



# *Gulfport Community Update*

## *February 17 - 23, 2019*

**Gulfport on the Go!** Visit [www.mygulfport.us/cityapp](http://www.mygulfport.us/cityapp) for more information on our mobile app.

**Duke Energy Crews will be trimming trees** along electric lines in the northwest section of the City in the coming weeks. Pruning activity will include lateral lines, some of which will require climbing in rear lot areas. The tree crews will clean up all debris associated with maintenance activities. Call Public Works Director Tom Nicholls at 893-1089 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.

**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/](http://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](http://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](http://www.mygulfport.us/lateralrebate) for more information.

### **Upcoming Events:**

Check out cars from the past at the **49<sup>th</sup> 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. **The Trolley Market Square dedication** will begin at 10 a.m. FREE admission. For directions, Mapquest 4900 Tangerine Avenue South, Gulfport, FL 33707. For more information visit [www.so49.org](http://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](http://www.sikpromotions.com/events-calendar/view/1287) for more information.

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](http://www.gulfportma.com), call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email [FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com](mailto:FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com) for more information.

Ready to Sashay by the Seaside? The **14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.pinkflamingohometour.com).

Meet your neighbors and help your community at the same time. The next **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, March 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](http://www.facebook.com/gulfportneighbors).

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 17<sup>th</sup>. Gulfport residents who wish to be included on the Yard Sale Brochure can fill out a form at City Hall, 2401 53<sup>rd</sup> Street; Gulfport Public Library, 5501 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, or; online at [www.mygulfport.us/gulfport-city-wide-yard-sale](http://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 29<sup>th</sup> Avenue, or online at [www.mygulfport.us/gulfportcity-wide-yard-sale](http://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 29<sup>th</sup> 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/](http://www.gulfportseniorfoundation.org/2017/05/health-wellness-expo/), call 893-1244 or email [mpscfoundation@tampabay.rr.com](mailto: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 will be displayed at the Pink Flamingo Home Tour on March 2, and 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](http://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.

Gulfport's Shore Boulevard will transform into a mecca of activity during the **Third Annual Gulfport Grand Prix**, featuring F150, SST45, Jersey Speed Skiffs and a Boat Show Friday - Sunday, March 29 - 31. Visit [www.grandprixgulfport.com](http://www.grandprixgulfport.com) for tickets and information.

The City of Gulfport/Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows **14<sup>th</sup> Annual Fun in the Sun Day** at the Gulfport Recreation Center, 5730 Shore Boulevard is Saturday, April 20, 10 a.m. - noon. FREE festivities will include an egg hunt for children ages 8 & under, basket raffle, entertainment, food and fun! Children will also have the opportunity to climb into the driver's seat of their favorite vehicle: police car, police boat, fire truck, ambulance, garbage truck and many more. Bring a basket for the egg hunt and a camera for a photo with Peter Cottontail! For more information, call 893-1068.

Gulfport's 7.5 acre Clymer Park will transform into an enchanted village inhabited by Renaissance-era characters, gypsies, minstrels, wizards and roving entertainers in costume, and

featuring a wide variety of family friendly activities during the annual **Gulfport Springfest Garden Art & Faerie Festival** 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Saturday & Sunday, April 27 & 28. There is no admission for this pet and family friendly event, and complimentary parking is available with trolley rides to and from off-site parking areas. Visit [www.sikpromotions.com/events-calendar/view/1292](http://www.sikpromotions.com/events-calendar/view/1292) for more information.

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 49<sup>th</sup> 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 61<sup>st</sup> Street.

## **POLICE DEPARTMENT**

### **Patrol**

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| Dispatch calls for service       | 145 |
| Self-initiated calls for service | 371 |
| Incident/offense reports         | 59  |
| Arrests                          | 8   |
| Traffic citations                | 102 |
| Ordinance violations             | 38  |
| Residence checks                 | 11  |

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

A resident in the 900 block of Hull Street reported on February 14 that she placed an envelope containing cash inside her central air conditioner vent, and discovered the envelope was missing after having a/c work performed. The technician denied taking the money.

