



Gulfport Community Update

May 14 - 20, 2017

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

Pinellas County remains under watering restrictions implemented by the Southwest Florida Water Management District. The District's modified Phase I water shortage restrictions are in effect through July 31. Residents are encouraged to view a detailed listing of specific measures at www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/conservation/restrictions/swfwmd.php, and to sign up for the county's emergency and urgent alert public notification system at www.pinellascounty.org/alertpinellas. Call the water restrictions hotline at 1-800-848-0499 or 1-800-836-0797, ext. 2298 during business hours, or email Water.Restrictions@WaterMatters.org for more information.

Fire Chief James Marenkovic would like to remind Gulfport residents that **free smoke detectors are available to elderly and low income households within Gulfport City limits**. Call Chief Marenkovic at 893-1062 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.

Upcoming Events:

The **Gulfport Tuesday Fresh Market** is a weekly year-round open-air market featuring fruits, vegetables and 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 every Tuesday. For more information visit www.gulfportma.com, call Susan Blankenship at 453-9093 or Chris Spencer at 902-2326, or email FreshMarket@GulfportMA.com.

Don't miss the annual **City of Gulfport Hurricane Seminar** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 25. This year's guest speakers are WTSP Meteorologist Bobby Deskins and Mary Burrell from Pinellas County Emergency Management. Free Admission. Doors will open at 6 p.m. with hurricane related vendors and a 2 slice pizza special for \$3. Vendors are encouraged to email gbiron@mygulfport.us to reserve a free spot. All vendor requests will be reviewed by event facilitator Gulfport Fire Chief James Marenkovic. For more information call 893-1118.

Everyone is invited the **Tomlinson Park Complex grand opening ceremony** at 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 6. Located on the corner of 54th Street & 19th Avenue, park renovations and improvements include playground equipment for children 18 months - 12 years old, and a fitness exercise area for adults. Park renovations were approved during the December 6, 2016 Gulfport City Council meeting. Funding for the project was provided for through utilization of BP Funds and a \$17,000 Florida Department of Health Partnerships to Improve Community Health program grant. For more information call 893-1118.

Join the City of Gulfport and American Legion Post 125 annual **Flag Day commemoration** at Veterans Park on Wednesday, June 14 at 10 a.m. Special guest vocalist, former New York City Opera Soprano Catherine Bassett will perform. The New Horizons Band of Gulfport will entertain attendees with a preopening musical performance beginning at 9:30 a.m. For more information call 893-1118.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	131
Self-initiated calls for service	308
Offenses	30
Arrests	6
Traffic citations	54
Ordinance violations	39

Examples of arrests, significant incidents or calls this week:

Fifteen City-owned traffic cones worth more than \$1,000 were stolen from Veterans Park. The theft was reported on May 11.

Officers were dispatched to the 1300 block of 49th Street after a caller reported a male in the area with a rifle strapped to his back. Upon making contact with the juvenile subject, officers determined the gun was a toy.

A business owner in the 5100 block of 8th Avenue reported on May 12 that the rear door of his business had been forced open, damaging the door. Nothing appeared to be stolen or otherwise tampered with.

Two people were involved in an argument over noise from a motorcycle, and one pulled out a knife; however, it was not used to threaten anyone according to witnesses on scene.

Officers responded to the 5900 block of 9th Avenue on May 13 following a report of 3 juveniles seen breaking into a vehicle. Two of the three were immediately taken into custody and the third turned himself in later. They were charged with burglary and transported to the Pinellas County Juvenile Assessment Center.

Officers were dispatched to a vehicle crash in the 5400 block of Shore Boulevard on May 14. A bar employee who observed the crash stated that he had attempted to get Tiffany Wright to take a cab due to her level of intoxication. Wright refused and attempted to drive, striking a parked vehicle. She refused to cooperate with the investigation and was arrested for driving while license suspended or revoked and driving under the influence. Wright refused all sobriety tasks and breath testing. She was also charged with unlawful alteration of a tag and tag attached not assigned. She was transported to the county jail and the car was impounded.

