

# Beautification AWARD



The City of New Port Richey presents awards on a quarterly basis to residents for their efforts to beautify their properties. Nominations are accepted at any time. Eligible projects include landscaping, painting, driveways and remodeling.

Tony and Janet Barbaro have transformed their front lawn from plain green grass into an Italian-inspired garden. They have also replaced their roof and installed decorative shutters on the windows. Currently, they are in the process of installing a paver driveway. The Barbaro's efforts earned them a City of New Port Richey Beautification Award.

They received a Home Improvement Reimbursement Grant from the city, which covered a portion of the cost of exterior improvements. The money that they saved through the grant program has been reinvested into their property. They have landscaped the backyard and decorated the inside of their home using the funds that were reimbursed.

### ELIGIBILITY:

- Property must be within City limits.
- Landscape must be in place for six months.

### AWARD CRITERIA:

- Overall aesthetic appeal.
- Professionalism in landscape design, color and balance.
- Quality of design and placement.
- Quality of landscape and building maintenance.
- Preservation of trees and natural amenities.

## Recreation and Aquatic Center IMPROVEMENT PROJECT



On February 17 2018, the city conducted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the completion of improvements to the Recreation and Aquatic Center.

The improvements included the establishment of 2,200 square-foot fitness center that provides top-of-the-line strength and cardio equipment, lockers and free weights. Individuals that purchase memberships to the facility enjoy extended hours and are able to access the fitness center two hours before the normal operating hours and are able to stay two hours after closing.

Another new element to the Recreation and Aquatic Center is the children's play area complete with games and a 22 feet tall indoor playground. Child Watch is offered free for members.

The project also involved the addition of two rooms which vary in size and are available as a location for a party! Enjoy birthday cake, pizza and soft drinks in a private room before group swims in the four swimming pools in the aquatic facility. It's also possible to rent the pools for a private after hour's party complete with lifeguards. Contact the facility for rental information.

*The Recreation and Aquatic Center is open to everyone and offers a number of membership opportunities.*

## The Hacienda Hotel

The restoration of this historical asset continues. Most recently the city selected a Tampa firm, Specialized Restoration Services, Inc. to complete the following work items:

RESTORATION OF THE HISTORIC INTERIOR STAIRCASE AT THE EAST SIDE OF THE BUILDING

RESTORATION OF THE SIMS PARK FACING PATIO

In addition, each window will be removed with the resulting opening reframed and measured for new hurricane resistant windows. This phase will take several months because each window will be designed and custom built to look as it did in 1927.

Additionally the city is in discussion with Mr. Jim Gunderson, owner of the Historic Lakeside Inn (1885) in Mount Dora, to complete the Hacienda restoration and operate it as a boutique hotel. Mr. Gunderson has considerable experience in historic rehabilitation, having purchased and completely restored the Lakeside Inn, Florida's longest continuing operating hotel.

The city would also like to express its appreciation to the Friends of the Hacienda and everyone who has participated in one of their tours. Thanks to the Friends of the Hacienda's generous donation to our city, the unique Bank Street wall, absent for several decades, is now fully restored to its historically accurate glory.



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

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# We Need YOU!

THE CITY OF NEW PORT RICHEY OFFERS  
DIFFERENT BOARDS AND COMMITTEES  
THAT WELCOME VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE  
ON IN OUR COMMUNITY.

- 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 New Port Richey 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 Land Development Review Board** offers advisory opinions and recommendations to City Council regarding ordinances which amend the City's Comprehensive Plan and Land Development Code.
  - 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 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 Firefighters and Police Pension Boards** determine the amount of all retirement allowances or other benefits for their respective groups.
- To be eligible to serve on a city board or committee, you must be a registered voter and reside within the city limits. Applications are available on the City's website at [www.citynpr.org](http://www.citynpr.org).



The police department located at 6739 Adams Street has established two parking spaces that are dedicated to the national initiative to create a safe location to conduct classified or other face to face transactions.

Recent pavement improvements have been made throughout the City from Madison St. to Congress St. and other roads. These road improvements are part of the city's 2018 Street Improvement Project.

