

THE BRIDGE

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NEW PORT
RICHEY
CLASSIC. FLORIDA. CURRENT.

20th Edition | November 2025

Honoring the Service of *Robert M. Rivera*



RMR

After 35 years of dedicated service, the City of New Port Richey proudly celebrates the retirement of **Robert M. Rivera**, whose name will forever be remembered through the **Robert M. Rivera Fleet Maintenance Facility**—a tribute to his decades of leadership, humility, and commitment to community.

Born in Virginia Beach, Virginia, Robert grew up in a Navy family and spent part of his youth in Rota, Spain, where he developed a love for travel and history. He began his public service career with the City of Virginia Beach before joining the City of New Port Richey in 1990. Over the years, he advanced from Water Lineman I to Public Works Director, overseeing countless projects that helped shape the city—parks, libraries, police and fire stations, and infrastructure improvements that continue to serve residents today.

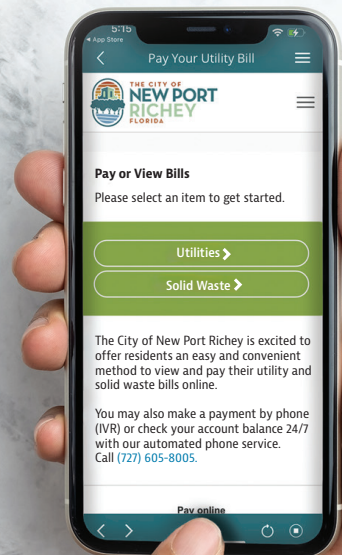
Guided by faith and known for his sincerity and dedication, Robert has always credited his success to teamwork and the people around him. A devoted husband to Cathy, proud stepfather to Donny and Danny, and loving grandfather of four, Robert enjoys woodworking, fishing along the Cotee River, and camping adventures he looks forward to expanding in retirement. His legacy is one of integrity, service, and steady leadership—qualities that will continue to

inspire long after his well-earned retirement in January 2026.

Construction of the **Robert M. Rivera Fleet Maintenance Facility** continues to move forward, with the building now approximately 75% complete. Much of the exterior work has been finalized, allowing crews to shift their focus to interior elements. In addition to the building itself, surrounding site work is also progressing, with roughly 25% of the exterior site development complete and crews actively working on asphalt paving and the construction of a retention pond.

The new facility will serve a dual purpose—supporting both the operational efficiency and service delivery of the City of New Port Richey. It will function as the central maintenance hub for the City's general fund, utility, and stormwater fleets, ensuring all vehicles and equipment remain in safe, reliable working condition through routine maintenance and repair. It will also operate as the City's Purchasing Warehouse, managing the procurement, storage, and distribution of essential materials and supplies across departments—from tools and parts to Property, Plant, and Equipment and infrastructure components. Construction is expected to be completed before the new year, with operations transitioning to the new facility by the end of 2025.

STAY CONNECTED with the MY NEW PORT RICHEY APP



The City of New Port Richey makes it easier than ever for residents to stay connected and access city services with the **My New Port Richey app**. From a single app on your phone, you can:

Watch City Council meetings live or access recordings of past meetings.

Report Public Works issues or Code Enforcement violations.

Stay up to date with the latest City news and events through the calendar.

Pay your utility and solid waste bills conveniently online.

The app is designed to give residents quick, easy access to important information and services all in one place. Whether you want to follow local government, take care of city business, or stay informed about community events, the **My New Port Richey app** puts it all at your fingertips.

CITY MANAGER'S LETTER

Dear Residents,

New Port Richey is a city rooted in tradition yet always moving forward. As we move into another exciting fall season, it is my honor to share exciting updates with you as we see more progress and changes in our great city.

The City's staff members remain hard at work across many fronts, continuing to make meaningful progress on projects that strengthen our community. One milestone that carries special significance is the nearing completion of the Robert M. Rivera Fleet Maintenance Facility, now approximately 75% complete. Named in honor of our retiring Public Works Director, Robert M. Rivera, this facility recognizes his 35 years of extraordinary service to the City of New Port Richey.

Robert has set a high standard for all of us. His integrity, humility, and steadfast dedication to public service have shaped not only the City's infrastructure, but its culture of teamwork and respect. There is truly no person who better exemplifies the virtues of what it means to be a public official. I have learned so much working alongside him, and it has been a privilege to witness his leadership in action.

