



Gulfport Community Update

April 1 - 7, 2018

Public Works Director Tom Nicholls reports he received the following **22nd Avenue Drainage Improvement Project update** from Pinellas County: Paving is tentatively scheduled to begin April 9 and finish April 18. The contractor anticipates the project will be completed by May 4. For more information, call Pinellas County Project Coordinator Wesley Merritt at 464-8821.

Public Works Director Tom Nicholls reports that **sanitary sewer pipe work** is underway throughout the City. The process will take approximately 18 months. Call the Gulfport Public Works Department at 893-1089.

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.

More than eight thousand eggs were scooped up by children aged eight and younger during the **13th Annual City of Gulfport and Stetson College of Law Public Service Fellows Fun in the Sun Day Event** (photos below). A raffle was held for ten prize baskets for children age newborn - 17, and one for adults. They also had the opportunity to check out their favorite City & County vehicles, watch equipment demonstrations, take pictures with Peter Cottontail and enjoy a cookout.



Upcoming Events:

The annual **Gulfport Springfest Garden Art & Faerie Festival** is 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Saturday, April 7 & 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday April 8. Gulfport's 7.5 acre Clymer Park transforms into an enchanted village inhabited by Renaissance-era characters, gypsies, minstrels, wizards and roving entertainers in costume, featuring a wide variety of family friendly activities. Vendors will offer plants, garden art, flowers, herbs, Renaissance-period clothing, jewelry, art, hand-made crafts, food & beverages, and other items of whimsical interest. 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. For more information visit www.sikpromotions.com/applicants/spring/springfest or www.facebook.com/GulfportSpringfest.

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.

Join the Friends of the Gulfport Groove for **A Dance Just for Fun!** at the Gulfport Casino at 8 p.m. Friday, April 13. Songs from the 60s through today will be played by our very own Mayor Sam Henderson and DJ ZK and. Tickets \$10, available in advance at Gulfport Beach Bazaar, 3115 Beach Boulevard, online at www.facebook.com/events/2077978159152347, or at the door.

The **Gulfport Neighbors Beach Cleanup** is Saturday, April 14 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.

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, April 28, 8 a.m. - 1 p.m. Drop junk that works at the free trade table. Free bike registration and helmets for kids, have coffee with a cop and get gardening tips from the community garden team. The City's Public Works Department will also have a garbage truck for the kids to check out.

BCYC's Funday is Saturday, May 6, 1 - 4 p.m. This annual open house offers an opportunity for the public to tour the Boca Ciega Yacht Club and learn about their activities and positive impact on the community. For more information call 321-7295 or visit www.sailbcyb.org.

Groove on down to **Hippie Dash 5k & 8k** at 8 a.m. Saturday, May 19. 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 other barriers to employment.

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 slice of pizza and a soft drink for \$3 beginning at 6 p.m.

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

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	168
Self-initiated calls for service	349
Incident/offense reports	63
Arrests	9
Traffic citations	56
Ordinance violations	34
Residence checks	63

Examples of arrests or significant incidents or calls this week:

Officer Ross made contact with the occupants of a vehicle in an alley in the 5200 block of 18th Avenue in the early morning hours of March 29. However, the driver started the truck and fled the scene. Officer Ross identified the man Christopher Rock, as the registered owner of the truck. Later in the day Officer Ross observed Rock in the truck, pulling into a driveway. Rock fled again, crashing through three neighbors' fences. He was found the next day and charged with two counts of fleeing & eluding, and three counts of leaving the scene of a crash with property damage.

Officer Priest found evidence that the renter of a storage unit in the 1600 block of 51st Street had tapped into a nearby electrical meter and used power without paying for it. Although the crime did not occur in the presence of the officer the suspect confessed when questioned, and a petit theft charge was forwarded to the State Attorney's Office for prosecution.

A resident in the 5900 block of Seabird Drive reported that someone used her bank account number to forge a personal check which was then cashed at a location elsewhere in Florida.

A kayak impounded by police for a City ordinance violation was stolen from a compound in the 1600 block of 49th Street.

