



Town of Melbourne Beach Beach Comber

Quarterly Highlights

April – June 2023 - Issue 2

Commissioner Spotlight

Hi Neighbor!

Imagine with me for a moment what the perfect place to live would be like... It would be a community that is beautiful, safe, fun, accessible, environmentally attuned, fiscally responsible and efficiently run by a municipal staff that really cares about its residents. Am I living in a dream world?? Not at all. I am living in the Town of Melbourne Beach along with 3,200 other very fortunate people. We are blessed!

This type of life does not happen magically. It happens with a lot of foresight, hard work, dedication and love. I am proud to serve the community on the Town Commission as your Vice Mayor. This is my third year in office and I look forward to continuing to serve the Town as long as you will have me. My campaign slogan was, "Keep Melbourne Beach Quaint" and it is my priority to do just that with a focus on Quality of Life for all residents.

There is a lot that goes into creating an outcome like that. What we strive to do, first and foremost, is provide for your safety. What I have found from my interaction with other local municipal leaders at meetings and other events is how very fortunate we are to have our own police and fire departments with record breaking response times. I know that I'm not alone in the gratitude that I have for them. Huge shout out to our Mel Beach Police and Fire!!

Have you noticed the improvements to the beauty of the Town? The care and maintenance of our parks and roads by the Town Public Works Department is second to none. They totally rock! Bicentennial Park is an absolute showpiece now. The river and beach accesses have wonderful swings to enjoy the views. Walking paths have been added to Ryckman Park. Lights and other safety measures make evening strolls along the pier a delight. And what about the amazing job they do in the park for the holiday tree lightening ceremony? Now, that is magical!

As a Commission, we make big decisions that have long term affects and are vitally important to every resident in town. We also make seemingly small decisions that may only affect a few residents. In the end, they are all important contributors to the overall quality of life in Melbourne Beach that we cherish.

All in all, the bottom line is this... we live in a very special community. Families and friends come together to enjoy special moments with each other at the many activities around town that reflect what they imagined to be the perfect place to live.

The ultimate beauty of it all is that we are enjoying this lifestyle with lower taxes than last year, lower taxes than any other beachside community, and much lower taxes than community's mainland. That only comes from effective management and an ability to work together for the greater good of all residents in Melbourne Beach.

If I haven't had the pleasure to meet you in person yet, I welcome the opportunity. Please feel free to contact me through the Town email at jbarton@melbournebeachfl.org or look for me at one of our community events.

In service and gratitude,
Joyce Barton



Meetings, Events, and Activities

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Planning and Zoning Board	First Tuesday	6:30 pm	Community Center
History Center Board	First Wednesday	5:00 pm	2373 Oak Street
Town Commission Workshop	First Wednesday	6:00 pm	Community Center
Code Enforcement Magistrate	First Thursday as Needed	6:00 pm	Community Center
Historical Preservation and Awareness Board	Second Tuesday	5:30 pm	Ryckman House
Parks Board	Second Wednesday	6:00 pm	Masny Room
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	Masny Room
Police Pension Fund	March, June, Sept., Dec.	5:30 pm	Masny Room

ONGOING COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

- Sunset Flow Yoga in Ryckman Park every Tuesday at 6:00 pm
- Flow and Be Strong Exercise Class in Ryckman Park every Wednesday at 9 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
- Old Town Hall History Museum at 2373 Oak St will be open every Saturday from 11 am - 3 pm
- Front Porch Jam at 2373 Oak St every Saturday from 1 pm - 3 pm
- My Musical Tree Class in Ryckman Park the first Thursday of each month from 10:30 am - 11:15 am
- Self-Guided Outdoor Native Garden at 2373 Oak St

BUDGET WORKSHOPS AND HEARINGS

Every summer the Town of Melbourne Beach holds public budget workshops to discuss the upcoming fiscal year budget. Then in September, the Town will hold a tentative public hearing and a final public hearing to approve the budget for the upcoming year. When the meetings are scheduled, they will be posted on our website and bulletin boards.