A 2015 VW Passat was reported stolen from a residence in the 2300 block of Premier drive. The owner believes he left the car unlocked with the key fob inside. His wife's car was also burglarized.

A resident in the 5500 block of 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that \$1000 worth of items were stolen from his car. It's unknown if the vehicle was locked.

A small table was reported stolen from a yard in the 2600 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street on the afternoon of February 15.

A resident in the 5400 block of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that his wife's 2018 Honda Civic was missing. He thought she may have dropped her keys near the car the night before, but a records check revealed the car had been entered as impounded by the Sheriff's Office.

Sharaka Lumpkin was arrested for a driving on a suspended license, failure to pay citations, and failure to appear in court following a traffic stop in the 2000 block of 49<sup>th</sup> Street for driving with a headlight out. Lumpkin also had an active probable cause affidavit from the St. Petersburg Police Department for uttering forged instruments.

Brent Miller was arrested on a warrant for failure to appear on a DWLSR charge on February 16 after an officer stopped him for riding his bike on the Pinellas Trail after hours.

A 2017 Ford Edge was reported stolen from a residence in the 2900 block of 57<sup>th</sup> Street after the owner left the doors unlocked and the key fob inside.

Officer Clague stopped Ariel Moragas on the trail after hours on February 17. Moragas intentionally gave incorrect spellings of his name because he knew he had an active warrant from Miami and did not want to be deported for a second time. Miami refused to confirm the warrant due to Moraga's multiple names and aliases. He was transported to the Pinellas County Jail.

A resident in the 5200 block of 10<sup>th</sup> Avenue reported that sometime overnight someone stole 10 large hand-painted concrete ornamental pots valued at \$70 each from her front walkway.

Cash in excess of \$400 was reported stolen from an unlocked car parked in the 5600 block of 11<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Officers were dispatched to the 5600 block of 18<sup>th</sup> Avenue after a caller reported an unknown subject was inside a neighbor's car. The suspect fled the area before officers arrived, and nothing was missing from the car. Video evidence was obtained from a neighbor.

Keith Story was arrested on two active warrants for grand theft and failure to secure workman's comp coverage on February 18 after Officer Dillard spotted him working on the roof of a house in the 1100 block of 53<sup>rd</sup> Street.

Christopher A. Plummer was arrested for habitual driving while license suspended or revoked following a traffic stop in the 5900 block of Gulfport Boulevard for speeding.

An iPhone was reported stolen from an unlocked work vehicle parked in the 3100 block of Beach Boulevard on February 19.

Officers were flagged down in the 5500 block of Shore Boulevard on February 20 and advised of a man in a bus shelter acting strangely. He was very emotional, and at times uncooperative. It was later determined his reactions were due to earlier methamphetamine use, and he was taken to a local hospital by ambulance.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 5 hours this week. Officers made contact with 4 boaters, issued 4 marine citations, and conducted 2 follow-ups regarding ordinance violations related to the Casino dock.

### **Criminal Investigative Section**

|                           |    |
|---------------------------|----|
| New Cases Reviewed:       | 19 |
| Cases Currently Assigned: | 25 |

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a grand theft auto case and a fraud.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary, two thefts, and an auto theft.

### **School Resource Officers**

Officer Mills made contact with a student who was bragging about stealing cars; in light of the fact that we had three auto theft reports this week, this information has been referred to detectives.

Officer Embry investigated a simple battery case involving two female students; met with several parents about behavioral issues regarding their children, and; spoke with several parents via phone regarding their children fighting.

Officer Sigsbee assisted with a child abuse case investigation that occurred in St Petersburg, and counseled a student about safety after she walked away from her group on a field trip. He also purchased bike locks for three siblings who were unable to ride their bikes to school because they didn't have locks for them.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano started an analysis on auto thefts and vehicle burglaries; completed a review of property reported stolen with a known serial number to ensure proper entry

into FCIC; compiled the monthly PCSO call out report; completed pawn checks on 4 cases with a named suspect, known serial number or searchable property description; created a bulletin for Officer Ross in an attempt to ID a suspect in a vehicle burglary, and; completed an analysis of opioid overdose deaths covering a five year period.

