

2020 Officer of the Year

Each year, the Police Chief considers nominees for the Officer of the Year Award. Each nominee demonstrates outstanding work on the squad. This year's honor is awarded to Detective Edward Campbell.

A member of the police department for 16 years, Detective Campbell began his career as a communications dispatcher. After three and a half years, he was transferred to patrol as an officer, where he also served as Field Training Officer for eight and a half years. In 2015, Detective Campbell was assigned to the Criminal Investigations Unit as Detective.

New Port Richey Police Detectives must have the ability and skills to investigate all types of criminal activity and be available for after-hours investigations at any time. Detective Campbell handles these investigations, oversight of the department's Facebook page and other criminal activity databases such as the sex offender database. His job performance speaks for itself. Since being assigned as a detective in 2015, every high profile case he has investigated has resulted in a conviction or plea agreement.

Detective Campbell consistently takes advantage of training opportunities to expand his investigative knowledge and abilities, and he has earned a stellar reputation as a top-notch investigator within the department as well as with other law enforcement agencies. Detective Campbell is known as a "go to employee" who wears many hats with a great attitude and outstanding work ethic. He mentors less experienced detectives and officers and is always willing to assist anywhere he is needed. Detective Campbell is recognized by all as an asset to the Criminal Investigations Bureau and the department. Detective Campbell is an outstanding detective and most deserving of this special recognition.

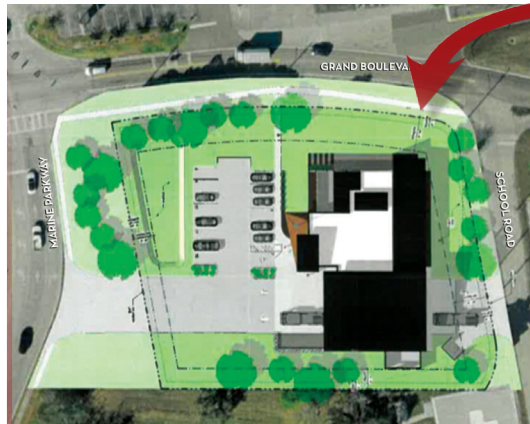


2020 Firefighter of the Year

The City of New Port Richey Fire Department has announced Captain Keith Bauer as the 2020 Firefighter of the Year recipient.

Each year, the Fire Department announces a Firefighter of the Year. Captain Keith Bauer began his career with the New Port Richey Fire Department in 2004 as a part-time firefighter and was quickly promoted to full-time firefighter in January 2005 when a vacancy occurred in the ranks. Earning numerous certifications over the course of his 16 year career, Keith was promoted to the rank of Captain in May of 2012. Captain Bauer oversees the daily operations of a crew of firefighters and ensures new firefighters receive the critical training they need to perform their jobs effectively and safely.

Captain Bauer has outstanding leadership qualities and is an exemplary role model and mentor for other firefighters. Captain Bauer also actively participates on the Fire Department Pension Board where he displays confidence and integrity. He also plays a lead role in the Residential Rental Inspection Division, providing input in key decision making as it pertains to procedures of the division. Captain Bauer works extremely hard to help the city reach its full potential and is dedicated to improving the image of the rental stock within the city. With all of his assigned duties, Captain Bauer displays a positive attitude and serves the public with the utmost dedication and professionalism.



A NEW FIRE STATION

The City Council recently approved the construction of a Fire Station to replace Fire Station #2. The current station is a 46-year-old, one-bay station

located in a residential area at 6141 High Street. The City has considered replacing this station for many years due to the size, location and condition of the building. The new Fire Station #2 will be constructed on the northeast corner of Grand Boulevard and Marine Parkway. The City is currently working with Spring Engineering, Inc. on the programming and design phase of the project with an emphasis on health and safety considerations.

The new station will be a 8,700 square foot, one-story building with two drive-through bays for fire apparatus. The station will offer many modern design features including a hot, warm and cool zone interior layout that provides a safe working environment for the firefighters. This layout has become an industry standard due to the alarming increase of firefighters diagnosed with cancer caused by job-related exposure to carcinogens.

Some of the features incorporated in the station hot zone include a decontamination room with a shower and an extractor to wash gear, bunker gear storage room, and a diesel exhaust system in the apparatus bays. The warm and cool zones will include a public accessible lobby area, station office, training room, kitchen and dining area, living area, fitness room, District Chief office and individual bunk rooms.

The location of the new Fire Station #2 allows for easy access to the busy U.S. Highway 19 corridor, which will greatly improve response times. The location will also allow the Fire Department to maintain an impressive four-minute response time to the entire Fire Station #2 service area. The Fire Department looks forward to being good neighbors in the Marine Parkway district.



CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY
5919 Main Street | New Port Richey, FL 34652

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More Access @ your Library!



Now offering even more services, the City of New Port Richey Public Library has expanded access by eliminating late fees, increased hours and added virtual and outside events.

In October, the New Port Richey City Council approved the new fee schedule which eliminated late fees for books in the regular collection. Library members will still be able to renew items up to three times if no one else is waiting for them. The library will send reminders by email, text, and phone to help borrowers remember to return items before the account is suspended and replacement fees are charged.

With continuing safety measures in place due to COVID-19, library members will have uninterrupted service as cleaning will occur throughout the day. When entering the building to borrow materials, visitors are asked to follow policies related to social distancing, time limits and face coverings to help maintain everyone's health. Hand sanitizers and self-checkout stations are throughout the building, and touchless payment and print options are available. Book donations and meeting room reservations are suspended until further notice. Library staff look forward to safely providing service and accommodations to members during the new hours:

Mon., Thur. and Fri. / 10am - 5pm
Tue., and Wed. / 10am - 7pm ■ Sat. / 10am - 2pm

Continue to connect with others by taking advantage of in-person and virtual learning opportunities. From picture books to produce, take part in craft classes, outdoor storytimes, seasonal STEM activities and the Florida Talks speaker series about protecting water, our most important natural resource, made possible by a grant from the Florida Humanities Council. Find more details about reserving your spot at an upcoming event, registering for online Reading Challenges, joining the Friends of the Library and more by calling 727.853.1272 or registering online at www.nprlibrary.org



THE CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY –
not just the "Gateway to Tropical Florida" anymore

The City of New Port Richey has worked for years to bring new life to downtown. With the construction of Keiser University and the parking structure at Main Street and US-19, west Main Street is poised to become an entrance that reflects those years of hard work. Several months into construction, Keiser University's campus is already taking shape. By the time that both projects are finished in early summer, residents and visitors will notice several improvements to the Palm District.

In addition to these monumental projects, the City plans to construct a new entryway feature to welcome visitors to downtown. "Our goal is to turn this node into a distinct and recognizable gateway for our downtown," Charles Rudd, Economic Development Director, explained. These development projects have already

paid dividends in terms of business recruitment. Properties that are west of the Cotee River – which have long been abandoned for commercial use – are suddenly full of life. Over the last year, the district has seen nearly a dozen businesses open their doors in this district, with a handful planning to open early this year. "This is the first time our plaza has been full," said Paul Noi, owner of the Thai Bistro.

"In many respects, this is the perfect time to initiate a project to construct a parking structure in the city," said, Debbie Manns, City Manager. "It certainly will be of benefit to those who plan to attend future community events as they begin to return to downtown and to Sims Park."

Mayor Marlowe and Dr. Keiser with an illustration of the future parking structure which will be located directly behind the new university.



BRANDING

Walking through downtown New Port Richey is drastically different today than it was five years ago. Renovations to public spaces, new businesses adorning Main Street, and the swell of popularity from visitors and residents alike have contributed to the new vibe in the City. Anticipating the likelihood to become West Pasco County's de facto downtown, The City and the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) launched Stage 1 of the City's Master Plan by enlisting consultants Arnett Muldrow & Associates to develop a brand platform. A brand platform is a foundation for an organization's identity, messaging and visual presentation.

The goal of the new brand was to capture the City's positive momentum and to standardize the city's internal and external communications in order to promote the brand. Extensive research was conducted to collect stakeholder feedback before translating the community's strengths into a graphic brand platform. At a CRA meeting the Board of Directors voted unanimously to implement the final product: a citywide logo with extensions for each department, a color palette, a branded typeface, and a strategy for marketing and implementation.

They also voted to move forward on the final stages of the Master Plan, which will focus on proposing concepts to further develop the US HWY-19 corridor and the downtown district. The ultimate result will be a vision of what New Port Richey could look like through the thoughtful consideration and support of the business community and the continued advancement of the city's CRA.

MAYOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

There are some interesting articles in this issue of the city newsletter highlighting many, but not all, of the fantastic things going on in our city. In case you are not aware, the City launched a new branding and marketing initiative. The new logo incorporates the beautiful Pithlachascotee River that runs through our town along with the mangroves that border the waters and the cupola at the Hacienda Hotel. The new branding logo ties in with the wayfinding signs that were installed throughout the city over the last year. You can read more about the marketing and branding initiative on the cover page.

