



Gulfport Community Update

January 27 - February 2, 2019

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 Gulfport Neighbors hosted another successful **Junk in the Trunk** on January 26. 7.7 tons of junk was dumped, and treasures were found. Thank you to the volunteers, Gulfport Neighbors, CERT volunteers, Gulfport PD, Gulfport Community Garden & City Staff who helped with the event.

The Gulfport Senior Center hosted the **Second Annual Jigsaw Puzzle Tournament** on January 29, National Puzzle Day (photos below). Following last year's great success, the tournament grew to sixteen teams this year. Studies have found that working on a jigsaw puzzle uses both sides of the brain, and spending time daily working on puzzles improves memory, cognitive function and problem-solving skills. *Jiggy Chicks* Susan Masztak, Charlotte Sweeney, Christine Murphy & Sandy Gonzalez, are this year's champions. *Town Shores Puzzlers* Henri Derouin, Franny LeBlanc, Lennie Adelson, Richard Serriah & Eugene Rich were runners up.



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. Maximum rebate is \$3,500. Restrictions apply. Visit www.mygulfport.us/lateralrebate for more information.

Upcoming Events:

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 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.

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. For more information visit www.so49.org.

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.

The **City of Gulfport permit-free Citywide Yard Sale** is Saturday, March 16. In the event of rain, the sale will take place on Sunday the 17th. Gulfport residents who wish to be included on the Yard Sale Brochure can fill out a form at City Hall, 2401 53rd Street; Gulfport Public Library, 5501 28th Avenue, or; online at www.mygulfport.us/gulfport-city-wide-yard-sale no later than 4 p.m. Friday, March 8 (*no exceptions due to set up and printing time.*) Brochures will be available at the Library; on the outdoor brochure display at the Gulfport Casino, 5500 Shore Boulevard; Gulfport Municipal Marina, 4630 29th Avenue, or; online at www.mygulfport.us/gulfportcity-wide-yard-sale. Call 893-1118 for more information.

Interested in unloading nautical equipment or searching for cool fishing gear? Look no further than the **Gulfport Marina's Annual Nautical Flea Market** 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, March 16. 10x10 vendor spaces (bring your own table) are \$10; free for slip renters. Space is limited so sign up early at the Marina, 4630 29th Avenue. Call Harbormaster Denis Frain at 893-1071 for more information.

Empower your mind, body, & soul during the **Annual Health & Wellness Expo** at the Gulfport Casino 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, March 16. Healthcare professionals will offer health screenings, interactive demonstrations and representation of both Eastern and Western health modalities. Visit www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org/2017/05/health-wellness-expo/, call 893-1244 or email mpscfoundation@tampabay.rr.com for more information.

The First Annual Best Seat in the House, a Chair-ity Fundraiser in which ten local artists will transform Adirondack chairs into art, will benefit the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation. Finished chairs can be seen during the February 16 Third Saturday Art-Walk, and will be displayed at the Pink Flamingo Home Tour on March 2. The chairs will be auctioned in the Art Village Courtyard, 2914 Beach Boulevard at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16. Don't miss the opportunity to be the proud owner of one of these chairs!

The **Fourth Annual Dance for Plants** returns to the Gulfport Casino Friday, March 22, 6:45 - 11 p.m. Festivities will include a raffle with prizes donated from by community, expert gardening advice and plant giveaways. Join your friends for a fabulous evening supporting our local Garden. Tickets \$10 in advance available at the Gulfport Casino & Gulfport Beach Bazaar, or \$12 at the door. Proceeds benefit the Gulfport Community Garden. For more information, call George Zarillo at 845-242-7452 or visit www.GulfportCommunityGarden.org.

Come by land or kayak to volunteer at the **2019 Great American Cleanup Clam Bayou Cleanup** 9 a.m. - noon Saturday, March 23. Volunteers should wear closed-toed shoes, sun protection and weather appropriate clothing. Cleanup supplies, snacks and water will be provided. The Parks Department will be on the grill cooking hotdogs for volunteers. Cosponsored by Keep Pinellas Beautiful and the City of Gulfport. For more information, call 893-1118

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	130
Self-initiated calls for service	380
Incident/offense reports	42
Arrests	8
Traffic citations	111
Ordinance violations	46
Residence checks	12

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A SPPD officer found items from a Gulfport resident's car in an empty field in St. Pete on January 24. When officers made contact with the owner, they discovered her car had been stolen sometime overnight from her driveway in the 2800 block of 53rd Street. Later in the day it was discovered that a neighbor's vehicle had been stolen as well. Both vehicles were unlocked and had spare keys/fobs inside.