Tampa Police Department pursued a stolen vehicle into Gulfport on May 15. The Saint Petersburg Police, Tampa Police Department, Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and Gulfport Police Department worked in unison to set a perimeter. The pursuit ended in the 1200 block of 52nd Street where the driver bailed out and ran into a residence. Tampa Police and K9 units made contact with a juvenile male who was arrested on multiple charges in two counties.

Officers were dispatched to the 5100 block of Newton Avenue on May 16 after two female juveniles got into an argument, and one pushed the back of the other's head. Both girls were released to their parents.

A Walgreens customer placed several body washes and deodorants down his pants and ran from the store. He was seen leaving in a blue Ford.

Michael Shannon was arrested on May 17 after he attempted to steal several items from a business in the 5000 block of Gulfport Boulevard. He dropped the items when confronted by a security guard, and fled the scene but was found by officers a short distance away.

The Marine Unit was on the water for 6 hours this week. Two boater contacts were made, and one safety check. Officer Ross also participated in joint patrol with Florida Fish and Wildlife for 6 hours.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	9
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	4
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	2
Supplements received:	18
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	3
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	13

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a grand theft auto, a burglary, and a fraud, and; issued probable cause affidavits for the arrest of two suspects.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for three auto thefts and two thefts, and; interviewed two suspects in an auto theft and two vehicle burglaries.

School Resource Officers Motte and Langston wrote two police reports this week; counseled 8 students; met with the parent of a student, and; attended a safety meeting.

Officer Motte covered a patrol shift and provided security at the Boca Ciega High School Prom.

Officer Langston completed a mental health assessment on a student, and found that the student did not meet Baker Act criteria; responded to four campus disruptions; provided security at the Boca Ciega High School Prom, and; instructed the Police Explorers during their weekly meeting, covering leadership skills and traffic stops. The Explorers also participated in scenarios regarding traffic stops, domestic related calls, Baker Acts and resisting arrest.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano updated the sexual predator/offender PowerPoint display and pamphlet, updating photos, removing 1 sexual predator, 2 sexual offenders and 1 career offender from the list as they no longer live in the City. There are currently 2 sexual predators, 21 sexual offenders and 4 career offenders living in the City.

Records

Reports reviewed	13
Supplements reviewed:	69
Public Records requests:	43
Background checks:	3
Bike registrations:	4
Fingerprints	5
Subpoenas processed:	8
Citizens assisted:	45

MARINA

Assisted with forty (40) pump outs, evacuating eight hundred ninety (890) gallons of waste.

Pumped four thousand ninety six (4,096) gallons of gas and one thousand three hundred twenty nine (1,329) gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred sixty six (166) vessels.

Transient vessels:

Staff welcomed eight vessels of various type & size this week.

Marina maintenance:

- Repaired/replaced gate closers on all piers.
- Replaced pump out valve on pier 7, slip 56.
- Repaired gate on pier #2.
- Picked up, delivered and constructed work bench.
- Cleaned main pump out sensor rods and lubricated moving external parts.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, May 8, 3:15 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Monday, May 8, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology and the Art of Relationships.*

Tuesday, May 9, 10:30 a.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop.*

Tuesday, May 9, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, May 9, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting.*

Wednesday, May 10, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers.*

Wednesday, May 10, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout.*

Wednesday, May 10, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters.*

Thursday, May 11, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime.*

Thursday, May 11, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night.*

Friday, May 12, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club.*

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, May 20, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day:* Brace yourself as you learn how the plans for the Death Star made it into the hands of the rebellion, and the brave volunteers who made it happen! Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Monday, May 22, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic night:* Open to all comedians, singer-songwriters, poets, storytellers, musicians, jugglers and stage magicians. For more information call 893-1073.

Tuesday, May 23, 2 p.m. - *Love Letters from Gulfport:* Based on Hannah Brencher's renowned project The World Needs More Love Letters, we will handwrite encouraging and loving letters. Our letters can be placed around the community or sent to someone in need of a boost. If you think you don't have the words, don't worry. We can all work together.

Thursday, May 25, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate:* Follows Storytime on the fourth Thursday of the month. Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

Thursday, May 25, 3:30 p.m. - *Kids Yoga:* Meets every fourth Thursday of the month.

