



Town of Melbourne Beach Beach Comber

Bimonthly Highlights

July - August 2024 - Issue 8

The Town of Melbourne Beach is holding a Municipal Election on Tuesday, November 5th, 2024 for the purpose of electing two (2) at-large Commissioners for three (3)-year terms. The following candidates have qualified for this election:



Joyce Barton



Anna Butler



Tim Reed



Marivi Walker

To confirm your polling location, please visit <https://www.votebrevard.gov/> or contact the Brevard County Supervisor of Elections at 321-290-VOTE (8683). For additional information regarding the municipal election, please contact Town Clerk Amber Brown at 321-724-5860.

NOTICE: The final vote for the Fiscal Year 2025 Budget & Millage will be held at the Community Center on Tuesday, September 17th at 6:00 PM.

Congratulations to our Town Clerk Amber Brown!

Amber recently became a Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) and was pinned during the Regular Town Commission Meeting on August 21st. We are so proud of her ongoing commitment to serving the residents of Melbourne Beach.

Pictured left to right: Town Clerk Mollie Carr, Town of Indialantic; FACC Central East District Director Gwen Peirce, MPA, MMC, City Clerk, City of Satellite Beach; Town Clerk Amber Brown, CMC, Town of Melbourne Beach; FACC President Patricia J. Burke, MPA, MMC, RLO, Town Clerk-Manager, Town of Palm Shores; and City Clerk Sue Frank, MMC, City of Indian Harbour Beach.



Meet Our Newest Officers



Officer Edgar Rivera

Officer Rivera's journey began in El Salvador, a Central American country smaller than most states in the U.S. He first came to the United States at the age of six. Three years ago, he settled in Melbourne/Palm Bay where he has since made his home. Officer Rivera always gravitated towards pursuits that could make a meaningful impact in the lives of others as well as his own. This conviction led him to pursue a career in Law Enforcement. Officer Rivera takes pride in being the first in his family to enter this profession, seeing it as an opportunity to contribute to something larger than himself and finding great satisfaction in being embraced by the community of Melbourne Beach.

Officer James O'Byrne

Officer O'Byrne started his career in law enforcement with West Melbourne in 1983. He then joined the Melbourne Police Department, serving in the capacity of a Field Training Officer (FTO), Motor Officer, and a member of the SWAT team. After 30 years of service, he retired in 2016. In 2017, he returned to the force as a Motor Officer with the West Melbourne Police Department before joining the Melbourne Beach Police Department in 2021 as a Code Enforcement Officer. Within four months, he returned to the police force as an officer for MBPD, but left in 2022 following a motorcycle accident while off duty. Officer O'Byrne returned to the Melbourne Beach Police Department as a police officer in May of this year.



New Title for Second in Command



We are pleased to announce that Lieutenant Matthew Smith has been reclassified as Deputy Chief of Police. This change reflects his years of service with our department and brings our organizational structure into alignment with other local law enforcement agencies. Please offer him your congratulations when you see him around Melbourne Beach!

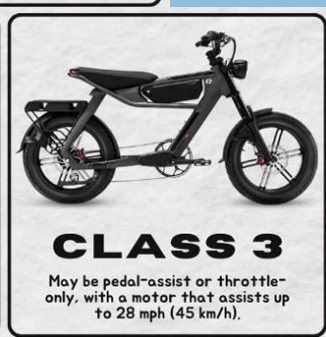
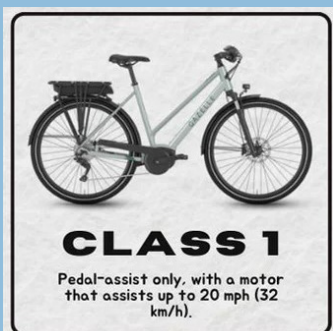
What's the Deal With These Wheels?

Low Speed Vehicles (LSVs)

- Only people who have an actual driver's license can drive a LSV
- Everyone in the front seat of the LSV must wear a seatbelt
- Everyone under the age of 18 must wear a seatbelt
- No child can sit on a lap in a LSV
- Children who are mandated to be in a car seat in a car must be in a car seat in a LSV
- LSVs must be registered with the Town or the State of Florida
- LSVs cannot drive on the sidewalk or grass and must stay on the road in the proper lane
- Violations of the above can range from traffic citations to arrest depending on the situation

