

# THE bridge

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cityofnewportrichey.org

5th Edition | March 2017

## Downtown Landscaping Project



Chinese  
Fan  
Palm

▶ A landscaping project that involves the replacement of the Drake Elms in the downtown area will be started during the month of April. The Drake Elms will be replaced with Chinese Fan Palm trees. The Chinese Fan Palm tree is topped with an evergreen dense crowd of fan shaped leaves that droop down creating a fountain like effect.

Some of the other enhancements included in the project involve the installation of landscape materials at the Gloria Swanson, Florida Avenue/Adams Street and Gerben DeVries public parking lots. In addition, the project also calls for upgrades in the center islands that line Main Street between the Pithlachascotee River and U.S. Highway 19.

The existing Drake Elms will be replanted to other locations in the downtown area.



## Wayfinding SIGNAGE Plan

▶ The city is preparing to launch a wayfinding signage plan which serves as a framework for implementing an attractive and effective sign system that directs drivers, riders and pedestrians to key destinations within the city. Wayfinding signage consists of the following four types:

- ✓ Gateway
- ✓ Directional
- ✓ Identification
- ✓ Informational

A City Council workshop intended to facilitate the development of the plan was conducted on September 19, 2016. The workshop in addition to serving as an opportunity to receive City Council input was additionally a public forum for discussing the various project elements. At the workshop a review of existing conditions was performed. The top two observations concerning existing signage in the city is as follows:

- ✓ Lack of Coordinated Sign Design
- ✓ Visual Clutter of Signage

Various design concepts were also introduced at the workshop and the city's project consultant, the KMA Group performed some on-the-fly design work to achieve a logo and design for the signs. The design of the sign as shown above on the depicted gateway sign features a symmetrical sign face with metal work at the top that is intended to represent the flowing river. The pole and metal are black; the sign face is dark teal with a light teal outline. All signs will have similar colors and features.

As the new wayfinding signs are installed, a sign inventory system will be prepared that includes sign locations by type and message, date of installation and any site maintenance responsibilities.

## BIG idea series

▶ If you're a lifelong learner who enjoys dynamic speakers, thought-provoking discussion and big ideas, then the Big Ideas series at the NPR Public Library may be for you. Big Ideas meets on Tuesdays, 4:30 – 6 PM, and is designed to stretch your thinking and introduce new concepts through high-quality speakers and audience discussion.

"Big Ideas workshops are meant to expose people to provocative and intriguing concepts that spark new thoughts and ideas about life and the universe. It's for people that are not only interested in learning more about a subject but also in sharing their own knowledge, ideas and opinions. This has sparked lively and rich discussions," coordinator Lisa LeFay said.

Past workshops included concepts such as cosmology, philosophy, environmental ethics, and economics. They have included films, speakers, activities, and active conversations.



Upcoming topics will continue that trend, with "What is Yoga?" featuring a panel of yoga instructors on April 11. Tentative topics for May and June are "Journey of the Universe," May 23, featuring a documentary from astrophysicist Brian Swimme and "Choosing News & Making Up History," June 26, featuring former journalist and professor Bruce Benidt.

# MAYOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

There are some very interesting articles in this issue of the city newsletter highlighting many, but not all, of the fantastic things going on in our city. I hope you enjoy this issue and share in my pride of our wonderful city.



Speaking of pride, I will take this opportunity to thank our dedicated City Council and professional staff for all their hard work in making New Port Richey such a magnificent place to live, work and play. One of my life's greatest honors has been serving as your Mayor. I am proud of the progress we have made over the last few years.

One of the more notable pieces of news in this issue of the newsletter is the official ground breaking to re-commence the construction of the Main Street Landing Project at the corner of Main Street and River Road. Our country's recent economic recession delayed the completion of this extraordinary development and the project will certainly provide the much needed stimulus in the resurgence of our historic downtown district.

I am also happy to report that steady progress is being made on landscaping improvements in the downtown area and along US Highway 19. Both projects will be implemented during the months of April and May of 2017. The City is also finalizing plans for a wayfinding and signage program that will connect visitors to key destinations. These enhancements are important components of our efforts to improve the overall image of our city and our downtown in particular.

