You probably don’t need a reminder, but hurricane season doesn’t end for two more months — November 30th. This season has been one of the worst in the Atlantics’ history. Melbourne Beach endured its share of inconvenience but we should still be thankful that all we had to deal with were days without utilities, some flooding and lots of cleanup. How those in other areas suffered from Harvey, Irma and Maria is hard to imagine.

Here are some words from our Chief of Police, Dan Duncan:

The following is what takes place prior, during and after a major storm that affects our Town and our residents:

On September 5th, 2017 all Department Heads prior to the storm had a meeting for discussion, pre-planning and preparedness for the impact of a major hurricane to strike our Town of Melbourne Beach. The Chief of Police reviews our Emergency Policy Plan, to ensure all steps and action is taken, to include staffing needs, supplies for a week, direct contact with Brevard Emergency Operation Center for updates and request for needs. The Chief of Police oversees the planning, implementation of duties and Command of actions taken prior, during and recovery stage of the storm.

During the next several days prior to the storm our efforts continue to prepare and take action when the storm gets closer, we continue to keep updates to our residents via our Melbourne Beach Police Facebook page and Nixle. The Police Department, Fire Department and Public Works continue with their efforts to ensure we are all ready for Hurricane Irma.

September 7th, 2017, we are under a State of Emergency by the Governor. Also a curfew order was put into place. All police officers were instructed to ensure their family and homes were secured and prepare to report to the Police Department for an extensive stay.

September 8th, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. a Mandatory Evacuation was ordered for the Barrier Islands, our police officers checked on all special needs residents to assist if necessary, officers went up and down all streets notifying residents of the evacuation order.

September 9th-10th, 2017, we continued our efforts with checking on residents, assist with evacuation needs, traffic control, and house checks on residents on vacation, business checks, and calls for service. When Hurricane force winds began all personnel were secured in Town Hall during the storm.

September 11th, 2017, as soon as the winds came down to 40-50mph gusts all police officers, fire personnel and public works personnel began the process of clearing all roadways in Town from trees and debris (Roads were cleared of debris in four to five hours). Personnel secured fallen power lines, checked on residents that stayed during storm, conducted an assessment of damage to all homes and businesses. Officers responded to calls for service 911, all of the Town was without power. Officers patrolled the streets for possible looters. All personnel continued with our efforts for several days until power was restored to our community and residences.

As your Chief of Police, I would like to express to all police officers, staff and personnel that assisted prior, during and after the storm and worked as a TEAM, you have my respect and appreciation for a job above and beyond the call of duty in keeping our residents safe and secure.

Interim Town Manager Elizabeth Mascaro said the teamwork, can-do attitude and hard work performed by Public Works, MBVFD and the Police Department was impressive. Also, she would like to thank the residents who worked together to clear storm drains and help their neighbors.
Meeting Dates Time Location
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**Town Hall Closed—Holidays** November 23, 24; December 25, 26 HOLIDAYS

**Planning & Zoning Board Meeting** November 7, December 5 7:00 p.m. Community Ctr

**Town Commission Workshop** Oct. 4, Nov. 1, Dec. 6 6:00 p.m. Town Hall

**History Center Board Meeting** Oct. 5, Nov. 2, Dec. 7 5:30 p.m. Old Town Hall

**Historic Preservation & Awareness Board** Oct. 10, Nov. 14, Dec. 12 4:00 p.m. Ryckman House

**Parks Board Meeting** Oct. 11, Nov. 8, Dec. 13 7:00 p.m. Town Hall

**Town Commission Regular Meeting** Oct. 18, Nov. 15, Dec. 20 6:30 p.m. Community Ctr.

**Environmental Advisory Board** Oct. 25, Nov. 22 7:00 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

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**TOWN COMMISSION ELECTION**

November 7, 2017 Elections

October 10th: Voter Registration Deadline

No Early Voting

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Qualification for the Mayor’s seat (3 year term) and a Commission seat (1 year term) ended on September 1st. Incumbent Mayor Jim Simmons qualified, unopposed, and will therefore be our Mayor for another term. Three candidates qualified for the Commission seat:

- Sherri Quarrie (incumbent)
- Doug Hilmes (currently sits on Planning and Zoning Board)
- Jay Maguire (currently sits on Police Pension Board)

Also on the ballot will be a referendum that reads as follows:

**TOWN CLERK TO BE UNDER THE ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTION AND CONTROL OF THE TOWN MANAGER**

A change to the Charter of the Town of Melbourne Beach is being proposed such that the Office of the Town Clerk shall be headed by a Town Clerk hired by the Town Manager to serve the Commission. The Town Manager shall have exclusive supervisory authority over the Town Clerk as a Town employee, including the authority to manage, discipline, and terminate consistent with the Town’s employment policies, without consent of the Town Commission.

YES (for approval) ____
NO (for rejection) ____

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Residents of Melbourne Beach love their pets! Let’s add some levity to our lives and focus on our furry babies. Please mail, email or drop off a picture of your pet(s) and we will post them on a board for all to see when visiting Town Hall.
Halloween Safety

Each year, Halloween is one of the most exciting holidays for kids. Remembering how to stay safe during the holiday can be a little but “tricky.” Everyone wants to have a safe and happy Halloween, and remembering some of these simple safety tips can make the holiday safe and enjoyable for everyone!

Adults:
1. A parent or responsible adult should ALWAYS accompany children when Trick-or-Treating.
2. If you are going to be handing out candy to Trick-or-Treaters at your home, turn on your exterior lights.
3. While in your vehicle, be alert and watch for children.
4. Make sure your flashlights have fresh batteries in them before giving them to your children to use for Trick-or-Treating.

Costumes:
1. Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
2. Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and Trick-or-Treat bags for greater visibility. Glow bracelets and necklaces are a great addition to any costume and help trick-or-treaters see and be seen by drivers.
3. Make sure your child’s shoes fit properly. Big, floppy shoes (clown shoes, or adult shoes) – that are hard to walk in may cause kids to fall and hurt themselves.
4. Costume props should be flexible and soft. Costume props can hurt children badly if they fall. Swords, knives, etc. should be made of flexible plastic, rubber, or foam.
5. Because masks can limit or block eyesight, consider non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives. Hats should fit properly to prevent them from sliding over eyes.

Streets:
1. Drivers should be able to see my child and their costume in the dark. Be original with a glow in the dark costume and add reflective tape and stickers to be visible to drivers.
2. Always Trick-or-Treat in a group. Don’t let you kids go Trick-or-Treating alone.
3. Always cross the street at crosswalks and intersections. Stop at street corners. Look both ways before crossing the street, and don’t cross between parked cars.

Treats:
1. Parents should ALWAYS check their child’s treats before they eat them.
2. Children should eat a good meal before going Trick-or-Treating to discourage kids from filling up on Halloween candy before parents have an opportunity to check their snacks.

Be Safe!

Chief Duncan

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Halloween Events

October 28th - Melbourne Beach Fire Department will host a Haunted House beginning at dusk. A light dinner will be available for a donation. At the same time in Ryckman Park, a family friendly movie will be shown on the big screen. Snacks available.
Especially around the Christmas holiday, everybody needs to take extra care when using extension cords.

Here are some guidelines:

- Do not cover extension cords (under rugs, etc.)
- Do not use for more than one appliance
- Never chain together extension cords (referred to as “daisy-chaining”)
- Buy only cords approved by an independent testing lab such as UL
- Never use three-prong plugs with outlets that only have two slots for the plug
- Ensure the wattage rating on your appliance or tool doesn’t exceed the rating on the cord
- Never use a cord that is hot or damaged in any way

If you would like to learn how to wrap your extension cords for storing, go to the website: www.artofmanliness.com and in the search box type, “extension cord”.

The Beach Comber is published quarterly by the Town of Melbourne Beach.
Town Clerk Nancy Wilson, Newsletter Editor