Town Commission Meeting Highlights

April 19, 2023 – Regular Town Commission Meeting

- Presented a proclamation commemorating the 100th anniversary of the incorporation of the Town of Melbourne Beach.
- Denied the consideration of the proposal for an electric car charging station.
- Approved the Town Manager, Town Planner, Town Attorney, and Building Official to review and propose changes to the Town Code of Ordinances related to food trucks and restaurants.
- Approved proceeding with the pier repairs as proposed by Land and Sea in the amount of \$7,150.00.
- Approved the proposed contract for the conceptual site plan for the boat ramp from Bowman Consulting in the amount of \$850.00.
- Approved proceeding with changes to the Town Commission meeting agenda outline. To include adding an additional public comment at the end of the meeting, reorganizing the order of the agenda, changing action items to task list.
- Approved a special event permit application.

May 17, 2023 – Regular Town Commission Meeting

- Presented a proclamation recognizing May 15th, 2023 as Police Memorial Day and May 14th through May 20th as Police Memorial Week.
- Fiscal Year 2022 Financial Audit was presented by James Moore.
- Presentation on the History Center Board by Laurie Simmons and Crystal Cain.
- Presentation on the Historical Preservation and Awareness Board by Dayle Hinman Farrell.
- Approved Resolution 2023-01 regarding amendments to the Historical Preservation and Awareness Board.
- Approved Resolution 2023-02 regarding amendments to Town Commission Rules and Procedures.
- Approved the fiscal year 2023-2024 Law Enforcement Dispatch Services Agreement in the amount of \$18,868.11.
- Approved the contract for document management software in the amount of \$15,750.70 for implementation fees and \$7,709.50 for the annual fee, and document scanning services in the amount of \$22,002.04.
- Approved and appointed the new Code Enforcement Magistrate Paul Gougelman.

Understanding a Tax Bill And The Benefits to the Town

The tax bills below are for a single-story home built in 1994, with 2541 square feet and a pool. The home is currently a vacation rental that used to have a homestead exemption in 2021. The exemption was removed in 2022. The purchase price of the home was \$872,000 in 2021.

Tax Bill from 2021:

In 2021 the Millage Rate for the Town of Melbourne Beach was 4.6865. The overall millage rate on the tax bill for the 15 Taxing Authorities was 16.6502. The Town received \$1,884.21 in Ad Valorem tax revenue, an additional \$402.01 for our Stormwater Bond, and \$36.00 for stormwater maintenance.

AD VALOREM TAXES					
TAXING AUTHORITY	MILLAGE RATE	ASSESSED VALUE	EXEMPTION	TAXABLE VALUE	TAXES LEVIED
COUNTY GENERAL FUND	3.5661	452,050	50,000	402,050	1,433.75
BREVARD LIBRARY DISTRICT	0.4118	452,050	50,000	402,050	165.56
BREVARD MOSQUITO CONTROL	0.1669	452,050	50,000	402,050	67.10
S BREVARD REC DIST 2001-2020	0.2711	452,050	50,000	402,050	109.00
SCHOOL - BY STATE LAW	3.6020	452,050	25,000	427,050	1,538.23
SCHOOL - BY LOCAL BOARD	0.7480	452,050	25,000	427,050	319.43
SCHOOL - CAPITAL OUTLAY	1.5000	452,050	25,000	427,050	640.58
TOWN OF MELBOURNE BCH	4.6865	452,050	50,000	402,050	1,884.21
ST JOHNS RIVER WATER MGMT DST	0.2189	452,050	50,000	402,050	88.01
FLA INLAND NAVIGATION DIST	0.0320	452,050	50,000	402,050	12.87
SEBASTIAN INLET DISTRICT	0.0765	452,050	50,000	402,050	30.76
ENV END LD/WTR LTD 05-24	0.0571	452,050	50,000	402,050	22.96
ENV END LD/WTR LTD(DBTP) 05-24	0.0488	452,050	50,000	402,050	19.62
MELB BCH STMWTR (DBTP) 09-28	0.9999	452,050	50,000	402,050	402.01
S BREVARD REC DIST (DBTP)01-20	0.2646	452,050	50,000	402,050	106.38
TOTAL MILLAGE				AD VALOREM TAXES	\$6,840.47
NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS					
LEVYING AUTHORITY	AMOUNT				
110 STORMWATER MELB BCH	36.00				
158 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	57.00				
PAY ONLY ONE AMOUNT IN BOXES BELOW				NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS	\$93.00
If Paid By	Nov 30, 2021				
Please Pay	\$6,656.13				

Tax Bill from 2022:

In 2022 the Millage Rate for the Town of Melbourne Beach was 4.5800 (a reduction from 2021). The overall Millage rate on the tax bill for all 15 Taxing Authorities was 15.5532, also a reduction from the prior year. Melbourne Beach received \$3,509.47 in Ad Valorem tax revenue, an additional \$766.18 for our Stormwater Bond, and \$36.00 for stormwater maintenance.

