



Gulfport Community Update

March 2 - 9, 2019

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

Duke Energy Crews will be trimming trees along power 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/ 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:

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.

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.

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. 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, online at www.mygulfport.us/gulfportcity-wide-yard-sale, or in the Gulfport Gabber classified section 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 is 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 16 in the Art Village Courtyard, 2914 Beach Boulevard. Don't miss the opportunity to be the proud owner of one of these Adirondack chairs that local artists have transformed into art! Proceeds benefit will benefit the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation.

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 at Clam Bayou** 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 for tickets and information.

BCYC's Funday is 1 - 4 p.m. Saturday, April 13. This annual open house offers an opportunity for the public to learn more about Boca Ciega Yacht Club's activities. Visit www.sailbcyc.org for more information.

The City of Gulfport/Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows **14th 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 for more information.

May the Groove be with you during the **Goodwill Hippie Dash 5k & 8k** at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 4. The race begins in front of the Gulfport Casino. Can't make it on race day? Choose the VIRTUAL option when registering at www.runsignup.com/Race/FL/Gulfport/HippieDash to receive your official bling and T-shirt! All proceeds benefit Goodwill's programs for adults with disabilities, and people with other barriers to self-sufficiency.

It's almost that time again! Bring your Gulfport I.D. and your junk to the **Gulfport Neighbors Junk in the Trunk** at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street on Saturday, May 11, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Drop junk that works at the free trade table. Free bike registration, have coffee with a cop and get gardening tips from the community garden team. Pinellas County HAZ-TO-GO will also be there collecting electronics and chemicals FREE of charge. For more information on what you can bring, visit www.pinellascounty.org/solidwaste/haz-to-go.htm.

Get informed to be prepared during the **City of Gulfport's Hurricane Seminar** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue at 7 p.m., Thursday, May 30. Free admission. Attendees can enjoy a slice of pizza and soft drink for \$3 beginning at 6 p.m.

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	146
Self-initiated calls for service	362
Incident/offense reports	54
Arrests	10
Traffic citations	87
Ordinance violations	70
Residence checks	5

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers were dispatched to the 5200 block of 14th Avenue on February 28 after a caller reported someone was in his neighbor's car. While canvassing the neighborhood, officers discovered another car had been burglarized as well. There were no signs of forced entry to either vehicle.

A resident in the 2000 block of 52nd Street reported on March 1 that an acquaintance punched and kicked her car several times, damaging the vehicle.

A cell phone was reported stolen from a car parked in the 5400 block of 15th Avenue on March 3 after the owner left his car windows open.

St. Pete police found a car in an alleyway at 5th Avenue North & Park Street, and when he made contact with the Gulfport owner, discovered it had been stolen from the driveway overnight.

A boat owner called from Atlanta to report that his boat was vandalized and partially sunk at the Gulfport Marina several weeks ago, and several items were stolen.

A resident in the 6200 block of 15th Avenue reported that officers were at his residence the previous night for a reported battery between him and his roommate, and after officers left, the roommate kicked a door into his arm and pinned him against the wall before leaving the residence.

Officers assisted a Child Protection Investigator (CPI) with the removal of a juvenile from her home on March 3. She had not been enrolled in school in 3 years despite a stipulation of her probation is school attendance. She was arrested for violation of probation, and her mother was arrested for child neglect.

Officer Janovich heard a car alarm going off in the area of 2600 block of 54th Street, and found a car with its emergency lights flashing and the passenger door open. A Pinellas County Sheriff's Office k9 responded to assist with a track, but nobody was found in the area. It was later determined that nothing was missing from the vehicle.

A resident in the 700 block of Gray Street reported that he had video of his neighbor's truck being burglarized in the early morning hours of March 4. The owner confirmed his truck was burglarized but said he did not call police because he had to get to work.

A Gulfport Library patron reported that she left her wallet on the counter while she copied documents. After leaving the Library she realized she did not have her wallet and went back to look for it, but someone had stolen it.

The Pinellas County Sheriff's Office Habitual Offender Monitoring and Enforcement (HOME) unit requested an officer determine if a juvenile was at his home in the 1800 block of 55th Street. The juvenile is court ordered to be at home, work or school, and has a curfew. Officer Janovich determined the teen left the residence after cutting off his ankle monitor which was found in the 4800 block of 18th Avenue. St. Petersburg Police found him on March 5 and he was taken to the Juvenile Detention Center.

A resident in the 5900 block of 9th Avenue discovered transactions on her debit card that she did not make, and determined someone had entered her unlocked car and took her wallet which contained the card.