I would like to extend my congratulations to our 2020 Officer of the Year, Detective Edward Campbell, and our 2020 Firefighter of the Year, Captain Keith Bauer. You can read more about these outstanding civil servants on page 5.

I am excited to let you know that we have a new "Report a Problem" feature on our mobile app. The feature allows you to report an issue regarding a streetlight, code enforcement, water main break, pothole, etc. You can read more about this feature on page 4. The app is available for download from the Apple Store or Google Play.

Although most of the annual events hosted in the city have been cancelled for the time being, there are still many things for you to see and do. I hope you take advantage of everything that our city has to offer and I look forward to seeing you around the city!

Sincerely,
Rob Marlowe
Mayor

NEW PORT RICHEY
CLASSIC. FLORIDA. CURRENT.



In October, Deputy Mayor Jeff Starkey announced his resignation from City Council due to moving out of city limits. Mr. Starkey was elected to City Council in April 2013 and served as Deputy Mayor from April 2017 until his resignation. Mr. Starkey was the City's representative on the Pasco County Metropolitan Planning Organization Board where he served as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Starkey's dedication and passion for our community will be missed and the City wishes him and his family the best of luck in their new home.

In order to fill the vacancy on City Council, letters of interest for qualified candidates were reviewed by City Council. At the November 4th City Council meeting, Mike Peters was unanimously selected to fill the vacant seat until the 2021 Municipal Election. Mr. Peters and his wife, NeNe, moved to West Pasco in 1988. Mr. Peters has actively been involved in the New Port Richey community over the years by volunteering to build the "Super Playground" in Sims Park in 1990, serving as Chairman of the Board of Pasco Kids First, the Citizens Advisory Committee for Pasco County's Comprehensive Land Use Plan, the County's Citizens Ordinance and Review Committee, and by currently serving on Congressman Gus Bilirakis's Pasco Advisory Committee. For several years Mr. Peters has led grassroots lobbying efforts in Tallahassee and Washington, D.C. for professionals in the insurance and financial services industry. In his free time, Mr. Peters enjoys mountain biking, playing golf and tennis, and boating with family and friends.



Deputy Mayor,
Jeff Starkey



Mike Peters

DOWNTOWN
NEW PORT RICHEY

CITY MANAGER'S LETTER

Dear Neighbors,

It is with great pleasure that I present you another issue of the city newsletter. The past year has definitely been a challenge for our city due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have had to make several adjustments to our normal operations to not only comply with CDC guidelines but to ensure the health and safety of our employees and residents.

The COVID-19 pandemic greatly influenced the budget process for the fiscal year. I am pleased to let you know that through the hard work of staff, we were able to present a balanced budget to City Council for the 20/21 fiscal year. The City Council adopted the budget on September 22, 2020, with the effective date of October 1st.

Although we are dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, there are still many exciting things happening in our city. One project of particular interest is the relocation of Fire Station No. 2. The station will be moving from a residential area off High Street to the northeast corner of Grand Boulevard and Marine Parkway. You can read more about this project on page 5.

I hope that you will find the information provided in this issue 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 as I am here to serve you.

Sincerely,
Debbie L. Manns
City Manager



WATER CONSERVATION

As Florida's population continues to grow, it takes all of us to protect the state's water supply and ensure our communities, wildlife, industry, and agriculture continue to flourish.

The City of New Port Richey protects our region's water supply by employing various strategies to reduce unnecessary water usage. Residents and utility customers can help our community lead the way to responsible water stewardship by taking advantage of these three water conservation opportunities.

Rebate Program

The City partnered with four other local government agencies along with Tampa Bay Water and SWFWMD to save water in the Tampa Bay Region. The water conservation program - Tampa Bay Water Wise - offers rebates to residents and commercial property owners who take proactive steps to reduce water use and demand on the region's water supply. Residential property owners can qualify for rebates ranging from \$100.00 for toilet replacements up to \$250.00 for smart irrigation controllers.

Reclaimed Water

Reclaimed water is the final product of a multiple-stage advanced treatment that can be safely used for irrigation and other non-potable (other than drinking) uses. Using it helps reduce demands on our groundwater use by providing an additional water source for our growing community.

Reclaimed water has been recycled, in a sense, by having solids and pathogens eliminated while retaining valuable nitrogen and phosphorous elements that work as fertilizers, enhancing ornamental plants and grass growth.

To use reclaimed water for lawn watering, you can connect your current irrigation system with little or no modifications. The \$300.00 installation/connection fee includes \$150.00 for a 3/4" meter and \$150.00 for the Backflow Prevention Assembly installation and test. Pay once, or use a convenient monthly payment option for 1 or 2 years.