This project includes areas where existing asphalt will be grinded, milled down and replaced with new asphalt back to existing grade. This type of work is performed in areas of repetitive flooding or where several layers of asphalt has been applied over past road projects. Another type of roadwork that will occur is total road reconstruction. This occurs in cases where a more aggressive solution is warranted to failing pavement. Lastly, in areas where the existing asphalt has settled and has been determined by the project engineer to have stabilized, a leveling course of asphalt will be applied prior to the asphalt overlay.

As we move forward with the road projects lane closures, detours and delays will occur. City staff will work with the contractor to minimize these inconveniences.

IN ADDITION TO MADISON STREET AND CONGRESS STREET THE FOLLOWING STREETS ARE INCLUDED IN THE CURRENT PROJECT:

- Evies Way from Orchid Lake Rd. to Cul-de-sac.
- Rutilio Ct. from Orchid Lake Rd. to Cul-de-sac.
- Senate Ln. from Executive Dr. to Madison St.
- Drinkard Dr. from Warren Ave. to Cul-de-sac.
- Orchid Lake Rd. from Congress St. to Gabriel Dr.
- Grant Ave. from Madison St. to Oleander Ave.
- Francine Dr. from Orchid Lake Rd. to Cul-de-sac.
- Ferguson Ct. from Orchid Lake Rd. to Cul-de-sac.
- Executive Dr. from Gulf Dr. to Madison St.
- Daily Ln. from Grand Blvd. to Cul-de-sac.
- Tropic Dr. from Warren Ave. to Cul-de-sac.
- Waters Edge Dr. from Warren Ave. to Cul-de-sac.



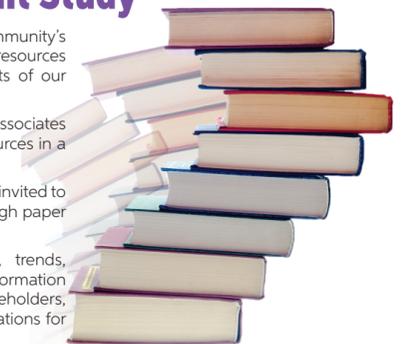
## Library Space Assessment Study

The New Port Richey Public Library serves as the community's information and learning center by providing vital resources that support the rapidly evolving needs and interests of our unique community.

The City of New Port Richey has chosen Williams Associates Architects, Ltd. to analyze the library's usage and resources in a Space Needs Assessment Study.

As an integral part of the assessment, the public will be invited to participate by sharing their opinions and insights through paper and online surveys, evaluations, focus groups.

After assessing current and projected conditions, trends, demographics and patterns, and connecting this with information garnered from the citizens and community stakeholders, Williams will present the assessment and recommendations for improvements to City Council and the community.



## MAYOR'S LETTER



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. Another method that we use is the city's website which I am happy to report has recently been updated. In addition to providing a great source of information, the new website will also feature many interactive functions which will make doing business with the city more convenient. New features include online bill pay, park shelter reservations and the ability to register for a class at the Recreation & Aquatic Center. Be sure to check out the new design and features by visiting [www.citynpr.org](http://www.citynpr.org).

I am also very excited about the planned improvements for our library. As you will see from the cover article, a space needs assessment is being conducted in order to ensure the most efficient use of current space as well as to consider additional space to accommodate expanded program offerings and other designated uses. I would like to extend my appreciation to all of you who participated in one of the recent focus groups. There were some really great ideas that were discussed. If you missed the focus group opportunities, please consider being part of the public outreach process by completing a survey online at [www.nprlibrary.org](http://www.nprlibrary.org) or by picking one up from the library. The surveys will be available within the next couple of weeks.

In further regard to the library, be sure to check out the article on page four that identifies a variety of online learning opportunities. There sure are some interesting offerings and I plan to check out a number of them myself on the next rainy day.

In closing, I would like to express how very proud I am of our Police and Firefighter of the Year Award recipients. In reading the articles, I can see that both young men have done much to earn the distinction and certainly are a true compliment to their respective departments.

Hope to see you around the city!

Sincerely,

Rob Marlowe  
Mayor

## Traffic ENFORCEMENT

In 2017, there were 595 traffic crashes in the city limits. Of these crashes, 413 resulted in damage to property, over 260 people were injured, and there were four fatalities. In 2016, there were 11 fatalities and this year, there were only two.