Additionally, I am proud to share that our City's Community Rating System floodplain score improved from a 7 to a 6, which will lower residents' flood insurance premiums by 20%! I want to thank the involved City staff for their hard work, attention to detail, and dedication in accomplishing this goal for our City's residents. For more information, visit www.fema.gov.

The Fire Department will soon move into the newly constructed Fire Station #2 located at the corner of Grand Boulevard and Marine Parkway. The station is strategically located to improve response times along U.S. 19 and continue to keep our community safe.

I'd also like to officially welcome Dave Gammon as our new City's Economic Development Director. With decades of experience guiding investment and redevelopment, Dave will help lead projects like the Rivergate Palm District and more.

The Police Department shares information about their drone program, which enhances the safety, efficiency, and protection of officers in the field and provides a valuable resource to assist them in solving problems. Learn more about the drone program and best practices on Page 4.

Also please refer to the special events as listed on Page 5 so that you don't miss out on any of the planned activities. Thank you for being a part of New Port Richey's bright future, and I wish you a very happy holiday season.

Warm regards,

Debbie L. Manns, ICMA-CM
City Manager

**NEW PORT
RICHEY**
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FIRE STATION

GRAND OPENING

This Fall



^ Fire Station #2 is located at 5220 Grand Boulevard.

► The New Port Richey Fire Department has proudly served our community for over a century, carrying on a tradition that began in 1922 as a volunteer fire company. As the oldest fire department in Pasco County, the Department has continually evolved to meet the needs of a growing city. Today, its team of 24 full-time Firefighters/Paramedics provides comprehensive emergency services, including fire suppression, advanced life support, medical care, rescue operations, fire prevention, and public education.

The Department is preparing for an exciting new chapter. This fall, the **new Fire Station #2 will officially open, located at 5220 Grand Boulevard, on the corner of Grand Boulevard and Marine Parkway.** This modern, state-of-the-art facility will replace the existing High Street location, positioning the Department to better meet the City's increasing demand for emergency services. **With improved resources and a strategic location, Station #2 will provide for enhanced response times and improved fire safety along the busy U.S. Highway 19 corridor and continue the Department's proud legacy of protecting lives and property in New Port Richey.**

Welcome New ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

► In September, the City of New Port Richey welcomed **Dave Gammon as our new Economic Development Director.** Originally from Denver, Colorado, Dave brings a wealth of experience and a genuine passion for helping communities grow and thrive.

Over the years, he's worked with real estate developers, home builders, lenders, and investors in just about every role imaginable – from buyer and seller to partner and advisor. His career has taken him across the country exploring investment opportunities in commercial spaces, apartment projects, marinas, and even cell towers.



That hands-on experience and entrepreneurial spirit made his move into economic development a natural one. Before joining New Port Richey, Dave served as Economic Development Director for Charlotte County, Florida, where he helped attract significant new investment and led efforts to breathe new life into aging shopping centers through innovative mixed-use zoning.

Now, Dave is eager to roll up his sleeves and get to work in New Port Richey. He's energized by the city's momentum, excited about new partnerships, and ready to build on the success of a community on the rise.

MAYOR'S LETTER

Dear Residents,

New Port Richey continues to thrive as new businesses open and contribute to the economic vitality of our community. These additions bring diverse offerings—from dining and specialty retail to unique services—that enhance the downtown experience for residents and visitors alike. I encourage everyone to support these enterprises, as they play a vital role in sustaining a vibrant and prosperous city center.

Speaking of businesses in New Port Richey—the Read Local, Shop Local program is back, offering New Port Richey Public Library cardholders exclusive discounts and perks at participating businesses throughout the city. This program is offered all year! For more information, visit www.nprlibrary.org.

The City is also making strides in transparency and accessibility through the My New Port Richey app. This tool allows residents to watch City Council meetings live or on demand, report service issues, pay utility and solid waste bills, and remain informed about community events. Learn more on Page 1.

On Veterans Day, Tuesday, November 11th, the City gathers at Orange Lake in Downtown New Port Richey for an official Veterans Day Parade at 5:00 p.m. This meaningful celebration honors the service and sacrifice of our nation's veterans. The parade will feature local veterans, military units, marching bands, and community organizations. I invite you to attend with your families as we unite in gratitude and remembrance.

The New Port Richey Public Library recently launched ELROY, its Mobile Library Branch, which expands access to reading materials and library services throughout the City. This initiative underscores our dedication to education, literacy, and community engagement. Read more about the Mobile Library Branch on Page 3, as well as our calendar of upcoming City events, on Page 5.