A resident in the 5700 block of 12th Avenue reported on March 30 that while he was away from home on March 27, someone entered his apartment and stole several items. The victim decided not to notify the police the day the burglary occurred, but then later changed his mind and made the report after an acquaintance convinced him that he should.

Five mailboxes in 6000 block of Gulfport Boulevard were damaged by unknown subjects on March 31.

A resident in the 4900 block of 12th Avenue reported that sometime overnight someone entered her boyfriend's unlocked vehicle and stole the keys to her house and car. They then stole her car which was later recovered by the St Petersburg Police Department after a hit and run.

Cicero Holloway was arrested on several narcotics charges following a traffic stop in the 6800 block of Gulfport Boulevard for driving a car with a temporary tag that was not assigned. There was a strong odor of marijuana coming from the car and Holloway admitted to having a joint in the center console. Additional marijuana, ecstasy, and crack cocaine was found in his pocket while he was being searched.

A Samsung Galaxy Note 4 phone was stolen from a countertop at a business in the 2900 block of Beach Boulevard. Surveillance video from the business shows a man taking the phone and quickly leaving with another man.

A 2008 Toyota Highlander was stolen from the 2900 block of Miriam Street on April 1 after the owner left the back hatch open and the keys inside while she was kayaking.

A resident in the 5000 block of 11th Avenue reported on April 2 that sometime between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. someone stole a 4'x 7' open trailer with a ramp from their driveway.

A resident in the 1100 block of 53rd Street reported that someone threw a brick at the front window of his home. There are no known suspects at this time.

Mitchell King was arrested April 3 on three outstanding warrants for probation violation. He was taken into custody at his residence in the 1000 block of 59th Street without incident.

A customer at Nancy's Nails did not like being told she had to wait to get a manicure. She broke several items in the business including a fish tank, killing the fish inside before fleeing in a vehicle. Video surveillance footage will be used to identify her.

A resident in the 4700 block of Coronado Way reported that someone used his bank account number to forge a personal check which was cashed at a location elsewhere in Florida.

Officer Ross was notified on April 4 of a DNA match in a stolen car case which originated last September. He spoke to the victim who did not know the person whose DNA was found in the car. Probable cause now exists for the arrest of the owner of the DNA.

Linda Kakkad was arrested on a warrant for a failure to appear. She was taken into custody in 3000 block of 56th Street.

Officer Ross displayed the marine unit at the Fun in the Sun event on March 31. Sergeant Burkhardt conducted a marine unit familiarization training block to our new officers.

Criminal Investigative Section (CIS)

New cases:	6
Cases assigned:	1
Cases suspended-no leads:	3
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared:	0
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Supplements received:	8
Cases cleared with arrest:	0
Previously cleared with arrest:	2
Cases suspended/no leads:	1
Cases unfounded/no crime:	0
Cases exceptionally cleared	0
Cases still active:	5

Investigator Highlights

Detective Pham conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for an armed robbery case, a suicide, a theft, a harassment case, and a runaway; conducted a PC roundup, and; obtained video evidence for Patrol.

Detective Crowson conducted follow up investigations and completed supplemental reports for a burglary, an auto theft, and a sexual cyber harassment; conducted a detail to locate persons with outstanding probable cause arrest affidavits and warrants, resulting in one arrest, and; attended driver training.

Officer Motte escorted a suspended disorderly student off campus, and a truant to the office. He also facilitated the Monday night police explorer meeting, covering the topics of Baker Acts, Marchman Acts, and felony/high risk traffic stops.

Officer Embry assisted Pinellas County Sheriff's Office detectives with a burglary to a vehicle case; investigated a theft of money taken from the backpacks of two students, and; conducted a preliminary investigation for a domestic-related child abuse case for another police agency.

Crime Analyst Margaret Palmisano compiled open case lists; performed an analysis of calls regarding Clymer Park during nighttime hours for Officer Mills, and an analysis of a known offender for Detective Crowson; compiled March officer activity information for Cmdr. Farrand, and; created a bulletin for Officer Marshall regarding property he found on an arrested subject.