A resident in the 800 block of Gray Street observed three juveniles attempting to get into cars on March 5. They ran north when he shouted at them. St. Pete Police were notified of the incident and later advised Gulfport officers that they observed the juveniles in St. Pete, and watched as they attempted to enter other vehicles. They were taken into custody after successfully entering an unlocked vehicle. All had items in their possession that were taken from a car on Gray Street. The property was returned to the owner, and all 3 juveniles were arrested for the attempted and committed burglaries. Two live in Gulfport.

Christopher Alaimo was arrested on March 6 after a relative reported he stole her car. The car was recovered at the time of Alaimo's arrest.

A customer at a business in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard placed a large amount of frozen meat into a bag and walked out without paying. The store manager followed the suspect, and she dropped the bag. She was last seen walking west on Tangerine Avenue.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 3 hours this week; officers made contact with 3 boaters, conducted 2 vessel stops, and issued 2 marine citations.

Criminal Investigative Section

New Cases Reviewed:	20
Cases Currently Assigned:	29

Investigator highlights:

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a stolen vehicle case and a fraud; attended Child Sex Crimes Investigations training, and attended two court trials.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for two theft cases, three frauds, a burglary and an endangered runaway.

School Resource Officers

Officer Mills investigated an incident in which a student from another high school came on campus and attacked a student, and struck an assistant principal. That student was charged with felony battery on a school employee, battery on the BCHS student and trespassing on school property. In another incident, a female student was arrested for committing battery on another student in front of Disston Academy.

Officer Embry assisted a Child Protection Investigator (CPI) regarding a battery that occurred at a group home. He also investigated the theft of a cell phone, and an email sent regarding a sexual battery that was reported to SPPD over a year ago.

Officer Sigsbee took part in a field day with the students and staff on March 6, participating in races, tug of war, balloon tosses and other games. He also evaluated a student for a Baker Act. The student met the criteria and was transported to PEMHS.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano created and distributed 4 bulletins, completed an analysis on vehicle burglaries, conducted 9 pawn checks, and; performed an FCIC entry review.

Records Section

Reports reviewed:	13
Supplements reviewed:	60
Public record requests:	60
Background checks:	9
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints	0
Subpoenas processed:	14
Citizens assisted:	55

MARINA

Assisted with twenty-eight pump outs, evacuating two hundred gallons of waste.

Pumped five thousand five hundred thirty-three gallons of gas and two-thousand four hundred eighty-four gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred fifty vessels.

Staff activities:

- Installed 4 signs on Casino courtesy dock.
- Repaired broken high water pressure pipe on pier 6 under slip 27/28 pedestal.
- Mixed and set cement for 4 buoy swim marker anchors for placement along beach.
- Placed pier 8 concrete dry markers for each slip in preparation for anchoring with rebar.
- Inspected oil levels for both pump-out systems.
- Replaced GFI outlet on pier 4 slip 24.
- Repaired water line break under pier 3 T-dock.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed nine vessels this week.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, February 25 9:30 a.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance.*

Monday, February 25, 3 p.m. - *Science Club for grades K - 5.*

Monday, February 25, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic.*

Tuesday, February 26, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults.*

Tuesday, February 26, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, February 26, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Tuesday, February 19, 7 p.m. - *Silent Film*.

Wednesday, February 27, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, February 27, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*.

Wednesday, February 27, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, February 28, 10:15 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, February 28, 11:30 a.m. - *Community Playdate*.

Friday, February 22, 10 a.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance*.

Friday, February 22, 6:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, March 2, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series*.

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, 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 & 18, 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.

Saturday, March 16, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Series*. In this sequel to "Wreck-It Ralph", Ralph and Vanellope find a wifi router in their arcade, and travel to the wide, wacky world of the internet - which may not survive Ralph's wrecking. It stars the voice talents of John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman, Gal Godot, Taraji P. Henson, Jane Lynch, Alfred Molina, and Alan Tudyk. Rated PG. Call 893-1074 for title.

Thursday, March 21, noon - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of It Can't Happen Here by Sinclair Lewis*. Copies available at the Circulation Desk. Sponsored by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, March 21, 2 p.m. - *Insects of Florida Workshop*: Want to be able to identify the insects you see when you're outside? Tracy Myhalyk will tell you about our Florida bugs, including bees. Tracy taught biology at Appalachian State for many years, and brings a fresh approach to this fascinating subject. Impress your friends with your newly acquired expertise!

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.

Saturday, March 23, 2 p.m. - *St. Petersburg Recorder Group Spring Concert*: Directed by Richard Carbone, this group is a member of the American Recorder Society and will play Renaissance, Baroque and more recent music in recognition of March as "Play the Recorder" month. Everyone is invited to this free event.

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

Tuesday, March 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, 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 for more information.

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

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.