E-Bikes

- Class 1, 2, and 3 E-Bikes are entirely legal and allowed anywhere regular bikes are permitted
- Class 4 E-Bikes must be registered with a licensed operator, and are considered a motor vehicle
- E-Bikes must have a label that includes the classification number, top-assisted speed, and motor wattage
- It is illegal to tamper with or modify the E-Bike in a way that changes its speed capabilities or classification without updating the label
- If rider is under 16, they must wear a helmet like a regular bicycle
- E-Bikes must follow all traffic rules like stopping at stop signs and riding with the flow of traffic



Lithium-Ion Battery Safety



Lithium-ion batteries supply power to many kinds of devices including smart phones, laptops, e-scooters and e-bikes, e-cigarettes, smoke alarms, toys, and even cars. If not used correctly, or if damaged, these batteries can catch on fire or explode.

The problem

- These batteries store a large amount of energy in a small amount of space.
- Sometimes batteries are not used the right way; batteries not designed for a specific use can be dangerous.
- Like any product, a small number of these batteries are defective. They can overheat, catch fire, or explode.

Safety Tips

- Purchase and use devices that are listed by a qualified testing laboratory.
- Always follow the manufacturer's instructions.
- Only use the battery that is designed for the device.
- Put batteries in the device the right way.
- Only use the charging cord that came with the device.
- Do not charge a device under your pillow, on your bed, or on a couch.
- Do not keep charging the device or device battery after it is fully charged.
- Keep batteries at room temperature when possible. Do not charge them at temperatures below 32°F (0°C) or above 105°F (40°C).
- Store batteries away from anything that can catch fire.

Signs of a Problem

Stop using the battery if you notice these problems: odor, change in color, too much heat, change in shape, leaking, or odd noises. If it is safe to do so, move the device away from anything that can catch fire. Call **9-1-1**.

Battery Disposal

- Do not put lithium-ion batteries in the trash.
- Recycling is always the best option.
- Take them to a battery recycling location or contact your community for disposal instructions.
- Do not put discarded batteries in piles.

Charging an E-bike

Charge your battery in a flat, dry area away from children, direct sunlight, liquids, tripping hazards, and in a location where the e-bike is not at risk of falling.



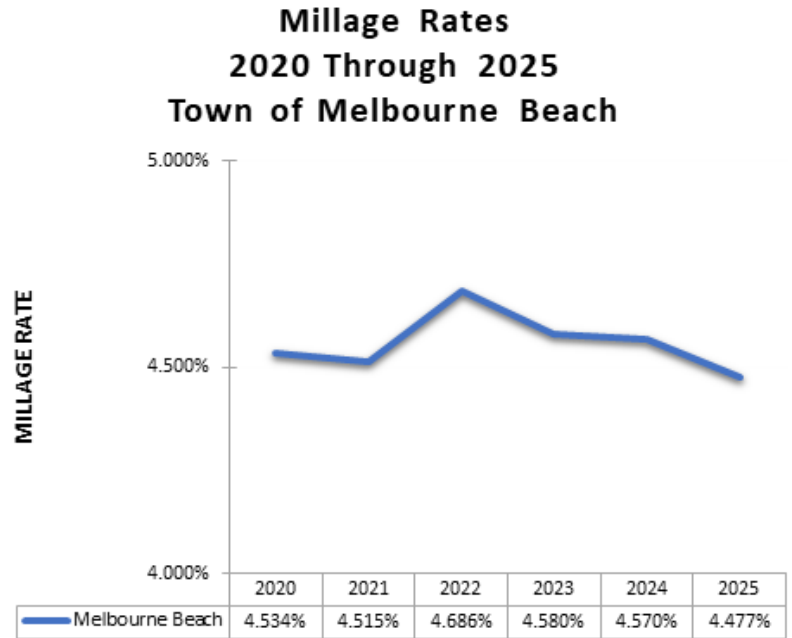
NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION
The leading information and knowledge resource on fire, electrical and related hazards



Highlights of the FY2024-2025 General Fund and Building Dept. Budget

- **Fiscal Year 2025 millage rate reduced to 4.477.**

- Revenue and Expense for the FY25 budget is \$4,582,113, which is 6.92% less than FY24 or **\$341,074**
- All activities in Ryckman Park including Founders Day, Yoga, Qigong, Tai Chi, Be Strong Exercise, My Musical Tree, Fall Festival, Christmas Tree Lighting, Easter Egg Hunt, and the events held by the Parks Board are *funded through parking revenue* - no tax dollars.
- All of the decorative light poles, street signs, banners, holiday wreaths, flowers, children’s sprinkler center (we call it the Fish Bowl) informational signage on the river and at Ocean Park are *paid for with parking revenue* - no tax dollars.