Tuesday, May 25, 6 p.m. - *Asian Pacific Storytime & Family dinner*: Families are invited for a celebration of Asian Pacific Island Heritage Month. Registration required; seating is limited. Call 893-1134 or stop by the Library to sign up.

Thursday, June 1, 7 p.m. - *ArtOut LGBTQ Artists in Gulfport Opening Reception*: Celebrate the launch of the month-long exhibit at the Library! Selected works in a variety of media by 13 artists living and/or working in Gulfport. Complimentary beverages and hors d'oeuvre will be offered. The reception is free and open to the public. For more information call Jessica Sager at 608-0070 or email jessica.sager@live.com).

Saturday, June 3, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: Join us for the story of an interracial couple who travel to spend a weekend with the girl's parents. As the visit goes on, it moves from awkward to disturbing to shocking in a movie that is both funny and horrifying. Directed by Jordan Peele. For movie title, call 893-1074.

Monday, June 5, 5 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop*: Final class in a series of monthly instructional sessions; Teacher Landis Braddock teaches techniques to help improve performance.

Tuesday, June 6, 10:15 a.m. - *Mommy & Me Yoga* for parents and babies ages 6 weeks to 18 months. Instructed by registered yoga teacher Ms. Christa, the group meets on first Tuesday of the month. Meet other new parents and babies in the community, stretch, laugh, get some strength back and rejuvenate! Call 893-1074 cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Thursday, June 8, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Movie Night*: Linda Griffiths stars as a wife and mother whose life evolves after an affair with a female college professor. As part of our Pride Month events, we'll also feature remarks and an introduction by Rob McCabe, a local poet, screenwriter and self-described "armchair film historian." All are invited to our movie series on the second Thursday evening of the month. Refreshments are available. Donations will be accepted to benefit the LGBTQ Resource Center. For movie title call 893-1074. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Friday, June 9, 7 p.m. - *Summer Reading Program Kick-off Party*: Start summer with a blast from Mad Science! Stay tuned for details of upcoming programs for children and teens every Monday & Wednesday. For more information call 893-1134.

Monday, June 12, 5:30 p.m. - *Astrology Program*: Together we will explore the ancient practice of astrology as it relates to your modern life. The chart can reveal what we want and need, and how we trip ourselves up. Curious and courageous volunteers are welcome to call ahead with their date and time of birth, and as time allows, we will take a peek at your charts. Presented by Jennie (Gilmore) White of Ode to Pluto Astrology. For more information call 207-332-0787 or email jennie@odetopluto.com.

Monday, June 12, 7 p.m. - *LGBT Equality: The Path Forward*. Join Nadine Smith, co-founder and CEO of Equality Florida, the state's largest advocate for LGBTQ rights and equality, for a discussion and question/answer session.

Thursday, June 15, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club*. For more information call 893-1073.

Thursday, June 15, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*: Maya would love to hear one of your young reader's favorites. She visits our children's area on the third Thursday of every month.

Tuesday, June 20, 3 p.m. - *Tween Tinker Lab*: The group meets on third the Tuesday of each month for hands-on exploration and experimentation. Preregistration required. See Cailey in Youth Services to sign up or call 893-1074.

Every Monday, 3:15 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club*: We try a fun new activity every week, explore engineering through building with Legos, and meet other young scientists and engineers in the community! Parents get to join in on the fun too! Call Cailey at 893-1074, or email cklasson@mygulfport.us for more information.

Every Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday, 12:30 p.m. - *Lunch in a Foreign Language*: Bring a bag lunch and a dictionary. A different language group meets each weekday: Tuesday - French; Italian; Wednesday - Spanish; Friday - German. For more information call Mel Donovan at 893-1074.

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, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout*: Games and activities for teens and tweens.

Every Wednesday, 6 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*. Email contact@gulfporttoastmasters.com for more information.

