

BEACH COMBER



Town of MELBOURNE BEACH Florida



HURRICANE MATTHEW WRAP-UP

Hurricane Matthew skirted the shoreline of Melbourne Beach on October 6, 2016. Brevard County Emergency Management predicted that the storm would make landfall at Melbourne Beach as a devastating Category 5 storm with a 12-15' storm surge. We were fortunate. The eye of the storm didn't actually hit land in Brevard County—at the last minute, a slight wobble shifted it about 20 miles off-shore and kept us from certain disaster. Matthew was the first Category 5 Atlantic hurricane since 2007 and over 1,600 estimated deaths have been attributed to it, including 49 in the U.S. With the damages from the storm estimated in excess of \$10.5 billion, it was the 10th costliest hurricane in history.



Town staff worked diligently prior to the hurricane to ensure that the Town was as prepared as possible. In the days leading up to the storm, staff attended daily phone conferences with Brevard County and the other cities to get the most updated information, which was posted on the Town website. The Town Commission met and declared a State of Emergency and a curfew was set for the nights during and directly after the storm. The Police Department assisted residents with special needs with evacuating. Public Works prepared the Town's facilities and had dumpsters and clean-up equipment set and ready to go.

Before, during and after the storm, website updates were posted on bridge closures, power outages and water service. The morning after the storm, staff cleared the roads of tree limbs and checked for downed power lines. We worked closely with FPL to get power restored to residents who were still without power in the days following the storm. Damages to the Town's facilities and parks have been assessed. The majority of the damage occurred to the Pier, which will be getting repaired in the upcoming months. No buildings in Town were considered a total loss, but other damage around town includes private docks, fences, trees, and roofs. Extra staff were hired in the weeks following the storm to clean up debris from parks and roadways.

Yes, we were fortunate this time, but it is so important to listen to evacuation orders and leave the island. Our primary concern is the safety and welfare of the Town's residents.



TOWN COMMISSION ELECTION

November 8, 2016

Four candidates were on the ballot for three Town Commission seats on November 8. The two candidates who received the most votes will be serving 3-year terms, and the candidate who received the third highest number of votes will be serving a 2-year term. Following are the official results:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tom Davis	1,063 votes*	26.74%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Margot Dorfman	1,016 votes**	25.56%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Gail Gowdy	780 votes	19.62%
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wyatt Hoover	1,116 votes*	28.08%

* 3-year term
** 2-year term

The Town of Melbourne Beach had a voter turnout of 84.19%. The official results were certified and Commissioners Davis and Hoover were sworn in at a Special Meeting on November 21.

On November 28, Margot Dorfman resigned her position on the Town Commission. The Town Charter requires that the Commission make an appointment to fill a vacancy on the Commission until the next general election. The Town Clerk accepted eight letters of interest, and the Commission met on December 21 and appointed Sherri Quarrie to fill the vacancy until November 2017. The Commission appointed Tom Davis as the Vice Mayor for the next year.

Congratulations to the newly elected and appointed Commissioners!

Town Commission News

Town Commission and staff are working on the renewal of the franchise with WastePro for trash and recycling services for another 7 years. Look for more information on the new contract in the Spring issue of the *Beach Comber*.



At the December 21 Regular Meeting, the Town Commission selected James Moore & Associates for Town auditing services for Fiscal Years 2016, 2017 and 2018.

507 Ocean Avenue, Melbourne Beach, FL 32951-2523

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ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY BOARD

Keep Brevard Beautiful—*Lagoon Friendly Lawns*

Protecting the Indian River Lagoon can start in your own backyard. Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB) launched a new program, *Lagoon Friendly Lawns*, to recognize local residents who are helping to prevent algal blooms and fish kills by reducing nutrient pollution and stormwater runoff from their yards and planting native plants to restore the ecosystem. The four core concepts to the program are outlined below:



Minimize Nutrient Pollution	Follow local fertilizer ordinances, including the rainy season ban from June 1 – September 30. Maintain a 15' fertilizer free zone from any body of water & voluntary 25' low maintenance zone. Apply only phosphorous the rest of the year Use fertilizer with at least 50% slow release nitrogen Keep lawn clippings off of sidewalks and out of bodies of water and storm drains.
Reduce Turf Area	Plant more garden beds that can be easy to maintain Use an organic mulch like Florimulch, pine straw or yard clippings and leaves from your yard.
Reduce Stormwater Runoff	Minimize or replace impervious surfaces like concrete with surfaces that allow water to flow through the ground (pavers, crushed concrete, mulched beds) to reduce the amount of stormwater runoff flowing into the lagoon that carries nutrients with it. Rain barrels, swales, and rain gardens help recharge the aquifer.
Restore Ecosystem Benefits	Plant native plants to restore the ecosystem . Natives provide food and habitat for wildlife and don't require watering and fertilizer.