- The Police Chief has requested one (1) additional officer, with a starting pay of \$50,000 plus benefits. The Chief has also requested an across the board increase for all officers of \$7,200 to remain competitive in the marketplace. This places our starting salary in the mid-range instead of last in Brevard County. This figure is based on the current salaries of all agencies. This does not account for any salary increases for FY2025.
- Expenditures in General Government (Executive, Legislative, Finance, Legal, Public Works, Groundskeeper, General Services and Town Planner) **decreased by 12.98% over FY24.**
- Expenditures in Public Safety (Law Enforcement, Fire, Building and Code Enforcement) **increased by 12.65% FY24.** The increase was primarily due to a 10.16% (\$126,536) increase in the police budget for the addition of one officer and the across the board salary adjustment. The remaining departments in public safety had a **17.47% increase over FY24.** This increase is due to the addition of a second part-time Code Enforcement Officer and the allocation of \$50,000 toward the purchase of computer software to track vacation rentals.
- The Legal Department has increased by 17.0%. Planning’s budget has increased 34.61%
- \$500,000 is transferring into stormwater from the General Fund for FY25.

Welcome to the Fish Bowl

You may have noticed some additional activity in Ryckman Park recently due to two new Public Works projects. The first project has been dubbed the “Fish Bowl,” a sprinkler park for the enjoyment of our littlest residents and visitors. The sprinkler park features six sprinklers in the shape of aquatic animals and one shaped like a mushroom. Visitors can activate the system via a touchpoint; it will run for a few minutes at a time to reduce water waste. The water source is an artisan well. The potable water runs through an ultra violet light and will be tested annually. Next to the Fish Bowl is our second project: a wooden deck underneath the trees. This deck area will provide a shaded vantage point to relax and stay cool while still watching your children.



Both projects have been funded entirely with parking revenues.

We hope you enjoy them!



General Fund 001 and Building Fund 125 Statement of Revenues and Expenditures - FY25 Budget

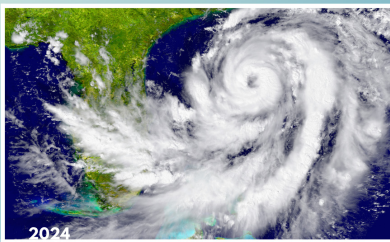
Department Funds & Descriptions	FY 22	FY23	FY24	FY25	Long Term
	Budget	Budget	Budget	Budget	Capital Items
FY Millage Rate Applied	4.6865	4.5800	4.5700	4.4770	
REVENUE					
Taxes ACTUAL	3,013,120	3,265,002	3,746,412	3,818,033	
Licenses & Permits	178,250	203,050	283,275	258,480	
Intergovernmental	248,100	291,100	348,300	385,000	
Services	195,908	251,000	268,000	73,000	
Fines & Forfeitures	25,100	41,500	28,200	12,000	
Miscellaneous Income	2,875	9,350	249,000	35,600	
TOTAL REVENUE	3,663,353	4,061,002	4,923,187	4,582,113	
EXPENDITURES					
GENERAL GOVERNMENT					
Legislative (11)	136,448	182,543	262,612	197,427	
Executive (12)	176,373	210,230	218,072	225,077	
Finance (13)	123,003	186,783	232,171	229,534	
Legal Counsel (14)	98,250	106,000	107,000	125,200	
Comprehensive Planning -Town Planner (15)	20,000	20,000	26,000	35,000	
General Services (19)	453,724	485,432	677,571	495,246	7,500
Public Works (41)	400,651	375,902	456,148	426,218	
Groundskeeper (42)		58,210	59,375	40,550	
TOTAL GENERAL GOVERNMENT	1,408,449	1,625,100	2,038,949	1,774,252	
PUBLIC SAFETY					
Law Enforcement (21)	1,189,451	1,353,738	1,245,202	1,371,738	
Fire Control (22)	291,216	374,015	399,482	401,553	35,000
Bldg. Dept. (125)	223,226	220,084	215,696	247,455	
Code Enforcement (29)	18,174	19,316	27,497	106,000	
TOTAL PUBLIC SAFETY	1,722,067	1,967,153	1,887,877	2,126,746	
OTHER	83,869		411,050		
Transfer to Long Term Capital Dept (19)	118,665	115,000	77,000	7,500	Capital Items
Transfer to Long Term Capital Dept (21)	15,000	13,479	15,000		Capital Items
Transfer to Long Term Capital Dept (22)	36,777	15,277	36,500	35,000	Capital Items
Transfer to Long Term Capital Dept (41)	10,000	16,972	10,000	-	Capital Items
Transfer to Long Term Capital Dept (42)			4,250	-	Capital Items
Transfer to Fund 104 EAB		5,374	5,500		
Transfer to Fund 107 Parks					
Transfer to Fund 124 Bldg Edu	500	500	800	500	
Transfer to Fund 125 Building Dept				22,000	
Transfer to Fund 341 Stormwater	146,851	99,372	319,336	500,000	
Transfer to Fund 201 Bond Debt Service	121,175	121,175	116,925	116,115	
TOTAL OTHER TRANSFERS	532,837	387,149	996,361	681,115	
TOTAL EXPENSES	3,663,353	4,061,002	4,923,187	4,582,113	
REVENUES OVER EXPENDITURES	-	-	-	(0)	