Every Thursday, 10:30 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 May 7 - 13, 2017:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,334	597
Sun. 5/7	Library closed	
Mon. 5/8	229	77
Tue. 5/9	232	77
Wed. 5/10	175	97
Thu. 5/11	276	103
Fri. 5/12	208	115
Sat. 5/13	204	120

PARKS & RECREATION

Technical Events

Visit www.mygulfport.us or www.youtube.com/user/cityofgulfport to watch videos of recent City events. Cable and DSL internet users can access live and 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, and assisted with updates to social media pages.
- Rebooted TV station equipment.
- Continued daily updates and enhancements to mygulfport.us and social media sites.
- Continued preparations for Hurricane Seminar & 4th of July celebration.
- Continued work with web designer on issues concerning new website changes.
- Continued preparation of June calendar.
- Distributed May calendars and event information to Tuesday Market vendors and Gulfport Welcome Center.
- Assisted with Pride event promotions, flyer, and ticket creation/distribution.

- Sent June calendar to printer.
- Provided control room coverage for June 16 City Council meeting, uploaded footage to City website, and rebroadcast on GTV640.

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 Fridays, 8 a.m. - 4 p.m. Like us on Facebook at Gulfport Senior Center and Foundation. Help our page grow and get daily valuable information! Stop by the Senior Center for this month's calendar or download a copy at www.mygulfport.us.

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.

Learn about the most recent scams in Pinellas County and tips to avoid becoming a victim during the Area Agency on Aging's **Scam Smart** presentation on Wednesday, May 24 at 2 p.m. A free reusable bag and pen will be presented to attendees.

The Senior Center offers free blood pressure and health screenings at 10 a.m. on the last Thursday of every month. Our next **Monthly Mini Health Clinic** is May 25.

Ride along with us to **Fort DeSoto Park** on Thursday, May 25. Explore the historic fort, stroll the pristine beach or relax in the sun. Round trip transportation & box lunch: GEMS members \$12/nonmembers \$14.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games and more at 3 p.m. Friday, May 26. Sponsored by Robert Galban of Family Focus Insurance.

Find out what you need to know to make an informed decision on your Medicare Options during **Understanding Your Medicare Benefits** presented by Steven Reiser from Senior Benefit Solutions on Wednesday, May 31 at 2 p.m.

Join us on Thursday, June 1 for *The "Nazi Persecution of Homosexuals: 1933-1945* exhibit at the **Florida Holocaust Museum**. This exhibit "examines the Nazi regime's attempt to eradicate homosexuality." Experience this and many other fascinating displays. Transportation, admission and group tour: GEMS members \$14/nonmembers \$16.

Join Financial Advisor Scott O'Berry for a discussion of current events, the economy & investing over coffee & donuts during **Coffee Club** at 10 a.m. Tuesday, June 6.

Join us at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 7 for **Stay Young the First 100 Years**. Dr. Joubert Desulme, D.C. of Welcome Home Family Chiropractic & Wellness Center will explain how to avoid and prevent spinal disorders.

It's important to **Know Your Numbers**. Have your blood sugar and blood pressure checked at the Senior Center at 10:30 a.m. Thursday, June 8.

Learn how to download apps, take/send pictures, add contacts, adjust your settings, and more at 11 a.m. Friday, June 9 during the **Android Cell Phone & Tablet Instructional Class** presented by Christine & Tony of Metro PCS of South Pasadena. Limited seating; call 893-5657 to reserve a seat.

The Alzheimer's Association offers free **Memory Screenings** the second Monday of each month, 9 - 11:30 am. The next screening is June 12. By appointment only; call 893-5657 to schedule.

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 June 16. Call 582-7480 to schedule an appointment.

The **FUNDamentals of Watercolor** class meets every Tuesday at 10 a.m. This basic class uses a limited palette which emphasizes watercolor techniques including color selection, color mixing, blending and glazing, and use of the color wheel to choose a personal palette. No prior drawing or painting experience is necessary. Registration is required.

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.

Having a problem hearing on the phone? Florida residents with a hearing loss qualify for a **FREE amplified home phone**. Florida Telecommunications Relay Inc., Family Center on Deafness issues equipment at the Gulfport Senior Center at 10 a.m. every third Tuesday of the month. This program is paid for by a surcharge on all Florida households with home phone lines and all business lines, and has been available since 1991. Call 399-9983 for more information.

