

# Happy Holidays

As the largest city in Sarasota County with nearly 65,000 residents, the City of North Port hosts a variety of family fun events filled with community spirit and joy each holiday season. The success of these events is due to the hard work and strong support of the City's local nonprofits, organizations, businesses, employees, and residents. The holidays are meant to be a time of giving, spending time with loved ones, and being thankful. We, in the City of North Port, are thankful for the giving, caring community members who call North Port home. Thank you for all that you do. We hope you have a wonderful holiday season.



## 2016 Holiday Guide

Achieve Anything

[www.cityofnorthport.com](http://www.cityofnorthport.com)

City of North Port  
4970 City Hall Boulevard  
North Port, FL. 34286  
(941) 429-7000

Achieve Anything

# Gingerbread Land Contest

Looking for something fun and artistic to do this holiday season? Perhaps something fun to do with your children or grandchildren?

Make a gingerbread house and enter it into the City of North Port's contest!

## About the Contest

The City of North Port's Volunteer Program is hosting a Gingerbread Land Contest. Volunteers with the City organize this annual community activity in which community members, businesses, organizations, and families are invited to make gingerbread houses.

The decorated gingerbread houses are then set out on display at North Port City Hall for the public to see and vote for their favorite. The winner is announced during the Tree Lighting and Poinsettia Festival on December 2, 2016.

Prizes, including the People's Choice Award, will be awarded at the stage during the Tree Lighting and Poinsettia Festival in front of City Hall.



## Contest Entries

The decorated gingerbread house must not exceed 18 inches in any dimension, including board or tray. It must be constructed entirely of edible material. Award categories are for: ages 1-6; ages 7-12; ages 13-18; ages 18 and over. There is also a group/organization category.

## Contest Entry Deadline

The decorated houses must be delivered to City Hall, 4970 City Hall Blvd., between November 28 and December 1 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

## Information

For more information, contact Tammie Jacobs with the North Port Police Department at (941) 429-7305 or at [tjacobs@cityofnorthport.com](mailto:tjacobs@cityofnorthport.com).

# Event listing

## MAYOR'S FEED THE HUNGRY FOOD DRIVE

November 7 through November 18, 2016  
City Hall, 4970 City Hall Blvd.

Residents, organizations, and businesses are invited to donate nonperishable food items to the annual Mayors' Feed the Hungry program. The food collected at this event directly helps local families who have registered for help during the holidays. For more information, contact the City's Social Services Division at (941) 429-3700.

## 10TH ANNUAL 12 DAYS OF GIVING

November 28 through December 9, 2016

Residents, organizations and businesses are encouraged to join City employees as they give back to the community by donating unwrapped toys for ages birth to 14, nonperishable food items, and toiletries that will be distributed to North Port neighbors in need. Donations can be delivered from Nov. 28-Dec. 9 to the first floor lobby of City Hall between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information, call the City's Community Outreach Division at (941) 429-7165.



## TREE LIGHTING AND POINSETTIA FESTIVAL

December 2, 2016, 6 p.m.  
City Center Complex, 4970 City Hall Blvd.

The City of North Port will host a Tree Lighting and Poinsettia Festival in front of City Hall for the community. This fun filled holiday festival will feature food vendors, performances by school choirs, entertainment, attractions, a shopping village, and so much more. The activities will stretch across the City Hall complex, from inside City Hall, to the City Center Green, to the George Mullen Activity Center. For more information, contact Parks and Recreation at (941) 429-7275.

## AN OLD FASHIONED HOLIDAY: AN 1800S CHRISTMAS

December 4, 2016, 2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

The North Port Library hosts a signature holiday event each year that transports attendees back to a "simpler time, when little things meant a lot." This fun-filled afternoon will feature music, crafts, performers, exhibits, and much more. For more information, contact the North Port Library at (941) 861-1300.



## POINSETTIA PARADE

December 10, 2016 5 p.m.

The parade will start at 5 p.m. and travel south along North Port Boulevard. Join in on the holiday family fun! North Port's signature holiday parade will feature dozens of floats and entertainment! For more information, call Parks and Recreation at (941) 429-7275.

## WANT TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

Each one of these events needs volunteers, sponsors, and donations. Contact Parks and Recreation at (941) 429-7275 for details. Organizations, businesses, and residents can also adopt a family through the holidays by contacting the Social Services Division at (941) 429-3700.



## LIVE EVENT COVERAGE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Experience our signature holiday events both in person and on social media! The City will be providing live event coverage of the Poinsettia Parade and Tree Lighting and Poinsettia Festival on Twitter and Facebook.

Tree Lighting and Poinsettia Festival using the hashtag #NPTreeLighting.

Poinsettia Parade using the hashtag #NPParade.

Simply search for the hashtag or follow @CityofNorthPort on Twitter or @theCityofNorthPort on Facebook.

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*Tree Lighting  
and*  
**Poinsettia Festival**

**Friday  
December 2, 2016  
6 p.m.**

Sumter Blvd.

1. Gingerbread House Display
2. Toys For Tots' Toy Collection and 12 Days of Giving Food Collection
3. Tree Lighting
4. Vendors Row
5. Main Stage
6. Teen Toyland
7. Children's Toyland
8. Holiday Express Train Ride
9. Holiday Shopping Village
10. Kids Workshop
11. Santa Visits

-  Restrooms
-  ATM Machine
-  Welcome Tent and First Aid





Saturday  
December 10, 2016  
5 p.m.

- Road Closures
- Restrooms/Portolets
- Judges Stand
- ▬ Parking
- ▬ Spectator Viewing
- ⋯ Staging Area