Records

Reports reviewed	8
Supplements reviewed:	67
Public Records requests:	37
Background checks:	5
Bike registrations:	0
Fingerprints	4
Subpoenas processed:	5
Citizens assisted	46

MARINA

Assisted with forty-seven pump outs evacuating seven hundred seventy gallons of waste.

Pumped three thousand three hundred eighty-eight gallons of gas and three thousand seventy-five gallons of diesel fuel, fueling one hundred fifty-five vessels.

Transient vessels:

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

Staff activities:

- Performed slip count and inspected/repared marina docks and downtown courtesy dock.
- Inventoried slips and cross-checked empty slips against current data.
- Scraped barnacles and oyster shells along marina seawall.
- Performed routine maintenance on new northeast & southeast pump outs.
- Purchased, delivered and stocked Ship Store merchandise and drinks for resale.
- Replaced nozzle on gas pump #4.
- Tested and replaced 30A receptacle on pier 5, slip 17.

LIBRARY

Public Programs/Meetings/Events:

Monday, March 26, 9:30 a.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance.*

Monday, March 26, 3 p.m. - *K-5th Grade Science Club.*

Monday, March 26, 3 p.m. - *Open mic.*

Tuesday, March 27, 10:15 a.m. - *Gentle Yoga for Adults.*

Tuesday, March 27, 12:30 p.m. - *French Conversation Club.*

Tuesday, March 27, 1:30 p.m. - *German Conversation Club*.
Tuesday, March 27, 5:45 p.m. - *Free Thinkers Open Twelve Step meeting*.
Wednesday, March 28, 10 a.m. - *Gulfport Writers meeting*.
Wednesday, March 28, 3 p.m. - *Teen Hangout/Knitting*.
Wednesday, March 28, 7:30 p.m. - *Gulfport Toastmasters*.
Thursday, March 29, 10:30 a.m. - *Toddler Storytime*.
Thursday, March 29, 3:30 p.m. - *Preschool Storytime*.
Thursday, March 29, 6 p.m. - *Bees Learning mobile reading intervention program*.
Thursday, March 29, 7 p.m. - *From Baroque to Classical: Gulfport Chamber Players concert*.
Friday, March 30, 10 a.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance*.
Friday, March 30, 5:45 p.m. - *Women's AA Club*.
Saturday, March 31, 10:30 a.m. - *Home Buyer's Seminar*.

Upcoming Events:

Every Monday, 9:30 a.m. - 2 p.m., and every Friday, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. - *AARP Income Tax Assistance*: TAXPAYERS MUST BRING SOCIAL SECURITY CARDS FOR ALL PERSONS LISTED ON THEIR TAX RETURNS, A PICTURE ID, ALL PERTINENT RECORDS SUCH AS W2'S, 1099'S, other income & credits, and a copy of last year's return if available. Volunteer preparers are available through April 16, the IRS filing deadline this season. Free Electronic filing is available at all sites. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Saturday, April 7, 10:30 a.m. - *Home Buyer's Seminar*: Series of weekly classes help renters get started with homeownership by understanding where they are now as a renter, and what it takes to qualify for down payment and closing cost assistance. To register, call Jo Ann Nesbitt at 418-1554.

Saturday, April 7, 1 p.m. - *Grownup Movie Day*: Guillermo del Toro's beast this time is a South American river creature considered a god by the local population. View a newly anointed Oscar winner! Rated R. This monthly series is intended to allow adults to enjoy more challenging and complex films in a quiet atmosphere, so we request that no children attend. Call 893-1074 for title.

Monday, April 9, 5:30 p.m. - *Tampa Bay Ukulele Society Workshop*: First in a series of free monthly instructional sessions taught by Landis Braddock. Workshops will be presented as a three class cycle: Beginner, Advanced Beginner and Strum & Sing Jam.

