

# Welcome to North Port



**City of North Port**  
**Neighborhood Development Services**  
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## What Can I Do?

The Residents of North Port are often met with new opportunities both as citizens and homeowners, and as Neighborhood Development Services is a customer service-oriented branch of the government we are here to help answer questions.

Some of the questions we get, we answer everyday, "Can you help me get information about my property?" some are much rarer, "How many chickens, goats, and miniature horses am I allowed to have?" and others require research into areas of the law and code that even we have never laid eyes on.

To give you a welcome to North Port here is a short guide to some things we get asked, big and small, by our residents.



## Neighborhood Development Services

### Let's Throw a Party: Event Planning

As the City works make residents and businesses more aware of our venues and amenities, it is important to let people know what to expect when putting together an event.

Hosting Special Events like Carnivals, Concerts, Parades, Tent Sales, or other activities advertised to the community with vendors requires submitting a permit with the Planning Department in City Hall, which must be done 60 days before the event is to be held.

The event will be evaluated by numerous departments for health and safety. This evaluation has to be done for every event on a case by case basis, even if it is an annual event to make sure no changes occurred over the year that might cause a problem.



Barricades, Police, and Fire Department personnel can be employed by the applicant if the event needs them. Police explorers can also be used as volunteers, but their supervisors must be paid for their time.

To serve alcohol at the event a special permit from the State Department of Alcohol, Beverages, and Tobacco must be obtained. Events with Fireworks must obtain a special permit from the City Fire Department.

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## It's My Business: Cottage Industry

Any person doing business in the City of North Port must obtain a Business Tax Receipt, and this includes home businesses. If you have the desire to work from home, it is important to know that there are limits in place by the State's division of Food Safety.

Gross sales for a cottage food operation must not exceed \$50,000 annually. Cottage food operators may advertise for sale, offer for sale and accept payment for cottage food products on their website but the products are prohibited to be delivered by mail order.

Cottage food products must be sold and delivered directly to the consumer or to the consumer's private event venue such as a wedding or birthday party. Sales of cottage food products are prohibited for wholesale.

Cottage food operations require no license or permit from the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services (FDACS) and are not inspected by any state government entity.

If you are interested in starting a home business, looking online for "[Cottage Food Operations](#)" a [Division of Food Safety](#) is an excellent place to start.



## Chickens, Pigs, and Other Things

While North Port does have an agricultural area North of I-75 called the Estates it is not uncommon for residents living in the residential areas of the city to inquire about raising their own animals.

Staff have been asked about goats, pigs, and peacocks, each time trying to provide as complete an answer as possible. The keeping of farm animals, exotic animals, livestock and poultry, except for hens, is prohibited in the Residential single-family zoning districts. You are allowed up to 4 hens (6 if you own two or more lots) to raise, though no roosters are allowed.

We are also aware of the need for service animals, and miniature horses can serve as service animals. If you have need of a miniature horse, we are happy work with you to insure you have access for your service animal. Searching online for Service Animals is one of the best ways to get more information on this topic.

One more notable exception to the rules against farm animals, there one animal specifically excluded when they are not kept or raised for food or product: purebred miniature potbellied pigs.



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