



City of Port Richey

2020 Newsletter

Hurricane Edition

Council Members

Scott Tremblay
Mayor

William Dittmer
Vice Mayor

Jennie Sorrell
Council Member

Todd Maklary
Council Member

Tom Kinsella
Council Member

Vincent R. Lupo
City Manager

Council Meetings

City Council meetings can be viewed online at www.cityofportrichey.com or on the City's YouTube Channel.

E-Newsletter

Would you like to receive the City newsletter in an electronic format? Please Jocilyn Martinez at j.martinez@cityofportrichey.com

Be Aware! Be 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 the Evacuation level A, which is the most dangerous level, therefore generally requiring all residents along the Pithlachascotee River as well as 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 the City of Port Richey is in a flood zone.**

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. www.floodsmart.gov

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, 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 NOAA, 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. 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, the following AM channels: 620, 970, 1040, 1450, 1550 and 1620. 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 on www.pascoemergencymanagement.com .

Sign up for Nixle, the City's mass notification system, to stay informed during major storms or emergencies for updates from the City of Port Richey. Register for this free service by texting your zip code to 888777 or visiting www.cityofportrichey.com to register online.



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
- First aid kit/medicine
- Water & non-perishable food (include baby food and food for a special diet)
- 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.)
- If evacuating, turn off all utilities
- 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 rendezvous 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

Persons who live in frequently flooded areas should keep on hand materials such as sandbags, plywood, plastic sheeting, and lumber which can be used to protect property. Remember, sandbags should not be stacked against the outer walls of a building since, when wet, the bags may create added pressure on the foundation. 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.

Protect your Property

- Demolish the building or relocate it out of harm's way.
- Elevate the building above base flood elevation.
- Elevate damage-prone components, such as the furnace or the air-conditioning unit.
- Flood proof the building so water won't cause damage.
- Wet flood proof portions of the building so water won't cause damage.
- Construct a berm or re-direct drainage away from the building.
- Maintain nearby streams, ditches and storm drains clean so debris does not obstruct them.
- Correct sewer backup problems.
- Need to elevate your home out of the Special Flood Hazard Area? Call 727-835-1098 for a possible grant.
- Any assistance or advise including a site visit, call the Building Department at 727-835-1099.

Protect Your Family

- **Turn Around, Don't Drown!** Avoid flooded areas or those with rapid water flow.
- Get to a shelter if needed to keep your family safe.
- Build an emergency supply kit. Food, bottled water, first aid supplies, medicines and a battery-operated radio should be ready to go when you are. Visit www.ready.gov for a complete disaster supply checklist.
- Learn and practice evacuation routes, shelter plans, and flash flood response.

Before the Flood

- Keep a battery-powered or hand-cranked radio tuned to a local station for emergency instructions
- If waters start to rise inside your home before you have evacuated, retreat to the second floor, the attic or the roof if necessary. Be prepared with a flashlight, radio and dry clothes. Wait for help, do not try and swim to safety.

During the Flood

- 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 ditch.
- Stay away from power lines that have been damaged by the storm/flood. Electrocutation is another major source of death in flood situations.
- Floods are unpredictable natural disasters. If you encounter a flood, there are actions you can take to protect losses to a minimum.

After the Flood

- If your home or business has been damaged by the flood, contact the insurance company who handles your flood insurance to file a claim.
- Listen to authorities for information and instructions. Return home only when authorities say it is safe.
- Avoid driving, except in emergencies.
- Snakes and other animals may be in your house. Wear heavy gloves and boots during clean up.
- Be aware of the risk of electrocution. Do not touch electrical equipment if it is wet or if you are standing in water. If it is safe to do so, turn off the electricity to prevent electric shock
- Avoid wading in floodwater, which can contain dangerous debris and be contaminated. Underground or downed power lines can also electrically charge the water.
- Use a generator or other gasoline-powered machinery **ONLY** outdoors and away from windows.

Protect Natural Floodplain

- It is illegal to dump in the storm drains.
- Protect & preserve water resources by preventing harmful pollutants from being washed into local water bodies.
- Report any broken silt fences as they help keep our streams clean.



**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: 816-1900
ext. 1

Building: 835-1098

Code
Compliance: 835-0973

Finance/HR: 835-1269

Fire: 816-1910

Police Dispatch : 816-1919

Public Works: 816-1900
ext. 6

Utility Billing: 816-1900
ext. 2

Stormwater Management

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 at 727-816-1900 ext. 186 or the Police Department 727-816-1900 ext. 201.

Build Responsibly

Please call the Building Department at 727-816-1900 ext. 180 or ext. 155 to find out if a building permit is required. Always use a Licensed Contractor. To find out if a property is in the Special Flood Hazard Area, visit our website at www.cityofportrichey.com Click on Flood Information, and click on FEMA Flood Map icon or call the Building Department. For information regarding Substantial Damage Rules , 50% , please visit FEMA website www.fema.gov and for local ordinances www.municode.com, or www.cityofportrichey.com (Local Charter) Port Richey, Chapter 109.

Community Rating System

The CRS uses a Class Rating System that is similar to fire insurance rating to determine flood insurance premium reductions for residents. As a community engages in additional mitigation activities, residents become eligible for increased NFIP policy premium discounts. Each CRS Class improvement produces a 5 percent greater discount on flood insurance premium for properties in the SFHA.

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

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

FEMA 2020 Flood Map Revisions

In the Spring of 2019, FEMA notification was received for revisions being made to the City flood maps. The City of Port Richey along with Pasco County had public meetings and went through the adoption process. The City received the final determination letter in December of 2019, making our flood map revisions effective June 2020. To find out if your flood zone has changed, please visit www.cityofportrichey.com or feel free to call the Building Department at 727-835-1098.