I'd also like to share that I am honored to have recently been appointed to serve on the Board of Directors for the Florida League of Mayors. Together, these efforts—supporting local businesses, expanding civic access, honoring our veterans, and investing in learning—reflect New Port Richey's ongoing commitment to growth, resilience, and shared pride in our city.

Respectfully,

Chopper Davis
Mayor



NEW BUSINESSES

Downtown New Port Richey is buzzing with new energy as fresh businesses open their doors and bring exciting opportunities to our community. We invite you to support these local businesses.

WHAT'S NEW?

Bobbeana's Bazaar — Bobbeana's Bazaar offers handmade accessories, art, home goods, and antiques. Located at 6112 Grand Boulevard, you'll discover a vast array of eclectic, unique finds.



Growing Together Plant Co. — Growing Together Plant Co. is a plant lover's paradise filled with houseplants, quality supplies, and unique gifts. Located at 5500 Main Street Suite #107, they offer items for both the seasoned plant parent or someone just starting their plant journey.



Octopus Garden — Octopus Garden is a boutique for gift-givers, collectors, and music enthusiasts. Located at 5500 Main Street Suite #110-111, you'll find everything from vinyl records and jewelry to kitchen essentials, apparel, and more.



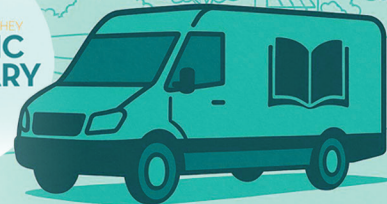
Main Munchery — Main Munchery brings the joy of good food and great company to everyone who walks through the door. Located at 5346 Main Street Suite #101, their menu includes breakfast, lunch, and delicious coffee - they even offer keto-friendly, vegetarian, and gluten-free alternatives.



Start a NEW CHAPTER with ELROY THE MOBILE LIBRARY



NEW PORT RICHEY
PUBLIC LIBRARY



The New Port Richey Public Library is preparing to hit the road with a brand-new Mobile Library Branch that will bring books, resources, and services directly to the community. Launching in the coming months, this mobile branch will expand access to library materials and programs for residents who may not be able to visit the Library in person.

The new bookmobile, officially named ELROY (Expanding Literacy & Reading Opportunities for You), will serve as both a mobile library and an outreach vehicle. It will make regular stops at schools, assisted living facilities, and other locations, ensuring that people of all ages have the opportunity to access library resources. ELROY will also be a familiar sight at local events and community gatherings, bringing the Library's services wherever people are.

The project was made possible through the support of the City of New Port Richey and the dedication and generosity of the Friends of the New Port Richey Public Library, whose fundraising efforts played a key role in bringing this initiative to life.

Their combined commitment ensures that even more members of our community can benefit from the Library's collection and programs.

The name ELROY also carries a special significance. It honors Dr. Elroy M. Avery, the founder of the New Port Richey Public Library and the city's first mayor. A Civil War veteran, historian, and author, Dr. Avery established the Library more than a century ago with the belief that access to knowledge strengthens both individuals and communities. Naming the bookmobile after him reflects the Library's continuing mission to provide resources that educate, inspire, and connect.

With ELROY on the road, the Library is embarking on an exciting new chapter that brings the Library experience to everyone across our city.

Learn more at nprlibrary.org.

The New Port Richey Public Library invites you to ELROY's ribbon cutting ceremony on Friday, November 21st at 12:00pm at the library's courtyard.

Advancing Public Safety with Technology

Across the United States and around the world, law enforcement agencies are increasingly turning to drone technology to enhance public safety, improve response times, and expand operational capabilities. Known formally as Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), drones have quickly become an integral part of modern policing.

The New Port Richey Police Department has recently launched its own drone program designed to enhance public safety and provide additional support during calls for service. The program is staffed by eight specially trained officers who serve as certified drone operators. Each operator undergoes rigorous training and obtains the required FAA certification to ensure the safe and professional use of this technology. By integrating drones into daily operations, the department aims to improve response capabilities, increase efficiency, and better serve the community.

The Role of Drones in Law Enforcement:

Police drones are used for a wide variety of tasks that traditionally required significant manpower, expensive equipment, or risky operations. Common applications include:

- **Search and Rescue:** Drones equipped with thermal imaging cameras can quickly locate missing persons in wooded areas, bodies of water, or other difficult terrains.

