



City of Port Richey

Volume II - 2017 Newsletter

Council Members

Dale Massad
Mayor

Terrence Rowe
Vice Mayor

Will Dittmer
Council Member

Nancy Britton
Council Member

Jennie Sorrell
Council Member

Vincent R. Lupo
City Manager

Council Meetings

City Council meetings can be viewed online at www.cityofportrichey.com or on Bright House Channel 645 at the following days and times:

- Wednesdays at 6:00 pm
- Thursdays at 12:00 pm

E-Newsletter

Would you like to receive the City newsletter in an electronic format? Please email Fran Vandenkooy at f.vandenkooy@cityofportrichey.com.

City Council Selects Contractor for DMMA Site

The City Council, acting in the capacity of the City's Community Redevelopment Board, has selected a contractor to begin work on preparation of the Dredged Materials Management Area (DMMA). The DMMA site is where the spill dirt that will be dredged from the City's canals will be temporarily stored. The site is located on two vacant parcels on the corner of Grand Blvd and River Gulf Road. The contractor selected to perform this work is Biomass Tech, Inc., based out of Land O' Lakes. The inception of this project is a critical first step in the City's long term dredging initiative.

Limestone Pier Re-opens



On Monday, May 15, the City of Port Richey hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the Grand Re-opening of the Limestone Fishing Pier (5245 Limestone Drive). The Limestone Fishing Pier has been closed to the public for several years due to structural concerns. The pier has been updated with new railing, siding, a fish-cleaning station, bathrooms, and structural supports. All of the work on this project was performed by City crews.



New Dog Enjoyment Center

The City's Dog Enjoyment Center (6333 Ridge Road) is developing a loyal following of regular visitors since it opened in December. Pet owners and their dogs are seen visiting daily. The weekends are even busier. The Dog Enjoyment Center gives dogs a unique opportunity to run around on an exercise ramp and pass through a tunnel. Plus, they get to interact with other dogs in a safe environment. We hope to see you and your dog there soon!



Get Prepared!

The City of Port Richey is located on the Gulf of Mexico and with the elevation above sea level being only a few feet above high tide, EXTREME FLOODING WILL BE IMMINENT. The majority of the City of Port Richey is in Evacuation Level A, which is the most dangerous level, requiring all residents along the Pithlachascotee River and those west of U.S. 19 to evacuate when an evacuation order or advisory is issued. In that event, the City Police, Fire, and Public Works personnel will drive down our streets, and/or go door- to-door if necessary to announce and advise residents of the need to evacuate. The biggest threat of general flooding is during the hurricane season (June through November). National Weather Service, www.weather.gov.

Is your property subject to flooding? Yes, all of City of Port Richey is in a flood zone. You can protect your property from the hazard of flooding. Homeowners, renters & business owners, need to purchase flood insurance. There is a 30 day waiting period, so act now and call your insurance agent. Take advantage of a low cost preferred risk policy. The NOAA Hurricane Center (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) is responsible for providing information on the current status. Public Advisories are issued every 6 hours, unless a WATCH or WARNING has been issued, then notices will be issued 2- 3 hours. Hourly radar position estimates are issued between the 2 hourly public advisories. In the case of a hurricane and/or flooding, stay updated with the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration, www.noaa.gov.

The Pasco County Office of Emergency Management operates a comprehensive emergency warning system including emergency news releases, voice cable override, government access channels, the Emergency Alert System, and the Community Notification System. This system is used for floods as well as other emergencies. Tune into local radio stations such as these FM channels: 89.7,93.3, 94.1, 97.1, 97.9, 99.5, 100.7, 104.7, 106.3 and the following AM channels: 620, 970, 1040, 1450, 1550 and 1620 for information. News and weather channels such as ABC, NBC, and Bay News 9 are some that can be listened to and watched for status updates. Updates will also be displayed online at Pasco County Emergency Management, www.pascoemergencymanagement.com.

During an emergency, your personal safety is more important than your most valuable property. Take steps now to help your family prepare for an emergency.

- Make your Family Disaster Plan.
- Know your evacuation zone and route to a nearby shelter.
- Obtain first aid kit/medicine.
- Obtain water & non-perishable food (include baby food and food for a special diet).
- Obtain portable radio, flashlights, extra batteries & non-electric can opener.
- Move valuable household possessions to a safer location or elevate (time permitting).
- Fuel your vehicle (don't wait for the last minute).
- Safeguard important documents (passports, licenses, bank card, credit cards wills, deeds, insurance policies, etc).
- Turn off all utilities if you plan to evacuate.
- Remove portable generators. Portable generators should not be used inside any building, also any generator must be connected to an approved transfer switch to protect power company workers.



Practice safe routes from your home with all family members and establish a safe place out of the floodplain. Designate a place where your family can meet after an evacuation is issued.

