



The New Port Richey Fire Department is proud to partner with the American Red Cross for the "Home Fire Campaign". This national campaign provides free smoke detectors to targeted high-risk neighborhoods with the goal of reducing fire-related deaths and injuries by 25%. Every day on average in the United States, there are 7 fatalities and 36 injuries from home fires, mostly impacting children and the elderly.

The American Red Cross, along with fire department partnerships across the country, have installed over two million free smoke detectors since the campaign began in 2014. Resulting from this, almost 700 lives have been reportedly saved and over 850,000 homes are safer with working smoke detectors. These statistics emphasize the importance of having working smoke detectors in the home and prove they save lives.

In late 2019, the New Port Richey Fire Department, along with representatives from the American Red Cross, went door-to-door in the Celeste Lane neighborhood installing free smoke detectors and providing fire safety and hurricane preparedness information. The next smoke detector installation event in the city is being planned for this summer and will focus on the Sunshine Lake Estates Mobile Home Park. The Fire Department plans to continue this initiative in other neighborhoods over the course of this year. Be sure to check the City of New Port Richey's Facebook page and the New Port Richey Fire Department's Facebook page for exact dates.

## GOLF CARTS IN CITY PARKS

It's wonderful that our city is golf cart friendly, however... no golf carts are allowed to drive through public parks, such as Sims Park and around Orange Lake. These areas have signs that state, "No Motorized Vehicles Allowed".

We do make an exception to this policy for special events. You may drive your golf cart to free city sponsored concerts and park in the designated areas provided by city staff. You are also welcome to drive your golf cart to family movie nights and park along the back of the circle, just inside the sidewalk.

Designated golf cart parking areas will also be provided for events held in the park that are sponsored by other agencies, such as New Port Richey Main Street, the Greater Pasco Chamber of Commerce and others. We ask that you drive to the designated parking areas, park your golf cart, then walk through the park to enjoy the event. Thank you for your cooperation to keep all park users safe.

## FREE PARK & RIDE FOR CITY CONCERTS

Attendance for the City concerts in Sims Park has grown to large crowds over the past season, causing a challenge to find parking spaces. Avoid the hassle and park at the New Port Richey Recreation and Aquatic Center, 6630 Van Buren Street. Free transport to and from Sims Park will be provided on Pasco County School buses.

Starting at 6 pm, buses will depart the Recreation and Aquatic Center and run continuously until all patrons are transported to Peace Hall on Sims Lane. Transportation back to the Recreation and Aquatic Center will begin once the event concludes. Please call the Recreation and Aquatic Center at (727) 841-4560 for more information.

SEPTEMBER 26, 2020:  
ALMOST ABBA, ABBA Tribute Band



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

## Free family MOVIE nights

The City of New Port Richey is proud to present FREE Family Movie Nights, bringing movie lovers of all ages together in beautiful Sims Park to enjoy a movie on the big screen. Family friendly movies are shown monthly, so bring the entire family and spread out a blanket or sit in your chairs and be ready for a good time. Snacks are available for purchase from a local non-profit organization, or you are welcome to bring your own food and drinks.

Please leave your pets at home as the loud movie and large crowd can upset them. For more information, please call (727) 841-4560. We look forward to seeing you at the movies.

June 20 at 8:30 p.m.  
STAR WARS THE RISE OF SKYWALKER  
(Rated PG-13)

July 11 at 8:30 p.m.  
TOY STORY 4 (Rated G)

August 8 at 8:15p.m.  
FROZEN 2 (Rated PG)

September 19 at 8:00p.m.  
ALADDIN (Rated PG)

October 17 at 7:30p.m.  
THE ADAMS FAMILY (Rated PG-13)

November 21 at 6:30p.m.  
ABOMINABLE (Rated PG)

## PET COURTESIES

### Sims Park & Splash Pad

For children's safety and wellness, there is no smoking or domesticated animals such as dogs, cats, etc. allowed within the splash pad or playground areas. While dogs are allowed in the park, they shall be restricted to a 6' leash and owners must clean up after them. Unless under special circumstances, Sims Park is open daily from 7:30AM -11:00PM and the splash pad is open daily from 9:00AM-8:00PM. Before the splash pad opens on Mondays, City crews perform routine maintenance to keep the splash pad safe to use.

Keep in mind when visiting the Splash Pad, that weather changes, such as lightning within a 10 mile radius, and outside temperatures dropping below 55°, may also cause the pad to close early. State requirements for unforeseen sanitation issues and accidents, may also cause the pad to close early.