- **Traffic Accident Reconstruction:** Aerial footage helps investigators map crash scenes more accurately, reducing road closure times and improving the quality of evidence.
- **Crowd Monitoring:** During large public gatherings, protests, or sporting events, drones provide situational awareness for crowd management and safety planning.
- **Criminal Investigations:** From locating fleeing suspects to gathering evidence in hard-to-reach places, drones offer new vantage points that ground officers cannot.
- **Disaster Response:** In natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, or wildfires, drones assess damage and identify hazards before first responders enter dangerous areas.

Benefits of Police Drone Programs:

- **Efficiency:** Drones can cover large areas in a fraction of the time it would take on foot or by vehicle.
- **Cost Savings:** Compared to helicopters, drones are significantly less expensive to operate and maintain.
- **Officer Safety:** Drones allow police to survey potentially dangerous situations without placing officers at immediate risk.
- **Evidence Quality:** High-definition video and mapping capabilities improve documentation for investigations and court proceedings.

Concerns and Challenges:

While police drone programs offer many benefits, they also raise important concerns:

- **Privacy:** Critics argue that drones may expand government surveillance and infringe on citizens' right to privacy.
- **Policy and Oversight:** Agencies must establish clear guidelines on when and how drones can be used, including warrant requirements for certain operations.
- **Public Trust:** Transparency is critical—communities want assurance that drones will be used responsibly and not for unnecessary monitoring.

The Future of Police Drones:

As technology advances, drones are likely to become even more capable. Future improvements may include longer flight times, enhanced artificial intelligence for object detection, and integration with real-time data systems.

Veterans Day Parade

November 11th
at 5:00pm

Join us on Veterans Day — Tuesday, November 11th — around Orange Lake in Downtown New Port Richey as we honor the brave men and women who have served our country in uniform.

Our **Veterans Day Parade** will feature local veterans, military units, marching bands, community organizations, and more. Come out and show your support and gratitude for those who have sacrificed for our freedom.

All are welcome! Bring your family, wear your red, white, and blue, and help us make this a memorable tribute.

YOUR CITY COUNCIL



(L-R)

Councilman, Brian Jonas
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Deputy Mayor, Matt Murphy
murphyrm@cityofnewportrichey.org

Mayor, Chopper Davis
daviscc@cityofnewportrichey.org

Councilman, Bertell Butler IV
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Councilman, Peter Altman
altmanp@cityofnewportrichey.org

ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS

In an effort to maintain and expand the electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure, there will now be usage fees for the City of New Port Richey's EV charging stations. The change is part of the city's commitment to sustainability and the long-term viability of its charging network.

WHY THE CHANGE?

Operational Costs: The fees will help cover electricity costs and routine maintenance, ensuring the stations remain in top working conditions.

Fair Access: Free charging has led to prolonged use by some individuals, limiting availability for others. Implementing a fee structure is expected to encourage turnover and fair access for all EV drivers.

Equitable Cost Distribution: Currently, City residents are bearing the cost of providing free charging, even for non-City residents. The paid model ensures that those using the service contribute to its maintenance and expansion.

Future Growth: Revenue generated from charging fees will be reinvested into upgrading existing stations and adding new ones to meet the growing demand.

HOW WILL IT WORK?

On October 1st, the City begins charging \$1.25 per kW hour at each charging station. If the vehicle is not moved once fully charged, an additional idling fee will be added starting at \$5.00 after a 30-minute grace period, \$10.00 for each additional hour afterwards.

The City currently operates six EV charging locations equipped with ChargePoint and Duke Energy Park & Plug stations. These are dual-port, Level 2 chargers capable of powering two vehicles simultaneously. Level 2 chargers typically provide 10-20 miles of range per hour, allowing most electric vehicles to fully charge within approximately 4.5 hours.

Users can access and pay for charging through a mobile app or credit card integrated with the existing EV network and will be charged per hour.



FIVE OF THE CITY'S CHARGING STATIONS WILL BEGIN CHARGING THE USAGE RATE.

- The New Port Richey Recreation & Aquatic Center, located at 6630 Van Buren St.
- The Sims Park Parking Lot, located at 6509 Grand Blvd.
- City Hall, located in the back parking lot at 5915 Florida Ave.
- The City Parking Garage, located at 5300 Acorn St.
- The Nebraska Avenue Parking lot, located at 5645 Nebraska Ave.

Thanks to a partnership between the City and Duke Energy, the following location is included in the Duke Energy Park & Plug grant program and will offer free charging:

The Gloria Swanson Parking Lot at Sims Park, located on Bank St. east of Main St.

Before you start charging, find the right station by using the ChargePoint mobile app or Duke Energy Park & Play online app on your android or apple device. There you will be able to find available stations, set up your account, get notified when your charge is full, and you will receive a receipt with your charging details when completed.