Two patients at an ALF in the 1400 block of 59th Street got into an altercation and one punched the other. Both patients suffer from mental illness and nobody wished to press charges.

Officers were dispatched to the 5800 block of 15th Avenue after a resident reported someone trespassing on his property. He told officers he swung a metal bat at the individual who then ran away. Officers searched the area, but did not locate him.

A generator was taken from a vessel moored in Boca Ciega Bay.

An unlocked car was stolen from the 1200 block of 60th Street on January 25. The owner reported he left a spare key in the glove box.

A search warrant which was executed at a residence in the 5200 block of 18th Avenue, resulting in 3 arrests; 2 for outstanding warrants and 1 for trafficking in methamphetamine. Members of patrol and the Criminal Investigative Section assisted with the search warrant.

Jeranda Fentress was arrested on an outstanding warrant for violation of probation on January 27. She was taken into custody in the 5200 block of 27th Avenue.

The manager of a business in the 5100 block of Gulfport Boulevard report that a person had been in the lobby all day and refused to leave. Officers made contact with her and discovered that she was a 17-year-old runaway from Sarasota County. She was taken into protective custody and returned to her family.

Bruce Plesser was arrested for hit and run with property damage after he struck an eastbound vehicle in the 5500 block of Shore Boulevard. Plesser did not stop and the victim followed him while calling for assistance. Officers made contact with Plesser who admitted to being in the area but denied hitting any vehicles. He was not able to explain the fresh damage to his vehicle and refused to provide investigating officers with his driver's license, registration or proof of insurance.

Carlos Torres was arrested for DUI on January 28 following a traffic stop in the 4900 block of Gulfport Boulevard. When the officer approached the vehicle he observed a traffic cone wedged under the passenger wheel, and fluid leaking from the engine. A driving under the influence investigation was conducted. Torres' breath test results were: .218/.221.

A student walking home from Boca Ciega High School was assaulted by several other juveniles in the area of 56th Street & 11th Avenue on January 29. One of the teens punched the victim in the forehead, leaving a large bump. The suspect was arrested at his residence the next day.

A Dollar General shopper reported on January 30 that a large black pickup truck with big tires backed into her vehicle while attempting to leave the parking lot. Officers circulated the area but were unable to locate the truck.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 12 hours this week. Sergeant Burkhart and Officer Carter assisted with the Gasparilla Flotilla in Tampa.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	16
Supplements reviewed:	84
Public record requests:	31
Background checks:	0
Bike registrations:	5
Fingerprints	3
Subpoenas processed:	5
Citizens assisted:	53

MARINA

Assisted with nine pump outs evacuating one hundred eighty gallons of waste.

Pumped one thousand six hundred forty-five gallons of gas and one thousand one hundred forty-seven gallons of diesel fuel, fueling fifty-seven vessels.

Staff activities:

- Replaced deck board on Casino courtesy dock.
- Delivered Marina pump out boat to Central Marine for scheduled service.
- Performed monthly electric meter readings and forwarded results to Billing Department.
- Retrieved channel buoy that broke mooring, and scrapped due to poor condition.
- Shut down water flow to pier 4, and repaired fire hydrant feed pipe collar.
- Replaced mechanical link pin in fuel pump 1 to correct metering issue.
- Inspected Marina pump out systems and filled pump oil reservoirs.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed 8 vessels this week.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Tuesday, January 22, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults.*

Tuesday, January 22, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, January 22, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, January 23, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, January 23, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Wednesday, January 23, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, January 24, 10:15 p.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, January 24, 11:30 a.m. - *Community Playdate.*

Thursday, January 24, 7 p.m. - *Circle of Friends Annual Meeting*

Friday, January 25, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Upcoming Events:

Every Monday, 9:30 a.m. & every Friday, 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@mygulfpport.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@mygulfpport.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 or to register visit www.gulfpportreadout.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 Champlain 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.*

Tuesday, February 19, 10 a.m. - *Conversations with a Doula:* Local practitioner Sarah Parrott answers your questions in an informal class. Learn the difference between a Doula and a Midwife, birthing options in the St. Petersburg area and how to best be supported during labor and the postpartum period. Let's drink tea and talk about birth!