Monday, April 9, 7 p.m. - *Clymer Park Reimagined*: Join Dr. Jan Wampler and students from University of South Florida as he unveils an alternative interpretation of Clymer Park with a presentation of a park model, drawings, and perspectives. Please note, this plan has not been presented or approved by Gulfport City Council.

Thursday, April 12, 7 p.m. - *LGBTQ Film Series*: This fascinating documentary follows 15 months in the lives of three gay Palestinian men and their female friend residing in Tel-Aviv, pursuing equal civil rights. Refreshments available for donations accepted for the LGBTQ Resource Center. Refreshments available for donations accepted for the LGBTQ Resource Center. For movie title, call 893-1074.

Saturday, April 14, 1 p.m. - *Recorder Concert*: Adult performers' group based in St. Petersburg.

Tuesday, April 17, 3 p.m. - *Lego Club*: Kids, indulge your passion for the tiny building blocks of creativity! Meets in the Youth Services area.

Thursday, April 19, 11 a.m. - *Coffee/Talk Book Club discussion of Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel.* Copies available at the Circulation Desk. Sponsored by Circle of Friends of the Gulfport Library. Call 893-1073 for more information.

Thursday, April 19, 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, April 19, 7 p.m. - *An Evening with Jeff Klinkenberg:* Author discussion of his newly published book, *Son of Real Florida: Stories from My Life.*

Saturday, April 21, 1:30 p.m. - *Free Family Movie Day:* Joyous musical loosely based on the life of P. T. Barnum, from his humble beginnings to circus impresario. It stars Hugh Jackman, Michelle Williams, Zac Efron, and Zendaya. Rated PG-13. Call 893-1074 for movie title

Tuesday, April 24, 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, April 26, 11 a.m. - *Community Playdate:* Get acquainted with other caregivers of toddlers & preschoolers in a relaxed, informal setting.

Monday, April 30, 5 p.m. - *Open Mic Night:* For more information call 893-1073.

Tuesday, May 1, 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.

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, 10:30 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 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 March 25 - 31, 2018:
Items Circulated Patrons

Weekly Circulation:	1,791	1,389
Sun. 3/25	Library closed	
Mon. 3/26	304	257
Tue. 3/27	309	247
Wed. 3/28	280	228
Thu. 3/29	355	212
Fri. 3/30	279	221
Sat. 3/31	255	179

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.

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.

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 April 9. Call 893-5657 to schedule an appointment.

If you're nearing or entering retirement and interested in a strategy designed to help build an income stream and make your retirement last, join us at 5:30 p.m. Monday, April 9 for **Who Will Pay Your Income during Retirement After the Paychecks Stop?** We'll explore how to budget for retirement expenses, examine potential sources of retirement income and identify ways to address potential risks. Refreshments will be served.

Happy is a contemporary tune that has captured airwaves for several years. It is an upbeat dance tune that can be heard in the car or the grocery. The lyricist defines happiness as 'a room without a roof'. But what does it take to be happy? Join Dr. Cate at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 11 for **Happiness and the Healthy Brain** as she brings the latest in research with humor and interactive discussion.

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, April 12.

Brave. Honorable. Patriot. These are words we use to describe the many men & women who answered the call of duty during wartime. Families of Wartime Veterans & Surviving Spouses are invited to the **VA Improved Pension with Aid & Attendance Benefit** informational session at 3 p.m. Monday, April 16. Refreshments will be served. Hosted by AAWV & Freedom Square.

Put on those blue suede shoes & poodle skirts and get ready to Shake, Rattle, & Roll during the annual **Spring Fling** at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 18. Enjoy food, drinks, & entertainment. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare & Dedicated Senior Medical Center. **Tickets MUST be obtained prior to the event; limit 2 per person.**

Check out eleven world-class sculptors as they create elaborate sand sculptures during this month's **GEMS Getaway to Clearwater's famous Pier 60 Sugar Sand Festival** on Thursday, April 19. We'll stay for lunch at *Shorty's on the Deck*, a wonderfully hidden gem. Round trip transportation & admission: GEMS members \$12/nonmembers \$14. Lunch paid for individually.

