



Gulfport Community Update

May 20 - 26, 2018

Gulfport City Hall and facilities will be closed on Monday, May 28 in observance of Memorial Day. The Sanitation schedule will not be affected.

Public Works Director Tom Nicholls reports that the **Gulfport Boulevard paving project** is complete. A final inspection/walk-through is scheduled for the week of May 28. For more information, call Pinellas County Project Coordinator Wesley Merritt at 464-8821.

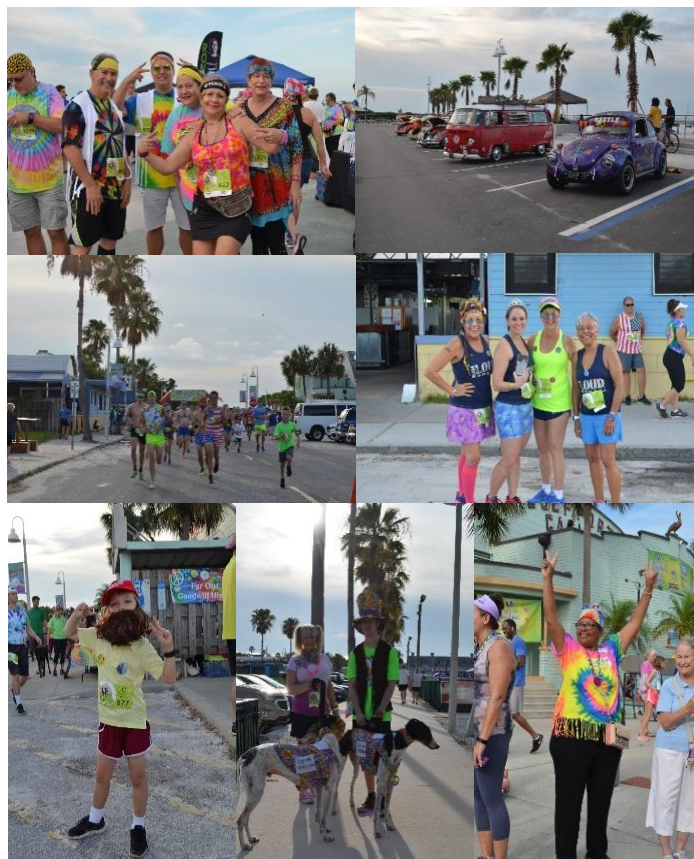
The **sidewalk on Beach Boulevard at 29th Avenue South is closed** through June due to building construction. Pedestrians on Beach Boulevard are advised to use the crosswalks at 29th & 30th Avenues. Call the Gulfport Public Works Department at 893-1089 for more information.

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.

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 rebate of 50% up to \$3,500.00 after the replacement, purchase, installation, and inspection of a failing sewer lateral between the home and the city connection. Certain restrictions apply; visit www.mygulfport.us/lateralrebate for more information.

More than a thousand people gathered in Gulfport's Waterfront District, showing a lot of Peace, Love & Goodwill during the **2018 Hippie Dash** on May 19 (photos below).



The **Gulfport Senior Center** received a new **GEMS bus** this week (photos below) with funding from the Federal Transit Administration's Seniors & Individuals with Disabilities Capital Assistance Program. GEMS provides door-to-door transportation for medical appointments, grocery shopping, social or recreational activities, and other needs.



Upcoming Events:

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

Join Mayor Sam Henderson and City Councilmember Paul Ray for the **LGBTQ Flag Raising** at the Gulfport Public Library at 6 p.m. Thursday, May 31. The ceremony coincides with the *Second Annual ArtOut Opening Reception* a month-long exhibit of LGBTQ Gulfport artists. The LGBTQ Resource Center is a project of the non-profit Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Public Library. For more information on the LGBTQ Resource Center visit www.mygulfport.us/lgbtq-resources or call Library Director Dave Mather at 893-1075.