AD VALOREM TAXES					
TAXING AUTHORITY	MILLAGE RATE	ASSESSED VALUE	EXEMPTION	TAXABLE VALUE	TAXES LEVIED
COUNTY GENERAL FUND	3.2619	766,260	0	766,260	2,499.46
BREVARD LIBRARY DISTRICT	0.3763	766,260	0	766,260	288.34
BREVARD MOSQUITO CONTROL	0.1527	766,260	0	766,260	117.01
S BREVARD REC DIST	0.2469	766,260	0	766,260	189.19
SCHOOL - BY STATE LAW	3.2470	766,260	0	766,260	2,488.05
SCHOOL - BY LOCAL BOARD	0.7480	766,260	0	766,260	573.16
SCHOOL - CAPITAL OUTLAY	1.5000	766,260	0	766,260	1,149.39
TOWN OF MELBOURNE BCH	4.5800	766,260	0	766,260	3,509.47
ST JOHNS RIVER WATER MGMT DST	0.1974	766,260	0	766,260	151.26
FLA INLAND NAVIGATION DIST	0.0320	766,260	0	766,260	24.52
SEBASTIAN INLET DISTRICT	0.0773	766,260	0	766,260	59.23
ENV END LD/WTR LTD	0.0522	766,260	0	766,260	40.00
ENV END LD/WTR LTD(DBTP)	0.0425	766,260	0	766,260	32.57
MELB BCH STMWTR (DBTP)	0.9999	766,260	0	766,260	766.18
S BREVARD REC DIST (DBTP)	0.0391	766,260	0	766,260	29.96
TOTAL MILLAGE				AD VALOREM TAXES	\$11,917.79
NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS					
LEVYING AUTHORITY	AMOUNT				
110 STORMWATER MELB BCH	36.00				
158 SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL	62.13				
PAY ONLY ONE AMOUNT IN BOXES BELOW				NON-AD VALOREM ASSESSMENTS	\$98.13
If Paid By	Nov 30, 2022				
Please Pay	\$11,535.28				

The Town received 3.59% of the taxes assessed to this property in 2022. New home purchases, new construction and remodels over 50% of the property value will trigger an increase to the Assessed Value by Brevard County. The increase in Assessed Values translates into more Ad Valorem taxes collected by the Town. These additional funds have allowed the Town to upgrade facilities, hire additional employees, and provide new safety equipment to our Police, Fire, Public Works, Building, and Code Compliance Departments. The Town was able to provide free recreational programs and provide funding for Town Boards. Our parking revenue also contributes to the improvements mentioned above, however, the bulk of the funding is through Ad Valorem taxes.

Elizabeth Mascaro, Town Manager
townmanager@melbournebeachfl.org



Melbourne Beach Police Department

Gemini Elementary SRO for the day

Gemini Elementary’s PTO held a “Parent Night Out.” One of the raffles auctioned off during this event was to be an SRO for the day, and the Stingle Family won! SRO Alex assisted Cpl. Bradley, with the morning crosswalk duty, checked doors, viewed the school cameras, handed out stickers during various classroom inspections, and finally assisted with a monthly fire drill. SRO Alex even got to tour the MBVFD fire truck. We would say by the smile on SRO Alex’s face he had a great time! Congratulations, Alex, you did a fantastic job!



National Police Week May 13th – 20th offers honor, remembrance, and peer support, while allowing law enforcement, survivors, and citizens to gather and pay homage to those who gave their lives in the line of duty.

Bike Helmet Safety Reminders

Florida State Statute 316.2065 - Bicycle regulations (d) A bicycle rider or passenger who is under 16 years of age must wear a bicycle helmet that is properly fitted and is fastened securely upon the passenger’s head by a strap and that meets the federal safety standard for bicycle helmets, final rule, 16 C.F.R. part 1203. As used in this subsection, the term “passenger” includes a child who is riding in a trailer or semitrailer attached to a bicycle.



