

BEACH COMBER



THANK YOU!

Over the past several months, a few items have been graciously donated to the Ryckman House, and we would like to recognize these individuals:

- Lorraine Woods donated a player piano
- Dorothy Cariou donated \$1,000 from the F. Cariou Trust to fix the floor
- Ken & Landra Burgess donated an antique stove
- Richard Green and the Men's Club donated their time fixing the ice box

The Town would like to thank its many volunteers, as well as the fine citizens of this community who donate their time and/or money for the betterment of the Town.

Sustainability Tip of the Month

The condensation produced by most air conditioning systems is either lost on the ground or drained into the sewer. Many people do not realize that this water, known as condensate, can be recycled for uses that do not involve human consumption. The amount of condensate produced can range from five to 20 gallons per day for a house. The most common household use is for watering house and garden plants. For more information, go to: <http://science.opposingviews.com/recycle-air-conditioning-water-condensation-23439.html>

Commission Corner

Your Town Commission has been very busy lately on several issues and projects. Here is a recap of some of the items of discussion:

The Townhouse and Bank of America projects have expended their time and will need to come back before the Commission before any efforts can resume. The Osceola Building project will come before the Commission at the September 16th Regular Town Commission meeting, and a public hearing will be held at that time. The Commission voted 4-1 to not allow Binding Development Agreements (BDA's) which will impact this project.

The Commission as well as Town Staff have been working very hard on the FY16 budget. The next budget workshop will be held on August 10th at 3:00 p.m. in the Masny Room at Town Hall. The public is encouraged to attend. The first public hearing on the budget will be held on September 10th, and the second public hearing will be held on September 21st. Both public hearings will be held at 6:30 p.m. at the Community Center.

The Commission will review the Land Development Code again on August 24th and August 27th during a workshop meeting at Town Hall, and will then pass it back to the Planning & Zoning Board for final revisions on September 1st before it is finally amended by the Commission at its September 16th Regular meeting.

To see more items that the Commission has been working on, please visit our website at http://www.melbournebeachfl.org/Pages/MelbourneBeachFL_CommissionMinutes/

“Rise Above Plastics” Project Update

The “Rise Above Plastics” (RAP) project (detailed in July’s Beachcomber) kicked off July 11 at the Environmental Awareness Board’s Popcorn Science Session. (These sessions were initiated by the EAB to provide residents and other interested folks with an opportunity to explore environmental topics and issues. If you have an area of interest that you would like explored, please contact Town Hall or the EAB.) Attendance was higher than normal with 32 persons (not including members of the EAB, Surfrider, CERTON and the Sea Turtle Conservancy). Eric Schwarze (local Surfrider RAP lead) introduced the presenters and MC’d the session. Presenters included Josh Pause from the Surfrider, Sebastian Inlet Chapter and Ashley Chelberg (Miller) from the Sea Turtle Conservancy who discussed the importance of plastics reduction in general and specific concerns relative to sea turtles and other marine life (and to humans, due to the ubiquity of plastics in the food chain). Mayor Jim Simmons discussed the Melbourne Beach project including its history and implementation in the Town. Julian Leek provided his usual exceptional photographic support which can be viewed at: http://www.demotix.com/news/8093940/small-florida-town-wants-eliminate-plastic-bags-its-shops?fb_action_ids=1037282042962309&fb_action_types=og.likes#media-8093748.

At the conclusion, all attendees received the first bags distributed.

Interest in this project has been overwhelming, both in Melbourne Beach and other areas of the state. On the Tuesday and Thursday prior to the EAB session, WFIT aired an interview with Eric Schwarze and Mayor Simmons. On Saturday, Channel 13’s Jerry Hume produced a television news feature (which aired several times) and Rick Neale published an article in the Florida Today. On Sunday morning, residents were already asking for bags at the Melbourne Beach Market. On Monday and Tuesday (July 13, 14), the bags and information displays were distributed to the retail merchants and to Town Hall. Also on Monday and Tuesday, organizers were contacted by folks in other areas of the State to find out how they can support our local effort and how they can get this project started in their area. By Thursday morning (only 2 days after distribution), over 350 bags had been distributed by the Town’s retail merchants to their customers. And, after seeing Channel 13’s report, Allison Constantino (of Winter Springs) pledged 10% of her art sales over the next 6 months to Surfrider to assist in this effort. She also promised to work with her Fine Art Ocean America group’s 29 other artists to do the same.