The City is again hosting its Annual Neighborhood Spring Clean-Up Day on Saturday, June 3, 2017 from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm. This is an opportunity for all to get involved and dispose of unwanted items to help beautify our city. Please refer to the article in this newsletter for additional details on locations and the types of household waste accepted. Many hands make light work.

Mark your calendars and make your plans for this year's upcoming Summer Concert Series on June 3, June 17, July 8, and July 22 in Sims Park. An outstanding line-up has been scheduled this year. See the article in this issue for more information.

Hope to see you around town!

Sincerely,  
Mayor Rob Marlowe

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## WHEN IS A BUILDING PERMIT REQUIRED?

This question is often asked and the answer depends on the type of construction that is proposed. The requirements for permits are regulated by the Florida Building Code which intends that permits are required for most construction other than minor maintenance of structures. The table shows permit requirements for residential and commercial property.

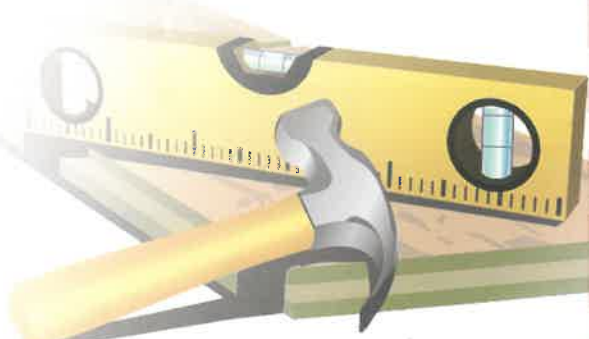
**The list is not exhaustive and it is subject to changes every three years. If you have a question about what requires a permit please feel free to contact the Development Department at 853-1016.**

### DOES NOT Require a Building Permit:

- ✓ Cosmetic work (painting, replacing flooring or drywall (no electrical), replacing plumbing fixtures (no relocation), replacing light fixtures (no new electrical work) installing cabinets)
- ✓ Landscaping (except irrigation or tree removal)
- ✓ Changing a filter on an air conditioning unit or cleaning ducts that does not require removal of the air grills
- ✓ Temporary accessory structures (swing sets or kiddie pools)

### REQUIRES a Building Permit:

- ✓ Additions & remodels
- ✓ Air conditioning
- ✓ Aluminum work & carports
- ✓ Anslu system and mechanical hoods
- ✓ Awnings
- ✓ Backflow preventers
- ✓ Barns (including pole barns)
- ✓ Boat lifts
- ✓ Business signs & face changes to signs
- ✓ Change of use & occupancy
- ✓ Decks
- ✓ Demolitions
- ✓ Docks
- ✓ Driveways
- ✓ Electrical
- ✓ Fences
- ✓ Fire sprinklers & alarms
- ✓ Flag poles
- ✓ Flat concrete work (patios, decks, BBQ pads over three by four feet.)
- ✓ Foundation stabilization
- ✓ Irrigation
- ✓ Mobile home set ups
- ✓ New structures
- ✓ Photovoltaic installations
- ✓ Plumbing
- ✓ Pools and accessories
- ✓ Reclaimed water meters & installations
- ✓ Repaving and striping of parking lots or sealing
- ✓ Retaining walls
- ✓ Right-of-way work
- ✓ Roofing and re-roofing
- ✓ Screen enclosure and lanais
- ✓ Sheds and storage units
- ✓ Siding
- ✓ Soffit and fascia boards
- ✓ Solar heating devices
- ✓ Stucco/Lath
- ✓ Tree removal
- ✓ Water & sewer connections
- ✓ Water heaters
- ✓ Windows & doors



Back by popular demand, the city is proud to present our Summer Sunset Concert Series. All concerts will be held in Sims Park and will begin at 7:00p.m. This year's line-up is as follows:

- June 3rd / Surf's Up Tour, a Beach Boys Tribute
- June 17th / Alter Eagles, Eagles Tribute Band
- July 8th / Matt Winter Band, classic rock performer
- July 22nd / Shawn Brown Band, jazz musician

If time permits, be sure to stop for dinner before enjoying the entertainment at one of our inviting and enjoyable downtown restaurants. If you plan to attend, don't forget to bring along a blanket or a chair.