### **Records Section**

|                         |    |
|-------------------------|----|
| Reports reviewed:       | 34 |
| Supplements reviewed:   | 65 |
| Public record requests: | 12 |
| Background checks:      | 2  |
| Bike registrations:     | 1  |
| Fingerprints            | 0  |
| Subpoenas processed:    | 0  |
| Citizens assisted:      | 44 |

### **MARINA**

Assisted with twenty-six pump outs, evacuating five hundred-five gallons of waste.

Pumped four thousand fifty-two gallons of gas and one thousand eight hundred eighty-one gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred thirteen vessels.

#### **Staff activities:**

- Replaced pedestal bulbs on piers 2, 3 & 4.
- Reset tripped circuit breaker for pier 2 slip, 4 GFI outlet, and replaced GFI cover.
- Replaced 30amp power outlet on pier 6, slip 26.
- Placed kayaks on storage racks following relocation of racks, and installed post & hose holder in kayak rinse-off area.
- Inspected Marina pump out systems filled and pump oil reservoirs.

#### **Transient vessels:**

Staff welcomed thirteen vessels this week.

### **LIBRARY**

#### **Public Programs/Meetings/Events:**

Monday, February 11, 9:30 a.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance.*

Monday, February 11, 3 p.m. - *K-5<sup>th</sup> Grade Science Club.*

Monday, February 11, 5:30 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop.*

Tuesday, February 12, 10:30 a.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop.*

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

Tuesday, February 12, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club.*

Tuesday, February 12, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, February 13, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting.*

Wednesday, February 13, 1 p.m. - *Felt Heart Pins & Magnets.*

Wednesday, February 13, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime.*

Wednesday, February 13, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.  
Thursday, February 14, 10:15 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.  
Thursday, February 14, 3:30 p.m. - *Valentine's Day Crafts*.  
Thursday, February 14, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*.  
Friday, February 15, 10 a.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance*.  
Friday, February 15, 3:30 p.m. - *Romance is in the Air Afternoon Tea*.  
Friday, February 15, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.  
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*.

### **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 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.

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

Saturday, March 2, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series*: Sit back and enjoy this show! We're screening an amazing biopic about a stellar singer. This new release stars Rami Malek, Lucy Boynton, Gwilym Lee, Ben Hardy, and Joseph Mazzello. Rated PG-13. Call 893-1074 for title.

Monday, March 4, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club discussion of The Fact of a Body: A Murder and a Memoir* by Alexandria Marzano-Lesnevich. Check for availability at the Circulation Desk

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

Wednesday, March 6, 1 p.m. - *Faux Stained Glass Vase*: This month we'll learn a simple technique to create faux stained glass. Use Sharpies, rubbing alcohol, and paint to decorate a glass vase. Call 893-1073 or email [library.programs@mygulfport.us](mailto:library.programs@mygulfport.us) to sign up.

Thursday, March 7, noon - *Lunch & Learn presents Compassion & Choices*: Compassion & Choices envisions a society that affirms life and accepts the inevitability of death, embraces expanded options for compassionate dying, and empowers everyone to choose end-of-life care that reflects their values, priorities and beliefs. Marcia Bailey, retired social worker and leader of the Clearwater team of Compassion & Choices will also provide information on Physician Orders for Life Sustaining Treatment. POLST allows you to discuss your diagnosis or condition with your doctor and together decide what course of treatment would be most appropriate and acceptable as you move forward.

Thursday, March 7, 5 p.m. - *Perler Bead Palooza for Grades 6-12*: Make keychains and magnets from the colorful melty beads. Make a cupcake, Mario, Hello Kitty, Minecraft swords, and MORE! Call 893-1134 for more information.

Saturday, March 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, March 11, 5:30 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop*: If you have a ukulele please bring it. If you don't, no problem, TBUS will have a limited number of ukuleles available at the workshop. Beginners and anyone wanting to learn and practice with an experienced teacher are welcome Call 893-1073 for more information.

