

BEACH COMBER



IN THE AFTERMATH OF IRMA

Let's not get complacent now that we are enjoying such delightful Florida winter weather. Just a few months ago, we were reeling from the damage caused by Irma's wind and rain. The Commission heard from residents that they didn't know where to turn to get information after the storm. The Town took those concerns seriously and added to an action list the establishment of a stormwater network. At the last meeting, the Commission voted in favor of setting up a Facebook page that will become "live" at the beginning of 2018. Many people frequent social media sites of which Facebook is one of the most popular. Even if you aren't signed up with Facebook, chances are, one of your neighbors is and you can ask that they keep you in the loop. Though this wouldn't be a Town sponsored site, *Nextdoor*, a private neighborhood social network, has become popular and is widely used. You would need to sign up using your current address and email address at which point they'd subscribe you to the local neighborhood page. Signing up to these sites will by no means solve all communication issues but it is a start. To continue the exchange of ideas, I'd like all suggestions and ideas to be forwarded to Town Hall by

regular mail:
507 Ocean Avenue
Melbourne Beach, FL 32951

- or -

email:
townclerk@melbournebeachfl.org

Stay tuned on Facebook and our website's *News* page for the latest information.

It would be great if the Town of Melbourne Beach could set the standard for effective communication before, during and after a national disaster.
(see page 2 for an article about flooding)



Meet our new Town Manager

Robert Daniels is our new Town Manager. He has over 35 years of government experience with 15 years in management positions including being

appointed as an Assistant Department Head in Boca Raton and Juno Beach, and as Department Head in Buckeye, AZ and North Bay Village, FL. Educated with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and a Master's Degree in Public Administration, both from Florida Atlantic University. See page 4.



TOWN COMMISSION SWEARING-IN November 15, 2017

The incumbents Mayor Jim Simmons and Commissioner Sherri Quarrie held on to their seats in this year's election. Mayor Simmons' term is for three years and Commissioner Quarrie's term is for one year. There will be two Commission seats up for election in 2018.



507 Ocean Avenue, Melbourne Beach, FL 32951-2523

(321) 724-5860 ♦ FAX: (321) 984-8994 ♦ www.MelbourneBeachFL.org

Thanks go to Elizabeth Mascaro who performed her regular duties as Finance Manager and the duties as Interim Town Manager during the search for someone to fill the position full-time. She very capably served in both capacities for 3+ months.

In the picture on the right, Mayor Simmons is presenting Ms. Mascaro with a proclamation:

“...DISTINGUISHING, ACKNOWLEDGING AND RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF FINANCE MANAGER ELIZABETH MASCARO DURING HER TENURE OF INTERIM TOWN MANAGER”

THANKS ELIZABETH!



HOME RULE UNDER SIEGE

In 2018, pay careful attention to something called “Home Rule” which limits the ability of the state to dictate how a municipality will conduct its own business. In 2017, Florida cities saw many bills filed during the legislative session that sought to preempt municipalities’ ability to make decisions at the local level. Strong Home Rule powers ensure that government stays close to the people it serves. Your Commission is following the state legislature closely regarding House Bill 17 and has made known their objections to it. For more information, a simple internet search will yield many results.

Marti Veatch is a resident of Melbourne Beach and she sits on the Environmental Advisory Board. She wrote the following to share with her fellow residents:

When it rains, inlets and street drains help to keep neighborhoods from flooding. When leaves and debris collect in gutters and block these drains, water can back up and cause ponding on streets and can even flood yards and homes. While the rainy season is the time of year this is most likely to happen, it can happen at any time of the year. By keeping our gutters clean, it also helps in keeping our waterways clean! Be sure to tidy your yard, dispose of trash properly, and clean up after your dog, and encourage your neighbors to do the same.

Here are some simple steps to keep your storm drains and your waterways clean:

- Keep a tight lid on your trash cans and recycling bins, especially during windy days.
 - Pick up trash in your community.
 - Do not rake leaves into the street.
 - Use a rake or broom to remove leaves and debris from the tops of storm drains, and then place the material in your yard waste cart.
 - Don’t blow lawn clippings into the street, or allow your yard service to do so. It is illegal. Direct them onto your property so they can be added to your compost bin, or bag them for pickup.
 - Pick-up after your dog! Stormwater will pick up the waste and wash it into the storm drain (and the lagoon). Pet waste contains harmful bacteria that impact lagoon wildlife and water quality.
- Limit fertilizer, pesticide and herbicide use.

Do not allow pollutants to flow into a storm drain. It is illegal. If you see someone dumping or not containing pollutants report it.

- Reduce runoff from your property that causes flooding.
- Collect water in rain barrels and cisterns.

Create rain gardens. A rain garden acts like a native forest by collecting, absorbing, and filtering stormwater runoff from rooftops, driveways, patios, and other areas that don’t allow water to soak in.

Please do your part, if you see an inlet or street drain is blocked in front of or near your property, try to unblock it to avoid flooding.