Saturday, March 30, 1 p.m. - *Tribute Reading for Claire Kemp*: Local author Claire Kemp, renowned for her short stories passed away on February 15. Some of her literary friends will host a public reading of some of her stories. Everyone is invited to this special event. Those who wish to read a story should contact Tom@TomCuba.net.

Monday, April 1, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club*.

Tuesday, April 2, 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.

Saturday, April 6, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Series*. Call 893-1074 for title.

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 February 24 - March 2, 2019:

	Items Circulated	Patrons
Weekly Circulation:	2,071	1,439
Sun. 2/24	Library closed	
Mon. 2/25	418	272
Tues. 2/26	326	232
Wed. 2/27	284	227
Thu. 2/28	366	232
Fri. 3/1	304	200
Sat. 3/2	361	193

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

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

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

Gulfport Multipurpose Senior Center

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

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

Gulfport Extended Mobility Service (GEMS) offers transportation to grocery stores, medical appointments, etc. Gulfport residents 55 & older or residents with a disability can take advantage of GEMS door to door service for a yearly membership of \$65 plus \$2 per ride. GEMS also offers

transportation to Bay Pines VA Hospital & Medical Center, Northside Hospital and the St. Pete Beach Family Aquatic Center. For more information call 893-2242 between 8 a.m. & 1 p.m.

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

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

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

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

Worried about your memory? St. Anthony's Memory Disorder Clinic will offer free, confidential **memory screenings** 9 a.m. - noon on Monday, March 11. Call 893-5657 to schedule.

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 **Acropolis 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.

Technology is constantly changing, making it hard to keep up with the latest trends. Learn about your smartphone during **Tech Tips with Stetson: Smartphones** at 1:30 p.m. Friday March 15. Space is limited; call 893-5657 to preregister.

CarFit, a free interactive, educational program developed by AAA, AARP, & AOTA and designed to improve older driver safety is headed your way 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Saturday, March 16. Trained volunteers provide information to ensure the safest "fit" for older drivers & their vehicles. Call 893-5657 to schedule your 20-minute appointment.

Join us for our monthly **Healthy Cooking Class** at 3 p.m. Monday, March 25 and learn to make a delicious, healthy meal. This month's recipe: *Healthy Pasta with pesto, tomato, & broccoli* Space is limited; call 893-5657 to preregister.

TED Talks are thought provoking ideas worth sharing. Join us at 5:30 p.m. Monday, March 25 for this month's talk: **Talk About Your Death While You're Still Healthy.**

Join Dedicated Senior Medical Center & Wellcare for a **matinee movie & popcorn** in the Catherine Hickman Theater at 1 p.m. Tuesday, March 26. This month's movie, "*Wonder Woman*" is about an Amazon princess who finds her idyllic life interrupted when a pilot crash-lands nearby. Rated PG.

Join Dr. Mary Burton of Hear Here Audiology for **Beyond Hearing Aids** at 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 28 and learn how the hearing system works, causes of hearing loss, and various treatment options available, including hearing aids and other hearing devices.

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.

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, April 5.

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 24 5 p.m. - Life Celebration (Turnout 136)
- Monday, February 25 10 a.m. - Yoga (Turnout 40)
7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance (Turnout 118)
- Tuesday, February 26 10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 53)
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 6)
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 70)
- Wednesday, February 27 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 289)
- Thursday, February 28 10 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 45)
6 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 39)
- Friday, March 1 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 68)
- Saturday, March 2 7 p.m. - St. Petersburg International Folk Fair Society Ball (Turnout 120)

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*):

- Sunday, February 24 2 p.m. - Streisand show (Turnout 60)
5 p.m. - Streisand show (Turnout 52)
- Friday, March 1 6 p.m. - Carol Lore Art Reception (Turnout 35)

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Thursday-Saturday, March 14-16 & 21-23, 8 p.m., and Saturday & Sunday, March 16 & 17 and 23 & 24, 2 p.m. - *Gulfport Community Players present The Business of Murder: A psychological thriller*. Tickets: \$18 in advance at Beach Bazaar & online at www.gulfportcommunityplayers.org, or \$20 at the door (cash only) one hour before show time.

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

- Sunday, February 24 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Church services (Turnout 9)
6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
- Saturday, March 2 12:30 p.m. - Baby Shower (Turnout 53)

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 25 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 47)
- Tuesday, February 26 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 41)
- Thursday, February 28 11:30 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 13)
6 p.m. - Free Thinkers AA group meeting
- Friday, March 1 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 19)

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-seven 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.