As of this writing, bags are still available at the following Melbourne Beach retail merchants:

- ◆ Melbourne Beach Supermarket
- ◆ Saver’s Drugs
- ◆ Melbourne Beach Exxon
- ◆ Nate’s Shell Shop
- ◆ Catalyst Surf Shop
- ◆ Black Dog Bait & Tackle
- ◆ Pools R Us
- ◆ Oceanside Liquors
- ◆ Melbourne Beach Animal Clinic



Photo by Julian Leek: Six-year-old Chloe signs in to get updated reports on how well the bag program works. Each store has been asked to report on the overall usage of the bags and their cost savings. One store reports that they spend over \$500 per month on plastic bags.

The Town wants to thank the Surfrider Foundation (Sebastian Inlet Chapter), the Sea Turtle Conservancy and CERTON for initiating and implementing this project and all those who have supported it with their contributions and with their continuing use of reusable bags. Together we can

RISE ABOVE PLASTICS!



Message from the Melbourne Beach Police Department

Personal Lightning Safety Tips

1. *PLAN in advance your evacuation and safety measures.* When you first see lightning or hear thunder, activate your emergency plan. Now is the time to go to a building or a vehicle. Lightning often precedes rain, so don't wait for the rain to begin before suspending activities.

2. *IF OUTDOORS...Avoid water, retreat from the beach, avoid the high ground, and avoid open spaces.* Avoid all metal objects including electric wires, fences, machinery, motors, power tools, etc. Unsafe places include underneath canopies, small picnic or rain shelters, or near trees. Where possible, find shelter in a substantial building or in a fully enclosed metal vehicle such as a car, truck or a van with the windows completely shut. If lightning is striking nearby when you are outside, you should:

A. *Crouch down.* Put feet together. Place hands over ears to minimize hearing damage from thunder.

B. *Avoid proximity* (minimum of 15 ft.) to other people.

3. *IF INDOORS... Avoid water. Stay away from doors and windows. Do not use the telephone. Take off headsets.* Turn off, unplug, and stay away from appliances, computers, power tools, & TV sets. Lightning may strike exterior electric and phone lines, inducing shocks to inside equipment.

4. *SUSPEND ACTIVITIES for 30 minutes after the last observed lightning or thunder.*

5. *INJURED PERSONS do not carry an electrical charge and can be handled safely.* Apply First Aid procedures to a lightning victim if you are qualified to do so. Call 911 or send for help immediately.

6. *KNOW YOUR EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS.*

Be Safe!

Chief Dan Duncan

Rip Current Tips & Explanations

Waters along the Pacific and Atlantic coasts are under a rip current advisory. Here are some tips and explanations of Rip Currents.

As longshore currents move on and off the beach, "rip currents" may form around low spots or breaks in sandbars, and also near structures such as jetties and piers. A rip current, sometimes incorrectly called a rip tide, is a localized current that flows away from the shoreline toward the ocean, perpendicular or at an acute angle to the shoreline. It usually breaks up not far from shore and is generally not more than 25 meters (80 feet) wide.

Rip currents typically reach speeds of 1 to 2 feet per second. However, some rip currents have been measured at 8 feet per second—faster than any Olympic swimmer ever recorded (NOAA, 2005b). If wave activity is slight, several low rip currents can form, in various sizes and velocities. But in heavier wave action, fewer, more concentrated rip currents can form. Because rip currents move perpendicular to shore and can be very strong, beach swimmers need to be careful. A person caught in a rip can be swept away from shore very quickly. The best way to escape a rip current is by swimming parallel to the shore instead of towards it, since most rip currents are less than 80 feet wide. A swimmer can also let the current carry him or her out to sea until the force weakens, because rip currents stay close to shore and usually dissipate just beyond the line of breaking waves. Occasionally, however, a rip current can push someone hundreds of yards offshore. The most important thing to remember if you are ever caught in a rip current is not to panic. Continue to breathe, try to keep your head above water, and don't exhaust yourself fighting against the force of the current.

