

# Community News

THE COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

The Voice of Condo, Civic, and Homeowner Associations of Pasco County



## Protecting Gopher Tortoises

The Pasco County Board of County Commissioners is proactively working to protect the native gopher tortoise and is encouraging our communities to do the same.

Since gopher tortoises are a threatened species in Florida and are protected under state law, these gentle land tortoises must be relocated before any land clearing or development can take place. Pasco County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources is working to establish a gopher tortoise recipient site within Pasco to provide long-term refuge for gopher tortoises displaced by development.

"The gopher tortoise is an important part of the area's ecology and for some residents, a symbol of natural Florida," said Pasco County Commissioner Kathryn Starkey. "The recipient site will be located in land purchased through the Environmental Land Acquisition and Management Program."

## CONA Meeting: May 16, 2018

Pasco County Emergency Management will be presenting some valuable information at our meeting next Wednesday. This is one you won't want to miss!

Commissioner Mariano will also be in attendance to provide a West-Side development update.

If you haven't attended one of our meetings this year, our meeting location has changed! We now meet at:

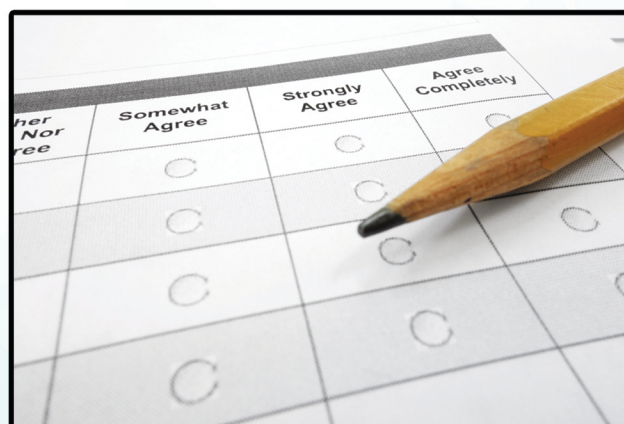
**New Port Richey City Hall**  
**5919 Main Street**  
**New Port Richey, FL 34652**

All meetings are held the third (3rd) Wednesday of each month at 9:30 am. We'd love to see you there!

## Pasco's 2018 Online Citizen Survey

Pasco County has released an online survey for citizens to give their opinion on how the county is performing. This is an extensive survey that takes 15-20 minutes to complete, and is completely anonymous. To take the survey, please click the link below:

<https://goo.gl/KYwwqP>





## Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Pasco County Solid Waste & Resource Recovery is pleased to offer an exclusive public tour Wednesday, May 9, 2018 of FloridaGreen – the state's premier biosolids management facility.

Through a public-private partnership with Biosolids Management Corporation Merrell Bros., the new facility provides sustainable materials management through biosolids processing and landfill diversion.

### WHAT:

FloridaGreen Biosolids Facility Open House

### WHERE:

FloridaGreen – A Merrell Bros. Biosolids Facility

**14230 Hays Rd,  
Spring Hill, FL 34610**

### WHEN:

Wednesday, May 9, 2018 9:30am - 1:00pm

The guided walking tours and exhibits will cover environmentally-conscious topics, including:

- Processing approximately 50,000 wet tons of biosolids per year – a residue from domestic waste water treatment previously landfilled – into a Class AA Registered Fertilizer.

- Incorporating two innovative technologies, solar greenhouse drying and oven pasteurization, into two, fully-contained greenhouse units totaling 130,000 square feet.

- FloridaGreen Fertilizer: Utilized commercially as an organic-based, dry fertilizer, this product reduces, reuses and recycles the initial volume of material by nearly 75 percent.

## Community News

### Code Enforcement Crackdown

The tents, blue tarp, stacks of pallets, barbed wire and general junky look at the side of Hicks Road in Hudson are gone.

The business, called Home Discount Depot, popped up in August 2017, with an illegal sign and without proper zoning permits.

"This purported to be a retail hardware store," said Kristi Sims, senior assistant county attorney for Pasco County. "It's not there anymore."

Neither are the dilapidated buildings that had been the USA Flea Market on U.S. 19 near Bayonet Point nor the ramshackle trailer homes at the Lazy Breeze Mobile Home and RV Park outside Dade City.

Gone.

They are some of the high-profile cases handled by Pasco County since it created its "high-return enforcement" strategy a year ago. The tactic targets the owners of blighted structures or repeat violators of the county codes that are intended to preserve the public's health, safety and welfare.

To read more of this article, visit: [goo.gl/wQuwJE](https://goo.gl/wQuwJE)





## Resident Highlight: May 2018

Adis Kukuljac, 18, a J.W. Mitchell High School senior, has worked to bring antibiotic effectiveness against resistant bacteria one step closer to reality with a research project that earned him an invitation to the International Science and Engineering Fair, May 13-18 in Pittsburgh.

The Advanced Placement capstone project culminates biology research that Kukuljac conducted August through January. In a University of South Florida lab, with mentor Dr. Yu Chen, Associate Professor of Molecular Medicine, and the guidance of doctoral students, Kukuljac developed the first three-dimensional model of a protein named KPC-3. The protein is critical to the effectiveness of antibiotics. The model will be uploaded to a database that researchers worldwide can use to create antibiotics.

Kukuljac chose the independent study in antibiotic resistance because of the increase in the mutation rate of infectious bacteria, especially in hospitals. New antibiotics working against resistant bacteria can stop problems before they have a chance to gain ground, he said.

His interest in biology goes back years, perhaps even before he and his family left war-torn Bosnia and were German refugees. Seeking opportunities for success, the family made its way to the United States when Kukuljac was 11.

To read more of this article, visit: [goo.gl/deczkJ](http://goo.gl/deczkJ)



## Community News



### Disaster Relief Grants?

The Elfers community of Pasco County has flooded four times in the past three years and the county says they want to help residents get out.

Laura Wilcoxon, the Assistant Director of Pasco County Emergency Management, says the Community Development Block Grant Disaster-Relief, would buy back homes for people that qualify at the values before Hurricane Hermine and Matthew flooded the area.

"This hasn't happened in Pasco County before, to get this type of funding, what this funding does is it allows us to value the home at pre-storm conditions," Wilcoxon said. "So, if somebody couldn't sell their home now, they might have an extra incentive to get that pre-storm value. Plus, this grant would offer \$10K to \$25K in moving funds. The more interest we have the better our opportunity has."

To read more of this article, visit: [goo.gl/N7KGGc](http://goo.gl/N7KGGc)

### Public Event Calendar

Interested in getting active in Pasco County? Click the link below to view the May 2018 Calendar for events being held throughout the county.

[goo.gl/ZYBEVh](http://goo.gl/ZYBEVh)



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