The Atlantic Basin Hurricane season begins June 1. Hurricane Guides are available at Gulfport City Hall, the Library and Fire Station. The closest pet-friendly shelter is Gibbs High School, 850 34th Street South, St. Petersburg. Have a plan and remember to restock your hurricane kits! Get informed to be prepared during the **City of Gulfport Hurricane Seminar** at the Catherine Hickman Theater, 5502 27th Avenue at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 31. Admission is free. Attendees can enjoy a pizza slice and soft drink for \$3 beginning at 6 p.m. For more information, call 893-1118.

Gulfport's Shore Boulevard will transform into a mecca of activity during the **Second Annual Gulfport Grand Prix**, featuring the NGK Spark Plugs Formula One Powerboat Championship & Boat Show Friday - Sunday, June 1 - 3. Visit www.gulfportgrandprix.com for more information.

The next **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, June 9 at 9 a.m. A limited number of pickers will be available; if you have one please bring it. Meet at Gulfport Beach pavilion #4. This is a great way to meet your neighbors and make a difference in the community.

Join the City of Gulfport and American Legion Post 125 to commemorate **Flag Day** at Veterans Park at 10 a.m. Thursday, June 14. This event is free and open to the public. Special guest vocalist and former New York City Opera Soprano Catherine Bassett will perform. The New Horizons Band of Gulfport pre-opening musical performance begins at 9:30 a.m. For more information, call Technical Events Specialist Kristin Ossola at 893-1118.

It's time to get creative with our long tradition of welcoming local businesses, organizations, family and friends to join the **City of Gulfport Independence Day Celebration** on Wednesday, July 4. The City of Gulfport has an amazing lineup of fun and exciting activities in the downtown waterfront district. Visit www.mygulfport.us/july_4th_celebration/ or call Kristin Ossola at 893-1118 for more information or to register for the parade.

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.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Patrol

Dispatch calls for service	135
Self-initiated calls for service	424
Incident/offense reports	38
Arrests	5
Traffic citations	97
Ordinance violations	26
Residence checks	112

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Officers were dispatched to a report of 2 people arguing in the 5500 block of Shore Boulevard on May 18. One of the participants told officers she thought the other individual hit her vehicle. Order and was restored both people went their separate ways.

Patrol officers assisted off duty officers with traffic control in the 5500 block of Shore Boulevard and various intersections throughout Gulfport during the Hippy Dash 5/8K Run on May 19.

A Save-a-Lot customer returned to the store claiming she had been given a counterfeit \$5 and wanted to exchange it. When the manager refused, she caused a commotion and the manager requested she be issued a written trespass warning.

Officers responded a report of swimmer in distress in Boca Ciega Bay. The caller stated that the woman in the water between Williams Pier and the Gulfport Casino Dock. Officers located the swimmer who was intoxicated and advised that she lost her swimsuit in the water and refused to come out until she could cover herself. After finding clothing for her, she was checked by fire rescue and taken home by friend.

A resident in the 1000 block was taken into custody under the Baker Act after a caller reported the man was suicidal and had left the residence. The reporting party told the officers that the man also said he was going to shoot officers who attempted to make contact with him. The man returned a short time later and refused to cooperate with officers but was taken into custody without incident.

A resident in the 5600 block of 30th Avenue reported on May 20 that his girlfriend was intoxicated and angry at him, so she smashed the windows on his car. He did not wish to press charges.

Someone smashed the windows on 7 vehicles parked in the 2900 & 3000 blocks of Beach Boulevard in the early morning hours of May 20 and stole cash and other items. Benjamin Langkamp Jr. was arrested on May 25 and charged with the thefts.

A resident in the 5000 block of 14th Avenue was issued a citation on May 21 after a caller reported he was scratched by a dog running loose. The dog approached officers aggressively, forcing Ofc. Clague to use his Taser. The owner was located through microchip identification and cited for dog at large, and Animal Services was notified.

