



Barbara Mullins (tutor), Karina Mayo (student), and Kenia Mayo (Karina's proud and supportive sister).

Tutoring is free for students and materials are provided. If you or someone you know are in need of services, please contact the Library at (727) 853-1279 and ask for the Literacy Coordinator.

If you, like Barbara, want to make a positive difference in someone's life, consider joining the New Port Richey Public Library Literacy Program as a volunteer tutor. Tutors help native and non-native English speakers improve their English literacy skills. The library staff matches volunteer tutors with adult students to focus on students' specific learning goals. Tutors and students meet at the library at times that are convenient for both.

No experience is required. Tutors must be at least 18 years old; agree to a background screening policy; have good listening, speaking, reading, and writing skills; follow a strict confidentiality policy; have basic computer skills; be able to relate well to a variety of people; and be dependable, prompt, flexible, and patient. We ask volunteer tutors to make a one-year commitment and to complete a tutor-training workshop, regardless of any teaching experience they may have. If you are interested in becoming a tutor, please complete the library's volunteer application at www.nprlibrary.org/volunteer.

ADULT LITERACY PROGRAM

An hour a week can change someone's life. Barbara Mullins had no idea how much until she joined the New Port Richey Public Library Adult Literacy Program as a tutor in 2014.

Inspired to help others reach their educational goals, while impacting their families and the community in a positive way, Barbara Mullins was matched with Karina Mayo, a recent Cuban immigrant who spoke only a few words of English.

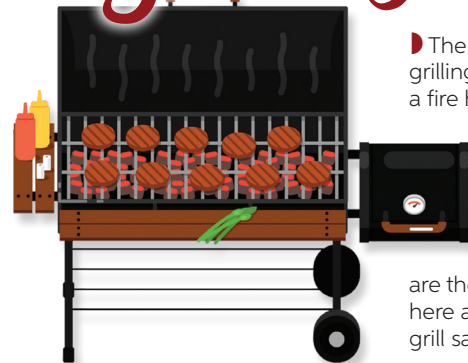
"We used Karina's life experiences and goals to shape our curriculum," said Barbara Mullins.

The two met weekly to help Karina meet her initial goal and found the experience enriched both their lives so much they didn't want to stop. Once they reached one goal, the pair would set another. No longer just teacher and student, the two were now lifelong friends.

Thanks to the pairing by the New Port Richey Public Library Literacy Program and the support of her tutor Barbara, not only can Karina speak and write in fluent English, but she has also reached her ultimate goal: to become a US Citizen.



Grilling Safety



There's nothing like outdoor grilling, but a grill can also pose a fire hazard and cause injuries. According to the National Fire Protection Association, Fire Departments respond to an annual average of 9,600 home fires involving grills. Since May-August are the peak months for grill fires, here are some tips to enjoy your grill safely:

ONLY USE GRILLS AND SMOKERS OUTDOORS.

- Place grills away from your home and deck and out from under eaves and overhanging tree branches.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup, including the trays.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- Always make sure your gas grill lid is open before lighting it.

CHARCOAL GRILL SAFETY TIPS

- Only use charcoal starter fluid if starter fluid is used.
- Never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep charcoal fluid out of children's reach and away from heat sources.
- When finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing of them in a metal container.

PROPANE GRILL SAFETY TIPS

- Always check the gas tank hose for leaks.
- Turn off both the gas tank and the grill if the grill has a gas leak.
- Get the grill serviced by a professional if there is a gas leak.
- If a leak does not stop, call the fire department.
- If you smell gas while cooking, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not move the grill.
- If the flame goes out, turn the grill and gas off and wait at least five minutes before relighting.



CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY

5919 Main Street | New Port Richey, FL 34652

PRSR STD
ECRWSS
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
EDDM RETAIL

Local
Postal Customer

Budget Season Is NEAR

Spring marks the start of the City's annual budget process, which begins in March and lasts through September. Public participation is encouraged and welcomed throughout the process. Budget work sessions are open to the public and provide the opportunity for residents to voice their opinions on community matters and provide input toward the City's budget.

The following calendar includes currently scheduled work sessions. Dates are subject to change. Final dates of work sessions and public hearings will be properly advertised in the newspaper on the City's website and social media pages at City Hall.