<http://www.ripcurrents.noaa.gov/photos.shtml>

<http://oceanservice.noaa.gov/education/kits/currents/03coastal3.html>

Detective Corporal Melanie Griswold

Upcoming Meetings & Events



August

| <u>Meeting / Event</u> | <u>Date</u> | <u>Time</u> | <u>Location</u> |
|---|-------------|-------------|------------------|
| Planning & Zoning Board | Aug 4 | 7:00 p.m. | Community Center |
| History Center Board | Aug 6 | 5:30 p.m. | Old Town Hall |
| Town Commission Special Meeting | Aug 3 | 3:00 p.m. | Town Hall |
| Town Commission Budget Workshop | Aug 10 | 3:00 p.m. | Town Hall |
| Historical Preservation & Awareness Board | Aug 11 | 4:00 p.m. | Ryckman House |
| Town Commission Regular Meeting | Aug 19 | 6:30 p.m. | Community Center |
| Board of Adjustment | Aug 20 | 6:30 p.m. | Community Center |
| Environmental Advisory Board | Aug 26 | 7:00 p.m. | Town Hall |
| Town Commission Workshop | Aug 24 | 3:00 p.m. | Town Hall |
| Town Commission Workshop | Aug 27 | 3:00 p.m. | Town Hall |
| Melbourne Beach Volunteer Fire Dept. | Every Tues. | 7:00 p.m. | Town Hall |
| AA | Every Wed. | 7:30 p.m. | Old Town Hall |

Town Manager's Report

Endless Summer



I love summertime in Melbourne Beach, a slower pace and less traffic while locals enjoy the beach and other amenities. However, the laid back atmosphere masquerades that we actually get much busier at Town Hall. July through September (4th Quarter) represents some of our busiest meeting schedules as we produce and adopt the Town's budget, the annual "blueprint" of Town business.

At its recent Special Meeting, the Town Commission voted a tentative millage rate of 4.2903 mils (FY15 was 4.1105). This rate produces a welcome additional inflow of ad valorem revenues to leverage capital investment capacity, fund critical priority projects and operations, and reward the merits of your dedicated workforce team. Our focus is to increase sustainable funding for long term capital investment and "big ticket" maintenance projects. Upcoming meeting schedules are listed above and on our website. Final votes on millage and budget occur at public

Town meetings. The public is always welcome and encouraged to attend and participate.

Meanwhile besides budget and other wrap-up functions for year end, this is a busy season for local, regional and state jurisdictional issues. I will be attending the Florida League of Cities Annual Conference in Orlando in a few weeks representing the Town as a voting delegate, while also sitting on the Urban Administration Policy Committee vetting issues of local concern to Melbourne Beach, and also an appointee to the annual FLC Resolutions Committee to review and vote on all legislative resolutions submitted for advocacy for this year's legislative process.

Our Town is chartered under "Home Rule" governance principles, recognizing decisions are best decided and managed at the local level where they most impact our citizens. However, the state's Legislature (not unlike Federal government) often preempts a local community's ability to determine "rules of the road" on matters. It is a playing field in constant motion. We see this in many examples such as:

◆ Regulation of "Vacation Rentals, "Sober Homes" and other group living facilities impacting our residential neighborhoods.

◆ Revenues received from police ticket citations, red light camera enforcement and other intergovernmental revenue sharing options.

◆ Control of plastic bags distribution, hunting and fishing on beaches, disallowing zoning referendums and other citizen initiative drives.

◆ "Sunshine" and public records laws that are more stringent on local officials than those who implement them...

The list goes on and on, but most importantly we recognize getting things done in local government requires persistence and cooperation. Working through a slow and methodical intergovernmental process and myriad of "patchwork quilt" systems, we strive to arrive at best outcomes for all involved. We are committed and up to the task!

Meanwhile... please don't hesitate to let us know how we can improve your Town and services!

Jamie Titcomb, Town Manager