Officers were dispatched to the 1200 block of 49th Street after a reported he was robbed at gunpoint. There is limited information available for follow up.

Shane Trauger was arrested for nonpayment of child support following a disturbance in the 5900 block of Gulfport.

An employee terminated from his job at an auto repair shop in the 1200 block of 49th Street stole a set of car keys before he left the business. He then contacted the customer and told him he would return the keys for \$100.

Officers were dispatched to a report of a two roommates fighting in the 5300 block of 21st Avenue on May 23. Neither wished to prosecute and no injuries were reported. They agreed to separate to cool off.

The marine unit was on the water for approximately 10 hours this week. Officers conducted ten vessel stops, 4 boater contacts, issued 4 citations, and initiated a derelict vessel investigation.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	9
Cases assigned:	2
Cases suspended-no leads:	6
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	1
Supplements received:	18
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	1
Cases suspended/no leads:	2
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	2
Cases still active:	13

Investigator Highlights

CIS members conducted an overnight surveillance detail following 13 auto burglaries in the area of 30th Avenue & Beach Boulevard, resulting in the arrest of Benjamin Langkamp, Jr.

Records

Reports reviewed	15
Supplements reviewed:	94
Public Records requests:	121
Background checks:	1
Bike registrations:	1
Fingerprints:	3
Subpoenas processed:	4
Citizens assisted	40

MARINA

Assisted with twelve pump outs evacuating three hundred thirty gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand three hundred twenty-eight gallons of gas and six hundred twenty gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred eighty-two vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Replaced GFCI outlet on dock 5, slip 9.
- Installed freshwater cutoff valve at Boca Ciega Yacht Club.
- Installed overhead outdoor light fixture outside ship store.
- Repaired paper towel dispenser outside women's restroom.
- Repaired towel hook in women's upstairs shower.
- Replaced dock box on pier 2, slip 29.
- Inspected and performed weekly routine maintenance on Marina pump out systems.
- Inspected gas and diesel sumps.
- Replaced broken dock cleats on Gulfport Casino transient dock.
- Repaired damage on pier 2 caused by vessel.
- Inspected all marina piers for repairs.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, May 14, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club*.

Tuesday, May 15, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club*.

Tuesday, May 15, 2 p.m. - *Ukulele Group*.

Tuesday, June 19 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*.

Tuesday, May 15, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.

Wednesday, May 16, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.

Wednesday, May 16, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.

Thursday, May 17, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of A Brief History of Seven Killings* by Marlon James.

Thursday, May 17, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*.

Thursday, May 17, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.

Thursday, May 17, 4 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*.

Thursday, May 17, 6 p.m. - *Bees Learning mobile reading intervention program*.

Thursday, May 17, 6 p.m. - *Welcome to Gulfport Workshop*.

Friday, May 18, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.

Saturday, May 19, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day*.

Upcoming Events:

Saturday, May 26, 1 p.m. - *Silly Sock Monsters*: We'll supply the materials, you supply your imagination to design a goofy face for your creation. Craft for kids ages 8-12.

Thursday, May 31, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Pride Flag Raising*. See page 1 for more information

Thursday, May 31, 7 p.m. - *Second Annual ArtOut Opening Reception: LGBTQ Artists in Gulfport*. See page 1 for more information.

Saturday, June 2, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: A fast-paced spy thriller. Ballerina Dominika Egorova is recruited to a special school in the Russian Intelligence service, where she learns to use her body as a weapon. Her first mission targeting a CIA agent threatens to unravel the security of both nations. Stars Jennifer Lawrence, Joel Edgerton, Ciaran Hinds, Jeremy Irons, and Charlotte Rampling, and is rated R. Call 893-1074 for title.

Monday, June 4, 5:30 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop*: Last in a series of monthly instructional sessions taught by Landis Braddock. Join us for a fun-filled Strum & Sing Jam.