Learn to download apps, take/send pictures, add contacts, adjust phone settings and more during the **iPhone/iPad Instructional Class** at 1:30 p.m. Thursday, April 19. Space is limited: call 893-5657 to register.

Home Share Pinellas is a program that matches people looking for housing with homeowners who have space to rent. The service is free and provides each party with security. Come discover why this program is so successful at 2 p.m. Wednesday, April 25.

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 April 20. Call 582-7480 to schedule.

Happy Birthday to You! Help us celebrate this month's birthdays with cake, games, and more at 3 p.m. Friday, April 27. Sponsored by Simply Healthcare.

Discover a great selection of jewelry, home décor, cookbooks, collectibles and many other goodies at **First Friday Flea Market** on May 4 beginning at 9 a.m.

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 for **Clubhouse Chatter** at 1 p.m. every Wednesday, 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, March 25 | 3:30 p.m. - Contra Dance with Tampa Friends of Old Time Dance (Turnout 78) |
| Monday, March 26 | 7 p.m. - U.S.A. Dance ballroom dance (Turnout 89) |
| Tuesday, March 27 | 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 6)
10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 32)
12 p.m. - Ballroom lessons with Carol Baker (Turnout 24)
6:30 p.m. - Argentine Tango with Kathleen & Steve Prucher (Turnout 77) |
| Wednesday, March 28 | 10 a.m. - Keller-Williams seminar (Turnout 56)
6 p.m. - Swing Dance with Swingtime (Turnout 266) |
| Thursday, March 29 | 9 a.m. - Tai Chi with Dann Oliver (Turnout 3) |

10:30 a.m. - Tai Chi with Richard Barracato (Turnout 38)
6:30 p.m. - Latin Night with Carol Rivera (Turnout 10)

Friday, March 30 11 a.m. - Chair yoga with Joyce Bloom (Turnout 56)

Saturday, March 31 8 p.m. - All Black Ball (Turnout 350)

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 Swing Time Admission \$8

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

Every Tuesday 9 a.m. – Tai Chi with Dann Oliver
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 9 a.m. – Tai Chi with Dann Oliver
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):

Sunday, March 25 2 p.m. - Gulfport Community Players present *Becky's New Car* (Turnout 165)

Saturday, March 31 8 p.m. - Betty Fox Band concert (Turnout 50)

Catherine Hickman Theater (upcoming events):

Friday, April 6, 6 p.m. - *Senior Center Watercolor Group Art Reception*: Free admission; cash bar

Gulfport Neighborhood Center (last week's events)

Sunday, March 25 6:15 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

Neighborhood Center (upcoming events):

Every Sunday 6 p.m. - Overeaters Anonymous meeting

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

Every fourth Sunday 9:15 a.m. - Faith Cathedral International Bible study

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

Scout Hall (last week's events):

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

Monday, March 26 11 a.m. - Chair yoga (Turnout 38)

Tuesday, March 27 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 34)

Thursday, March 29 11 a.m. - Meditation class (Turnout 5)

Friday, March 30 10:30 a.m. - Line dancing (Turnout 18)

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 is reserved 6 - 11 p.m. Saturday, April 14 for a birthday party.

Registration is underway for the **2018 Summer Recreation Program** for Gulfport residents currently enrolled in the School Year Child Program. Non-resident and weekly registration begins Monday, May 1 for a maximum of 30 children. The program is available to children who have completed Kindergarten thru age 14. 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 the Recreation Center at 893-1068.

Seventy-eight children are registered for the **2017/18 School Year Child Care program** for children who will be entering 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.

Twenty-four children are registered for the **2017/18 Tot Time program**, and six 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.

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, Heal Your Life Book Club, Essential Oils, Karate, Pickleball, Slow Flow Yoga, Stretch & Tone, Table Tennis, Tennis, Walking Club, Watercolor and Zumba.

Staff Activities

Recreation Center staff worked the "*Fun in the Sun*" Day Event on March 31.