Sixty 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, Hip Hop, 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 opened the Recreation Center for the Pink Flamingo Tour of Homes on Saturday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 52 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 3 Structure Fires
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Elevator Rescue
- 1 Smoke Odor/Invest

Life Safety:

- 9 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-inspection
- 1 Fire Permit

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. CERT will provide traffic control on the morning of March 16 for the Nautical Flea market, and sell hotdogs & cold drinks in the afternoon.

Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief Association meeting, and a Data Driven Focus Group meeting for the ALS Funding on upcoming projects on February 28.

The Gulfport Fire Department will commence annual Large Diameter Hose and Ground Ladder testing at the Gulfport Marina with Treasure Island Fire Department. 1ST American Fire Service LLC. is facilitator again this year.

Gulfport Fire Rescue put in service the new SCOTT X3 Pro Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus. This SCBA is in compliance with the new NFPA standard. The firefighters are extremely happy with the new packs.

The Gulfport Fire Department completed their Mask Fit testing on March 4. SCBA face piece fit testing is required by NFPA, OSHA and other safety standards to ensure an adequate mask seal and acceptable test.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Assembled table rack cart and repaired door stop at Library, and buried irrigation pipe and installed hose bib in Garden.
- Patched hole in concrete, replaced fan belt in A/C unit at Recreation Center, and mounted trash can at Skate Park.
- Rehung soap and paper towel dispensers at Senior Center, and cleaned light receptacles and secured wiring in garden.
- Stocked supplies at Fire Department and City Hall.
- Replaced flag light and photo cell at Fire Department.
- Replaced light bulbs in Parks shop.
- Fabricated and installed fencing for dog kennel at Police Department, and installed 9 door stops.
- Fabricated and hung key holder at Casino.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Graded area behind Recreation Center in preparation for plant and sod installation, trimmed low branches, and rerouted water lines on baseball field.
- Continued installation of Irrigation at Trolley Market Square.
- Mulched planter beds on Beach Boulevard.
- Planted palms at Marina.
- Continued Casino dock repairs.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Watered palms at beach and new trees at Tomlinson and pocket park daily.
- Mowed City complex, Senior Center, Library & Recreation Center green spaces, and 28th Avenue sign area.

- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Trolley Market Square, Skate Park & Recreation Center.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Trolley Market Square, Casino, Marina & Recreation Center green spaces, and along Beach & 49th Streetscapes, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades, and repaired shelving in Parks shop.
- 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 09, 10, 11 & 12 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 27 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 3 non pay rechecks to confirm water service still off.
- Completed 128 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 8 Sunshine One-Call, Call before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 5 old water meters with Pro-Coder R900i meters.
- Performed annual inspection on 10 backflows due in March.
- Installed 11 water meters at 2901 Beach Boulevard.
- Repaired water breaks at 3008 57th Street, and at 52nd Street & 25th Avenue.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 and #2.
- Daily rainfall checks and documentation, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily ground water elevation recording (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations #1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Beach, Clam Bayou & Marina for quality testing.
- Cleaned & televised sewer lateral at 5310 9th Avenue.
- Replaced manhole ring and cover at 47th Street & 29th Avenue.

Stormwater

- Cleared debris from 46 inlets following heavy rains.

Vehicle Maintenance

- 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 4 of the City, also referred to as the Art District which extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49th Street South to 58th & 59th Streets South.

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.

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

AV18-01; Alley vacation request for the remaining portion of the existing North-South Alley between 50th & 51st Streets South, and South of 24th Avenue South. P&Z RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.

March 13, 2019 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

V19-03; 1225 59th Street South; Variance request resulting from construction of a swimming pool without a building permit application to reduce the secondary street side yard setback requirements by 5 feet, from 12 feet to 7 feet to allow for the continuation of the non-permitted swimming pool.

Variance Application V19-04; 6102 8th Avenue South; Variance requests resulting from construction of two sheds and a covered pergola without building permit applications:

Shed attached to the Principal Structure:

1. To reduce rear yard setback requirement by 18 feet, from 25 feet to 7 feet; and
2. To reduce the separation distance between the pergola and principal structure by 4 feet from 12 feet to 8 feet for the continuation of the non-permitted accessory structure.

Wood Shed as part of the Covered Pergola:

1. To reduce rear yard setback requirement by 15 feet, from 15 feet to 0 feet; and
2. To reduce the side yard setback requirement by 6 feet, from 6 feet to 0 feet to allow for the continuation of the non-permitted accessory structure.

Covered Pergola:

1. To reduce rear yard setback requirement by 15 feet, from 15 feet to 0 feet;
2. To reduce the side yard setback requirement by 6 feet, from 6 feet to 0 feet to allow for the continuation of the non-permitted accessory structure; and
3. To reduce the separation distance between the pergola and unpermitted shed attached to the principal structure by 4 feet from 12 feet to 8 feet for the continuation of the non-permitted accessory structure.