Monday, June 4, 6 p.m. - *LGBTQ Book Club discussion of Hurricane Child by Kheryn Callender*. Copies available at the Circulation Desk.

Tuesday, June 5 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 7, 7 p.m. - *Waltzing Matilda*: Join Tampa Bay's Favorite Drag Performer and Creative Loafing Best of the Bay Reader's Pick 2013 & 2017 Matthew McGee for the debut of an all-new country western cabaret show. This autobiographical honkytonk revue is more Hee Haw than CMA as Matthew is joined by Tampa Bay's celebrated music man Michael Raabe as Clem for a melodious trip down memory lane, featuring songs by some of country music's biggest stars. Get ready for lots of laughs, big hair and multi-colored fringe as "Miss McGee" two-steps her way into your heart. Appropriate for all ages. Tickets \$20, or \$25 for early access with hors d'oeuvre reception and preferred seating, available at Beach Bazaar & Gulfport Casino: **NOTE: This event will take place at Catherine Hickman Theater, 5501 27th Avenue.**

Friday, June 8, 7 p.m. - *Summer Reading Kick/off Party*: Save the date for our fabulous start with entertainment provided by the Bucky & GiGi Show. Keep checking our Facebook page for updates to our awesome summer lineup of activities and events for all ages.

Saturday, June 9, 1 p.m. - *Raven's Guild*: Gather fans of anime, manga, gaming! Perfect your artistic skills this month by drawing characters. We'll also screen a movie. Supplies and refreshments provided by the Circle of Friends of Gulfport Library. For ages 12-18. Call 893-1074 for movie title.

Thursday, June 14, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*: Join us for this special Pride Month installment of our monthly Film Series. While the LGBTQ community began to experience greater visibility in the wake of 1969's Stonewall riots, generations had quietly lived their lives before, out of the public eye. Filmmaker Stu Maddux reveals this hidden history by unearthing a treasure trove of rare home movies made by gay people, some dating back to the 1930s that have long languished in the backs of closets. Projecting the viewer back in time, these private moments open a fascinating window into the surprising vibrancy of unheralded LGBT lives. (Not rated) As part of our Pride Month celebration we will feature a guest speaker from the Tampa Bay International Gay & International Film Festival (TIGLFF) who will briefly talk about TIGLFF and introduce the film. Call 893-1074 for title.

Tuesday, June 19 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*: Kids, indulge your passion for the tiny building blocks of creativity! Meets in the Youth Services area.

Thursday, June 21, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of A Brief History of Seven Killings* by Marlon James. Copies available at the Circulation Desk. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, June 21, 3:30 p.m. - *Reading Paws*: Young readers boost their confidence by sharing a story with Maya, a specially trained Golden Retriever. She visits our children's area on the third Thursday of every month.

Thursday, June 21, 7 p.m. - *Open Mic Night & Poetry Slam featuring special guest Gulfport Poet Laureate Peter Hargitai*: Add your voice to a celebration of the spoken word! Slam poetry, readings and storytelling will be part of this open mic evening. Email samira.obeid@gmail.com to sign up or for more information.

Tuesday, June 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 Christa Fairbrother, RYT and Certified Yoga for Arthritis Instructor. For more information and to sign up, call Cailey Klasson 893-1074.

Thursday, June 28, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate*: Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

Every Monday, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club*: We'll try a fun new activity every week, explore engineering through building with Lego's, and meet other young scientists and engineers in the community! Email cklasson@mygulfport.us or call 893-1074 to register.

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, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout/Knitting*: Know how to knit? Want to learn or get better doing it? We'll supply the needles and yarn.

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 Thursday, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*: Join us for an afternoon story, songs, movement and crafts! Everyone welcome but geared for 2-5 year-olds.

Every Thursday, 6 p.m. - *Bees Learning*: Mobile reading intervention program. Classes held in RV parked in front of Library. **Registration required.** Email leahveal@beeslearning.org or call 404-308-0295 for more information.