Keep Savings Flowing with a Water-Saving Conservation Kit

The City is pleased to offer indoor and outdoor conservation kits to utility customers. Take advantage of water, energy and money savings by using the kit's tools to reduce water waste in your home. Kits are available at the Billing and Collections Division of the Finance Department, located in City Hall. The indoor kit includes an earth showerhead, toilet flapper, leak detection dye tablets, and a bathroom sink faucet aerator, while the outdoor kit includes a moisture meter, rain gauge, water wheel, and a seven-spray hose nozzle.

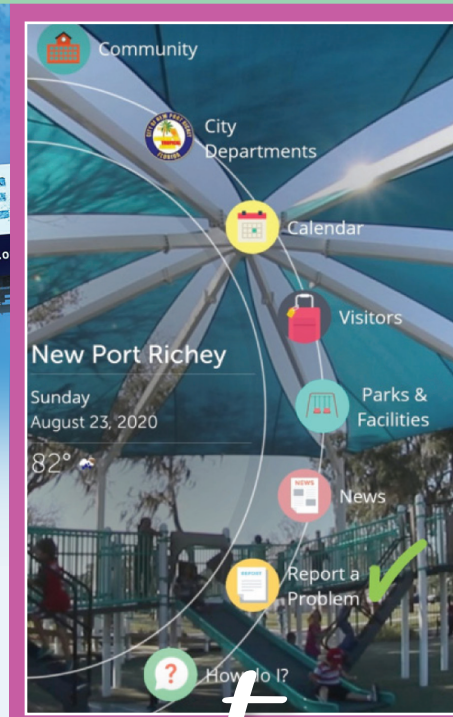
Go Green! E-billing is a convenient and environmentally-friendly way to receive, review, and pay your monthly utility bill from any desktop, tablet or phone. It **allows customers** to receive utility statements by email instead of through regular postal mail. By going green, you'll receive your statements quicker, so you have more time to pay. There's also no risk of your bill getting lost in the mail. Help save paper and reduce waste by signing up now!

Sign up by calling customer service at (727) 853-1061 or emailing ut_billing@cityofnewportrichey.org.

SIGNUP FOR E-BILLING TODAY!

SAVE PAPER...SAVE TREES...SAVE THE ENVIRONMENT!

e-billing



get CONNECTED

Download the City's mobile app to stay connected with your city. Now it is easier than ever to report a problem in just a few simple clicks. Use the "Report a Problem" feature on the home screen of the app to start the process. Report anonymously or provide your contact information for a follow-up. This tool allows you to plot a location on a map and take photos. City staff will look into the issue and take action on your request.

In addition, you can use the app to stay connected on events. Find upcoming City Council meetings or city events using the calendar. Get the latest updates on Covid-19 regarding city operations, facilities and closures. Find answers to frequently asked questions or watch a City Council meeting from your phone.

Do you want to receive alerts? Allowing alert notifications when you install the app will keep you connected with notifications on road closures, service updates, and other city alerts.

New features are continually being added to the mobile app in an effort to provide speedier services to the community, so keep watching for new features to be unveiled in the future.

we need YOU!

The City of New Port Richey's boards and committees perform a vital role in improving the quality of life in our community. There are currently openings on several boards and committees for those who want to take an active role in making a difference in our city.

- 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 the City Council on environmental initiatives. The committee serves as the planning committee for the City's major environmental events.
- The Historic Preservation Board is chartered with the power, authority and jurisdiction to regulate and administer historical, archaeological and architectural resources and to recommend resources for historic designation to the City Council. Members of the Board shall preferably have knowledge of architecture, history, and/or the historical or architectural development of the City, or at minimum, have a deep concern for historic preservation, development and enhancement of the City's historical resources.
- The Land Development Review Board offers advisory recommendations on matters involving the development of land. The Board also makes recommendations to the City Council regarding ordinances which amend the City's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code. The Board 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 the City Council concerning matters pertaining to the use of the library. The Board aids in the library's long-range planning and assists the Library Director in preparing policies and procedures.
- The Parks and Recreation Board plans, promotes and assists the city's Parks and Recreation Department on recreational projects and events. 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 reviews and processes all applications for benefits.

To be eligible to serve on a city board or committee, with the exception of the Library Advisory Board and Historic Preservation Board which have their own specific requirements, 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/city-departments/boards-committees

Your City Council

(BACK ROW)

Deputy Mayor, Chopper Davis
Davis@cityofnewportrichey.org

Councilperson, Matt Murphy
Murphyrm@cityofnewportrichey.org

(FRONT ROW)

Mayor, Rob Marlowe
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Councilperson, Mike Peters
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Councilperson, Pete Altman
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