STREET NAME	TOTAL CRASHES (INJURIES)
MADISON AVE.	20 (7)
GRAND BLVD.	24 (14)
CONGRESS ST.	26 (8)
MASSACHUSETTS AVE.	13 (3)
US 19	140 (41)

Many of the crashes were the result of careless and reckless driving, which means that they were avoidable.

The police department devotes considerable resources towards reducing the number of crashes. In 2017, they issued 2,982 traffic tickets, 13,239 red light camera tickets and gave 2,760 verbal warnings.

### IN ORDER TO HELP REDUCE THESE CRASHES, HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO:

- Keep 100% of your attention on driving at all times.
- Slow down and stay under posted speed limit.
- Don't tailgate.
- Don't use your cell phone or other electronic devices while driving.
- Keep at least a two second cushion between you and the car ahead.
- Assume motorists will do something unexpectedly and be prepared for it.
- Don't drive drowsy.
- Know your limits.
- Think ahead and signal early.
- Head off road rage.
- Dim your lights.

Thank you for continuing to make New Port Richey safe!

## Firefighter of the Year



Evan DeVore started with the New Port Richey Fire Department on May 18, 2015 and currently works on the A-shift as a firefighter-paramedic. Evan has quickly gained the respect of his fellow firefighters and supervisors due to his great attitude, outstanding work ethic and his efforts for excellence through his continuing education. This is all reflective of the high level of outstanding customer service and patient care he provides the citizens and visitors of the city on emergency calls. He graciously offers to help with any task that is needed to benefit the department or city.

The New Port Richey Fire Department has a history of recognizing a firefighter every year that has gone above and beyond their normal required duties. Nominations for this honor are requested from each shift's District Chief and the decision is made by the Assistant Chief and Fire Chief.

EVAN IS A TRUE ASSET TO THE DEPARTMENT AND TO THE CITY. HE IS MOST DESERVING OF THE DEPARTMENT'S FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR AWARD.

live. work. play. **NEW PORT RICHEY**

## 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.

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

As you can see from the article about the city's budget schedule the City Council and I will be working on the development of the Fiscal Year 2018-2019 budget for the next several months. The budget, when completed, is a document that identifies the various forms of revenue received by the City as well as a plan for how the revenue is used to provide city services, programs and capital improvements. A critical part of the budget process involves public input and in that regard I invite you to consider attending one of the budget work sessions or hearings. It would be great to see you there!

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

Sincerely

Debbie L. Manns  
Your City Manager

# Annual BUDGET SEASON Begins



Spring marks the onset of New Port Richey's annual budget process, which begins in April and spans through September. The budget is the city's plan that details how programs, services and capital improvements will be funded. Throughout the budget process, there is ample opportunity for public participation. The upcoming budget calendar is provided below.

### FY2018-2019 BUDGET CALENDAR

July	July 3, 2018 - 1st draft of the Budget presented to Council July 10, 2018 - Budget Work Session (Open to Public)
August	August 7, 2018 - Final Work Session to discuss potential Budget
September	September 5, 2018 - Public Hearing on Tentative Budget September 25, 2018 - Final Public Hearing on Tentative Budget

(Dates are subject to change. Final dates of Work Sessions and Public Hearings will be properly advertised in the newspaper and the New Port Richey website.)

## Officer of the Year



Officer Jeffrey McConnell joined the Department about two years ago after having worked part-time for the Port Richey Police Department. Supervisors immediately recognized and complimented Officer McConnell's job skills, versatility and great attitude. He is a highly trained Traffic Homicide Investigator and responds at all hours of the day or night to investigate serious traffic crashes and traffic homicides. He cheerfully volunteers to help whenever needed and regularly assists with speeding vehicle complaints, maintains speed detection equipment, fills in as crossing guard when needed and helps manage the Department's message board in addition to his regular patrol duties.

Each year, the Police Chief requests recommendations from supervisors when identifying and selecting the most deserving officer to receive the Department's Officer of the Year Award.