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

Library Services/Statistic May 13 - 19, 2018:

Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,549	1,161
Sun. 5/13	Library closed	
Mon. 6/14	321	206
Tue. 5/15	224	203
Wed. 5/16	232	195
Thu. 5/17	274	188
Fri. 5/18	294	163

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.
- Assisted with daily updates and enhancements to City website.
- Posted upcoming events to social media sites.
- Created designs for e-newsletter.
- Made preparations for upcoming events.
- Continued preparation of June calendar.
- Provided photographic coverage for Goodwill Hippie Dash.

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. 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. Find us on Facebook at www.FB.com/GulfportSeniorCenter.

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.

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 31.

Our Thursday, May 31 **GEMS Getaway will take us to Shell Key**, one of the best shelling & birding natural preserves on the Gulf Coast. Find beautiful shells, birdwatch or snorkel at this wonderfully undeveloped barrier island. Round-trip transportation, boat shuttle, beach umbrella, mask & snorkel and bottled water: GEMS members \$30/nonmembers \$32.

Meet the home improvement experts at the **Tampa Bay Home Show** on June 1 as you spend the day discovering great exhibits, giveaways, door prizes, seminars, and much more. Round trip transportation & admission: GEMS members \$4/nonmembers \$6.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cook books, collectibles, and many other goodies at **First Friday Flea Market** on June 1 at 9 a.m.

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

Learn about **Cuba and the Cuban Legal System** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 6. We will discuss the makeup of the Cuban legal system, the effect of socialist law on the system, the use of lay judges instead of juries, and some major differences between the Cuban and American criminal systems. Presented by Gulf Beaches Law, P.A.

Enjoy a wide selection of your favorite foods: Japanese, American, Italian, Chinese, & many other items when the **Out-to-Lunch Bunch** visits **Big Apple Sushi Hibachi Buffet** on Thursday, June 7. There's something for everyone! Round trip transportation: GEMS members \$4/nonmembers \$6. Meal paid for individually.

AARP's Home Fit Workshop educates older adults on how to navigate living spaces to allow them to remain in their own homes as they age. Join us 2 p.m. Wednesday, June 13 at to learn to evaluate your home for "livability" should you or a family member become unable to use stairs or need to rely on assistive devices. A Home Fit facilitator will help you understand how homes can be designed and modified to help you get around independently in all of your living spaces as safely as possible. Attendees will also receive a copy of the Home Fit Guide.

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 14.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, June 29. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

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 15. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

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.

Are you overwhelmed with the responsibilities & challenges of being a caregiver? You are not alone! On-going support for you is essential. The **Caregivers Support Group** meets at 1 p.m. every first & third Friday of the month. This peer-led group will share tips, offer encouragement, and discuss the trials, demands, & overwhelming experience of caring for a loved one.

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.

Join us at 1 p.m. every Wednesday for **Clubhouse Chatter**, offering open discussion about the MLB season and your hometown Rays; the good, the bad and the ugly and what the season could have been. Topics will include Player Personnel, Draft Picks, Farm System (Minor Leagues), Coaching Staff, Spring Season, Ticket Pricing, and of course the future of Tropicana Field. Rays staff and players will be invited attend.

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 13	Wedding reception (Turnout 55)
Tuesday, May 15	10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi (Turnout 25) 12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 22) 6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 56)
Wednesday, May 16	8 a.m. - Keller-Williams seminar (Turnout 35) 6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 228)
Thursday, May 17	11 a.m. - Stetson graduation brunch (Turnout 140) 6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 14)
Friday, May 18	11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 28) 7 p.m. - Sock Hop with The Impacs (Turnout 174)
Saturday, May 19	8 a.m. - Goodwill Hippy Dash after party (Turnout 1,000)

Casino (upcoming events):

Select Sundays	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 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 with Kathleen & Steve Prucher
 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 Friday 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom

Every third Friday 7 p.m. - Sock Hop with The Impacs

Catherine Hickman Theater (last week's events):

Wednesday, May 16 1 p.m. - SunFlower School play (Turnout 125)

Thursday, May 17 7 p.m. - SunFlower School play (Turnout 165)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Thursday, May 31, 6 p.m. - *City of Gulfport Hurricane Preparedness Seminar*: See page 2 for more information.

