

BEACH COMBER



Town of MELBOURNE BEACH *Florida*

ARE YOU PREPARED?

Would you and your family be prepared if a disaster were to strike? Do you have emergency supplies gathered in case your community had to evacuate during a hurricane? If you answered no to these questions, you are not alone. Statistics show that people are ill prepared when a disaster strikes them. To avoid being left unprepared, educate yourself about what steps need to be taken before a disaster occurs. Hurricane Season begins June 1. Preparation and knowledge are the keys to surviving when disasters strike.

Build a Kit

- A collection of basic items your household may need in the event of an emergency. Assemble your kit well in advance of an emergency. You should have enough food, water and other supplies in sufficient quantity to last for at least 72 hours.
- Basic services such as electricity, gas, water, sewage treatment and telephones may be cut off for days or even a week, or longer. Your supplies kit should contain items to help you manage during these outages.

Get a Plan

- Go to <http://flgetaplan.com> to receive a personalized disaster plan for your family or business.

Stay Informed

- Listen for warnings: Do what the officials tell you to do: stay put, evacuate, and get your supplies ready.
- Check IBISEYE.com: This website tracks Atlantic and Gulf of Mexico hurricanes.
- Brevard Co. Emergency Mgmt. will display the latest information such as open shelters, evacuation orders, closures, etc. at www.embrevard.com or call 211.

Be Waterwise

Not everyone is aware that the St. Johns River Water Management District has lawn watering restrictions in place at all times. Landscape irrigation can account for more than 50 percent of total water use at residential locations. In June, the Town Commission will be considering adopting a Resolution to support those restrictions. The Commission is committed to promoting the concepts of efficient landscape irrigation and water conservation. Below is the lawn watering schedule & some helpful water conservation tips:

- ◆ During Daylight Savings, odd-numbered or no address should water only on Wednesdays and Saturdays; even-numbered should water only on Thursdays and Sundays; Non-residential landscape irrigation should be only on Tuesdays and Fridays. No watering should occur between 10:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ During EST, odd-numbered or no address should water only on Saturdays; even-numbered should water only on Sundays; Non-residential landscape irrigation should be only on Tuesdays. No watering should occur between 10:00 a.m. & 4:00 p.m.
- ◆ Micro-spray, micro-jet, drip or bubbler irrigation systems are allowed at any time.
- ◆ Use drought-tolerant plants. The Water Management District has a plant database and waterwise landscaping tips on their website—www.sjrwmd.com
- ◆ Leave your automatic timer in the “off” position until your grass needs it—with the rainy season coming, there’s often no need to turn on the sprinklers.
- ◆ Check your sprinkler system for leaks. Install a rain sensor or smart irrigation controller.



Help Florida's Endangered Sea Turtles

Sea Turtle nesting season officially began in Brevard County on March 1. During this time, construction activities on the beach are curtailed and the entire Brevard coastline is monitored daily until turtle nesting season ends on October 31. The hallmark of the season is when mother turtles emerge from the ocean in the darkness to deposit eggs on shore in sand nests. Mother turtles use their back flippers to form a nest where they deposit about 100 eggs. Females will normally lay several nests during one season. Approximately two months later, hundreds of tiny hatchlings emerge from their sand cocoons during the night, orient themselves to the brightest horizon, and clamber to the ocean. This rapid trek to the sea is essential for the survival of the hatchlings as they are faced with many obstacles including natural predators and human-caused factors.



What can you do to help sea turtles? The Sea Turtle Preservation Society urges us to:

- ⇒ Please walk along the water line.
- ⇒ When crossing a dune, please use designated cross-overs and walk ways. Do not climb over the dunes or disturb dune vegetation.
- ⇒ Use care on the beach at night during nesting season.
- ⇒ Throw away plastic and other litter on the beach that can entangle or block turtles going to and from the sea.
- ⇒ Do not approach an adult turtle coming out of the water to nest.
- ⇒ Use caution when digging on the beach. You may destroy a turtle nest.
- ⇒ Fill holes in the sand that can trap an adult or a hatchling turtle.
- ⇒ Try to avoid going to the beach at night, but if you do go, limit walking and do not use flashlights or flash cameras which can disorient turtles.
- ⇒ If you are beachside, keep exterior lights to a minimum. Also, conceal interior lights with window treatments. (Baby hatchlings head toward lights from buildings and streets, rather than the safety of the sea).
- ⇒ If you see an injured or dead sea turtle, call the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. 1-888-404-9322.

Remember it is unlawful to harass or take sea turtles or any part of sea turtles or their eggs. In addition, lights on the beach are regulated from May 1 to October 31. Let's all work together to ensure that sea turtles remain an integral part of the Florida ecosystem.

"For most of the wild things on earth, the future must depend upon the conscience of mankind."

- Dr. Archie Carr, father of modern marine turtle biology and conservation.

Compliments of the Melbourne Beach Environmental Advisory Board

ZIKA VIRUS & MOSQUITO PREVENTION

What is Zika?

Zika fever is a mild illness caused by a mosquito-borne virus similar to those that cause dengue and West Nile virus infection. It has been identified in several countries in Central and South America, Mexico, and the Caribbean since 2015. Local transmission has been reported in Puerto Rico, but not elsewhere in the United States. Cases of Zika fever have been reported in travelers returning to the United States.

Updated Information

- ◆ The CDD has confirmed the first Zika-related death in the U.S.—in Puerto Rico.
- ◆ The State's Declaration of Public Health Emergency is in 13 counties, including Brevard.
- ◆ There are currently only three active cases still exhibiting symptoms in FL.—none in Brevard.
- ◆ There have been 99 cases in Florida, 3 in Brevard.
- ◆ There have been five total cases involving pregnant women—none in Brevard.
- ◆ All cases in Florida have been travel-related.