The City also offers picnic shelters to be rented for parties, events, family reunions, and other social gatherings. You may contact the Recreation & Aquatic Center for up-to-date information about availability, closures, and to make reservations at (727) 841-4560. Bring your fishing gear, have a picnic, enjoy the splash pad, or if you are a little more low key; just sit back, relax, and enjoy a nice book with beautiful scenery.

### Pet Waste

Pet owners are required to pick up after their animals. During a rain storm, pet waste can get washed out of your yard, down a street and find its way into the storm water system, becoming a danger, both to us and aquatic life. The City's storm drains do not connect to sewage treatment facilities like processed water from indoor plumbing does, so run off and rain water are not treated. Animal feces often ends up in lakes and streams, causing water pollution. Animal waste contains bacteria, viruses and nutrients, lowering water quality in rivers, ponds, lakes and creeks. The bacteria in pet waste can cause illness in humans if contaminated water comes in contact with an open wound or ingested. Bacteria requires oxygen in order to live, and as a result, reduces the amount of oxygen in the water that is available for fish and other aquatic life.

In addition to the dangers to aquatic life and potential illnesses in humans, pet waste leaves a large quantity of nutrients that can burn out grasses by overfeeding them, creating a spotty yard.

Pet waste management is one small way you can have a bigger impact on a better environment and healthier you! For more information regarding pet waste management, contact the Public Works Department at (727) 841-4536.



(l-r) Mayor Marlowe, Councilman Peter Altman, Councilman Matt Murphy, Councilman Chopper Davis, Deputy Mayor Jeff Starkey

## THE TRANSFORMATION OF THE GATEWAY BEGINS!

The transformation of the corner of Main Street and US Hwy 19, the gateway to downtown, has begun. The conclusion of several months of intense negotiations between the CRA and Keenan Development Group have resulted in an agreement to begin phase one of the redevelopment.

Keenan Development Group, which has been building for Keiser University for 26 years, will construct a 41,000 square foot, two story building to house an estimated 1000 students and 100 employees at the corner of Main Street and US Hwy 19.

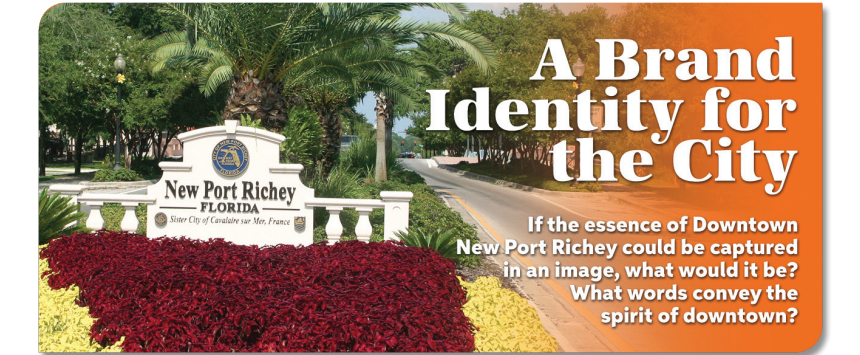
The new \$12M location will begin construction in the summer of 2020 and conclude with the opening of the building and the start of classes in April of 2021. The deal includes an option for the CRA to construct a shared parking structure which, in turn, will allow for the construction of another building on the site, such as a hotel. The parking structure will also serve as public parking and a catalyst for future redevelopment along the west end of Main Street.



## Downtown and Sims Park BEAT PATROL

The vibrancy of our downtown has certainly changed over the last few years. It is with regularity that you see residents and guests enjoying the exciting amenities of our city. They are visiting beautiful Sims Park, shopping at quaint shops, and dining at local restaurants whenever possible. The city is bustling with activity, throughout the day and into the evenings, every day of the week. It is expected this influx of people will continue to grow.

In order to promote the principles of community policing, the police department has responded to this increase in activity by establishing a "beat patrol" to increase police presence in Sims Park, Cotee River Park and the downtown area during peak activity times. You can expect to see officers using a variety of transportation methods. Depending on the weather, they may be on foot, riding bicycles, or operating specially equipped ATV type vehicles. According to Police Chief, Kim Bogart, the officers that are working the new beat are enjoying opportunities to engage the public rather than just to drive by in a police vehicle.



## MAYOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

It is a pleasure to present you with another issue of the city newsletter. The city newsletter is one way that we try to keep you up-to-date on important matters. I am very excited to share with you that our library will celebrate its centennial anniversary this year. The library opened its doors on April 10, 1920 at what was known as the Snell Building with "more than 2,000 volumes on every conceivable subject" as reported by The Port Richey Press. My how it has grown since then and now offers over 110,038 print, digital and online materials. Be sure to mark your calendar with all of the great events commemorating this occasion! It only happens once a century!