Call the Melbourne Beach Police Department and schedule a proper bicycle helmet fitting with Sergeant Jason Hinchman. If you are in need of a helmet we have several for FREE! Contact our Administrative Assistant Jeana at 321-723-4343 Mon – Fri 8 am to 5 pm to schedule your appointment.



Summer Movies in the Park (Ryckman)

Keep up to date with our movie events over the summer by visiting our Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/Melbournebeachpolice/>

Lieutenant Smith and Officer Sullivan doing a station tour



Founders Day 2023
Left to right
Lieutenant Matthew Smith
Sergeant Jason Hinchman
Sergeant Jason Sadler
Officer Leon Bennett
Corporal Kevin Bradley



Town of Melbourne Beach



Fire Department

MULTI-AGENCY DIVE CLEANUP EVENT

The Melbourne Beach Volunteer Fire Department Water Rescue Team participated in a 2-day public safety diving event, hosted by the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission, at Sebastian Inlet. Law enforcement dive teams from all over the State met up to dive the Inlet and clean-up marine debris and underwater hazards. Melbourne Beach volunteer firefighters staffed Ski-58 for diver rescue/transport and Squad-58 for decon/first aid coverage. In addition, Fire Chief Brown, MBPD Lt. Matthew Smith, Town Clerk Amber Brown, and fire volunteer Walter Hardman (all certified divers) took a day off work to go dive as part of the clean-up team. In total, over 900lbs of debris was removed from the waterway.



MULTI-AGENCY AIRCRAFT TRAINING

First Responders from Melbourne Beach, Indialantic, and Indian Harbour Beach joined together with pilots from Health First's First Flight, Brevard County Sheriff's Office, and the Florida Fish & Wildlife Commission to discuss local public safety air assets and how we can work together as a unified team on critical medical and search & rescue incidents. Thanks to the Brevard County Sheriff's Office and Health First's First Flight for bringing out some of their rotary-wing aircraft to show our crews, and thanks to local photographer Julian Leek for getting some great photos!

FIREWORK SAFETY – The July 4th Holiday is quickly approaching, meaning that Americans everywhere will be celebrating with family, friends, and possibly fireworks. Unfortunately, over the past 15 years, there has been an increase in the number of firework related injuries and property damage, with approx. 11,500 people needing treatment in the emergency room for firework related injuries in 2021. While the safest option is always to enjoy a professional fireworks display at a public event, we want our residents and visitors to be as safe as possible if they choose to use legal fireworks at home. Below are some firework safety tips to keep you out of harm's way this holiday.



- Consider using safer alternatives such as glow sticks, confetti poppers, bubbles, silly string, or colored streamers.
- Never use illegal fireworks, and remember, just because a firework is legal to purchase, doesn't mean it is safe to use.
- Sparklers, while legal, can cause severe burns and account for more than 25% of firework related emergency room visits annually.
- Never allow younger children to handle fireworks. Older children should use them only under close adult supervision.
- Never use fireworks while impaired by drugs or alcohol.
- Never light fireworks indoors! Use outdoors only and designate a safety perimeter. If you have ground-based fireworks like a fountain, spectating from at least 35 feet away is best. For aerial fireworks, you'll want everyone to move back to a distance of around 150 feet.
- Anyone using fireworks or standing within the safety perimeter should wear protective eyewear.
- Never hold lit fireworks in your hands, and never point or throw them at another person.
- Never ignite devices in a container.
- Only light one device at a time and maintain a safe distance after lighting.
- Do not try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Let duds sit for 5 -10 minutes before you put them in a bucket of water.
- Do not dispose of hot fireworks in the trash! Soak both spent and unused fireworks in water for a few hours before discarding. Keep a bucket of water nearby to fully extinguish fireworks that don't go off or in case of fire.
- Don't forget about your pets! Fireworks can be extremely stressful for pets, but there are ways to help reduce their fear and anxiety. Keep your pets indoors. Close the curtains or blinds and turn on the TV or radio to provide some distraction. Toys with treats inside may also help keep their minds busy and distract them from the fireworks.

***Safety is Everyones
Responsibility***

Public Works Department

STORMWATER:

As you know we are now entering our rain and storm season. During this season our stormwater system collects the highest annual rain amounts. The system is taxed with large amounts of water. The flowing water collects large amounts of debris that collect in the curb areas and is washed downstream to our stormwater baffle boxes. The debris is pushed into these baffle boxes and the filters inside the boxes are there to collect and eliminate some of that debris before it enters our Lagoon. During these heavy rains, these boxes can be overwhelmed and cannot collect all the debris thus it enters into our Lagoon.