For more information, contact the Public Works Department at 727.841.4536.



NOVEMBER

Nov. 11
Veterans Day Parade (5:00pm)
Sims Park and Orange Lake
(Free Admission)

Nov. 14
Riverside Concert Series: Rocky Boven (6:00pm - 7:00pm)
Grassin Bridge at Sims Park (Free Admission)

Nov. 21
ELROY Ribbon Cutting (12:00pm)
New Port Richey Public Library
(Free Admission)

Nov. 22
10th Annual Sweet Potato Round-Up (11:00am - 1:00pm)
New Port Richey Public Library
(Free Admission)

Nov. 22

Concert in the Park: Man in the Mirror Michael Jackson Tribute (7:00pm - 9:00pm)
Sims Park (Free Admission)

DECEMBER

Dec. 5
Light Up the Night Christmas Tree Lighting (6:00pm)
Sims Park (Free Admission)

Dec. 6
Cotee River Christmas Boat Parade (6:00pm)
Sims Park and Cotee River (Free Admission)

Dec. 13
Holiday Street Parade (6:00pm)
Downtown New Port Richey (Free Admission)

Dec. 21
New Port Richey Golf Cart Christmas Parade (6:00pm)
SIP (Registration Required to Participate, Free Admission to Attend)

JANUARY

Jan. 10
MLK Day of Service (10:00am)
New Port Richey Public Library (Free Admission)

Jan. 16
Arbor Day (11:00am)
Frances Avenue Park (Free Admission)

Jan. 17
Collards Festival and Winter Gardens Expo (11:00am - 2:00pm)
Grand Gardens (Free Admission)

ONGOING EVENTS

Walk and Talk
Mondays, 10:00am
New Port Richey Public Library Courtyard
(Free Admission)

Tasty Tuesdays Community Market
Tuesdays, 9:00am - 1:00pm
New Port Richey Public Library Courtyard
(Free Admission)

Plants and Pints
Third Tuesday of every month, 5:30pm - 7:30pm
Ordinance One (Free Admission)

New Port Richey Fourth Friday Block Party
Fourth Friday of every month, 6:00pm - 10:00pm
Downtown New Port Richey (Free Admission)

Beyond these events, the New Port Richey Recreation and Aquatic Center and Public Library offer a variety of opportunities for our residents to connect, learn, and have fun. Whether you want to meet people who share your interests or learn something new like a language or sport, there's something for everyone!

For more information on classes and activities taking place at the New Port Richey Recreation and Aquatic Center, please call 727.841.4560.

For more information about the New Port Richey Public Library's classes, concerts, and other special events, please call 727.853.1279.



CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY

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CRS

CRS Rating Improvement and What It Means

► The Community Rating System (CRS) is a voluntary incentive program that recognizes and encourages community floodplain management practices that exceed the minimum requirements of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Through the determined efforts of Tammy Ledford, Senior Development Technician, and Alec Remiesiewicz, Code Enforcement Officer, along with the support of Development Clerk Gina Drake, Data Support and GIS Mapping Technician Samantha Hamilton, GIS Application Technician Chris Bowman, and City of New Port Richey Fire Chief Chris Fitch, the City was able to **improve our rating from a 7 to a 6 which will reduce our community's flood insurance premiums by 20%!**

For more information see FEMA's website at:
<https://www.fema.gov/floodplain-management/community-rating-system>

READ LOCAL, SHOP LOCAL **Save Money with Your LIBRARY CARD!**

► Get ready, New Port Richey! The New Port Richey Public Library's Read Local, Shop Local program is back, offering Library cardholders exclusive discounts and perks at participating businesses throughout the City, along Main Street and beyond.

Originally launched to coincide with Library Card Sign-Up Month in September, Read Local, Shop Local now offers discounts all year long. The program celebrates the Library's role in connecting residents and supporting the businesses that make our community thrive.

From boutiques and restaurants to breweries and specialty shops, Read Local, Shop Local highlights the benefits of shopping local and supporting the small businesses that keep our community vibrant. It's a fun way to explore downtown, try new places, and enjoy special offers just for being a library cardholder.

Full details, including a list of participating businesses and instructions on how to redeem offers, are available at nrplibrary.org. Be sure to check back often, as more discounts will be added in the weeks and months ahead.

Don't have a New Port Richey Public Library card yet? Now is the perfect time to sign up and start enjoying these offers—plus everything your Library has to offer.