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

Thursday, March 14, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*. In this 2018 release, after Cameron (Chloë Grace Moretz) is caught with another girl in the back seat of a car on prom night, she is quickly shipped off to a conversion therapy center that treats teens "struggling with same-sex attraction." At the facility, Cameron is subjected to outlandish discipline, dubious "de-gaying" methods, and earnest Christian rock songs, but this unusual setting also provides her with an unlikely gay community. For the first time, Cameron connects with peers, and she's able to find her place among fellow outcasts. Directed by Desiree Akhavan. Winner of the 2018 Sundance Grand Jury Prize for Dramatic Films. (Not Rated). Call 893-1074 for title.

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

Thursday, March 21, 7 p.m. - *Mary McLeod Bethune Comes to Life*: Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune (1875 - 1955) was the founder of Bethune-Cookman University. She served as a New Deal government official in one of the 20 highest-level offices held by women in the administration, and the highest held by an African American woman; was founder of FDR's "black cabinet"; served as president of the National Association of Colored Women; founded and served as president of the National Council of Negro Women. Ersula Odom portrays Dr. Bethune in 1954 and shares fascinating stories of her extraordinary contribution to democracy. After Dr. Bethune "leaves", Odom will answer questions regarding her research. Sponsored by the Florida Humanities Council and presented by the Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library.

Tuesday, March 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](mailto:cklasson@mygulfport.us) for more information.

Through March 29 - *Leisha Bishop 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, 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](mailto: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 February 10 - 16, 2019:**

#### **Items Circulated   Patrons**

|                     |                |      |
|---------------------|----------------|------|
| Weekly Circulation: | 1,928          | 1480 |
| Sun. 2/10           | Library closed |      |
| Mon. 2/11           | 287            | 261  |
| Tues. 2/12          | 323            | 231  |
| Wed. 2/13           | 403            | 251  |
| Thu. 2/14           | 313            | 219  |
| Fri. 2/15           | 272            | 231  |
| Sat. 2/16           | 316            | 202  |

## **PARKS & RECREATION**

### **Technical Events**

Visit [www.mygulfport.us](http://www.mygulfport.us) or [www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport](https://www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport) to watch videos of recent City events, or access live & web stream rebroadcasts at [www.mygulfport.us/gtv640](http://www.mygulfport.us/gtv640). Spread the word!

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

### **Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center**

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

Join us for our monthly **Healthy Cooking Class** at 3 p.m. Monday, February 25 and learn to make a delicious, healthy meal. This month's recipe: *Spinach Stuffed Chicken Breast*. Space is limited; call 893-5657 to preregister.

Join us at 5:30 p.m. Monday, February 25 for **Big Ideas: An Evening with TED (Talks)**, thought provoking "ideas worth sharing." This month's topic: *The Best Way to Help is Often Just to Listen*.

Spark your creative side with **Devoted Health Plan's monthly Arts & Crafts Workshop** at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 26. This month's craft: *Floral Arrangement Fun*. Space is limited; call 893-5657 to preregister.

What are stem cells, what do they do, is the process safe, and how can this help me? Join Dr. Damon Stafford, DC of Professional Health Care of Pinellas, Inc. at 2 p.m. Wednesday, February 27 for **The Science Behind Stem Cells** and learn where research is taking us. Call 893-5657 to preregister.

Hop aboard the Cross Bay Ferry for a day of fun with our February 28 **GEMS Getaway to Sparkman Wharf** in Tampa's Channelside where you'll find shops, restaurants, a movie theater & bowling alley. Round trip transportation & ferry passage: GEMS members \$14/nonmembers \$18.

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.

Meet the artists and enjoy light refreshments during the **Annual Gulfport Senior Artists Exhibit** 4 - 6 p.m. Friday, March 1. Works will be on display through March.

Join Empath Health Chats at 2 p.m. Monday, March 4 for **Caring for our Heroes - Specialized Veterans Care**. Tampa Bay is home to one of the largest veteran populations in the nation. Learn about specialized programs and how Empath honors those who served. Are you a veteran or know someone who is? Bring them along and allow us to honor and thank them with a special pinning ceremony.