There are three levels of certification that can be achieved: Member Level, Silver and Gold. Member Level applicants focus on nutrient pollution reduction, while Silver winners focus on nutrient pollution, turf area, and storm water retention. Gold winners focus on all four of the key concepts. All levels receive a lawn sign. Contact the Keep Brevard Beautiful website (keepbrevardbeautiful.org) for more information.

Tips for picking the right plants

Below are websites on “good” and “bad” plants for our area and also information on mulch. They can help in deciding Lagoon friendly future garden plantings.

- ☞ Native Florida Plants: http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topic_native_plants
- ☞ Invasive Plant Species: <http://www.fleppc.org/list/2015FLEPPCLIST-LARGEFORMAT-FINAL.pdf>

Most of the plants on the invasive plant list above are not sold in the Home Depot/Lowes/Walmart stores. However, the ones listed below often are and should be avoided:

- ☞ Mexican Petunia (sold at Home Depot)
- ☞ Asparagus Fern
- ☞ Mother-in-law Tongue
- ☞ Lantana
- ☞ Shrub Verbena (*Lantana camara*) (unless the label specifically says it is a sterile hybrid)
- ☞ Oysterplant
- ☞ Brazilian Jasmine
- ☞ Periwinkle (*Vinca* sp.)

Another site with info on non-native plants (with a search engine):

<http://assessment.ifas.ufl.edu/>

Mulch: https://tyn.ifas.ufl.edu/handbook/Mulch_vSept09.pdf

Things to consider when choosing plants (will be location-specific):

- ☞ Water requirements
- ☞ Light requirements
- ☞ Salt tolerance (airborne and water supply)
- ☞ Perennials vs. Annuals (cost factor - fewer more expensive plants that should last a long time vs. lots of cheaper plants that will need to be replaced)
- ☞ Physical growth characteristics & planting considerations (too tall, spreading, near power or telephone/cable lines etc.)



Amaranth
<http://floridayards.org>



Police Department CPTED

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design, or CPTED (pronounced sep-ted), is a crime prevention philosophy based on the theory that proper design and effective use of the built environment can lead to a reduction in the fear and incidence of crime, as well as an improvement in the quality of life. The use of CPTED will reduce crime and fear by reducing criminal opportunity and fostering positive social interaction among legitimate users (someone using the space for its intended purpose). The emphasis is on prevention rather than apprehension and punishment.

Three Key Principles

There are three basic and overlapping principles in the CPTED concept:

- ◆ **Natural Surveillance:** Creating environments where there is plenty of opportunity for people engaged in their normal behavior to observe the space around them. By designing the placement of physical features, activities and people in such a way to maximize visibility, natural surveillance occurs.
- ◆ **Natural Access Control:** Most criminal intruders will try to find a way into an area where they will not be easily observed. Limiting access and increasing natural surveillance keeps them out altogether or marks them as an intruder. By selectively placing entrances and exits, fencing, lighting and landscape to control the flow of or limit access, natural access control occurs.
- ◆ **Natural Territorial Reinforcement:** An environment designed to clearly delineate private space does two things. First, it creates a sense of ownership. Owners have a vested interest and are more likely to challenge intruders or report them to the police. Second, the sense of owned space creates an environment where "strangers" or "intruders" stand out and are more easily identified. By using buildings, fences, pavement, signs, lighting and landscape to express owners and define public, semi-public and private space, natural territorial reinforcement occurs.

Why the emphasis on "Natural?"

Historically, the emphasis has been on the target hardening approach to crime prevention. Relying on mechanical (locks, security systems, alarms, monitoring equipment, etc.) and organized (security patrols, law enforcement, etc.) crime prevention strategies means to make the target harder to get into and can create a fortress effect and "feel" unsafe. This traditional approach tends to overlook the opportunity for natural access control and surveillance. By natural, reference is made to the crime prevention by-product that comes from normal and routine use of an environment. The CPTED theory advocates that all possibilities for natural crime prevention be exhausted, prior to the involvement of the mechanical and organized strategies. The CPTED approach is much more user friendly and customer service oriented than the traditional target hardening approach.

To be continued: Watch for the Spring issue of the Beach Comber for more information on CPTED...

ALERT: There has recently been an increase in residential and car burglaries in the area. Be sure to keep your car and house doors locked and your garage doors closed—even during the day. Thank you!



Melbourne Beach Volunteer Fire Department

We hope you all enjoyed the Tree Lighting, the Christmas Parade and the Santa Run on Christmas Eve. As we move into the New Year, we wanted to focus on a few safety reminders:

- ◆ When taking down holiday decorations don't rush or take short cuts especially when working just above your normal reach. Always use a proper step stool or ladder, don't stand on chairs.
- ◆ With cooler weather comes the potential use of space heaters to add additional warmth to select areas of our homes. For your safety please ensure your space heater has a UL or equivalent testing lab label on it and it is equipped with a turn over safety switch. These switches will turn off the space heater if it is accidentally turned over to prevent fires. As always keep them away from drapes and furniture.
- ◆ Lastly it was reported that nearly 10,000 residential fires are cause by candles each year with an increase in the winter months and a majority of those fires started in the bedroom. Always keep burning candles away from anything combustible (furniture, drapes, bedding, carpets, etc.) and out of the reach of children and pets. You are urged to always keep burning candles within sight and never go to sleep with a candle still lit.

