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Melbourne Beach
Florida 32951



TOWN OF MELBOURNE BEACH
BREVARD COUNTY'S OLDEST BEACH COMMUNITY • ESTABLISHED 1883

BEACH COMBER

Melbourne Beach Wave

This is just a notification that the Melbourne Beach Wave newsletter that is published by Terry Williams and Margot Dorfman is not endorsed by the Town and the views expressed in their newsletter are solely their own interpretation.

SUGGESTIONS ON HOW TO PICK A GENERAL CONTRACTOR

Before signing a contract or agreeing to employ a contractor, you should follow these suggestions:

1. Obtain several bids (estimates) on the proposed job, even if it is relatively small. Provide the contractor with a written list of any special concerns you may have, such as dust control, privacy and work hour access. Discuss these concerns with the contractor before you receive the bids.
2. Get the name of the contractor's company and the contractor's licensing number.
3. Call the Building Department (321-724-5860) and the Florida Department of Professional Regulation (1-800-342-7940). Ask these officials whether the contractor has an active license to work in your area and whether there are any outstanding complaints against the contractor.
4. Check with local building material suppliers and banks to see whether there are any outstanding complaints against the contractor. Most contractors who have been established for at least five years have a reputable standing; however, that is only a rule of thumb, not a guarantee.
5. Ask the contractor to supply the names of at least three local references (clients) and the names of any professional trade organizations of which he/she is a member

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Elected Officials

Mayor Tom Davis
Vice Mayor Rocco Maglio
Comm. Jean Marshall
Comm. Jay Gurecki
Comm. Lisa Farrall

Town Staff

Town Manager
Bill Hoskovec
**

Town Clerk
Rhonda Danielle
**

Police Chief
Dan Duncan
**

Public Works Director
Daniel Rocque
**

Town Accountant
Jennifer Howland
**

Fire Chief
Jim Hunter
**

Building Official
VACANT

Continued suggestions on how to pick a contractor

6. Obtain a written estimate that clearly states exactly what work will be done, how long it will take to complete the job after the work begins, and the approximate cost of the job.
7. Beware of any conditions requiring unusually large payments of money before the work begins.
8. Ask the contractor to show you a current certificate of insurance for Worker's Compensation and general liability coverage. Without this certificate, you could be liable for any damages to equipment or injuries that occur on the job.
9. Make sure the contractor obtains the building permit. Never apply for the permit yourself unless you plan to do the work.

Listen to your intuition. If you do not feel comfortable with a particular contractor, you should consider someone new.

Beach Gardeners of Melbourne Beach

The Beach Gardeners of Melbourne Beach will be meeting on Tuesday, January 15th at 6:30 pm at the Melbourne Beach Community Center located at 509 Ocean Avenue. The speaker for this meeting will be Master Gardener, Lucia Chankersingh who will be presenting "Creating and maintaining an edible landscape".

Refreshments will be served and new members and guests are welcome.

For more information call 723-4180.

A message from the Melbourne Beach Police Department



You're running late for work, but your fuel tank is nearly empty and you don't want to risk the long commute without stopping for gas. You pull up to the pump and shut the car off. But, in your haste, you leave your keys in the ignition while you pump gas and run in to pay the cashier. You rush back to find that your car is gone.

Auto theft is so common in the United States that in the short time it will take you to read this article, at least one vehicle will be stolen. Even if you have never been a victim of auto theft, the increased expenses caused by this crime have undoubtedly affected you. As taxpayers, you collectively help pay for increased law enforcement costs. And as insurance consumers, auto theft negatively influences insurance premiums. In addition, there are costs that cannot be measured in dollars. When your car is stolen, your feelings of trust and security are also stolen. And then you have to deal with the inconvenience of replacing your car or finding substitute transportation.

Although no vehicle is 100 percent theft proof, there are things you can do to help prevent your car from being stolen. While a good alarm system or a tracking device is an effective way to thwart thieves, simple common sense is often the best way to avoid becoming a victim of auto theft. Leaving your vehicle running and unattended is a citable offense in Florida. The Melbourne Beach Police Department suggest the following simple precautions:

- Lock your car. Approximately 50 percent of all stolen vehicles were left unlocked.
- Take your keys. Nearly 20 percent of all stolen vehicles had keys in the ignition.
- Never hide a second set of keys in your car. Thieves know all the hiding places.

Park in well-lit areas. More than half of all vehicle thefts occur at night.