Recycle your old cell phone, General Mills Box tops, Campbell's labels, can tabs and eye glasses at the Senior Center. Staff forwards these 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, May 7 7 p.m. - Ballroom dance with Daniel Fugazzotto (Turnout 35)

Tuesday, May 9 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Marge Grudzinski (Turnout 23)
Noon - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 24)
7 p.m. - Argentine Tango lesson & dance (Turnout 81)

Wednesday, May 10 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn (Turnout 32)

6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 353)

Thursday, May 11 11 a.m. - Stetson Graduation Brunch (Turnout 168)
 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 25)

Friday, May 12 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 24)
 8 p.m. - Boca Ciega High School Prom (Turnout 400)

Saturday, May 13 7 p.m. - Seminole High School Prom (Turnout 500)

Casino (*upcoming events*):

Most Sundays 6 p.m. - Ballroom dance lesson
 7 p.m. - Band & Ballroom Fusion dance Admission \$8

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

Every Tuesday 9 a.m. - Tai Chi
 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker
 2 p.m. - Ballroom dance Admission \$8
 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango lessons with Kathleen & Steve Prucher
 8 p.m. - Milonga dance Admission \$8

Every Wednesday 10 a.m. - Yoga with Barbara Newborn/Joyce Bloom
 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 9 a.m. - Tai Chi
 6 p.m. - Latin Night lesson with Carol Rivera
 8 p.m. - Latin dance Admission \$8

Every Friday 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Pat Van Leuvan

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

Catherine Hickman Theater (*upcoming events*):

Thursday, May 25, 7 p.m. - *City of Gulfport Hurricane Seminar*. Free & open to the public.

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

Sunday, May 7 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 21)
 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Tuesday, May 9 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 26)
 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous

Thursday, May 11 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi (Turnout 28)

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 fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - Bible study
Every Tuesday 7 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting
Every Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. - Easy Tai Chi
Every first Wednesday 7 p.m. - Crimewatch meeting

Scout Hall (*last week's events*)

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Monday, May 8 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga (Turnout 26)
Tuesday, May 9 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 12)
Thursday, May 11 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 13)
Friday, May 12 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 11)

Scout Hall (*upcoming events*):

Every Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - Alcoholics Anonymous meeting
Every Monday 11 a.m. - Chair Yoga
Every Tuesday 6 p.m. - Meditation class
Every Tuesday & Friday 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing
Every Thursday 11 a.m. - Meditation class

Recreation Center

The game room was reserved 6 - 10 p.m. Saturday, May 13 for a graduation party with 64 in attendance.

The game room is reserved 4 - 8 p.m. Saturday, May 20 for a graduation party and 3 - 8 p.m. Saturday, May 27 for a Family Reunion.

Eighty two children are registered for the **2016/17 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.

The **2016/17 Tot Time program/VPK** ended May 12 with 23 children registered. Registration is underway for **2017/18**. Tot Time is a pre-school, hands-on 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. Classes begin Tuesday, September 5.

Twenty nine teens are registered for the **2016/17 Teen Night Program**, a great hang out for teens in grades 6-12. Teen Night provides recreation and social activities, and offers monthly field trips, cooking projects, guest speakers and service projects.

Seventy four children have been registered for the **2017 Summer Recreation Program** for children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Seven are registered for swim lessons.

Contractual classes: Bootcamp, Hoop Jam, Karate, Pickleball, Powder-Puffs Cheerleading, Table Tennis, Tennis, Watercolor, Yoga and Zumba.

Staff Activities

Staff worked at Tot Time Graduation on Friday.

Alton Hooker worked the room rental on Saturday afternoon.

After School staff attended training at R-Club.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 48 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Structure Fire
- 2 Fire Alarm
- 2 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Gas Leak
- 2 Odor/Smoke Invest
- 1 Elevator Rescue
- 1 Fire Outside Structure

Life Safety:

- 12 Fire Inspections
- 5 Re-Inspection
- Site Plan Meeting

EMS Week is May 21-27. Since Gerald Ford first recognized EMS week in 1973, communities, hospitals, healthcare organizations, survivors and EMS agencies spend a week every year in May recognizing the lifesaving work of EMS professionals.