Marivel Gutierrez and John Lapham interviewed a Summer Junior Counselor applicant on Thursday morning, and another on Tuesday afternoon.

Teen Councilmembers Phoebe Carrasco, Katelyn Latragna, Connor Rowell and Haley Wyble volunteered during the Fun in the Sun Day event on March 31.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Calls for Service:

- 40 Emergency Medical Calls
- 3 Structure Fires
- 3 Fire Alarms
- 4 Vehicle Crashes
- 1 Odor/Smoke Invest
- 1 Fire Outside Structure
- 1 Vehicle Fire

Life Safety:

- 16 Fire Inspections
- 1 Re-inspections
- 1 C.O.
- 1 Fire Investigations

The **Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)** meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of the month. The next meeting is April 19, and will take place at the Gulfport Neighborhood Center, 1617 49th Street.

Gulfport Fire Rescue is analyzing, reviewing and evaluating new Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) to be in compliance with the new NFPA standard. We have budgeted and applied for a Safer Grant for the project.

The Gulfport Fire Department has begun their online CME for April. Education is over Violent Patients, Special Needs Patients, Medical/Legal and Narrative Documentation.

Chief James Marenkovic and Finance Administrator Cheryl Hannafin are working on the ALS First Responder Program Budget for FY 2018/19.

The Gulfport Fire Department's annual hose testing was completed on April 2. Two 100-foot sections that were in-service since 1998 failed, and are included in our operating budget for replacement.

Chief Marenkovic presented an informational CPR/First Aid class for the Senior Center on March 28.

PUBLIC WORKS

Building Maintenance

- Repaired roof at Public Services building, and replaced several ceiling tiles in office area.
- Repaired toilet and a/c unit at Casino, and dock railing behind Casino.
- Built and painted rack at Recreation Center.
- Ran cable in Police Station ceiling.
- Repaired garage door in Fleet Maintenance Supervisor's office.
- Delivered mail to main post office for Finance Department.

Parks Maintenance

- Hung signs at tennis courts.
- Ground tree stumps at Recreation Center.
- Install new internet service in City Hall Council chambers.
- Filled in washout along Marina seawall.
- Trimmed oak trees at tennis courts and Senior Center.
- Cleaned trolley inside and out.
- Removed sea weed from beach.
- Inspected fountain at Wood Ibis pond and scheduled for repair.
- Groomed volleyball courts.
- Repaired fencing at Wood Ibis park and Clam Bayou
- Mowed Chase block, and Senior Center & Library grounds.
- Cleaned & sanitized event trashcans.
- Repaired irrigation at Clymer Park.
- Cleaned restrooms at Little League, beach and outside Casino.
- Trimmed, weeded, cleaned & mulched Recreation Center & City complex and hand raked around benches & beach pavilions.
- Cleaned screens on lake fountains at Wood Ibis Park.
- Greased mowers, and sharpened/replaced blades.
- 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.
- Completed asphalt patchwork, as needed, throughout the City.

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 #9, 10, 11 & 12 of the monthly meter reading schedule.
- Disconnected water service at 31 locations for non-payment of service.

- Completed 8 non-pay rechecks to confirm water services were still off.
- Completed 132 miscellaneous service orders generated by customer service department.
- Completed 15 Sunshine One-Call, Call Before You Dig Utility Locates.
- Reviewed permit applications for fences, driveways and irrigation.
- Replaced 15 meters that were stuck or damaged, and not recording water usage.
- Performed annual inspection and testing on 5 backflows due in April.
- Repaired water leak at 1405 49th Street.
- Replaced water line on 15th Avenue between 51st & 52nd Streets.

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.
- Cleaned and televised sewer lateral at 2802 54th Street.

Stormwater

- Removed debris and rebuilt stormwater structure at 1225 59th Street.
- Cleaned storm drain line on 59th Street between 12th & 13th Avenues.
- Inspected manhole at 56th Street & Gulfport Boulevard, and discovered contractor had damaged ring and cover.