Join Community partners and Stetson Law Students to learn about identity theft, fraud and the most recent scams happening in Pinellas County, and tips to avoid becoming a victim during the **Consumer Protection Fair** 3 - 6 p.m. Monday, March 5 at the Gulfport Senior. A great lineup of speakers, including the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office, The Better Business Bureau, Pinellas County Consumer Protection, and Professor Mark Bauer from Stetson Law College. Business Records Management will also offer FREE shredding of sensitive documents. LIMIT ONE FILE SIZE BOX/BAG PER PERSON.

Want to learn more about how **hemp and CBD** can help you and your pets live healthier with less pain and stress? Join CR. World at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 6 and learn about the benefits and applications of CBD, including topical and nutritional supplements.

Enjoy Strawberries, strawberries and more strawberries during our March 7 **GEMS Getaway to the Florida Strawberry Festival**. Round trip transportation & admission: GEMS members \$14/nonmembers \$18.

You're responsible for your financial future and retirement investments. Learn about the various aspects of investing, managing a portfolio, the eight levels of risk, and fund management during **Investing in Your Future** at 1 p.m. Thursday, March 7. The seminar will boost your knowledge of investing and provide you with the confidence to have an open and informative dialog with your financial advisor, bank or private manager. SPACE IS LIMITED; call 893-5657 to preregister.

Join us at 2:30 p.m. Monday March 11 & 18 for **The Healer Within**, a 2-part seminar featuring 2 different speakers with 2 different stories. Both will inspire you to find the strength within to create better health and the life you deserve.

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

Join us at 2 p.m. Wednesday, March 13 for **Money Smart for Older Adults** and learn important points to consider in planning for a more secure financial future, including how to guard against identity theft & other financial exploitation, as well as how to prepare financially for unexpected life events & disasters. Presented by Third Federal Savings & Loan.

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

Join the **Out-to-Lunch Bunch** on Thursday, March 14 and explore the taste of Greece at **Acropol Family Restaurant**, a great restaurant that offers Greek, American, & Italian cuisine. Round-trip transportation: GEMS members \$5/nonmembers \$7. *Meal paid for separately.*

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 March 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, March 29. 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.

**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.

Everyone is welcome to join the **Wednesday Walkers** at 9 a.m. on the second & fourth Wednesday of the month. Locations will vary. Towels and pedometers will be provided! Call the Gulfport Senior Center Event Line at 893-5657 for more information!

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.

Join other book lovers for our new, no-pressure **Book Club** at 9:30 a.m. every second & fourth Friday. Chat about what you've been reading and hear recommendations from other readers.

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, February 10  | Gulfport Peace, Love & Pride Fest (Turnout 750)   |
| Tuesday, February 12 | 10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 47)<br>12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 13)<br>6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 90) |

Wednesday, February 13 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 334)

Thursday, February 14 9 a.m. - Resource Property Management seminar (Turnout 200)  
6 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 54)

Friday, February 15 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 66)  
7 p.m. - Sock Hop with the Impacs (Turnout 410)

**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

Every third Friday 7 p.m. - Sock Hop with the Impacs: Advance tickets \$15, \$20 at the door.

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

Saturday, February 16 8 p.m. - *Poppy Champlin Happy Medicine Show* (Turnout 175)

**Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):**

Friday, February 22, 7 p.m. - *Nan Colton portrays Agatha Christie*: A must-see performance benefiting the Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center Foundation. Tickets \$20 in advance at the Gulfport Welcome Center & Beach Bazaar, or \$25 at the door the night of performance.

Sunday, February 24 2 & 5 p.m. - *Barbara Streisand Tribute show* starring Carla Delvillaggio. Tickets \$15, available at the Casino & Beach Bazaar. Experience the show the New York Post declares "The next best thing to seeing Streisand herself!"

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

Sunday, February 10 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 16)  
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

Monday, February 11 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 25)

Tuesday, February 12 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 24)

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

Friday, February 15 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 17)

**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**

Fifty-four children are registered **2018/19 School Year Child Care program** for children in Kindergarten thru age 14. 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.