# CITY MANAGER'S LETTER

Live. **NEW**  
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Dear Neighbors,

It is once again my pleasure to present you with an issue of the city newsletter. Hopefully, you will find the information provided both helpful and interesting. The publication of the newsletter is intended to keep you up to date on a variety of initiatives and projects that the City is working on. This edition also contains articles on upcoming events which you may decide to attend.



My favorite article is featured on the cover and is regarding the city Signage and Wayfinding Project. The project is significant because quite simply, the ability to navigate a city is vitally important to its economic prosperity. More specifically though, the project, when complete will also be an attractive and effective sign system that directs drivers, riders and pedestrians to key destinations.

One of the most important responsibilities I have is to prepare and present the annual budget to the Mayor and City Council for review and ultimately adoption. The process for the 2017/2018 proposed budget has already been initiated within city staff. Your input as a taxpayer in the process is valued and as such a copy of the budget timeline is included in this issue of the newsletter for your reference. As you can see there are many opportunities for the public to express their opinions and preferences about city services and proposed projects.

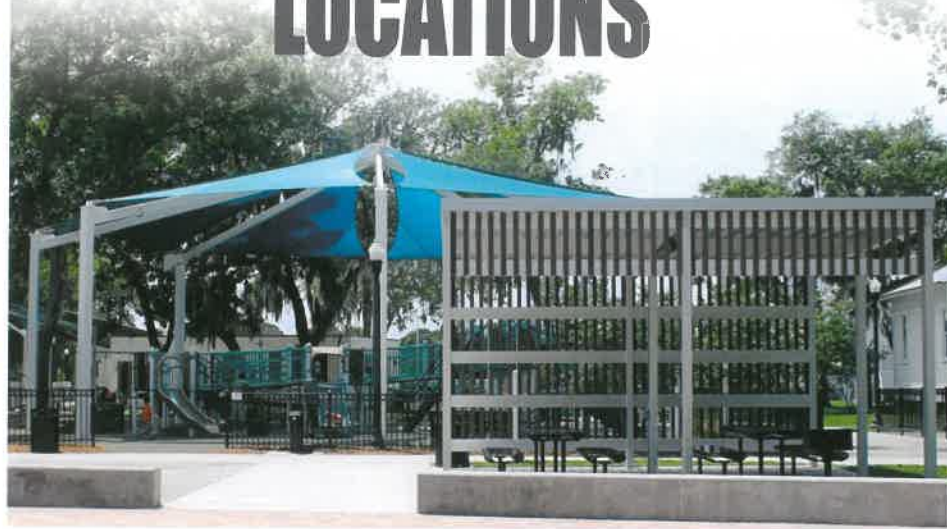
Notices of Proposed Property Taxes will be mailed to all property owners in August. The notices will inform property owners of the total amount of property taxes that will be charged. These amounts are based on the tax levy proposed by each taxing jurisdiction. The City Council and I are committed to reducing the 2017 final tax levy by ensuring continued suitable and prudent decisions related to the use of city resources. Therefore, for those of you whose property value does not change, you will see a decrease in the city portion of your tax bill.

It is a pleasure to serve our community as City Manager. I look forward to all of the exciting projects that the city will be initiating over the next few months and years.

As always, if there is something that I or city staff can do for you, please give me a call as we are here to serve you!

Sincerely,  
Debbie L. Manns

## EVENT LOCATIONS



Are you looking for a location to host a wedding, hold a birthday party or have a baby shower? If so, you may be interested to know that the city offers a wide variety of indoor and outdoor facilities available for your use.

If you are interested in an indoor space both Peace Hall and the Recreation and Aquatics Center offer more than suitable space at a reasonable price. Individually each of these city facilities can accommodate a group of up to 100 people in size and provide amenities such as a kitchen preparation area, private restrooms and tables and chairs.