FY2019 - 2020 BUDGET CALENDAR

MARCH - JUNE City Staff works to put a preliminary budget together

JULY July 2, 2019 - 1st draft of the Budget presented to Council
(2) Budget Work Sessions will be held July 9 & July 16, 2019

AUGUST August 6, 2019 - Final Work Session to discuss potential Budget Changes and Capital Improvement Plan

SEPTEMBER September 5, 2019 - 1st Public Hearing on Tentative Budget Final Public Hearing on Tentative Budget



Fire Department Recognized for High Quality Service

The City of New Port Richey Fire Department is the proud recipient of a Silver Plus Achievement Award from the American Heart Association. This recognition reflects the outstanding quality of patient care the New Port Richey Fire Department provides to residents and visitors on every call.

The City of New Port Richey Fire Department continues this high level of care and service by providing many free resources, including partnering with the American Red Cross to provide residents with free smoke alarms. The "Smoke Alarms Saves Lives!" program, in addition to providing free smoke detectors, also urges residents to devise an escape plan for their home and provides a Home Fire Safety Checklist. Residents may apply for a smoke detector by accessing the link to the Central Florida Red Cross's website or through the New Port Richey Fire Department's Facebook page at www.facebook.com/newportricheyfiredept.

Live. **NEW** PORT RICHEY
work. **PORT**
play. **RICHEY**

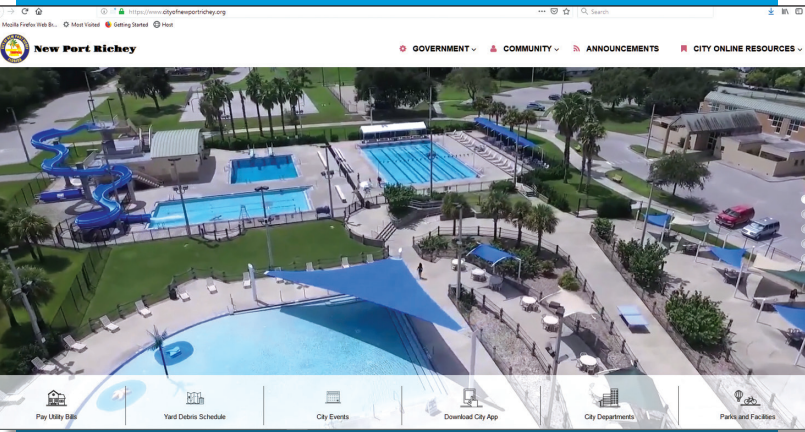
Street IMPROVEMENT Project

The 2019 Street Improvement Project is currently out for bid. Construction is anticipated to begin in the spring. This is the second project under the new Pavement Management Plan, which provides for the repaving of all City-owned streets in a 20-year cycle.

The work will include cutting and removing existing asphalt, removing and replacing road base material, milling existing asphalt roads, overlaying new asphalt, striping roads, and making sign and pavement marking upgrades. This year's project includes the following streets:

- Char Lane from Congress Street to Celeste Lane
- Tennessee Avenue from Rio Drive to Van Buren Street
- Crest Drive from Grand Boulevard to Water Street
- Louisiana Avenue from Lafayette Street to Grand Boulevard
- Wyoming Avenue from Rio Drive to Van Buren Street
- Indiana Avenue from Grand Boulevard to Washington Street
- Gulf Drive from US 19 to Madison Street
- Azalea Drive from south of Tangerine Drive to north of Foster Drive
- Adams Street from Louisiana Avenue to Tennessee Avenue
- Massachusetts Avenue from Grand Boulevard to Congress Street
- Richey Drive from Grand Boulevard to the end of Richey Drive
- Main Street from Southtowne Loop to just to the west of entrance to Burger King west of US 19

The City Launches NEW WEBSITE



The City's redesigned website focuses on city resources and information about upcoming events and includes three main categories: Community, Government, and City Resources. The new website is mobile friendly and allows on-the-go residents to connect with the City's social media and events calendar.

The Community section has the latest City news and alerts, events calendar, and helpful links for new residents. Residents can find out what is happening and view upcoming events.

The Government section has information on upcoming council meetings and city projects. Residents can review agendas and minutes or watch council meetings. This section provides information about city council members and how to contact the City Manager's office or other city departments. Volunteer applications, ordinances, codes, and the city charter are also found here.

The City Resources section allows residents to download permit applications or pay utility bills online. Here, they may also apply for jobs, retrieve special events application packets or view bid postings.