I would like to extend my appreciation to all of you who participated in one of the recent focus groups for our new branding and marketing initiative. There were some really great ideas that were discussed. It is an exciting time in our city and our new brand will only help to enhance that excitement.

As you are aware, the City became a golf cart friendly city back in 2016. I have heard recently from several people that the reason they moved here was because they can use their golf carts to move about the city. In that regard, be sure to check out the article on page 5 regarding golf carts at Sims Park. Please be a responsible operator by following the rules as they are in place to help keep our community safe. If you see anyone operating a golf cart in an unsafe manner, please contact our police department at (727) 841-4550.

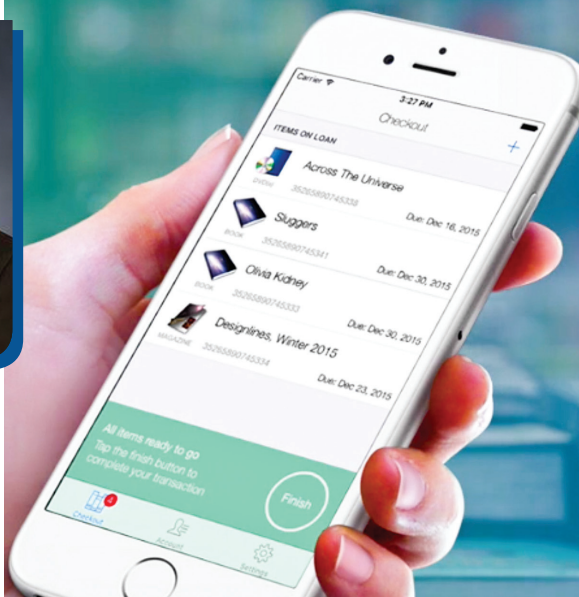
Hope to see you around the city!

Sincerely,

Rob Marlowe  
Mayor



## NEW SELF CHECK at the LIBRARY



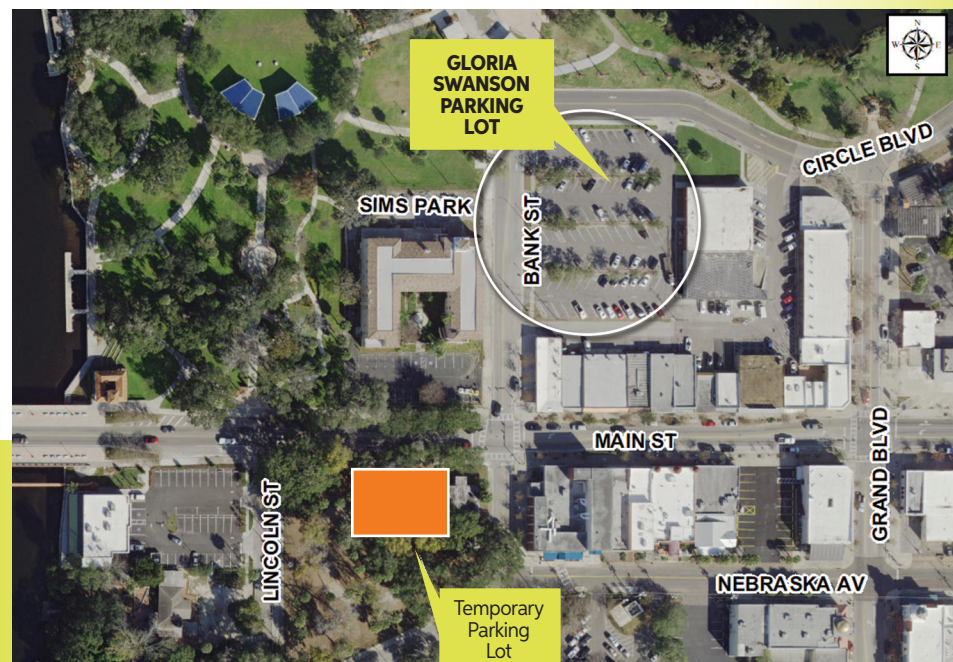
The New Port Richey Public Library unveiled an easy-to-use meeScan self-check system that allows library members to borrow items using one of the touch-screen kiosks located throughout the library or their own smart phone/ tablet.

Members can download the free meeScan app from the App Store or Google Play. In a few quick steps, the member can set up their library account and use their device's built-in camera to scan barcodes and borrow items as they browse the aisles. Members can also print a receipt from the self-check printer or have it emailed.

With this new, more efficient self-check system in place, library staff will be able to provide more individualized and effective member service.

