

HOT TOPICS OF PUBLIC INTEREST

Building & Code Services

Stepped Up Code Compliance Is A Friendly Proposition

Hi I'm Rob Perry, your new Certified Building & Code Compliance Official. Many of you may have already met me around town, or are likely to meet me one day soon... don't be afraid! I hope you find my "curbside manner" to be friendly, informative, and even educational - but of course persistent as we go about the business of bringing Town assets, our residents and their properties back to a higher general standard of community acceptable condition. We know that what happens on our property affects our neighbors all around us in property values and quality of life, for better or worse. We have Town Codes to help everyone play by the same rules.

I would like to emphasize that my default style is informal versus formal, though there's plenty of formality and technicality in the enforcement of Town Code. So far the light handed code enforcement approach is working well. Residents have been very receptive toward this type of interaction, as it is much easier to understand what needs to be done and why when we are having a casual conversation. I will continue this approach as it helps to keep the small town feel in our community. Occasionally though, cases can take on a more serious tone and may even become emergencies due to health and

safety concerns, requiring more compelling remedies and timelines. If you aren't sure about something you're doing, want to do, or someone across the street that doesn't look quite right, ask us because we are here to help. We want to enable people to get things done around town in a safe, attractive and most cost efficient manner, all the while preserving this unique historical slice of Florida and our residents' special quality of life.

What's A Visibility Triangle?

Pedestrians and motorists passing through traffic intersections must be able to see clearly around corners in order to avoid collisions and other accidents. Clear visibility at intersections of streets, alleys, driveways and sidewalks is a matter of life safety.

The ability to see around corners can be impaired by the growth of trees, plants, vehicle parking and fence installations. Visibility triangle rules require that certain areas of private property and the abutting public right-of-way be maintained clear of visibility obstructions. To the average homeowner this most likely will be an issue of foliage growth and trimming. Regardless of visibility triangle regulations, property owners must take the responsibility to trim trees, plants and grass on their property and in the adjacent public right-of-way that abuts their property in order to be compliant with

Town Codes. (Note: You can find the complete Town Code of Ordinances link on our website at <http://www.melbournebeachfl.org/Pages/index>.)

The Town has actually had some car accidents and recently a bicycle-into-car-collision as a result of these "blinds spots" created by the lack of maintenance on the Visibility Triangle concept. Toward the prevention of another collision incident, or worse, the Town has elevated this in our Code Department priorities as a life and safety issue. You'll see me, the new Building Official, and others in the Town's employ paying close attention to these matters.

In fact, don't be surprised if we knock on your door, or start a conversation in your front yard to help point out and make you more aware of pending issues to urge compliance and cooperation as we try to clean up the Townscape a bit more than maybe has been done in the past. We are doing this the old fashioned small town way, through friendly conversations with our citizens in hopes everyone does their part. We thank you for your cooperation in advance and collective desire to make our Town shine bright!

Rob Perry – Town Building & Code Official

buildingofficial@melbournebeachfl.org

Annual New Year's Day Historic Walk

Town Historian Frank Thomas will again lead his New Year's Day Historic Walk through "old" Melbourne Beach on January 1, 2015.

This leisurely walk begins at the Indian River pier at the western end of Ocean Avenue. Our town's unique history will be explained with historic photographs as we stroll eastward up Ocean Avenue past century old homes. We then tour our 1892 Community Chapel.

The walk begins at 10:00 A.M. and will last a little over an hour. The historical walk is free.

A small reception will be held in the Community Center afterwards. For information call 723-2655

Important Notice! Residential Building Permits

The Town of Melbourne Beach is purging records that have met State of Florida retention requirements. Among the records are residential building permits that were issued more than ten years ago. The scheduled date for destruction is March 1, 2015. As of March 1, 2015, these files will be destroyed and no longer accessible.

The Town Clerk in conjunction with the Town Commission would like to extend the opportunity for any homeowner that would like to obtain the permit files for their homes the opportunity to do so. The permit files may include drawings, plans, copy of inspections, applications and any other data that may have been required for the construction project. If you are interested in receiving the building plans for your home (homeowner only) please visit the Town Clerk at Town Hall during normal business hours. You will need to bring picture identification to receive the permit files. The files can be picked-up starting January 2, 2015 through February 28, 2015. This is not considered a public records request and will be the method of destruction for the permits. Any permits that are on file, until destroyed, which do not have a specific exemption are subject to public record laws.

*Please note—many homes on Atlantic Avenue are exempt and carry a permanent retention due to construction with Floodplains. These permits will not be released or destroyed.

Charmagne Manning, CMC - Town Clerk
cmanning@melbournebeachfl.org

Meet YOUR Team!

Executive		Legislative	
		Building/Code	Finance
			
Public Works			Police
			

Appointments!

If you would like to schedule an appointment to meet with one of the Commissioners please call or email the Town Clerk at (321) 724-5860 or cmanning@melbournebeachfl.org

				
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- Melbourne Beach Christmas Tree Lighting—December 11, 2014 at 6 P.M.
- Melbourne Beach Children's Christmas Parade—December 13, 2014 at 9 A.M.
- Christmas Eve Santa Stop—December 24, 2014 beginning at 5:40 P.M.

More information can be found on the Fire Department's website:

WWW.MBVFD.COM OR WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/MBVFD





Crime Prevention for Parents

Chief Dan Duncan

Holiday Shopping Safety Tips

As the holiday shopping season is upon us, please take time to ensure you have a safe and happy holiday season. As you find time to shop, please be mindful of the following safety tips:

- Be aware of your surroundings. Look for suspicious persons, etc. when you are in any area.
- Remember where you parked your car. While this may sound elementary, many shopping areas are spread out over large areas. Being unable to locate a car can cause you undue confusion and stress that may present you as a better target to a criminal.
- If shopping late in the day or after dark, park in an area that is well light-

ed. Keep in mind; if you are shopping at a mall, the time the store closes from which you enter the mall, as some stores close earlier than others. This may keep you from having to walk unnecessary distances to your car if you find the store has closed earlier than you expected.