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.

Monday, February 25, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic:* Everyone is invited to share their performing talents, musical or otherwise. Call 893-1073 for more information.

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.

Tuesday, February 26, 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 893-1074 or email cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

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 20 - 26, 2019:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,701	1,174
Sun. 1/20	Library closed	
Mon. 1/21	Holiday - Library closed	
Tues. 1/22	278	226
Wed. 1/23	322	215
Thu. 1/24	260	200
Fri. 1/25	321	220
Sat. 1/26	231	181

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.
- Continued preparation of February calendar.
- Provided photographic coverage for Junk in the Trunk.

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 **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.

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 make a difference in the lives of those who served at 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 6.

Join us Thursday, February 7 for our **Gems Getaway to the Dali Museum**. Visit the special first-of-its-kind *Magritte & Dali exhibit* which reveals what lies beyond the appearance of painted images. Both artists had very different approaches to their works while sharing the desire to challenge reality. Round trip transportation & admission: GEMS members \$14/nonmembers \$18.

Register to vote, update your voter registration or apply to vote by mail during the **Pinellas County Supervisor of Elections Voter Registration Drive** 9:30 - 11:30 a.m. Friday, February 8.

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.

Join guest speaker JB Bensmihen at 2:30 p.m. Monday, February 11 for an informative social and learn about resources right at your fingertips during **Maximize Community Resources to Improve Independent Living**. Snacks & refreshments will be served. Presented by St. Pete Care at Home.

The best way to fight crime is to prevent it! Learn how to remove opportunity from the crime triangle during **Preventing Crimes of Opportunity** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 13. Presented by the Gulfport Police Department.

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

Grab your sweetheart, friend, or neighbor and enjoy an afternoon of music, refreshments, & dancing at the **Sweetheart Dance** 2 p.m. Thursday, February 14. Tickets \$2. Tickets **MUST** be purchased prior to the event. NO tickets will be available at the door.

Join us on Thursday, February 14 and explore the flavors of Vietnam when the **Out-to-Lunch Bunch visits La V Vietnamese Fusion**. La V offers a wide variety of unique dishes: vermicelli bowls, jasmine steamed rice dishes, beef noodle soup, and much more. Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$4, nonmembers \$6. Meal paid for separately.

Technology is constantly changing, making it hard to keep up with the latest changes, devices, & trends. Join us for **Tech Tips with Stetson: Smart Phones & Tablets** at 1:30 p.m. Friday, February 15. Space is limited. Call 893-5657 to preregister.

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.

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, March 1.

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.

Guided Healing Meditation promotes holistic wellness through a very simple yet powerful guided meditation that can advance personal growth, improve relationships, cleanse and strengthen chakras, and expand one's awareness of their presence in daily life. The group meets at 9:30 a.m. every Monday.

The **English as a Second Language** class meets at 6:30 p.m. every Monday. Students will learn basic English and grammar to be able to converse at a beginning level.

The **Gulfport Senior Citizens Harmonica Club** meets every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. at All levels of experience are welcome; come learn if you are a beginner, come share your expertise and knowledge if you are 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 there as our group expands. Great people, lively conversation, and fun music for all to enjoy.

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.

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.

Recycle your old cell phone, General Mills Box tops, Campbell's labels, can tabs & eye glasses at the Senior Center. Staff forwards the items to the proper organizations for reuse, recycle or education.

Gulfport Casino, Catherine Hickman Theater, Neighborhood Center & Scout Hall

Casino (last week's events):

Sunday, January 20 5 p.m. - Quinceanera (Turnout 140)

Tuesday, January 22 10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 42)
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 14)
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 92)

Wednesday, January 23 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 314)

Thursday, January 24 10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 39)
6 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 28)

Friday, January 25 6 p.m. - Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance Snow Ball (Turnout 260)

Saturday, January 26 9 a.m. - Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance Snow Ball (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 (*last week's events*):

Sunday, January 20, 8 p.m. - *Gulfport Community Players present Never Too Late* (Turnout 169)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Friday, February 1, 6 p.m. - *Town Shores Art Guild Reception*: Meet the artists and peruse their creations. Free & open to the public. Cash bar.