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events):

Sunday, May 13 9 a.m. - Faith Cathedral Int'l Church services (Turnout 12)
 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Saturday, May 19 1 p.m. - Graduation party (Turnout 45)

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, May 14 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 15)

Tuesday, May 15 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 8)

Scout Hall (upcoming events):

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

Every Monday	11 a.m. - Chair Yoga
Every Tuesday	10:30 a.m. - Line dancing
Every Thursday	11 a.m. - Meditation class
Every Friday	10:30 a.m. - Line dancing

RECREATION CENTER

The game room was reserved 1 - 5 p.m. Saturday, May 19 for a baby shower with 45 in attendance.

The game room is reserved 4 - 9 p.m. Saturday, May 26 for a graduation party.

Sixty-six children have been registered for the **2018 Summer Recreation Program** for children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. Five have also been registered for swim class. Hours of registration: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Summer program hours are 7:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m. with extended hours available until 6 p.m. for an extra fee. For more information, call 893-1068.

Forty-one teens are registered for the **2017/18 Teen Night Program**, a great hangout 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.

Contractual classes: Bootcamp, Gentle Yoga, Essential Oils, Karate, Pickleball, Slow Flow Yoga, Table Tennis, Tennis and Zumba.

Staff Activities

John Lapham used the school bus to transport sixty-six Gulfport elementary students and six adults to the Northwest Recreation Center/Swimming Pool in St. Petersburg on Friday.

Angelica Castro-Tovar worked the room rental on Saturday.

Marivel Gutierrez attended the Senior Staff meeting on Wednesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 34 Emergency Medical Calls
- 1 Trauma Alert
- 2 Structure Fires
- 1 Fire Alarm
- 3 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Fires Outside Structure
- 1 Water Rescue

Life Safety:

- 7 Fire Inspections
- 2 Re-Inspections
- 2 Site Review for Boat Races
- 3 C.O.s

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is June 21. CERT will participate in WebEOC Training on June 9.

Gulfport Firefighters continued their May 2018 CME this week. This month's topics: Environmental Emergencies, Obstetrics & Gynecology, and Patients Under the Influence.

Chief Marenkovic, attended the Pinellas County Fire Chief's Association meeting in Largo on May 24.

Inspector Lundh attended the Pinellas County Fire Marshal's meeting in Palm Harbor on May 24. ~~Violent Patients, Special Needs Patients, Medical/Legal and Narrative Documentation. Firefighter/Paramedic Michael Barber received his Florida State Fire officer I Certification on April 25, 2018. Please congratulate him on a job well done.~~

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Cleared blocked toilet in men's restroom at Casino.
- Performed monthly filter change and semi-annual maintenance on all City a/c units.
- Repaired duct work at Fire Department & Recreation Center.
- Installed new numbers on Beach Pavilions.
- Finished Casino decking replacement, and installed deck light.
- Repaired sign light at William's Pier.
- Replaced ballasts at Library.
- Replaced exit light at Recreation Center.
- Repaired gate at Neighborhood center.
- Cleaned roof drains at Library, Senior Center and Recreation Center.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Aerated baseball fields.
- Cleaned beach restrooms and prepped for painting.
- Cleaned roof drains at Library and Senior Center.
- Inspected A/C units and ran new thermostat wire at Fire Station.
- Installed new signage at beach restrooms and pavilions.
- Tied up loose fencing at dog park.
- Hung NO PARKING signs for event.
- Ran new phone line at City Hall.
- Continued replacement of decking at Casino.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at City complex & Hoyt Field.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Weeded, cleaned, mulched & replanted beds at Library, and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, sharpened/replaced blades, repaired tires on aerator, and assembled new line caulker for ball fields.
- All City park trash and cigarette waste containers were emptied.
- Watered all non-irrigated areas.
- Cleaned all City playgrounds.

