



September 1, 2021

Mark Your Calendar!



**Gulfport
Health & Wellness
Expo is Back
March 19, 2022
10-2**

Historic Gulfport Casino
5500 Shore Blvd S, Gulfport

**Attention: Vendors
For information about
being a part of the 2022
Gulfport Health & Wellness
Expo, call the Foundation:
727-893-1244.**

Celebration Wall Ribbon Cutting Saturday, September 18, 6-8 pm

When Kathleen Cash made a purchase from Gulfport artist Brenda McMahon during the first COVID spike in 2020, a friendship ensued that neither suspected would result in installation of the beautiful 20-foot-long ceramic and glass frieze that now brings the beauty of Florida flowers and fauna to the peaceful tree-shaded sitting area at the Senior Center.



Kathleen and her husband Frank had made a donation to the Foundation for a tile to honor her parents and she would stop to visit the Wall on her daily walks. “It was a happy place,” Frank said. After Hurricane Irma destroyed the artwork originally installed by another Gulfport artist, Jonathan Schork, “it was so sad and plain.”

It wasn't long before Kathleen, Frank and Brenda started talking about the possibility of a new art installation for the Celebration Wall. It was a natural fit. Kathleen's parents, William and Roberta Cord, had been actively involved at the Senior Center for many years, her father until his nineties. Brenda's mother is also a Senior Center member and was part of the telephone Reassurance and art programs.

Senior Center Supervisor Rachel Cataldo introduced the Cashes to the Foundation Board and Brenda was invited to make a proposal just over a year ago, in July 2020. Kathleen, Frank and Brenda worked together closely as the project progressed, to create just the right design, including the swath of blue glass that emulates sparkling water.

“When we first began the project, we wanted to create an homage to the Senior Center and honor the gifts from the community to the Senior Center Foundation,” Brenda said. “When designing it, I incorporated the flowers & fauna of our area and celebrated the dawn and dusk of our beautiful Florida days.”

Brenda said the bird of paradise, heliconia, bamboo and the greenery of our area guide the eye across the mural. On the far-right end, a blue heron sits in the bayou. The tree to her very right reflects the real one shading the sitting area.

This reminds me of “the life we all lead,” Brenda said. We are each “on our own path,” alternately soaring and then resting. “We support the Senior Center by supporting the Foundation and then many of us take advantage of its offerings. Full circle.” Now their creative process has come full circle and will be celebrated at a ribbon cutting event.

Saturday evening, September 18, from 6-8 pm.

Contact Us

Gulfport Senior Center Foundation

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Please Join Us!

It feels great to know that you are helping provide top notch services for Seniors in our community.

Individual Membership is only \$35 for one year.
Lifetime Membership \$500

We Have Perks!

- Free subscription to Senior Life magazine.
- Discounts offered by Gulfport merchants with membership.



Last month, the Senior Center Foundation received more than \$1,800 from the donation of a car by one generous Gulfport resident.
FMI: Call the Foundation office: 727-893-1244

Coming Soon to Veterans Memorial Park



The Gulfport Senior Center Foundation will be installing a memorial paver ribbon in The Gulfport Veteran's Park as a fundraiser to support programs and services of the Senior Center. The meandering ribbon of engraved bricks will connect the sidewalk to the flagpole base at the beautiful waterfront park.

Bricks will be available by donation to honor a friend or family member, veteran or non-veteran, and will be a permanent part of Veterans Memorial Park. For information, visit www.GulfportSeniorFoundation.org.

News of Note:

100 Hurricane Emergency Kits Distributed



Every year Ric Ortisi gets his ducks in a row before hurricane season. By June this year, he had a stockpile of canned goods and bottled water, but not some other important emergency supplies recommended by FEMA. When he got a call from the Senior Center telling him he was eligible to receive a Hurricane Emergency Kit, he called back right away to reserve one. The kits were put together for area low-income seniors 55 and up by the Gulfport Senior Center Foundation. The emergency kits were funded by a \$5,000 grant from Senior Citizen Services of the Pinellas Community Foundation. "I'll keep it handy right by the door in case I have to run out on short notice," Ric said. "It's good that the Foundation is doing this for the Seniors."