If you prefer outdoor space the following parks have covered picnic shelters: Sims Park, Frances Avenue Park, James E. Grey Preserve and Grand Boulevard Park. All of the parks are well kept and provide countless opportunities to convene with nature. The type of amenities vary at each park but generally speaking they each provide playgrounds, picnic tables, grills and restrooms.

If you are looking for a unique and fun outdoor party idea you may want to consider hosting a private pool party at the Recreation and Aquatics Center. The facility boasts four pools, a water slide, diving boards and a zero depth entry kiddy pool all of which makes this location an ideal place for a party venue.

For more information on space availability and rental fees, please call the Recreation Department at (727) 841-4560.



## Tips on Hiring a Contractor

**If you require the services of a professional contractor, consider the following tips:**

Before you hire a contractor, ask to see the state-issued license. Also, verify the license number with Department of Business and Professional Regulation and check for any complaints.

- Get a written estimate from several licensed contractors. Make sure the estimate includes the work the contractor will do, the materials involved, the completion date and total cost.
- Beware of contractors who claim to be the fastest or the cheapest. Hiring them could result in poor workmanship, inferior materials or unfinished jobs.
- Check with the Development Department to find out if the contractor has a valid County license.

# Make Your Neighbors Green with Envy



Does your home have curb appeal? Making simple changes to the exterior of your home not only adds curb appeal but also increases the value of your property and makes your home the talk of the neighborhood. What could be a better investment? Follow these simple changes to make a big difference in your curb appeal:

1. **Paint and clean your windows**– nothing adds instant curb appeal like a fresh coat of paint and sparkling windows. Consider upgrading your front door hardware and hinges.
2. **Keep up your lawn** – pull any weeds and fertilize or seed barren areas.

3. **Add landscaping** – get creative and pick flowers that accent your home exterior well. Make sure to research before planting to find the right tree for the right location. The city offers free trees to upgrade the streetscape. Contact the Public Works Department for more details. Add rocks and mulch to complete the look. Consider adding some low light exterior lighting.
4. **Manicure current landscaping** – if you already have landscaping, be sure that it is trimmed and neat.
5. **Clean or paint your mailbox** – and add house numbers in an interesting design.
6. **Pressure wash your driveway** – if the condition is deteriorating, consider replacing the surface. Want to upgrade it? Make sure to get a permit from the Development Department.

7. **Create a pathway to your front door** – big stepping stones can create visual interest and an inviting feeling.
8. **Add outdoor furniture** – put a rocking chair with a bright cushion on your front porch or add a small bench near the entryway if you do not have a porch.
9. **Add a fun “Welcome” mat** – it is an inexpensive way to add character and welcome people into your home.

Thinking about making some major home improvements? Your project may qualify for a Home Improvement Reimbursement Grant. Contact the Development Department for more information at 727-853-1050.



**BEWARE:** An occupational license does not qualify an individual to act as a contractor and being registered with the Division of Corporations as an “Inc.” or “LLC” does not qualify an individual or company to act as a contractor.

To learn more, or for questions contact the Development Department at 853-1047.



## Your City Council

from left to right

- Deputy Mayor, Bill Phillips  
PhillipsB@cityofnewportrichey.org
- Councilperson, Jeff Starkey (seated)  
Starkeyj@cityofnewportrichey.org
- Mayor, Rob Marlowe  
MarloweR@cityofnewportrichey.org
- Councilperson, Chopper Davis (seated)  
DavisC@cityofnewportrichey.org
- Councilperson, Judy Debella Thomas  
DebellaThomas@cityofnewportrichey.org



► The City of New Port Richey Recreation and Aquatic Center is again offering American Red Cross swim lessons.

**WHEN:** **Session I Resident Registration:**  
Monday, May 22nd – Monday, June 5th  
**Session I Non-Resident Registration:**  
Monday, May 29th – Monday, June 5th

**WHERE:** City of New Port Richey  
Recreation and Aquatic Center  
6630 Van Buren St., New Port Richey, FL 34653

**COST:** \$40 per resident participant,  
\$50 per non-resident participant

Group lessons run in 30 minute time increments Tuesday through Thursday for two week time periods. Morning classes are offered from 8:00 am - 9:50 am, and evening classes are offered from 5:10 pm-7:00 pm. We will be offering four different sessions throughout the course of the summer.