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

### **Staff Activities**

Marivel Gutierrez attended a Skate Park planning meeting on Tuesday, and the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

### **FIRE DEPARTMENT**

#### **Calls for Service:**

- 56 Emergency Medical Call
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 3 Structure Fires
- 2 Fire Alarms
- 3 Vehicle Crashes

#### **Life Safety:**

- 8 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 March 18. The 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Fire Operations 101 event is scheduled for 6 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, May 11. CERT will provide assistance in registration and incident rehab. CERT member participation is limited to 15.

Gulfport Fire staff continued their February 2019 online Continuing Medical Education (CME) this week. This month's topic is EMS Assessing the Patient with Major Trauma.

Inspector Lundh inspected vendors in preparation for this weekend's Get Rescued event. SR17 will be staged in the Waterfront district during the event.

Inspector Lundh attended a 911 computer data input seminar at the Emergency Communication Center to update the computer in his vehicle.

### **PUBLIC WORKS**

#### **Building Maintenance**

- Restored basketball goals at Recreation Center.
- Repaired a/c unit at Fire Department.
- Replaced decking on East side of Casino, and assisted with plumbing repairs in restrooms.
- Made repairs in restrooms at Dog Park and Fire Department.

- Assisted pest control technician.
- Remove garbage from Library, repaired door, and hung banners & art.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

### **Parks Maintenance**

- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Sanded over roots at Veterans Park.
- Graded beds around Skate Park.
- Removed invasive trees at Wood Ibis Park.
- Cleared trash from water at 49<sup>th</sup> Street terminus following car accident.
- Seeded and hayed Trolley Market Square.
- Watered palms at beach and new trees at Tomlinson and pocket park daily.
- Continued deck replacement at Casino.
- Planted palms at skate park.
- Replenished sand around tree roots at Veterans Park.
- Rerouted mainline at tot playground and behind Recreation Center.
- Replaced plastic trash can liner at trail with metal liner following trash fire.
- Installed Get Rescued banners.
- Delivered barricades to Low Tide for block party.
- Mowed all City complex, Clymer Park, and Senior Center, Library & Recreation Center green spaces.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Trolley Market Square, Recreation Center & Skate Park.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Recreation Center green spaces and beach streetscapes, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, replaced belt on Toro Workman and rebuilt pressure washer.
- 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.
- Replaced fallen/damaged banners along 49<sup>th</sup> Street & Gulfport Boulevard.

### **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 12 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 5 non pay rechecks to confirm water service still off.
- Completed 98 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 11 Sunshine One-Call, Call before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected drinking water microbial samples on City distribution system.
- Replaced 2 water old water meters with E-Coder R900i meters.
- Serviced and painted 12 fire hydrants.

### **Sewer**

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 and #2.
- Daily rainfall checks and documentation, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily ground water elevation recording (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations #1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Beach, Clam Bayou & Marina for quality testing.
- Cleaned and televised sewer laterals at 5124 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 5315 28<sup>th</sup> Avenue, 5706 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, and at Dog Park.
- Replaced sewer lateral at 2007 57<sup>th</sup> Street.

### **Stormwater**

- Repaired hole in storm structure at 5144 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue.
- Regraded storm swale at Skate Park.

### **Vehicle Maintenance**

- Ran diagnostic check on vehicle # 1650.
- Brake check on vehicle # 1031.
- Repaired rear door welding on vehicle # 1139.
- Repaired left rear wheel seal on vehicle # 1849.
- 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](http://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](http://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](http://www.pced.org/entrepreneurs) for information, including a number of workshops on starting a new business. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

**Code Enforcement** activities continued this week in Section 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 58<sup>th</sup> Street & 59<sup>th</sup> 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.

Beginning in March Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 4 of the City, also referred to as the Art District which extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49<sup>th</sup> Street South to 58<sup>th</sup> & 59<sup>th</sup> Streets South. 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](http://www.mygulfport.us).

**March 6, 2019 Planning and Zoning Board and March 19 City Council/CRA meeting(s):**

AV18-01; Alley vacation request for the remaining portion of the existing North-South Alley between 50<sup>th</sup> & 51<sup>st</sup> Streets South and South of 24<sup>th</sup> Avenue South.