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Detective Sergeant Melanie Griswold, Police Dept.

Years at the Town: 15 years

Years in Law Enforcement: 15 years

Education: Associate of Science, Business; Almost done with Bachelor in Science in Business Management

Titles held: Road Officer, Field Training Officer, Drug Recognition Expert (DRE), Detective, Corporal, Sergeant, Agency Recruiter



Brief description of what you do: Supervision of officers; primary responsibility for investigation of most major incidents, crimes, and oversees investigations done by others. Reviewing reports, crime scene processing and evidence, death investigations, keeping a close relationship with State Attorney's office. Interviewing PD candidates and conducting background checks.. Performing other administrative duties. I wear a lot of hats!

Favorite thing(s) about your job: Besides the altruistic reasons such as public service and protecting our citizens, it's just fun. I love to see little ones' faces light up when we turn our lights on. It's the best feeling, plus who wouldn't want to drive around in those cool cars. What we do as a police officer that can make a difference in someone's life is why I do this. The bottom line is the gratitude from our residents and keeping them safe.

Personal info: Married 16 ½ years to my Hero. I have two children. My son has followed in my footsteps and I am so, so proud of him. My beautiful daughter who has given us two grandbabies that keep me on my toes and they call me "M" because I don't care for the Nana or Grandma names (they make me feel old). I have 2 male Rottweilers: 130lbs "Moses" and 100lbs "Ramses." I love to cook, and I may have a shoe fetish. You'd have to ask my husband about that. I love football and my Washington Redskins "HTTR"

Anything else?: I always tell people I am the only female officer in our department and I think if you ask the guys I work with they are happy about that.



Town of Melbourne Beach
507 Ocean Avenue
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

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LOCAL
POSTAL CUSTOMER

Upcoming Town Meetings



Meeting	Dates	Time	Location
Town Hall Closed—Holidays	January 2 and February 20		
Planning & Zoning Board Meeting	Feb. 7 & March 7	7:00 p.m.	Community Ctr
Town Commission Workshop	Jan., 4 Feb. 1 & March 1	5:30 p.m.	Town Hall
History Center Board Meeting	Jan., 5 Feb. 2 & March 2	5:30 p.m.	Old Town Hall
Parks Board Meeting	Jan., 11 Feb. 8 & March 8	7:00 p.m.	Town Hall
Historic Preservation & Awareness Board	Jan., 10 Feb. 14 & March 14	4:00 p.m.	Ryckman House
Town Commission Regular Meeting	Jan. 18, Feb. 15 & March 15	6:30 p.m.	Community Ctr.
Environmental Advisory Board	Jan. 25, Feb. 22 & March 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



Board Vacancies

The Town Commission is seeking qualified residents for several Boards and Committees, including TWO vacancies on the **Planning & Zoning Board**. Visit the Town website under Town Government—Boards and Committees—Board Vacancies/Volunteers.

WANTED: Cabinet for Ryckman House

The Town's Historical Preservation & Awareness Committee is looking for a "period" cabinet that is either from or resembles the time period of 1890-early 1900's to be used as a display case at the Historic Ryckman House. If you have an antique cabinet that you would like to donate, please contact Marty Remark at (321) 723-7270. *Thank you.*



Greek & Roman History

Part of an Ongoing Humanities Lecture Series
by George Richards, Renowned Professor of Humanities

This month's series begins **Monday, January 9, 2017**

2:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.

At the Historic Ryckman House
509 Ocean Avenue, Melbourne Beach
4 week session. \$5 per class.

Visit www.humanitiesforbrevard.com for information on future topics & dates.



Recent Accomplishments & Upcoming Projects

- ☑ Storm water improvements on Flamingo & Anchor Key and resurfacing of Flamingo completed.
- ☑ December Movie in Ryckman Park, *The Polar Express*, enjoyed by approximately 200 residents.
- ☑ Several other successful holiday events, including the Tree Lighting ceremony, Holiday Parade, Santa at the Ryckman House and the annual Christmas Eve Santa "Run."
- ☑ Look out for more Movies in Ryckman Park!



The *Beach Comber* is published quarterly by the Town of Melbourne Beach. Mayor Jim Simmons, Vice Mayor Tom Davis, Commissioner Wyatt Hoover, Commissioner Sherri Quarrie, Commissioner Steve Walters; Tim Day, Town Manager, Gwen Peirce, CMC, Town Clerk

STAY INFORMED! Check out the **NEWS** link on our website for information on community events and Town News: www.MelbourneBeachFL.org