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

Sunday, January 20 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Neighborhood Center (*upcoming events*):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Every first - third Sunday 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services

Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crime Watch meeting

Scout Hall (*last week's events*):

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

Tuesday, January 22 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 25)

Thursday, January 24 11:30 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 18)
6 p.m. - Free Thinkers AA group meeting

Friday, January 25 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 21)

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 7 p.m. - midnight Saturday, January 26 for a birthday party with 65 in attendance.

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.

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. Twelve Tot Time/VPK Program participants and ten adults visited the Zomhee Chinese Restaurant in Largo on Wednesday morning.

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

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

John Lapham used the school bus to transport 12 Tot Time/VPK participants and ten adults to Zomhee Chinese Restaurant in Seminole on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 42 Emergency Medical Call
- 4 Structure Fires
- 1 Structural Collapse
- 1 Water Rescue
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest

Life Safety:

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

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

GFD was 100% compliant with the Division of State Fire Marshal's Florida Fire Incident Reporting System for 2017. This is the 5th year in a row with 100% compliance.

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

IAFF 4966 and the City met on January 31. A tentative agreement has been reached. We are now awaiting an official vote from Gulfport Fire membership.

Firefighters Burton & Jordan attended Lieutenant Assessment promotional training on January 31.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Built storage shelf, repaired vacuum cleaner and cleaned rugs at Library.
- Cleaned Maintenance shop.
- Organized envelope boxes at City Hall, removed scuff marks from lobby walls and touched up paint.
- Trimmed out and secured sink at History Museum, and replaced strainer.
- Replenished supplies at PD, FD, Dog Park & Casino.
- Repaired paper towel dispenser at Casino, inspected and cleaned cooler and scheduled for repair, and sanded, painted & replaced windows on doors.
- Picked up and delivered sound equipment for Junk in the Trunk event.
- Delivered flags to Theatre.
- Assisted Hood Cleaners at Tomlinson Park & Senior Center.
- Repaired toilet seat at Hoyt Field.
- Installed stand up desk and repaired toilet at Senior Center.
- Assembled chair for Human Resources.
- Repaired door at Police Department.
- Replaced 2 exit signs at Fire Department.
- Replaced emergency light in Recreation Center gym.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Hung banners and prepared Veterans Park for PAVA event.
- Completed Museum kitchen repairs/upgrades.
- Planted tree at Caldwell Park.
- Planted tree at Caldwell Park.
- Watered palms at beach and new trees at Tomlinson & Caldwell Parks daily.
- Continued cleaning edges at ballfields.
- Cut clay edges and removed overgrowth at Hoyt Fields.
- Trimmed low branches at beach & Wood Ibis Park.
- Commenced replacement of east side of Casino deck.
- Installed parking stops at Marina & Lions Club.
- Replenished sand on Volleyball courts.
- Inspected lighting at bocce & tennis courts and baseball fields.
- Mowed all baseball fields.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Senior Center & City complex.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Beach & Marina green spaces, Clymer Park and along 49th Streetscape, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, and replaced hoses on tractor.

- 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 45, 46, 47, and 48 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 10 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 63 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 7 water old water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Repaired water break at 1411 Gray Street.
- Installed new water line in alley between 56th and Clinton Streets, and replaced 6 water service lines and meters.
- Installed water service line for landscape irrigation at Marina.

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

- Cleaned storm lines and structures at 5667 Shore Boulevard, and at 4527 27th Avenue.
- Cleaned debris from 50 storm water Inlets following heavy rain.
- Poured concrete slab at Marina for kayak storage.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Changed oil on Police vehicles #2155, 2442 & 2446.
- Replaced air filter & oil on Sanitation vehicle #1856.
- Replaced turn signal bulb on Police vehicle #2031 and headlight bulb on Police vehicle #2155.

- Replaced tailgate cylinder on Sanitation vehicle #1849.
- Replaced grabber arm bolt on Sanitation vehicle #2014.
- Replaced hydraulic hose on Sanitation vehicle #1536.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles.

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 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.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous. Any personal information you provide becomes part of the public record, which any other citizen has the right to review. E-mail correspondence is considered a public record. If you wish to make a complaint using e-mail such communications are not anonymous.

To review Code Enforcement activities documents for more detailed information and a map of Code Enforcement areas visit the Special Documents section at www.mygulfport.us.

February 13, 2019 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

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

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

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

1. To reduce rear yard setback requirement by 17 feet, from 25 feet to 8 feet to allow for the proposed addition to the existing garage; and

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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.