Progress at the HACIENDA

The architects on the project, Bender and Associates, have completed the interior design of the Hacienda. It will look very much like the Hacienda when it opened in 1927, and will serve as it did back in the day as a hospitality venue. There will be 40 rooms with queen size beds, a bar and large dining room. Lakeside Inn, Mt. Dora, the eventual owners of the Hacienda, already have a crew inside and are working on electrical, plumbing and HVAC. The city

is completing the last of five historic preservation grants, which includes installing 118 windows, four new doors and 10 transoms. The internal staircase has been rebuilt to a nearly exact replica of the original. Once the windows are installed the rather unique mullet stucco pattern that covers the building will be completed. Though a date has not been set, the developer is making good progress and expects the project to be complete by the end of the year.

MAYOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

Our city is filled with citizens who hold a deep affection for this community and it is an honor and privilege to serve you.

New Port Richey has the good fortune to have a dedicated staff that is committed to improving the quality of life through services and programs. Downtown is vibrant and exploding with exciting new restaurants, businesses and activities. When these are combined with historic buildings downtown, tree lined neighborhoods and beautiful Sims Park, you will discover this is truly a community, not just a place where people live.

Community events and opportunities for residents to become more involved have become more plentiful for the past few years, and it is gratifying to see so many residents taking advantage of them.

It is my deepest hope that our citizens will take advantage of what New Port Richey has to offer and share a sense of pride in their community. With the support and participation of all of you, we will continue to be a vibrant community with a bright future.

On behalf of city officials, administration and staff, I thank you for your continued support as we strive to provide services that carry us into the future. As always my door remains open and I welcome you to share your ideas and concerns with me.

Sincerely,

Rob Marlowe
Mayor



Civil Citation Process

Most property owners and tenants keep their property well maintained. Sometimes, however, the City must issue a formal Ordinance Violation Civil Citation Warning Notice to remind residents of their responsibilities to care for their property and abide by community standards. By taking positive action to remedy violation(s) in a timely manner, the case can be closed with no penalty.

The City has implemented a Civil Citation Process as a supplemental means to address certain code violations. When a Code Compliance Officer observes a violation, they will issue a Civil Citation Warning Notice that identifies the specific violation, specifies a reasonable time frame for the alleged violator to correct the situation, provides the potential fine amount if the correction is not made and lists the Code Officer's contact information. If the violation is not remedied within the allotted time, the Code Officer may issue a Civil Citation, which is a written legal order that includes a fine. Fine amounts range from \$30 to \$500, depending upon the nature of the violation, with fine amounts increasing for repeat violations. For each violation at the same property, separate Civil Citations may be issued. In some cases, such as for a repeat violation; a violation that presents a serious threat to public health, safety or welfare; or a violation that is irreparable or irreversible, a Civil Citation may be issued immediately without a warning notice.

FAQ FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

HOW DO I PAY A CIVIL CITATION? A Civil Citation may be paid in person or by mail within fifteen (15) calendar days of the date of issuance.

- **To Pay in Person:** . . . Bring the citation to the City of New Port Richey City Hall at 5919 Main Street, New Port Richey, FL 34652. Payment may be made with cash, credit card or money order.

- **To Pay by Mail:** . . . Mail the citation and a money order to City of New Port Richey, 5919 Main Street, New Port Richey, FL 34652.

HOW DO I APPEAL A CIVIL CITATION? An appeal form for a Civil Citation may be filed within ten (10) calendar days of the date of issuance by certified mail or in person at the New Port Richey Police Department, 6739 Adams Street, New Port Richey, FL, 34652. The appeal form must be received no later than 5:00 p.m., when delivered in person, or post-marked before midnight on the tenth calendar day after issuance.

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER I FILE AN APPEAL? A hearing will be scheduled. You will be notified by first class mail, at the address provided on the violation, at least twenty days before the hearing. A Special Magistrate will conduct the hearing in accordance with established procedures.

WHAT HAPPENS IF I LOSE MY APPEAL? If the Special Magistrate upholds the citation, the final order shall require the violator to pay the penalty stated on the citation plus an administrative charge of \$50. If any violation is not corrected, additional citations may be issued.

IF I CORRECT THE VIOLATION, DO I STILL HAVE TO PAY THE FINE? If the violation is corrected after a Civil Citation has been issued, then the fine amount must be paid. The violation must be corrected within the compliance time provided, to prevent the issuance of a Civil Citation.

The Civil Citation Supplemental Code Enforcement Ordinance Number 2018-2136 can be viewed in its entirety on the City's website under "Codes and Ordinances" at www.cityofnewportrichey.org.