**As a reminder for election season, please be advised of our Town's code regarding political signs:
§7A-52 Signs**

(12) Political signs shall be permitted and display of the sign shall conform to the following:

- a. Maximum size of a political sign, four square feet.*
- b. Signs may not be placed on rights-of-way.*
- c. Political signs related to an election must be removed within 72 hours after the election.*

5 Steps for Hurricane Preparedness



KNOW YOUR RISK



Step 1 of hurricane season preparedness is knowing your risk.

Things to consider when assessing your risk:

- Do you live in a mobile or manufactured home?
- Do you live in an evacuation area?
- Do you live in a flood-prone area?
- Are you water or electricity dependent, or do you have special needs?

Always have an evacuation plan for a tropical storm or hurricane. If a storm is approaching and you feel unsafe in your residence, find a location where you feel safe for the duration of the storm.

Step 2 of preparedness is build a kit.

A disaster supply kit is a collection of essential items you may need in the event of tropical storm or hurricane. Assemble your kit, and review it annually. If you evacuate, take your kit with you.

A full list of supplies can be found on Brevard County's website: <https://brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/BePrepared/Step2BuildAKit>



BUILD A KIT



HAVE A PLAN



Step 3 of preparedness is having a plan. It is important that your family has a plan if a tropical storm or hurricane is in the forecast. Consider the following questions when making a plan:

- What factors will make me evacuate?
- Where will I go if I need to leave?
- When will I leave to ensure my safety?
- Who is coming with me if I evacuate?
- How far will I travel if I leave?

Step 4 of preparedness is stay informed. Information is critical before, during, and after a tropical storm or hurricane.

Get vital emergency information multiple ways:

- Follow Brevard Co. Emergency Management on Facebook, Twitter & Nextdoor
- Text BREVARDEOC to 888777 for countywide text notifications
- Ensure Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on your cell phone are turned on
- Use a weather radio tuned to 162.550
- Sign up for AlertBrevard location-based notifications: <https://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/AlertSignup>



2024



STAY INFORMED



GET INVOLVED



Step 5 of preparedness is get involved. There are many ways to get involved:

- Talk to your neighbors so that they know their risks and encourage them to be prepared.
- Before donating any goods, wait for instructions from local officials or check with a specific organization.
- Make a financial contribution to a volunteer agency involved in disaster relief.
- Volunteer with existing disaster support organizations such as United Way, 2-1-1 Brevard, the Salvation Army, and Brevard Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).

Indian River Lagoon Pollution Prevention

LET'S BE CLEAR...

Keep Grass Clippings in Your Yard

Grass clippings left in the street are carried by rain into storm drains and into our waterways. Blow or sweep yard waste back in your yard!

What else can YOU do to save our lagoon?



Public Works recently completed a project to vacuum all 18 baffle boxes located throughout Town. These boxes are strategically located to filter stormwater just before it enters the Indian River Lagoon. Over a thousand pounds of sediment and leaves are removed from the baffle boxes each year. Unfortunately we also find litter such as newspapers, drink cans, and toys in these boxes, which reduces the effectiveness of the baffle boxes.

Public Works is also tasked with checking the stormwater outfalls located along the Lagoon. These checks are done to watch for any types of illicit discharges such as oil, gasoline, paint, etc.

In addition, Public Works makes rounds throughout Town to clean out lawn debris and tree branches from the stormwater inlets on our streets. We appreciate those of you who keep tree cuttings out of the curb drains so they can be picked up by Waste Pro. Each month we pick up hundreds of pieces of such debris from the inlet covers.

