removed articles from POD storage in preparation for parking lot repaving.
- Repaired dock box lock on pier 5, slip 32.
- Inspected Marina pump out systems and filled pump oil reservoirs.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed 12 vessels this week.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Wednesday, December 26, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers*.

Wednesday, December 26, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*.

Thursday, December 27, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, December 27, 11:30 a.m. - *Community Playdate*.

Friday, December 28, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, January 5, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series*: Follow native New Yorker Rachel Chu (Constance Wu) as she accompanies her longtime boyfriend, Nick Young (Henry Golding), to his best friend's wedding in Singapore. Excited about visiting Asia for the first time but nervous about meeting Nick's family, Rachel is confronted with a few big surprises about the guy she thought she knew. Rated R. Call 893-1074 for title.

Monday, January 7, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club discussion of Juliet Takes a Breath* by Gabby Rivera. Check for availability at the Circulation Desk.

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

Wednesday, January 9, 1 p.m. - *Shrinky Dink Jewelry & Keychains*: Make earrings, a necklace, or a keychain from decorated shrink plastic. Call 893-1073 to register.

Thursday, January 10, noon - *Lunch & Learn Indie Publishing*: Printing a book is easier than ever! This workshop provides all the basics for people who've always wanted to take the next step but weren't sure how. The focus will be on indie (self) publishing, but will include information about other options as well. Presented by Alison Solomon who has published novels and in numerous newspapers and journals.

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

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

Saturday, January 12, 1 p.m. - *Raven's Guild for ages 12 - 18*: Gather fans of anime, manga, gaming! We'll also have snacks and screen a movie. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

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

Thursday, January 17, noon - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of The Story of Land and Sea*: a novel by Katy Simpson Smith. Copies available at the Circulation Desk. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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

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

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

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

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

Tuesday, January 29, 7 p.m. - *Trivia Night*: Are you a trivia buff? Do you love watching Jeopardy? Want to show off your esoteric knowledge? Grab some friends, make a team, and come to our after-hours event. We'll have light refreshments; prizes (including bragging rights) for the winning team! Call Cailey at 893-1074 or email cklasson@mygulford.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, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for grades K - 5*.

Every Tuesday, 1:30 p.m. - *German Conversation Club*: Enjoy conversing in a relaxed atmosphere with others. All levels are welcome; this is not a class, simply an opportunity to engage with others interested in improving fluency.

Every Tuesday, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*. For more information, call 360-9069.

Every first & third Tuesday, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*: Everyone is invited to join Allen Goldenson for some strummin' fun!

Every Wednesday, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Every Wednesday, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*: Join us for an afternoon story, songs, movement and crafts! Everyone welcome but geared for 2-5 year-olds.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*: call 537-9098 for more information.

Every Thursday, 10:15 & 11 a.m. - *Storytime*: Join us for stories & activities selected for toddlers & preschoolers in the Youth Services area. Cailey leads the group in singing songs, playing instruments & networking with other caregivers in our community.

Every Friday, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*: For more information, call 893-1073.

Library Services/Statistic December 23 - 29, 2018:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	954	1050
Sun. 12/23	Library closed	
Mon. 12/24	Holiday - Library closed	
Tues. 12/25	Holiday - Library closed	
Wed. 12/26	331	262
Thu. 12/27	220	226

Fri. 12/28	199	206
Sat. 12/29	192	174

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfpport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfpport to watch videos of recent City events, or access live & web stream rebroadcasts at www.mygulfpport.us/gtv640. Spread the word!

- Distributed press releases to Gabber, and weekly Constant Contact newsletter to email distribution list.
- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Created designs for e-newsletter.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.

Gulfpport Multipurpose Senior Center

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

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

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

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

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

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

Need a ride in 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.

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

Grab a slice of hand-tossed New York style pizza on our **Out-to-Lunch Bunch** trip to Fortunato's Italian Pizzeria on Monday, January 7. Not in the mood for pizza? No worries, they also serve salads, subs, wings, & more. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$4/nonmembers \$6. Meal paid for separately.

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

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

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles and many other goodies during our next **First Friday Flea Market** at 9 a.m. Friday, January 11.

Worried about your memory? St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic offers free, confidential **Memory Screenings** between 9 a.m. & noon on the second Monday of each month. The next screening is January 14. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

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

As a business owner, you probably have your hands full with day-to-day activities. Are you taking advantage of the financial strategies & tools available to help you run your business more effectively? Join us at 5:30 p.m. Monday, January 14 for **Edward Jones Presents: The Entrepreneurial Equation** to learn strategies to help you save time, attract & retain employees, & preserve your business for yourself & your heirs. Network with other business owners. Refreshments will be served.

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

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

The Community Law Program provides **free legal assistance** at the Senior Center at 9:30 a.m. the third Friday of every month. The next meeting is January 18. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

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.