Mangrove Preservation NOT OPTIONAL

Living in a coastal community like New Port Richey has many benefits, ranging from outdoor recreation and beautiful sightseeing to unique businesses and opportunities. Residing in a coastal area also includes a responsibility to preserve the surrounding environment. A key component to the environmental structure of Florida coastal settings is mangroves. According to Florida Statutes, there are over 555,000 acres of mangroves in Florida, 80 percent of which are set aside under government or private control for preservation or conservation.



Mangroves play a very important role as habitats for several marine species as well as mammals, birds, and reptiles. They act as a nursery for many game and sport fisheries, maintain water quality, and are naturally beautiful. Mangroves also provide shore stabilization and are a form of storm protection. These are some of the reasons mangroves are

protected and extreme caution needs to be taken when performing any kind of work or maintenance pertaining to them.

The 1996 Mangrove Trimming and Preservation Act, which applies to both living and dead mangroves, regulates mangrove trimming.

No mangroves may be removed, destroyed, or defoliated. Mangroves may not be trimmed below six (6) feet in height as measured from where the tree meets the ground. If a mangrove exceeds ten (10) feet in height prior to trimming, a professional mangrove trimmer is required to perform the work. Mangroves may be trimmed without a permit if they are within a Riparian Mangrove Fringe, which is shoreline growth that does not extend 50 feet waterward. If they do extended beyond the 50 feet, a permit is required. Mangroves should only be trimmed between the months of October and March, as this is the time mangroves experience the least amount of growth. Lastly, all mangrove trimmings should be removed in an environmentally responsible manner.

Local species of mangroves are Red, Black, and White. More information on mangroves can be found on the Florida Department of Environmental Protection website, <https://floridadep.gov>.



CITY MANAGER'S LETTER

Dear Neighbors,

This issue of the newsletter provides important information about upcoming events and projects as well as other dates that might be of interest to you. I hope that you will find the information provided to be informative and helpful.



One project that is of particular interest to me is this year's Street Improvement Program which is featured on the cover. As you can see from the details provided within the article, we have a very aggressive program planned. The road work may cause temporary interruptions in your travels around the city. However, much effort will be put forth in order to minimize inconveniences to you while implementing the needed projects. Once more, I would like to extend my appreciation to the residents that served on the Pavement Management Committee for analyzing various payment methodologies and providing solid recommendations that served as a basis for the City Council to activate an on-going road improvement program.

As you can see from the article about the city's budget schedule, the City Council and I will be working on the development of the Fiscal Year 2019-2020 budget over the next several months. The budget, when completed, is a document that identifies the various forms of revenue received by the City as well as a plan for how the revenue is used to provide city services, programs and capital improvements. A critical part of the budget process involves public input and in that regard I invite you to consider attending one of the budget work sessions or hearings. It would be great to see you there!

As always, if there is something that I can do to assist you in a matter related to the operation of the city, please contact me as I am here to serve you.

Sincerely,

Debbie L. Manns
City Manager

New Port Richey Public Library EXPANDS LOCAL RESIDENTS' Horizons with Flexible High School Completion Program

Library's Career Online High School helps adults without high school diplomas open more pathways to careers



"I didn't have a great reason to do so, but I still skipped a lot of school during my last six months of senior year," reflects Michelle Gardner, a now 28-year-old mother of three. "I was behind in credits and ended up not having enough time to make them up before graduation."

Michelle put her high school diploma on the back burner, thinking she'd always have time to return to it later. Finally, a decade after she dropped out of high school, Michelle found the motivation to actually return to her studies: "My three kids inspired me to finally move forward and focus on my diploma! I had wanted to go back to school for a while but having these three looking up to me each and every day simply made it a greater priority in my life. I'm committed to providing a secure future for my family. Without a high school diploma, that's nearly impossible to do."

Fortunately for Michelle, her community is served by a library that's dedicated to helping its residents meet all their personal and professional goals. As a part of this work, the library has partnered with Gale, a Cengage company, to offer its residents access to Career Online High School, a 100% online, accredited high school completion program.

"Our library is dedicated to connecting people to the resources they need, and it's gratifying to offer the transformative Career Online High School program to our community," says Andi Figart, library director. "The NPR Public Library has always provided the informational resources people need to achieve their personal, educational and professional objectives. Pairing the library's resources with Career Online High School's flexible approach, self-paced courses, and acceptance of transfer credits is yet another exciting library service to help people achieve their lifelong learning and career goals. Because this program offers a second chance to people who might not have the resources to continue their education, it really is a life-changing opportunity."

This is the library's second year participating in Career Online High School and so far, four

students have completed the program. Many of these graduates, including Michelle, took advantage of the option to transfer previously earned high school credits toward their Career Online High School diploma. Some have also benefited from a new feature available wherein students who have successfully completed part of the GED, are now able to in fact use those credits as well towards core Career Online High School courses.