Shelter Information

- Schrader Elementary School: 11041 Little Rd., New Port Richey
- Chasco Elementary School: 7906 Ridge Rd., Port Richey
- Fasano Regional Hurricane Shelter (Pet Friendly): 11611 Denton Ave., Hudson

To keep your property protected, keep items such as sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber handy. These items are especially important to have if you live in an area that floods frequently. Remember, sandbags should not be stacked against the outer walls of a building since the bags may create added pressure on the foundation when wet. Sandbags may be available at City Hall 6333 Ridge Road, in the event of potential flooding. Please contact the Building Department at 727-816-1900 ext. 180 for locations.



Flood Safety Tips to Protect People from Hazards

- Turn Around; Don't Drown. Avoid flooded areas or those with rapid water flow. Do not attempt to cross a flowing stream or drive through water. It only takes six inches of fast-flowing water to sweep you off your feet.
- Do not walk through flowing water. The water may be contaminated by sewage leaks.
- Do not drive through flood waters. Stay away from electrical and power lines.
- Do not allow children to play in or near high water, storm drains or ditches.

Protect natural floodplain functions. The City has a system of drainage channels and ditches for storm water management purposes. They are maintained on a regular basis by our Public Works Department. These ditches are of vital importance since the water flowing through them not only drains our City streets, but also the inland areas. Keep debris and trash out of the streams and ditches. Any dumping in these areas is prohibited. Violations should be reported to either Public Works 727-816-1900 ext. 186 or the Police Department 727-816-1900 ext. 201.

Build Responsibly! **Building permits** are required for any construction. If you're not sure whether you require a permit, please call the Building Department at 727-816-1900 ext 180 or ext 155. For further information regarding Substantial Damage Rules, please visit FEMA's website at www.fema.gov and Municode for local ordinances at www.municode.com, or www.cityofportrichey.com (Local Charter) Port Richey, Section 8-17 and Chapter 8.

Community Rating System (CRS)

The CRS uses a class rating system that is similar to fire insurance ratings to determine flood insurance premium reductions for residents. As a community engages in additional mitigation activities, its residents become eligible for increased National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) policy premium discounts. Each CRS Class improvement produces a 5 percent greater discount on flood insurance premium for properties in the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA).

Under the Community Rating System, flood insurance premium rates are discounted to reward community actions that meet the three goals of the CRS:

- Reduce flood damage to insurable property
- Strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the NFIP
- Encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management



CITY OF PORT RICHEY

**6333 Ridge Road
Port Richey, FL 34668**

**Phone: 727-816-1900
Fax: 727-816-1916**

www.cityofportrichey.com

HOURS OF OPERATION

**Monday—Friday
8:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**Utility Billing Drop Box
Available 24 hours**

DEPARTMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

Administration: 816-1901

Building: 835-1098

Code Compliance: 514-0179

Finance/HR: 835-1269

Fire: 816-1910

Police Dispatch : 816-1919

Public Works: 835-1241

Utilities: 835-1243

**Utility Billing: 816-1900
ext. 2**

SWFWMD Tightens Water Restrictions

The Southwest Florida Water Management District’s (SWFWMD) Governing Board voted to increase water restrictions throughout the region. The modified Phase III water shortage order affects Pasco County and others. SWFWMD hydrologists report a rainfall deficit of 11-inches since the start of the dry season last October. In fact, this is the driest dry season in the past 103 years. Under the new water shortage order, lawn watering is reduced to once-per-week and allowable watering hours also are reduced. The restrictions will remain in effect through August 1, 2017. Additional details regarding the watering of new lawns and plants, reclaimed water and other water uses can be found here: WaterMatters.org/

Annual Budget Review Underway

The City of Port Richey has begun its annual budget review process that begins each Spring. Citizen engagement is an integral part of the City’s budget process. Reviewing budget documents and attending budget meetings that take place over the summer are two ways that residents can become an active part of setting the budget. Residents can view past and current budgets here:

<http://www.cityofportrichey.com/new/dept-finance>



Electronic Withdrawal for Utility Bills

The City of Port Richey Utility Billing Department is now enrolling utility customers in our EFT automatic bill pay system. Enrollment in the EFT automatic bill system will allow for automatic debiting from a customer’s checking account each month. Please visit <http://www.cityofportrichey.com/new/dept-utilities> to learn more about this convenient feature for paying monthly utility bills.



LED Lighting Project Completed

In March 2016, the City Council approved a proposal from Duke Energy to install Light Emitting Diode (LED) lighting throughout the City. LED lighting has proven to be cost effective and is quickly becoming the industry standard for energy-efficient street lighting. LED fixtures provide more flood lighting on the street and better security and safety in residential neighborhoods. The project has been completed and all street lights throughout the City limits have been converted to LED lighting.