Vehicle Maintenance

- Replaced battery on Police vehicle #54.
- Replaced tires on Parks Division vehicle #709, and on Public Services vehicle #13.
- Replaced strobe light on Streets Division vehicle #69.
- Adjusted hose, replaced hydraulic cylinder spring and repaired radiator on Sanitation vehicle #42.
- Replaced horn on Recreation Center Bus #68.
- Replaced power steering hose on Sanitation vehicle #45.
- Replaced tarp on Sanitation vehicle #88.
- Replaced hydraulic hose on Sanitation vehicle #40.
- Fixed mirror on Sanitation vehicle #47.
- Replaced tire on Police vehicle #529.
- Replaced hydraulic hose on Sanitation vehicle #43.
- Replaced mud flap on Streets Division vehicle #37.
- Performed preventive maintenance and various small repairs on City vehicles, 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

Before you embark on your home improvement project give us a call at (727) 893-1024 to discuss your plans and see what permits and inspections may be necessary, to explain code requirements and 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. If you have 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". You'll find it at <http://www.mygulfport.us/> under the Community Development Building Department tab in the Information & Regulations section. If you have any questions regarding business tax receipts, please contact Lisa Giddens at 893-1063.

For more information, including a number of workshops, on starting a new business contact the Small Business Development Center at Pinellas County Economic Development. Visit their website at www.pced.org/entrepreneurs, or call 464-7332. They also do personalized business consulting to help you become successful with your startup business.

Code Enforcement activities have moved to Section 3 of the City, also referred to as the Southwest Neighborhood area which generally extends south from Gulfport Boulevard to the water and west from 58th Street & 59th Streets to the City Limits.

Because the City has one inspector who focuses on one section at a time, we depend on residents to call in violations when they see them. We will inspect within one working day of a complaint to verify any violation. Please call 893-1061 if you see violations. If the inspector is unavailable, leave as detailed a message as possible to help us find the violation. Complaints can be anonymous, but if you want a follow-up you will have to leave contact information which means the complaint is no longer anonymous. 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.

Planning and Development

April 4, 2018 Planning and Zoning Board and April 17, 2018 City Council/CRA meeting results:

C17-04 - 5110 Tangerine Avenue South; Conditional Mixed Use Application with Site Plan for the addition of a personal services use to the front of an existing single family structure to create a live-work use, and the addition of the required off-street parking spaces. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.

C18-01 - 5111 Gulfport Boulevard South; Conditional Use Application with Site Plan for the razing of the existing restaurant and drive-through facility, and the proposed construction of a new restaurant with a drive-through facility. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.

Consideration of a Gulfport City Council ordinance amending the City of Gulfport Comprehensive Plan pursuant to the evaluation and appraisal process of section 163.3191, Florida statutes, and the amendment process of section 163.3184, Florida Statutes, adopting new goals, objectives, and policies, and maps as presented herein below; providing for severability; and providing for an effective date. RECOMMENDED APPROVAL.

April 11, 2018 Board of Adjustment Meeting:

V18-05: 2526 Beach Boulevard South; To reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 2.5 feet, from 25 feet to 22.5 feet for a proposed addition to the house which will connect the existing detached accessory structure (garage) to the principal structure (house).

V18-06: 4914 27th Avenue South; To reduce the front yard setback requirement by 12 feet 6 inches, from 25 feet to 12 feet 6 inches to allow for the proposed conversion of an enclosed non-conditioned front porch to become habitable/conditioned space, and the construction of a new open deck and steps to the existing front of the house which is located within the Conservation Overlay District.

V18-07: 5934 Skimmer Point Boulevard South; To reduce the left-hand one-third setback requirement by 11.7 feet, from 28.2 feet to 16.5 feet to allow for a 4' lower landing to be constructed on the left-hand side of the existing dock, which currently encroaches 13 feet into the required setback.

V18-08: Vacant Lot to be addressed as 5827 Skimmer Point Boulevard South; To reduce the rear yard setback requirement by 5 feet, from 20 feet to 15 feet to allow for an encroachment of a portion the master bedroom of a proposed new house.