- Shop in pairs at the very least. Take a friend or family member shopping with you. There is something to be said for safety in numbers.
- As you return to your car, make sure to keep your car key in your hand.
- Avoid carrying large amounts of cash. Pay for purchases with checks, credit, charge or debit cards. Carry cash and wallets in a front pocket to

reduce your chances of having your pocket picked.

- Don't leave car phones, purses, CD cases, or any other item of value in your parked car where they can be seen. Always conceal these items.
- Don't leave purchased merchandise in your parked car where it can be seen. Conceal these items also. While these steps don't guarantee you will not become the victim of crime, they will hopefully reduce your chances of falling prey to a criminal.

For more information, contact the Melbourne Beach Police Department at 321-723-4343

Be Safe!

BEACH COMBER



Official Town Newsletter

December 2014 Edition

'Tis the Season: Holidays and Seasonal Residents Return

Welcome! I'd like to extend a warm welcome to all returning residents who may have been away from town over an extended period of time. I hope you will feel a sense of change and progress in the air. For the first time since I first arrived here in the late spring, we are now fully staffed at Town Hall in all budgeted positions and functioning quite well as a team, dedicated to ushering in better practices and results on the pressing matters before the Town. It hasn't always been easy, but I am not modeling anything less than a 'can do' attitude toward the important tasks and challenges that need to occur for the betterment of the Town. When we truly can't do a particular remedy for whatever reason or restriction, well still try to find the next best option.

You can meet our new and long standing employees out and about doing their jobs, or by dropping by to Town Hall on any given work day and see first hand that everyone is more than happy to assist you with your questions, concerns and, or assisting you in problem solving more complex issues. Rome was not built in a day, nor was Melbourne Beach, but every day I see incremental progress on things that may have needed a bit more attention, improvement in procedures and process for our work and a strengthening of the collective team spirit needed to tackle any task to come before the Town. We always need your help of course, you are our eyes, ears and sounding boards

to things that are important to the citizens. Get used to communicating with our elected officials, they represent you and they direct our priorities as we go about the day to day operational and administration aspects of the town.

Code & Building

Are you noticing an uptick in remodels, new permits and other building activities around Town? Well the economy is picking up and so are we! It underscores how fortunate we are our Building Department team is in place, lead by new Building Official Rob Perry. Rob has truly hit the ground running to earnestly address chronic code issues while educating our citizens along the way. Much work comes with all this activity and Rob is supported by Beth Crowell, building clerk, Terisa Casey, executive office assistant, Elizabeth Mascaro, finance accountant and the Police, Fire, Public Works, Town Clerk, and of course Town Administration. We are up to the tasks and firmly believe you'll start to see the changes for the betterment of all. See Rob's article in this issue of Beachcomber to understand his dedicated emphasis on Code Compliance and enforcement efforts toward improving our quality of life.

FY15 Budget Update

Let me assure you that your taxes did not go up twice! Because of a technical error in the legal advertising for this

year's Final Hearing to adopt the Town's annual budget and millage rates, originally held September 22nd; the Department of Revenue required us to re-advertise and hold another final Public Hearing to adopt the Town's FY15 Budget and set the millage rate. The same millage rate of 4.1105 was adopted, with the debt service rate of .9999 mills. The gross budget numbers were represented and adopted at the final public hearing held November 24th. This past year we also paid off the Town's Library Bond debt obligation, which reduced residents' TRIM notice by more than two mills; so many town residents may have actually seen decreases in their final assessment. The technical glitch was that Brevard County Value Adjustment Board prior year figures were not shown in the advertising, technically altering the gross millage calculation by a small, imperceptible amount. The actual impact would be positive to those whose property values were adjusted in their favor by the county's board. Meanwhile, the Town is working comfortably under the adopted budget and will continue to economize, troubleshoot and improve efficiencies as we move through the new budget year, while funding critical priorities, programs, maintenance and capital projects throughout the coming year.

Jamie Titcomb, Town Manager
townmanager@melbournebeachfl.org



Pictured above: Jim Simmons, who was originally elected to serve a 1 year-unexpired term for the office of Mayor in November 2013 was sworn into office for the second time on November 19, 2014. Mayor Simmons ran unopposed for the Commission seat and will serve as Mayor for 3 years.

Congratulations!



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

Oath of Office

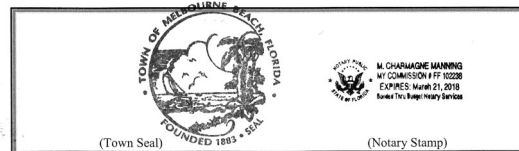
State of Florida
County of Brevard

I, **James (Jim) Simmons**, do solemnly swear that I will support, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States and of the State of Florida, and the Charter and Laws of the Town of Melbourne Beach against all enemies, domestic or foreign, and that I will bear faith, loyalty, and allegiance to the same; that I will faithfully perform all the duties of the position of Town Commissioner/Mayor of the Town of Melbourne Beach, upon which I am about to enter, so help me God.

James D. Simmons
James D. Simmons

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 19th day of November, 2014, by **James Simmons** who is personally known to me.

Charmagne Manning
Charmagne Manning, CMC, Town Clerk
(Notary Public)



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