Gulfport Firefighters continued working on their May online CME this week, a continuation of April's instruction; Clinical Decision Making Patient Care. They also will be renewing their Healthcare Provider CPR Cards this month.

The Gulfport Fire Department performed a Special Rescue Stand-by detail during Stetson Law College Graduation ceremonies on May 12 & 13. The stand-by is requested by the college during this annual event. The Gulfport Fire Department has a great partnership with Stetson's Public Safety Division, and is proud to assist them on their special day.

Chief Marenkovic attended the Pinellas County Emergency Medical Services EMS Leadership Group meeting on May 16.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Unloaded pallet of boxed envelopes in mail room at City Hall.
- Removed locking mechanism from filing cabinet at City Hall.
- Repaired south gate at Neighborhood Center.
- Cleared blocked ladies room toilet at Public Services.
- Installed screws in Casino decking.

- Replaced toilet paper holder in ladies room at Dog Park.
- Hung bulletin board in Police Department office.
- Performed monthly pest control on all City buildings.
- Delivered mail to Post Office for Finance Department.

Parks

- Replaced past events banners on Gulfport Boulevard with upcoming events banners.
- Repaired equipment at Tonkin, Caldwell and Beach playgrounds.
- Hung shelf in shop office.
- Installed benches at Recreation Center.
- Delivered popcorn machine to Library.
- Assembled stage at Recreation Center for Tot Time graduation.
- Replaced flags thought City.
- Replaced bulbs at Historical Museum.
- Repaired fence around electrical area at Tomlinson Park.
- Removed old signs at Wood Ibis Park in preparation for replacement.
- Replaced cover for beach showers shut off valve.
- Met with pest control contractor at historical building.
- Hand watered new sod at Tomlinson Park.
- Sealed and coated picnic tables.
- Oiled bench swings at beach and Williams Pier
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Veterans Park and Library green spaces, raked around benches, pavilions and cleaned beach.
- Picked up trash and emptied receptacles.
- Mowed City Complex, Senior Center, Library & Recreation Center green spaces, Clymer & Veterans Parks, and 28th Avenue sign area.
- Repaired irrigation at Recreation Center and replaced sprinkler heads at Little League fields.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers and sharpened/replaced blades.
- Picked up trash and emptied bins along Beach & Shore Boulevards.
- Staff continues to rake Gulfport Beach & volleyball areas every Monday and Friday. Trash and debris were picked up along the water and children's playground areas.
- All City parks trash containers and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playground areas.
- Mowed, raked, lined and dragged ball fields.

Streets & Sanitation

- Delivered recycling bins with information sheets.
- Completed billable work orders for brush, Code Enforcement, trash/furniture & electronics.
- Removed and disposed of animal carcasses from City rights of way.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout City.
- Repaired asphalt and potholes throughout City.
- Cleaned and removed debris from beach, storm drains, inlets, and storm water outfalls and reset storm grates throughout City.
- Set grade and added millings in alleyways per direction.
- Removed limbs & branches obstructing City roadways, alleyways & sidewalks.
- Cleaned debris, cans and trash following Tuesday Market.
- Restocked recycled mulch pile in Neighborhood Center parking lot.

- Removed several loads of debris from 49th Street holding area.
- Continued automated curbside street sweeping throughout City.
- Removed garbage and debris following volleyball tournament on beach & High School Proms at Casino.
- Installed/repaired/replaced signs throughout City.
- Continued dust control spraying in alleys throughout City.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at 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 the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 25 locations for non-payment of service.
- Performed 10 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 133 miscellaneous customer service department service orders.
- Completed 8 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Collected bay water samples at Gulfport Shores, Gulfport Beach & Marina for quality testing.
- Replaced 5 old meters with new electronic meters.
- Replaced 2 meters that were stuck and not recording water usage.
- Mailed letters to lead & copper sampling participants regarding upcoming event.
- Performed annual DEP required testing of 78 backflow devices due in May.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 & 2.
- Daily rain fall check and documentation.
- Daily ground water elevation recording.
- Weekly generator exercise and preventive maintenance check on Lift Stations 1 & 2, Fire Department/Garage, Police Station/City Hall, and Senior Center.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 6220 7th Avenue.