Public Works also continues to construct swales along our streets to divert stormwater back into the ground where it is filtered. Please remember an overwhelming amount of stormwater drainage ends up in our Lagoon. Let's all do our part to prevent pollutants from entering the IRL!

4th of July Party in the Park

The Melbourne Beach Volunteer Firefighters Association's annual Independence Day celebration was well-attended by Town residents and fellow Brevard locals. Donations raised by MBVFA events assist in the purchase of safety items including the new rescue boat pictured below.



Christmas in July Toy Drive

Thank you to all residents who participated in the Florida Association of City Clerks' toy drive! The donated toys were brought to Health First's Bright Star Center for Grieving Children and Families along with donations from West Melbourne and Satellite Beach.



NWF Certifies New Wildlife Habitat Garden in Melbourne Beach



The National Wildlife Federation (NWF), America's largest wildlife conservation and education organization, is pleased that the Old Town Hall History Center Native Garden has successfully created a Certified Wildlife Habitat® through its Garden for Wildlife™ movement. NWF celebrates this effort to create a garden that supports birds, butterflies, bees, frogs and other local wildlife. Every Certified Wildlife Habitat garden provides natural sources of food, water, cover and places to raise young and is maintained in a sustainable way that incorporates native plants, conserves water and doesn't rely on pesticides. The Old Town Hall History Center Native Garden is excited to have qualified as a Certified Wildlife Habitat. Please come enjoy the garden!

Town Meetings

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Planning and Zoning Board	First Tuesday as needed	6:30 pm	Community Center
History Center Board	First Tuesday	4:00 pm	2373 Oak Street
Town Commission Workshop	First Wednesday as needed	6:00 pm	Community Center
Code Enforcement Magistrate	As needed	TBA	
Historical Preservation and Awareness Board	Second Tuesday	4:00 pm	Ryckman House
Parks Board	First Thursday	6:00 pm	Community Center
Regular Town Commission Meeting	Third Wednesday	6:00 pm	Community Center
Board of Adjustment	Third Thursday as needed	6:00 pm	Community Center
Environmental Advisory Board	Fourth Wednesday	7:00 pm	Community Center
Police Pension Fund	March, June, Sept., Dec.	5:30 pm	Masny Room

Town Commission Meeting Highlights

June 19, 2024 – Regular Town Commission Meeting

- Presentation by the Melbourne Beach Volunteer Firefighters Association for the donation of a new marine rescue boat to the Melbourne Beach Volunteer Fire Department
- Failed for a lack of motion – Ordinance 2024-03 Camping Prohibited
- Approved the second reading of Ordinance 2024-04 Prohibit Smoking
- Failed for a lack of motion – consideration on the lifeguard contract for 2024-2025
- Approved the first reading of Ordinance 2024-01 Sheds
- Failed for a lack of motion – Discussion on implementing a moratorium on traffic changes, and reviewing the policy for updates
- Approved the removal of the speed bumps at Ocean Ave and Pine St
- Approved changing the rank of Lieutenant to Deputy Chief within the Police Department
- Approved the Statewide Mutual Aid Agreement with the Florida Division of Emergency Management
- Approved the contract renewal for James Moore

Ongoing Community Activities

- Mayor’s Hours in the Community Center every Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- Mayor’s Hours (Vacation Rentals discussion) in the Community Center: 2nd Tuesday of every month from 6:00 pm - 7:30 pm
- Sunset Flow Yoga in Ryckman Park every Tuesday at 6:00 pm
- Flow and Be Strong Exercise Class in Ryckman Park every Wednesday at 8:30 am
- Gentle Yoga in Ryckman Park every Thursday at 6:00 pm
- Qigong in Ryckman Park every Friday at 9:30 am
- Tai Chi in Ryckman Park every Friday at 10:30 am
- My Musical Tree Class in Ryckman Park the 1st & 3rd Thursday of each month from 10:30 am - 11:15 am

MBPD Non-Emergency Admin: (321) 723-4343

MBVFD Non-Emergency Office: (321) 724-1736

Call 911 for Emergencies

507 Ocean Avenue, Melbourne Beach, Florida 32951

Phone: (321) 724-5860 | Fax: (321) 984-8994

melbournebeachfl.org

Brevard County’s Oldest Beach Community - Established 1883

SAVE THE DATE

MBVFA Haunted House: 10/18-10/19

Fall Festival: 10/19

MBPD Movie in the Park: 10/19

More details coming soon!