Community News

THE COUNCIL OF NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATIONS

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

NACo Achievment Awards

Pasco County is being honored with a National Association of Counties (NACo) 2018 Achievement Award. The awards honor innovative, effective county government programs that strengthen services for our communities and neighbors.

Pasco County Government received honors for Implementing Best Practices in the category of County Administration and Management.

"A big part of my decision to join the Pasco County team was that we are committed to a unique, best-practice infrastructure," said County Administrator Dan Biles. "Organizational Performance Management gives us a real advantage."

NACo's annual Achievement Awards program, started in 1970, is designed to recognize county government innovations. Each nominee is judged on its own merits and not against other applications received.

Nationally, awards are given in 18 categories reflecting the vast, comprehensive services counties provide. The categories include children and youth, criminal justice, county administration, information technology, health, civic engagement and many more.

"We are honored that NACo is recognizing Pasco County with another National Achievement award," said Organizational Performance Management Director Dr. Marc Bellas. "The work we have done over the past six years is paying off. Our goal is to be high-performing in every aspect of our business to support delivering the best possible service to our citizens."

NACo will recognize award-winning counties at its 2018 Annual Conference and Exposition July 13-16 in Nashville, Tennessee.



CONA Candidates Introduction!

On June 20, 2018, we will be holding a Candidates Introduction, where all of those who are running for office in Pasco County will be invited to come introduce themselves and speak with our members. Come on out and show support for the candidates! This event will also be live-streamed on Facebook.

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!

Dump the Pump!

Let someone else do the driving. New routes, new buses, complimentary WiFi – and a chance to try it all for free! The Pasco County Public Transportation Department (PCPT) is joining public transportation systems across the country to take part in the 13th annual National Dump the Pump Day. To celebrate, PCPT is offering free rides on all regular fixed bus routes Thursday, June 21, 2018.

To read more of this article, visit: https://goo.gl/BLqgcu



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Clark Street Rehabilitation

The Clark Street drainage and rehabilitation project to bring improvements to the Hudson Beach area is scheduled to begin the week of June 25, 2018.

Clark Street project details:

Construction work will take place Mondays through Fridays, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Expect single lane closures with message boards directing traffic

Project is expected to take 90 days to complete, depending upon weather

Target completion date is September 30, 2018

The work on Clark Street west, including Armand Way, will include custom design and installation of new drainage pipes, followed by a complete rebuild and hardening of the road base in some areas. Other areas will also be resurfaced, including new pavement markings and restriping.

For a map of the project area, please visit: bit.ly/ClarkStreetProject.

The Pasco County Public Works Department project is being constructed by Asphalt Paving Systems, Inc.

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Streamlined Utilities Fees

A new, flat-fee structure for utilities assessment searches will address the needs of title companies and closing agents across Pasco County's rapidly-growing residential landscape.

Pasco County Utilities (PCU) Departments of Customer Services & Information and Solid Waste & Resource Recovery collaborated to address the increasing demand for assessment searches as they relate to water, sewer and solid waste services at a specific property.

"With more than 16,000 assessments completed each year, this is a sign of a thriving community," said PCU Customer Service Administrator Sandra Anderson.

A flat fee of \$25 for each Utilities Assessment Search has been established through the Utility Rate Study and covers all associated costs – including staff time and equipment.

Assessments are designed to protect property owners who are taking on new loans or refinancing. Please allow up to five business days for each assessment search.

For more information on the assessment process or the tools developed by Pasco County Utilities, please visit: http://bit.ly/2Jc9wvz.



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A Message from Brian Corley

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Of the many changes in election administration I have witnessed during my tenure, one trend that can't be overlooked is the steady increase in voters who choose to cast their ballot through early voting or vote by mail. In many states, including Florida, these nontraditional methods have surpassed the numbers of those who choose to vote in person on election day.

In the Presidential Preference in 2008, the first major election of my appointment in 2007, we mailed 4,000 vote-by-mail ballots in the initial mass mailing. To date, we have nearly 65,000 vote-by-mail ballot requests for the upcoming 2018 election cycle, an increase of 15,000 since 2016. The steady increase can be attributed in part to changes in the law in 2001 which no longer required an excuse for being absent on Election Day, and in 2008 another change in the law allowed vote-by-mail ballot requests to be honored through two Federal General Elections. In 2016, we redesigned our vote-by-mail certificate envelopes to include a check box for voters to indicate if they want to continue voting by mail. Those who checked the box signed up for an additional two election cycles.

That being said, mailing ballots to those who request them is just one step in the process. The real impact comes from the number of ballots that are voted and returned for tabulation. In the traditionally low turnout mid-term elections, will the increase in vote-by-mail ballots be reflected in an increase in turnout? Will the recent rise in voter awareness from a younger, increasingly mobile and electronic generation be enough to engage them in mid-terms? Will candidates or issues this election cycle motivate the electorate which historically foregoes their right to vote in midterms?

These are all great questions as we look forward. The answers could potentially provide a turning point from the traditional turnout of older, more conservative party activists in midterm elections. One thing we know for sure is, the return of each vote-by-mail ballot has the potential to impact every race on the ballot. Whichever way you choose to vote, you can be assured your vote will have an impact on who will lead us in the state of Florida, as well as our congressional and legislative representatives. That is what mid-term elections are for, and with a vote-by-mail ballot, it's as simple as darkening in the circles and mailing it back! PASC COUNTY FLORIDA OPEN SPACES. VIBRANT PLACES.

Visit Pasco Initiative

The Pasco County Office of Tourism Development has launched Visit Pasco's new Matching Marketing Sponsorship Program, geared for special event organizers. The program will provide up to \$5,000 to promote events and increase visitation to Pasco County.

Applications will be accepted through June 28. MMSP funds are for event-related marketing expenditures only. Approved applicants must present a funding request to the Tourist Development Council. The Pasco Board of County Commissioners grants all final approvals.

The MMSP program replaces the previous Special Event Marketing Program. To apply for funding, call (727) 847-8129 or email to cbsanchez@pascocountyfl.net.

For information about Pasco County Tourism and events, visit the website at visitpasco.net.

Movement on Main Street

New Port Richey Main Street has appointed Marilynn deChant as the new executive director of the New Port Richey Main Street program, effective July 1.

DeChant was the first executive director of the downtown Main Street program from 1987 to 1997. She also previously served on city council from 2005-2009. DeChant will operate out of the New Port Richey Main Street office at 5837 Main St. in downtown New Port Richey.

Visit the website at nprMainStreet.com/. Those interested in becoming a board member or volunteering for Main Street committees or events can call (727) 842-8066 for details.