## City of New Port Richey Gloria Swanson Parking Lot IMPROVEMENTS

The City of New Port Richey has begun improvements to the Gloria Swanson parking lot, located at Bank Street and Circle Boulevard. The improvements are a direct result of the parking study completed last year and will include the addition of twenty parking spaces, landscape, hardscape, paving, streetscape expansion and lighting. During the construction phase of the project, the parking lot and Bank Street, from the alley to Grand Boulevard, is closed. A temporary parking lot will be available at Bank Street and Nebraska Avenue. Please see the map below for reference.



For more information about this project, please contact the Public Works Department at (727) 841-4536.

## 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. If you have questions about the articles contained in this issue or a suggested topic that you would like to see covered in a future issue please feel free to contact me.

There are so many exciting things happening in our city. One project of particular interest is the new home for Keiser University. The City was able to work with Keiser University to find a new location for them to build a beautiful new 41,000 square foot campus at US Highway 19 and Main Street. Construction is estimated to begin in June. You can read more about this project on the cover page.

I am excited to share with you that improvements to the Gloria Swanson parking lot located across from Sims Park began on April 7, 2020. The project includes the addition of 20 parking spaces, landscape, hardscape, paving, streetscape expansion, and lighting improvements. More information on this project can be found on page 2.

In other exciting news, the City recently upgraded to a new utility billing system. The new billing software provides additional online features with detailed billing information for an overall enhanced user experience. For more information, check out the article on page 4.

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's NEW eCard is now available

The New Port Richey Public Library is unveiling a new eCard to those who may not yet have a library card and would like access to NPRPL's online resources.

With the new eCard, members have access to the NPR Public Library's collection of digital resources. eCard members can stream movies, learn languages, find craft instruction and inspiration, download eBooks and audiobooks, stream movies and music and much more.

Visit the website, nprlibrary.org, to apply for the eCard. The application is short and only takes a minute to complete. You will receive a library card number and pin within two business days and can immediately begin using your account.

There is absolutely no charge for this service if you are a New Port Richey resident or member of a TBLC reciprocal library, such

as the Library Cooperatives of Pasco, Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, and Pinellas Counties.

For more information, visit: [www.nprlibrary.org](http://www.nprlibrary.org) or call 727.853.1279 between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday-Saturday.

### ABOUT THE NEW PORT RICHEY PUBLIC LIBRARY

Incorporated in 1919 and opening its doors to the public in 1920, the New Port Richey Public Library is the oldest Library in Pasco County. Awarded the distinction of Florida's first "Library of the Year" in 2006 and the prestigious EBSCO Solar Grant in 2019, this municipal library prides itself in continuously offering new services to members, living into the Library's Centennial motto of "Proud Past, Inspired Future."

## Advancing Technology

### Stay Connected With Your City

Have you downloaded the City's mobile app yet? If not, you can find it on Google Play and Apple App Store or on the main page of the City's website. This is a great way to stay connected with the city and receive alert notifications on upcoming events like concerts in Sims Park or city construction projects happening in your area.

Use the app to connect with City departments, find local parks or city facilities. Our calendar keeps you updated on upcoming Council meetings, work sessions, and other city functions. Keep current on news postings and bulletins provided by the City. Pay your utility bill by launching the web portal, find frequently asked questions, review job postings, and more.

### A New Look for Online Bill Pay

The City of New Port Richey has moved to a new utility bill pay system. You can find our new utility pay system at nprutility.org or by clicking on online bill pay on the main page of the City's website. Our new system offers additional online features with detailed billing information for our customers. The software provides a clean detailed look to your utility account.

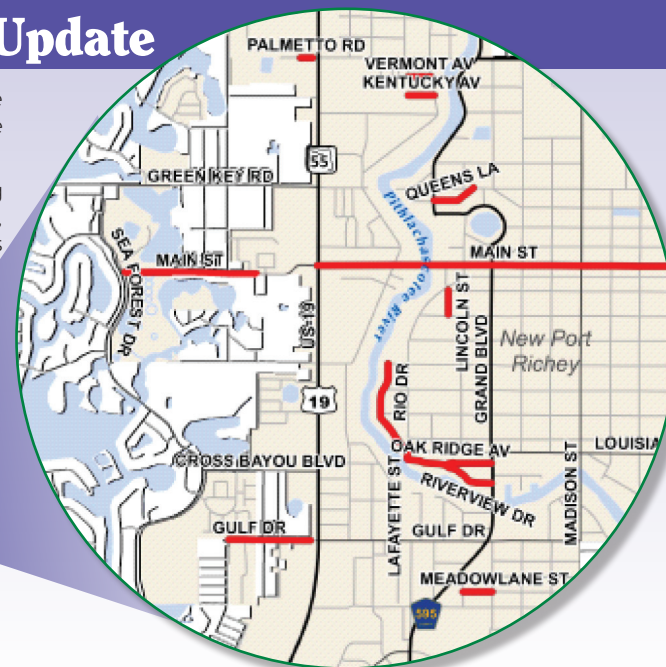
Sign in to view your current due date and amount, access billing history, and even view scanned images of your bill. Use the system to elect features such as the setup of electronic fund transfer or request your bill to be delivered electronically. Have more than one location? Manage multiple accounts by linking them to your profile.