This Bears Repeating.....PLEASE don't clog storm drains. **Blowing grass and leaves** into the street gets them out of your yard, but they eventually end up somewhere. For municipal streets, it's usually in the stormwater drain where they clog pipes and result in street flooding. In extreme cases, water can back up into homes. Grass and leaves should either go in green waste or compost. **THANK YOU!!!**

Save Our Lagoon - www.facebook.com/SaveOurLagoon/

PLEASE RECYCLE

Together we CAN make a difference



Following is a reminder of what can and can't be recycled.
Household recycling is collected once a week on Thursdays.

The following items may be recycled:

- Empty Aerosol Cans (no paint cans)
- All Plastic 1 – 7 (no styrofoam, bags or wrap)
- Wide-Mouth Plastic Containers & Lids
- Rigid Plastic Containers and Small Hard Plastic Toys
- Milk & Juice Cartons, and Juice Boxes
- Aluminum Cans
- Metal Food Cans & Lids
- Glass Bottles & Jars
- Cereal & Food Boxes
- Cardboard Boxes Flattened
- Mixed Paper, Newspapers with Inserts, and Junk Mail
- Paperback Books
- Magazines and Phone Books
- Spiral Paper Cans (ie. Orange Juice Concentrate cans) (with plastic lids detached)

Preparation: Residents are asked to rinse the items and remove organics, other contents, labels, lids and plastic caps. All recyclable materials may be placed in the same container for collection.

DO NOT place the following in the Recycling Cart: Styrofoam, electronics, ceramics or dishes, food waste, motor oil containers, household hazard waste light bulbs, windows, glass or mirrors, yard waste or trash, plastic bags.

THINK GREEN

Melbourne Beach SPOTLIGHT



2018 LEAD Brevard Leadership Awards Top 12 finalists named

Rockledge, FL – LEAD Brevard has announced the '2018 LEAD Brevard Leadership Awards', featuring the 14th annual *4 Under 40 Recognition* that showcases young professionals who are making a positive impact in Brevard County through their leadership and commitment to community service. One of the finalists is our own Commissioner Wyatt Hoover from River Oak Dental. Another finalist is Kelli Hunsucker, Marine Science Director at Florida Institute of Technology who serves on our Environmental Advisory Board and Christine Salinas, Director and Neuropsychologist at Space Coast Neuropsychology Center.

Finalists are selected by a group of independent community leaders based on the following criteria: demonstrated excellence, creativity, and initiative in their business or profession; providing a valuable service by contributing time and energy to improve the quality of life for others in the community; serving as a role model for others personally and professionally; are under the age of 40 on January 01, 2018 and live or work in Brevard County and showcases a commitment to his/her personal professional development.

The awards ceremony when the top *4 Under 40* finalists will be chosen is on February 9, 2018

For more information, go to: www.LEADbrevard.org

CONGRATULATIONS Wyatt, Kelly and Christine

Want to help save 1 billion gallons of water? Skip a week of lawn irrigation this winter

The Town of Melbourne Beach joins the St. John's River Water Management's "Skip a week" program. During the months of December thru March, we urge residents and businesses to skip one week of irrigation a month.

Too much irrigation...

- Makes your lawn less able to survive droughts
- Encourages pests and disease
- Wastes water

How much is enough?

- Grass doesn't need as much water in the cooler months
- Apply 1/2" to 3/4" of water
- Water only every 10-14 days in winter

Your lawn needs watering when the grass blades are folded in half, grass blades are blue-gray, your footprint remains on lawn.

Discarded single-use plastic bags can hurt wildlife and waterways - recycle them at the grocery store



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

PRSR STD
 ECRWSS
 U.S. POSTAGE
 PAID
 EDDM RETAIL

LOCAL
 POSTAL CUSTOMER

Upcoming Town Meetings



Meeting	Dates	Time	Location
Town Hall Closed—Holidays	January 1 and February 19		
Planning & Zoning Board Meeting	Jan. 2 Feb. 6 & March 6	7:00 p.m.	Community Ctr
Town Commission Workshop	Jan., 10 Feb. 7 & March 7	5:30 p.m.	Town Hall
History Center Board Meeting	Jan., 4 Feb. 1 & March 1	5:30 p.m.	Old Town Hall
Parks Board Meeting	Jan., 10 Feb. 14 & March 14	7:00 p.m.	Town Hall
Historic Preservation & Awareness Board	Jan., 9 Feb. 13 & March 13	4:00 p.m.	Ryckman House
Town Commission Regular Meeting	Jan. 17, Feb. 21 & March 21	6:30 p.m.	Community Ctr.
Environmental Advisory Board	Jan. 24, Feb. 28 & March 28	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

(continued from page 1— Meet our new Town Manager)

Town Manager Daniels has set a few goals already:

- Maintain the Quality of Life in Melbourne Beach
- Improve the Storm Water Drainage System
- Expand our efforts in protecting the environment /sustainability

Ever thought of attending a Commission meeting? You'd learn a lot about government, what's happening in your Town and witness first hand how dedicated the Commission is to Melbourne Beach and her future.

Join us on the 3rd Wednesday of every month. Hope to see you there!!!!

May the new year bring you happiness, peace and prosperity!

For those who haven't sent us a picture of your pet(s), we are now able to print the picture if you send us a jpeg or most other image files. The Pet Board will be placed where it can be admired by all!! Send files to : townclerk@melbournebeachfl.org



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; Bob Daniels, Town Manager, Nancy Wilson, Town Clerk

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