This is why we appeal to our Residents to please **DO NOT** blow yard clippings into the streets to be washed into our stormwater baffle boxes which reduces the ability to capture the trash before it enters the lagoon. Stacking tree and shrubbery cuttings into the street and on the curbs causes the same problem. Keep them on the driveway or on the edge of the grass for pickup. Every Thursday Waste Pro will pick up yard waste.



What we find before cleaning stormwater drains

In the month of May alone we collected nearly **200 pounds** of debris from the grates that cover the drains that go into the stormwater system.

When we conducted our quarterly cleaning of the stormwater baffle boxes **320 cubic feet** of sand and debris were removed. Please help us by not throwing/placing cuttings into the street.

RYCKMAN PARK UPGRADES:

Beautification of Ryckman Park continues with the new winding coquina rock walking path running along the south side of the park, the boardwalk from the sidewalk along Ocean Ave into the park, and the new landscaping along the river.



OCEAN PARK UPGRADES:

A large construction project is underway in the southeast part of Ocean Park. The project involves adding a boardwalk with seating areas to view the ocean. The boardwalk will run along the dune line from the current ramp to the south end of the park. While this project is underway that area of the park is taped off and closed to the public.



Building Department

What should you do when a hurricane is approaching?



- Get shutters, storm panels, or plywood in place on windows. If you haven't installed sockets, attach them with wood screws. They're better than nails and do less damage.
- Don't tape windows; tape can create daggers of glass and bake onto panes.
- Remove swings and tarps from swing sets. Tie down anything you can't bring in. Check for loose rain gutters and moldings.






- Move grills, patio furniture, and potted plants into your house or garage.
- If you do any last-minute pruning, take clippings inside so they don't become missiles.
- Disconnect and remove satellite dishes and antennas from your roof.
- Check your mailbox. If it's loose, secure it or remove it.
- Remove roof turbines and cap holes with screw-on caps. Unsecured turbines can fly off and create a large hole for the rain to pour through.
- A day or two before a hurricane may arrive... Mow the Lawn – A tidy, trimmed lawn will drain water more easily, and it will be easier to clean up debris after a storm if the grass has been cut recently.
- Turn off your irrigation systems.

Emergency Supply Kit

- non-perishable food & can opener
- bottled water
- first aid kit
- prescription medication
- hygiene items
- battery-operated radio
- spare batteries
- flashlights
- extra clothing
- extra cash

For a complete list of items and additional information:
www.ready.gov/kit

Hurricane wind scale: What 1 to 5 looks like

	Category	Winds (MPH)
	1	74 to 95
	2	96 to 110
	3	111 to 129
	4	130 to 156
	5	157 or higher

- Prepare patio screening. A screened enclosure usually is built to sustain tropical-storm-force winds, but as it fills with wind, it can separate from the frame. Officials recommend you remove a 6-foot panel on each side to let wind pass through. Pull out the tubing that holds the screening in the frame to remove the screen.
- Secure and brace external doors, especially the garage door and double doors.
- Move vehicles out of flood-prone areas and into garages, if possible. If not, park cars away from trees and close to homes or buildings.
- Don't turn off your natural gas at the main meter. Only emergency or utility people should do that.

Happy 4th of July

**Flutie Brothers Band 7-9
The Satellite Killers 5-6:45
Double D 3-4:45**

**Local Food Trucks
3-9pm Followed
by Fireworks**



**3-9 pm
Ryckman Park**

Founders Day Arts & Crafts Show



Founders Day Fishing Contest



Founders Day Bands



Environmental Advisory Board



The EAB helped spread lagoon-friendly awareness by giving away over 60 native plants in exchange for a pledge to honor the county-wide summer fertilizer ban that spans June 1st-September 30th.

Artwork done by the Kid Entrepreneurs during Spring Fest



Brevard Zoo's Restore Our Shores Program is diving into seagrass restoration in the Indian River Lagoon. The Zoo is planning a pilot project in Melbourne Beach for 2024 thanks to the support from the EAB and the Sunshine Jim Trust. For more details visit RestoreOurShores.org