The library is currently planning its first graduation ceremony, which will likely take place in the fall, with the hopes that drawing attention to these students and their achievements will help raise the state's high school completion rate, which is lower than the national average.

"What I would say to other New Port Richey residents like me is this program will change your life. You'll have to put hard work into it, but it's flexible enough to work with your schedule and the high school diploma and career certificate that you earn at the end will make it all worth it!" adds Michelle. In fact, Michelle has found that she's experiencing a new, positive kind of stress after completing the program: "I was just saying to my husband that I'm stressed because I have so many options now! I am qualified for career paths that I wasn't qualified for before and I am ready to turn my passions into lucrative lifelong work."



Summer is quickly approaching and there are plenty of activities to keep families busy learning and having fun!



Read your way through **A Universe of Stories** with this year's Summer Library Challenge. From June 3 until August 1, kids, teens and adults can earn prizes while enjoying the creative and amazing activities at the library- *all for free!* This summer's challenge features movies, workshops, performances and special events for all ages. Contact the library to reserve a spot for your child to participate in after-hours laser tag, the "Chopped Cooking Competition", or more fun events. As space is limited, registration is also suggested for adults who wish to participate in classes such as Cosmic Jewelry Making, Galaxy Wine Glass Painting, the History of Tea, or the Biophilic Design workshops.

If splashing is more your style, have fun exploring the two story water slide, dive pool, and spray fountains during the New Port Richey Recreation & Aquatic Center's Pool Parties on June 15th and July 13th! Register kids now for 8 weeks of fun-filled summer camps and field trips, and add to the fun with free Family Movie Nights in Sims Park with "Hotel Transylvania 3" on June 22nd and "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse" on July 20th.

For more smart ways to beat the heat and enjoy the summer, become a member of the New Port Richey Public Library and New Port Richey Recreation and Aquatic Center.

For additional information on these events or others, please call (727) 853.1279 for the NPR Public Library or (727) 841.4560 for the NPR Recreation and Aquatic Center.

DOWNTOWN Retail Stores



OUR CITY HAS SEVERAL COOL SHOPS THESE DAYS. WITH A BLEND OF OLD AND NEW, NEW PORT RICHEY IS FLUSH WITH HISTORIC BUILDINGS AND NEW SMALL BUSINESSES.

The newest addition is **Lis's Pieces**, owned by a talented Lisa Langford. The quaint little shop on Grand Boulevard features various artists and handcrafted items. Some rather unique items are the glass wall hangings, cleverly crafted from wooden window frames.

The corner of Grand Boulevard and Missouri Avenue is emerging as a great place to shop off your dinner. There's the **Gateway Gallery Emporium** right next to Lis's Pieces and **Wonderfully Made Boutique**, owned by a mother-daughter team, next to **Jimmy's Restaurant**. Another great spot is **The White Heron Tea and Gifts**, owned by Kelly Hackman. The impeccably decorated storefront is jam-packed with unique items and curiosities. Kelly is a savvy businesswoman and her intimate high tea offers an opportunity to reconnect with friends and family. Kelly is passionate about tea and customers can tap her wealth of knowledge simply by browsing her store, experience shoppers won't find in a mall.

Venture a bit further over the Cotee River to the Gateway District and you'll find two more shops. Treasure-seekers can explore **Quality Gold and Coin**. Owned by Asher Tristani, this shop is a highly regarded dealer of rare coins. Two doors further is **Pasco Camera Exchange**, owned by an always-friendly Jim and Annette Smetzer. A fixture on Main Street for over 24 years, customers continue to travel from Tampa, St. Petersburg, and as far north as Brooksville.

Enjoy shopping at New Port Richey's vibrant downtown shops and thriving restaurants. In the age of big box stores and national conglomerates, you'll be charmed by the warm and genuine welcome you'll receive while browsing. These businesses, along with many more, offer unique items along with top-notch customer service, attention to detail, and a community focus that help define small town charm.

Your City Council

from left to right



- Councilperson, Chopper Davis
DavisC@cityofnewportrichey.org
- Mayor, Rob Marlowe
MarloweR@cityofnewportrichey.org
- Councilperson, Matt Murphy
MurphyM@cityofnewportrichey.org
- Councilperson, Pete Altman (seated)
AltmanP@cityofnewportrichey.org
- Deputy Mayor, Jeff Starkey (seated)
StarkeyJ@cityofnewportrichey.org