## Street IMPROVEMENT Project Update

Construction is underway for this year's Street Improvement Project. This is the third project under the new Pavement Management Plan, based on a 20 year cycle for all City owned streets to be paved.

The work will include: cutting and removing existing asphalt, removing and replacing road base material, milling existing asphalt roads, new asphalt overlay, stripping, signage, and pavement markings. Included in this project are the following streets within the city limits:

- Main Street from Sea Forest Drive to Southtowne Loop
- Main Street from US Highway 19 to Old Main Street
- Palmetto Road from US Highway 19 west to city limits
- Vermont Avenue from River Road to Cul-de-sac
- Kentucky Avenue from River Road to Cul-de-sac
- Queens Lane from Grand Boulevard to Indiana Avenue
- Lincoln Street from Missouri Avenue to Montana Avenue
- Rio Drive from Tennessee Avenue to Illinois Avenue
- Oak Ridge Avenue from Grand Boulevard to Lafayette Street
- Riverview Drive from Oak Ridge Avenue to approximately 145 feet east
- Riverview Drive from Grand Boulevard to approximately 285 feet west
- Gulf Drive from US Highway 19 to city limits
- Meadowlane Street from Aspen Street to George Street



# We need YOU!

The City of New Port Richey welcomes volunteers to serve on its different boards and committees. The following is a brief description of each.

- **The Cultural Affairs Committee** takes part in the creation of cultural activities for the education and recreation of our residents. The Committee also reviews all requests made to the City for co-sponsorship of cultural events.
- **The Environmental Committee** serves as the planning committee for the City's environmental and recycling events in addition to advising City Council on environmental initiatives that should be explored. The Committee also serves as the planning committee for the City's major environmental events such as Earth Day and Arbor Day.
- **The Historic Preservation Board** is chartered with the power, authority and jurisdiction to regulate and administer historical, archaeological and architectural resources in the City and to recommend resources for historic designation to the City Council. Members of the Board should have a deep concern for historic preservation, development and enhancement of the City's historical resources.
- **The Land Development Review Board** offers advisory opinions and recommendations on matters involving the development of land in the city. The Board also makes recommendations to City Council regarding ordinances which amend the City's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. The Board also serves as the City's Local Planning Agency per the requirements outlined in the Florida Statutes.
- **The Library Advisory Board** makes recommendations to the Library Director and City Council concerning matters pertaining to the use of the library, aids in the long-range planning of the library and is authorized to accept donations to the library on behalf of the city. The Board also assists the Library Director in preparing policies and procedures for the Library.
- **The Parks and Recreation Advisory Board** plans, promotes and assists the city's Parks and Recreation Department on recreational projects and events held throughout the city. The Board also works with other local agencies on events held throughout the year in city parks.
- **The Firefighters' and Police Pension Boards** determine the amount of all retirement allowances or other benefits for their respective groups. The Boards also receive and process all applications for benefits.

To be eligible to serve on a city board or committee, you must be a registered voter and reside within the city limits. If you are interested in applying for a volunteer position, applications are available on the City's website at [www.cityofnewportrichey.org](http://www.cityofnewportrichey.org).

## Your City Council

from left to right



- Councilperson, Chopper Davis  
[Davisc@cityofnewportrichey.org](mailto:Davisc@cityofnewportrichey.org)
- Mayor, Rob Marlowe  
[Marlower@cityofnewportrichey.org](mailto:Marlower@cityofnewportrichey.org)
- Councilperson, Matt Murphy  
[Murphyrm@cityofnewportrichey.org](mailto:Murphyrm@cityofnewportrichey.org)
- Councilperson, Pete Altman (seated)  
[Altmanp@cityofnewportrichey.org](mailto:Altmanp@cityofnewportrichey.org)
- Deputy Mayor, Jeff Starkey (seated)  
[Starkeyj@cityofnewportrichey.org](mailto:Starkeyj@cityofnewportrichey.org)