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- Park in an attended lot and leave only the ignition and door key with the attendant.
- Never leave your car running unattended. Don't consider this even if you'll only be gone for a minute. Vehicles are commonly stolen at convenience stores, gas stations, ATMs, etc. Many vehicles are also stolen on cold mornings when they are left running to warm up the engine.
- Don't leave children in a running vehicle.
- Always roll up your windows, close your sunroof, and lock your car. Don't make it easy for a thief to enter your vehicle.
- Don't leave valuables in plain view. Personal possessions left on the seats or floor of the car make your vehicle a more desirable target.
- Park your vehicle with wheels turned in toward the curb to discourage car thieves who use tow trucks to steal vehicles. Using your emergency brake also makes your car harder to tow.
- If you have a garage, use it. Parking your vehicle inside not only protects it from the elements but also protects it from thieves.
- When parked in a garage, lock the garage door as well as your vehicle. By locking both, you greatly improve your chances of deterring a thief.
- Never leave the title to your car in the glove compartment. A thief can use this to sell your stolen car.

Message From Chief Dan Duncan

Stormwater: What can citizens do to improve the storm-water flow of the Town?

The Town of Melbourne Beach has for the past ten years, initiated efforts to improve stormwater treatment and control within the confines of the Town. In 2008, the citizens voted for a self-imposed stormwater bond over the succeeding 30 years. This bond cannot exceed one mil in taxpayer fees in any year. This \$3 million endeavor has been utilized to improve stormwater flow and treatment. These projects have included improvements on Oak Street, Sixth Avenue, Avenue A, First and Second Avenues, and the adjacent areas along Pine Street, Harland Avenue and Mango Drive. Additionally, the Town has added the three stage baffle boxes, the latest version, at Sixth Avenue and Pine, Driftwood and Pine, Avenue A and Riverside, Second Avenue and River Road, and at Harland Avenue and Mango Drive. The Town has also engaged in activities such as quarterly street sweeping and the cleaning of baffle boxes again.

The Town is moving forward with the planned stormwater improvements along pine Street from Andrews to Driftwood. An informational meeting was held in December to notify residents of the area of planned developments and to receive feedback. Unfortunately, there were few citizens in attendance. The Town in concert with our stormwater engineers are looking to have an additional meeting to garner additional citizen feedback, the date has not been finalized as of this publication.

All of the above are effective only to the extent that we, as citizens, do not overload the system. Our largest contributions can be made by keeping tree trimmings leaves, and grass clippings out of the gutters and streets. Please have landscapers refrain from stacking yard waste on the stormwater inlet boxes, gutters, and from blowing clippings and debris in the streets. By making these small changes in behavior will have a profound impact on our stormwater treatment and control.

Things that you can do to keep the stormwater system functioning:

- Clear or clean the drain structures.
- Keep grass clippings and other debris out of stormwater drains to prevent clogging.
- Remove nuisance and excess vegetation from yards before a storm.
- Repair eroded patches of ground.
- Remove trash and yard wastes from gutters and around storm drains.
- Report clogged culverts or slow-moving water in drains to the Melbourne Beach Public Works office.

Do not fill swales or retention systems with dirt, yard waste or other debris, or reduce the size of the stormwater pond.

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Things that your household can do:

Garage and Vehicles

Check all vehicles, boats and equipment for any leaks. If found please repair as soon as possible. Recycle all vehicle fluids and/or dispose of them appropriately. If you are uncertain, please contact Town Hall and we will be glad to point you in the right direction.

Use a commercial car wash to keep your vehicles clean. This will keep the chemicals from entering the storm drains.

Lawn and Garden

Landscape contractors are required to remove any waste that they prune or cut; it is not part of the Waste Pro contract to remove waste that has been placed on the side of the road by private contractors.

Everyone is reminded not to blow or distribute lawn clippings into the roadway or in the stormwater sewer. These continue to the lagoon and cause additional pollutants.

Cover dirt and mulch for future landscaping projects.

Plant new vegetation in bare areas of your yard to prevent erosion.

REMINDER: Ordinance Number 2010-03 expressly states: —No Applicator shall apply Fertilizers containing nitrogen and/or phosphorus to turf and/or landscape plants during the Prohibited Application Period. Typically, that period is from June 01 – September 30, the rainy season. Fertilizers applied to turf and/or landscape plants with the Town shall be formulated and applied in accordance with Rule 5E-1.003 (2), of the Florida Administrative Code. In other words, the fertilizers should be Eco-friendly.

Taking these concerns in hand will reduce the Town's pollution load on the Indian River Lagoon and continue to enhance the splendor of what we know as beautiful Melbourne Beach. Being good stewards of one of the Town's most valuable assets, it is important to bear in mind the impact that we can leave for the future generations.

Care:

Pick up after your pets. If pet waste is left, it can cultivate bacteria that can be harmful to the bodies of water that it will wash.

Pools and Spas:

Only drain pools and spas when the test kit shows that there is no chlorine in the water.

If at all possible drain these items into a sanitary sewer system instead of a storm drain.