Streets & Sanitation

- Completed billable work orders for pick-up of brush, electronics & appliances, trash & furniture, and items requested for pick-up by Code Enforcement.
- Picked up residential bagged leaves, as requested.
- Delivered/replaced residential recycling bins with information sheets.
- Assembled & delivered new automated trash containers, and replaced broken containers, as requested.
- Removed and disposed of illegal dumping and curbside yard waste throughout the City.
- Patched asphalt throughout City as needed.

Water

- Daily Chloramines sampling at the points of connection to water distribution system, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and read of Wholesale meters, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily inspection and recording of rainfall, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Daily check of ground water levels, (includes Saturday & Sunday).
- Completed routes #31,32,33, and 34 of monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 19 locations for non-payment of service.
- Completed 5 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 104 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 12 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Tested 5 backflow preventers.
- Installed battery tender for generator at Police Department.
- Relocated water meter and backflow at Beachway Mobile Home Park.
- Installed meter and backflow at 6125 13th Avenue.
- Repaired water break at 5201 18th Avenue.
- Flushed dead end water lines throughout City.

Sewer

- Daily preventive maintenance and service to Lift Stations #1 and #2.
- Daily rainfall check 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, (twice a week), at Gulfport Beach, Clam Bayou, and Marina, for quality testing.
- Dug up and repaired City sewer lateral at 1105 55th Street.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 1119 61st Street.
- Inspected 33 sanitary manholes throughout City.

Stormwater

- Cleared parking lot drain blockage at Recreation Center parking lot.
- Replaced ring and cover at 46th Street & 29th Avenue.
- Cleaned Suntree structure at 49th Street & 29th Avenue.
- Cleared rain debris from inlet structures throughout City.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced control arm and bushing on Police Department vehicle #6.
- Replaced front brakes on Police Department vehicle #116.

- Repaired hopper cylinder on Sanitation vehicle #47.
- Replaced engine turbo on Streets vehicle #38.
- Replaced grabber arm pin and bushing on Sanitation vehicle #46.
- Repaired hood latch and front tire on Streets Division Backhoe #79.
- Repaired transmission on Sanitation vehicle #44.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles, as needed.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Building Division

The longer daylight hours of summer create opportunities for those do-it-yourself projects you may have put off until now. 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.co.

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 continued this week in Section 4 of the City, also referred to as the Art District which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and east from 49th Street to 58th & 59th Streets.

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. If you wish to make a complaint using e-mail such communications are not anonymous.

Beginning in June Code Enforcement activities will move to Section 5 of the City, also referred to as the Marina District which comprises the southeast portion of the City and generally extends south from 26th Avenue to the water and east from 49th Street to City boundaries.

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 13, 2018 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

V18-10; 6329 Pasadena Point Boulevard South; Variances requested:

1. To reduce the right-hand one-third setback requirement by 17.4 feet, from 41.4 feet to 24 feet for the proposed construction of a new dock and new boat lift;
2. To increase the allowable length of the dock by 8 feet, from 62 feet to 70 feet; and
3. To increase the allowable length of the catwalk by 4 feet, from 62 feet to 66 feet for a new catwalk to service another new boat lift to be located on the left-hand side of the existing dock.

V18-11; 1301 59th Street South; Variances requested:

1. To reduce the required front yard setback by 6.2 feet, from 25 feet to 18.8 feet for the proposed construction of an open deck on the front of the house;
2. To reduce the required secondary street side yard setback by 5.85 feet from 12 feet to 6.15 feet for the proposed construction of a partially covered deck; and
3. To reduce the required secondary street side yard setback by 5.8 feet from 12 feet to 6.2 feet for the proposed construction of an open deck.