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, December 23	3:30 p.m. - Contra Dance (Turnout 66)
Wednesday, December 26	6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 215)
Thursday, December 27	10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 22) 6 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 12)
Friday, December 28	11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 17) 8 p.m. - Gibbs alumni holiday party (Turnout 300)

Casino (upcoming events):

Every first & third Sunday	6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom dance Admission \$8
Every second Sunday	6 p.m. - Soul Night with Swingtime Admission \$8
Every Monday	10 a.m. - Yoga
Every fourth Monday	7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance: members \$5/non-members \$8
Every Tuesday	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker 2 p.m. - Ballroom dancing Admission \$8 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8

- Every Wednesday 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn
 6 p.m. - Bonus dance lesson with Swingtime
 7 p.m. - Beginner Swing lesson with Swingtime
 8 p.m. - Swing dance Admission \$8
- Every Thursday 10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato
 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
 8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8
- Every first & third Thursday 7 p.m. - Salsa Dance/Lesson Admission \$8
- Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom
- Every second Friday 7 p.m. - Soul Night with Swingtime Admission \$8

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Friday, January 4, 6 p.m. - *Larry Busby Art Reception*: Meet the award winning Navy photographer and decorated veteran. Live music. Free & open to the public.

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

Sunday, December 23 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 14)

Saturday, December 29 3 p.m. - Private party

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

Thursday, December 27 11:30 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 9)

Friday, December 28 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 12)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

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

Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga

Every Tuesday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class

Every Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

RECREATION CENTER

The game room was reserved 6 - 10 p.m. Saturday, December 29 for a birthday party with approximately 40 in attendance.

The game room is reserved 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, January 5 for a workshop, and 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. A group of children from the School Year Child Care Program performed songs at the City's Annual Holiday Tree Lighting on Monday evening.

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

Fifty-five teens are registered for the **2018/19 Teen Night Program**, a great hangout for teens entering middle school through age 17. Teen Night provides recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects.

Contractual classes: Bootcamp, Essential Oils, Karate, Pickleball, Table Tennis, Tennis, Women's Support Group and Zumba.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 58 Emergency Medical Call
- 2 Trauma Alerts
- 3 Structure Fire
- 2 Gas Leaks
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Vehicle Fire
- 1 Haz-Mat Incident

Life Safety:

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

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

Chief Marenkovic met with a representative from the American Red Cross to discuss the January 19 MLK day of Service. We will be installing smoke detectors around the Beachway Mobile Home Park as part of the Sound the Alarm program.

Gulfport Fire staff have commenced their January 2019 online Continuing Medical Education (CME). This month's topics: Cardiac and Respiratory and Altered Mental Status.

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

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

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

The IAFF 4966 and the City are still in contract negotiations.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

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

Parks Maintenance

- Continued beach restroom upgrades.
- Continued repairing Casino dock lights.
- Repaired walls at Museum.
- Installed 2 bulletin boards in Police Department
- Cleaned seaweed off pier ramp and railing following heavy storms.
- Mowed City complex, Senior Center & Library green spaces, 28th Avenue sign area, 64th Street ROW, and Veterans & Clymer Parks.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Gulfport Casino and City complex.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched City complex and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, serviced small equipment and repaired chain on Hoyt Field mower.
- All City park trash and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playgrounds.

Streets & Sanitation

- Completed billable work orders for pick-up of brush, electronics & appliances, trash & furniture, and items requested for pick-up by Code Enforcement.

- Picked up residential bagged leaves as requested.
- Delivered/replaced residential recycling bins with information sheets.
- Assembled & delivered new automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers as requested.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout the City.
- Patched asphalt throughout City as needed.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #31, 32, 33 & 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 19 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 11 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 138 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 8 Sunshine One-Call, Call before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected drinking water microbial samples on City distribution system.
- Replaced 10 water old water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Repaired water break at 2402 Gulfport Boulevard.
- Replaced 2" water meter and installed backflow at 5825 17th Avenue.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 and #2.
- Daily rainfall checks and documentation, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily ground water elevation recording (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations #1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Beach, Clam Bayou & Marina for quality testing.

Stormwater

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

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced tie rod ends on vehicle #69.
- Changed oil on vehicle #69 & #111.
- Sprayed bed liner on Parks Department Kubota.
- Replaced brakes on vehicle #524.
- Repaired a/c on vehicle #31.
- Replaced hydraulic valve on vehicle #46.
- Replaced radiator on vehicle #02.
- Replaced fuel sensors on vehicle P-17.
- Bad wiring harness on vehicle #42 was repaired by Rush Trucks.
- Repaired oil leak on vehicle #711.
- Repaired wheel wiring issue on vehicle #35.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles, as needed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building Division

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

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

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

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

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

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

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

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

WHEN SELECTING A CONTRACTOR, REMEMBER:

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

WHEN SIGNING A CONTRACT, MAKE SURE:

- All work should be specifically stated in the contract.
- An approximate starting and completion date should be included.
- All warranties including labor and materials should be addressed.
- A payment schedule should be contained in the contract.
- Do not give a large deposit before the beginning of work and do not pay the balance until completion.
- A three-day right to cancel rarely applies to home improvement contracts.
- Do not sign a blank contract or one containing blank spaces.

- Watch for non-refundable deposits and non-escrow accounts. In new home construction, part of the purchase price must be escrowed (this can be waived).

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

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 have moved to 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.