Stormwater

- Removed old corrugated metal pipes across Freemont Street & across 9th Avenue and replaced with new 15" PVC SDR 26 storm pipes.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Performed safety inspection and checked tires and psi on GEMS vehicle #1.
- Replaced cooling fan assembly, radiator and coolant on Police vehicle #6.
- Investigated check engine light and charging system on Police vehicle #7.
- Replaced wiper blades on Police vehicle #9.
- Reattached splash shield on Police vehicle #530.
- Replaced exhaust pipes and clamps on Sanitation vehicle #41.
- Changed oil & filter, topped off all fluids and performed safety inspection on Water vehicle #22.
- Assembled new drill press for garage.
- Performed preventative maintenance, repairs and or duties as needed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Thinking of starting a new business? Check out the **New Business Checklist** on the City website at www.mygulfport.us under the Online Services/Documents and Publications section.

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business, visit the **Pinellas County Economic Development Small Business Development Center** website at www.pced.org/entrepreneurs or call 464-7723. They also offer personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

Building Division staff tries to take special time to work with homeowners embarking on do-it-yourself projects. Whether it's deferred maintenance or new improvements, many are electing to do these projects themselves. Before embarking on home improvement projects give us a call at 893-1024 to discuss plans and see what inspections may be necessary, or for an explanation of code requirements.

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 projects can quickly overwhelm those less skilled in construction methodology and management.

Don't take chances with unlicensed contractors

The Pinellas County Communications Department offers the following information when looking for qualified contractors:

The 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.

"Do your homework and follow the guidelines and resources provided to you by the Pinellas County Construction Licensing Board," said Executive Director Rodney Fischer. "Why take a chance with your money and safety?"

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.

Code Enforcement activities continued this week in Section 2 of the City, also known as the Northeast Area which generally extends north to 7th Avenue, south to Gulfport Boulevard, west to 58th Street and east to 49th Street.

There were 78 cases for April. The fiscal year-to-date total number of cases is 806. The number of citizen complaints for April was 26, making a fiscal year-to-date total of 192. The fiscal year-to-date ratio of complaints to total number of cases is 23.8 percent.

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. E-mail correspondence is considered a public record, so if you wish to make a complaint using e-mail, please understand that 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.

June 14, 2017 Board of Adjustment meeting:

V17-10; 2720 57th Street South; Variance request to reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 5 feet 9 inches, from 25 feet to 19 feet 3 inches feet for the continued use of an existing aluminum patio cover.

V17-11; 4743 Baywood Point Drive South; Variance requests:

- 1) To reduce the required setback from the secondary street of double frontage lot by 10 feet from 25 feet to 15 feet to recognize the existing encroachment of the rear of the house;
- 2) To reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 15 feet, from 25 feet to 10 feet or the demolition of a rear portion of an existing house for the proposed construction of new living space; and
- 3) To reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 13 feet, from 25 feet to 12 feet to enclose an existing covered porch to create new living space.

V17-12; 5913 Bayview Circle South; Variance request to reduce the left-hand one-third setback requirement by 10.67 feet, from 26.67 feet to 16 feet to allow for the removal of the existing dock, catwalk and boat lift, and proposed construction of a new boat lift and catwalk to service

the boat lift to be located on the left-hand side of the proposed new dock that will be built in the center one-third of the waterfront area.

V17-13; 6307 11th Avenue South; The following variance requests result from the submittal and two subsequent revisions of a building permit application (201700439) to add an addition to the rear of the existing house which creates separation distance issues between an accessory structure and primary structure:

- 1) To acknowledge the current separation distance of 6 feet between the accessory structure and the existing house; and
- 2) To reduce the required separation distance between the accessory structure (carport) and the new house addition by 8 feet, from 12 feet to 4 feet.