Transmission

Zika fever is acquired through the bite of an infected mosquito, including the same mosquitoes that can transmit dengue and chikungunya. Perinatal and sexual transmission have also been reported.

Mosquito bite prevention

Whether you're staying at home or traveling abroad, preventing mosquito bites is the best way to reduce the risk of mosquito-borne disease. Following are steps that can be taken to help prevent mosquito bites:

- ◆ **DRAIN:** water from garbage cans, gutters, pool covers, coolers, toys, flower pots, any other containers where sprinkler or rain water has collected.
- ◆ **DISCARD:** Old tires, drums, bottles, cans, pots & pans, broken appliances and other items that aren't being used.
- ◆ **EMPTY and CLEAN:** Birdbaths and pet's water bowls at least once or twice a week.
- ◆ **PROTECT:** Boats and vehicles from rain with tarps that don't accumulate water.
- ◆ **CLOTHING:** If you must be outside when mosquitoes are active, cover up. Wear shoes, socks, long pants, and long sleeves.

- ◆ **REPELLENT:** Apply mosquito repellent to bare skin and clothing. Always use repellents according to the label. Repellents with DEET, picaridin, oil of lemon eucalyptus, para-menthane-diol, and IR3535 are effective. Use netting to protect children younger than 2 months.

- ◆ **MAINTAIN:** The water balance (pool chemistry) of swimming pools. Empty plastic swimming pools when not in use. Repair broken screens on windows, doors, porches, and patios.

Florida Department of Health Zika Virus Information Hotline: (855) 622-6735

Brevard County Mosquito Control: (321) 264-5032

- ◆ Field staff is working 6-7 days a week throughout the county beginning at 6:30 AM to 2 PM conducting field counts, monitoring traps, dipping for larvae, larviciding and adulticiding.

- ◆ Due to the vast amount of salt marshes that exist in South Beaches and other areas of the county, in addition to chemical control for mosquitoes, the District relies on mosquito impoundments to control the salt marsh mosquito.

- ◆ Any rain event will cause mosquitoes to hatch in a 5 to 7 day period in any area that holds water. Though the district is scheduling adult mosquito treatments nightly and have a kill effect of 90% on the specific targeted brood, new broods can hatch the following day and it may appear that no treatments have taken place or that mosquito populations have increased.



- ◆ Treatments cannot take place if it is raining or winds exceed 10 to 15 mph by truck and air. To find out what areas are being or have recently been sprayed, visit www.brevardcounty.us/MosquitoControl/SprayAreas.

- ◆ Brevard County Mosquito Control will treat stagnant swimming pools in both unincorporated and incorporated areas in the County.

- ◆ Univ. of Florida/IFAS is willing to provide Zika presentations. They can be reached at (321) 633-1702.

Upcoming Town Meetings



| Meeting | Date | Time | Location |
|---|-------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Independence Day Holiday—Town Hall Closed | July 4 | | |
| Town Commission Workshop | June 1 & July 6 | 5:30 p.m. | Town Hall |
| Town Commission Budget Workshop | June 22 | 3:00 p.m. | Town Hall |
| History Center Board Meeting | June 2 & July 7 | 5:30 p.m. | Old Town Hall |
| Planning & Zoning Board Meeting | June 7 & July 5 | 7:00 p.m. | Community Center |
| Parks Board Meeting | June 8 & July 14 | 7:00 p.m. | Town Hall |
| Historical Preservation & Awareness Board | June 14 & July 12 | 4:00 p.m. | Ryckman House |
| Town Commission Regular Meeting | June 15 & July 20 | 6:30 p.m. | Community Center |
| Environmental Advisory Board | June 29 & July 27 | 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 |

Congratulations

Congratulations to the Founders Day Award Winners!

- Best of Show:** Mike Fogelberg
- First in Art:** Mike Fogelberg
- Second in Art:** Morgan Grosskreutz
- Third in Art:** Carol Hansen
- First in Craft:** Pete Baxter
- Second in Craft:** Scott Pantke
- Third in Craft:** Vickie Burns

Melbourne Beach Rotary Club Annual Awards

Citizen of the Year
Jim Simmons

Jr. Citizen of the Year
Giovanni Ottomanelli

Business of the Year
Certon

Welcome Our New Town Clerk

Gwen Peirce, CMC, joined our team in April. Gwen has almost 13 years' experience working in City Clerks' offices. She came to Melbourne Beach from California, where she had worked as the City Clerk for the cities of Santa Barbara and Calabasas, and had worked as Assistant City Clerk at the City of West Hollywood. Gwen grew up on the beachside of Brevard County (including Melbourne Beach). She graduated from Satellite High School before earning a Bachelors of Arts in English Literature from Florida State University and a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Central Florida. She is a Certified Municipal Clerk (CMC) as recognized by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks. She is married to her high school sweetheart, Jason, and has a 7-year old daughter and a 2-year old son. She is very happy about returning to her hometown. If you see her around Town, please give her a warm Melbourne Beach welcome!



Recent Accomplishments & Upcoming Projects

- ◆ Ryckman House porch renovations completed
- ◆ Founders Day was a huge success!
- ◆ Tree City Designation by the Arbor Day Foundation
- ◆ Ryckman Park basketball court upgrade—early June
- ◆ 5th Avenue walkway repair—early June
- ◆ Ocean Park Pavilion Replacement—June
- ◆ Ryckman Park playground mulch replacement—June

A special thank you to all the volunteers and attendees at this year's Founders Day!