**Session I:** June 6th – June 15th (Tuesday-Thursday)  
**Session II:** June 20th – June 29th (Tuesday-Thursday)  
**Session III:** July 11th – July 20th (Tuesday-Thursday)  
**Session IV:** July 25th – August 3rd (Tuesday-Thursday)

# Main Street Landings GROUND BREAKING *Ceremony*



On February 24, 2017, the City of New Port Richey, in partnership with Ken and Linda McGurn and Onix Construction, hosted a groundbreaking ceremony for the re-commencement of the construction for the Main Street Landings Project. Located in the heart of downtown New Port Richey, the upscale complex is estimated to be completed within twelve to eighteen months and will include eighty residential units right on the Pithlachascotee River along with fourteen commercial units located directly on Main Street.

## SPRING NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN-UP DAY!

► The city will host the annual Spring Neighborhood Clean-Up Day on Saturday, June 3, 2017, from 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m. This event allows residents of the city to dispose of unwanted items in dumpsters rented by the city. Make the most of this opportunity to properly dispose of unwanted items and help make our city beautiful. Dumpsters will be placed at: Frances Avenue Park, 5580 Frances Avenue and at the former Old River Road Church property, 6131 South River Road.

**ALLOWABLE MATERIALS:**

- Household Waste
- TV's and Computer Monitors
- Residential Construction Debris
- Disposal of unwanted paperwork with on-site paper shredding at the River Road collection site.

You may view a complete list of allowable materials on the city's website [www.citynpr.org](http://www.citynpr.org).



## LIBRARY CORNERS

► Kudos to your NPR Public Library on receiving one of first four multimedia library corners donated to public libraries by WEDU PBS thanks to a very generous bequest from long-time viewer, Phyllis L. Ensign.

The library corners will include a bookshelf with a robust collection of PBS Kids books, DVDs and CDs for the library's lending collection. The library corners will also include a reading rug, 2 electronic tablets loaded with PBS apps, a collection of 6 turnkey activity sessions with educational materials, take-home materials including a family resource guide, activity sheets, bookmarks, pencils and more.

WEDU, in partnership with the NPR Public Library, will host a community ribbon cutting celebration on Thursday, April 13, at noon, directly following the library's weekly Rhymes to Readers class. The ribbon cutting will feature a PBS Kids character appearance, activities, book giveaways, and the official opening of the library corner. Everyone in the community is invited to attend and celebrate this wonderful new addition to your NPR Public Library.



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

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## 2017-2018 BUDGET REVIEW CALENDAR

**All Meetings Held At City Hall**  
 5919 Main Street, New Port Richey

( JULY 5, 2017 )

**Presentation of Preliminary Budget / 7:00 PM**

( JULY 11, 2017 )

**City Council Work Session / 7:00 PM**

( JULY 18, 2017 )

**City Council Work Session / 5:00 PM**

( AUGUST 1, 2017 )

**Approve Certification of Taxable Value / 7:00 PM**

( SEPTEMBER 5, 2017 )

**1st Public Hearing on Tentative Budget / 6:00 PM**

( SEPTEMBER 19, 2017 )

**2nd Public Hearing on Tentative Budget / 6:00 PM**

( SEPTEMBER 25, 2017 )

**3rd Public Hearing to Adopt Final Millage Rate / 6:00 PM**

## US HIGHWAY 19 *Beautification* PROJECT

▶ You may have noticed some of the medians along US Highway 19 from Trouble Creek Road north to the Cotee River Bridge have gotten a facelift. New landscaping and trees have been planted in select center medians and Phase II, once FDOT approved, will upgrade all remaining center island medians in the City along US Highway 19. Some of the Phase II elements include planting Lavender Crape Myrtles and Winged Elm Trees and installing ground cover materials including Coontie Palms, Spider Lilies, Bear Grass, and Perennial Peanut. This very ambitious and well-designed landscaping project is expected to be completed by mid-summer at a total cost of \$776,000 with a combination of a FDOT reimbursement grant and Penny for Pasco dollars.