OFFICER MCCONNELL IS RECOGNIZED BY ALL AS A TEAM PLAYER AND IS RESPECTED FOR HIS EXCEPTIONAL WORK ETHIC. HE IS AN OUTSTANDING OFFICER AND IS MOST DESERVING TO RECEIVE THE DEPARTMENT'S OFFICER OF THE YEAR AWARD.

## James E. Grey Preserve

The James E. Grey Preserve is an 80 acre nature park and is situated just minutes from downtown on Plathe Road. The preserve was named for James E. Grey, the first male child born in New Port Richey on the last day of 1915. Today the preserve boasts over 1600 linear feet of raised boardwalks following the winding path of the Cotee River, an ADA accessible kayak launch, fishing pier, observation areas, and a playground with shade structures, picnic tables, grills and restrooms. The preserve is also part of the Great Florida Birding Trail.

The city acquired 14 additional acres adjacent to the preserve and is in the process of developing seven acres of this parcel to include a parking lot, biking and walking trails as well as trail connections to the original parcel. Once the urban trail connector is complete, the linear footage of the trails in the James E. Grey Preserve will expand to approximately 1 3/4 miles while also providing two access points to the preserve; one on Plathe Road and the second entrance will be added on Congress Street.

## Home Rule HERO Award

Mayor Rob Marlowe was one of the 89 local community leaders among Florida's 412 municipalities recognized by the Florida League of Cities with its Home Rule Hero Award. Mayor Marlowe earned this prestigious award for his tireless efforts to advance the League's legislative agenda and help protect the Home Rule powers of Florida cities during the 2018 legislative session.

Home Rule is the ability for a city to address local problems through and by local decision makers with minimal state interference. The Home Rule Hero Award recipients are local government officials who consistently respond to the League's request to reach out to members of the legislature and help give a local perspective to an issue.

"I AM HONORED TO BE RECOGNIZED FOR SPEAKING OUT ON BEHALF OF HOME RULE," said Mayor Marlowe

## The KEY to INFORMATION and FUN

ON THE BACK OF EVERY NPR PUBLIC LIBRARY CARD, THERE IS A BARCODE WITH FOURTEEN DIGITS. THOSE FOURTEEN DIGITS ARE THE KEY TO BORROWING ALL SORTS OF RESOURCES – BOOKS, MUSIC, MOVIES, PLAYSTATION AND Wii GAMES, SEEDS, WI-FI HOTSPOTS AND MORE. THE POWERS OF A LIBRARY CARD AREN'T CONFINED WITHIN LIBRARY WALLS, THOUGH! THEY ALSO GRANT ACCESS TO ONLINE SUBSCRIPTIONS AND DATABASES, ALL ACCESSIBLE AT NO CHARGE AT [WWW.NPRLIBRARY.ORG](http://WWW.NPRLIBRARY.ORG):

**Signing Savvy** – Learn American Sign Language with this database featuring a video dictionary

**Kanopy** – Stream movies for kids, Oscar winners, black and white classics, independent films, documentaries, and even horror flicks

**EBSCO Small Engine Repair** – Learn how to repair boats, tractors, lawnmowers and more

**ChiltonLibrary** – Repair vehicles with the help of thousands of manuals and videos of various year, make and model combinations

**Freegal** – download three songs each week and keep them forever – whether they are oldies or the newest tunes

**RB Digital Magazines** – Read current and back issues of your favorite magazines

**Universal Class** – Brush up on a subject or learn something new with any of the 500 classes ranging from homeschooling to accounting

**Brainfuse HelpNow** – Connect with tutors for live homework help, use the writing lab, or create personalized flashcards

**ArtistWorks** – Watch instructional videos for lessons in music, voice, or fine art

**Mango Languages** – Use real-life situations and conversations to learn a new language

**World Book Online** – Access articles, games, eBooks and all the information of World Book Encyclopedia

**Arbordale eBooks** – Explore, learn, and build knowledge with these eBooks for kids

**Lynda.com** – Learn almost anything – from how to use the latest software to create a new logo to editing original recordings into a full-length Go-Pro movie – taught by accomplished teachers and recognized industry experts

**Learning Express** – Prepare for all sorts of tests with this online test preparation and skill building database for adults and youth

## 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  
[MurphyM@cityofnewportrichey.org](mailto:MurphyM@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)

