



# Town of Melbourne Beach Beach Comber

July 2025 - Issue 11



Town Clerk Amber Brown (3<sup>rd</sup> from right) was elected President of the Brevard County City Clerks Association on February 28<sup>th</sup>. We are so proud of her for taking on this leadership role and know she will do a great job representing the Town Clerks of Brevard County and the Town of Melbourne Beach!

## Code of Ordinances Update

The Town Commission recently approved ordinances relating to Vacation Rentals (2024-05), Noise Control (2024-06), and Building Elevation (2025-01). Click [here](#) to read the new ordinances in full on our website.



## No Dogs On the Beach

Please be advised the Town of Melbourne Beach follows the Brevard County Ordinance regarding dogs and other animals on the beach:

### **Sec. 14-60. - Public parks and beaches.**

**(a)** No animal shall be permitted or allowed into or on any public park or beach; provided, however, that an area in a public parks or beach may be designated for animals by resolution of the board, or by the governing body of any applicable municipality. In that event, the area provided for animals must be properly identified and posted by the county or the appropriate municipality.

**(b)** It is a violation of this article for the owner of an animal to permit or allow the animal into, or on, any public park

or beach not designated for animals and not properly identified and posted. However, a disabled person, as defined under the Americans With Disabilities Act, shall have the right to be accompanied into or on any public park or beach by a service animal without violating this section.



## Local Emergency Alerts



Town of Melbourne Beach residents are encouraged to sign up for our local emergency alert systems. Click the links below to be directed to the registration process for each alert system.

[Nixle Emergency Alert System](#) is used by the Melbourne Beach Police Department to send out email notices to the public.

[CodeRED Emergency Alert System](#) is used by the City of Melbourne.\* It is put into action when needed to send emergency messages by phone, text, and email. These messages are sent for large-scale precautionary boil water notices that can be caused by major water line breaks.

*\*The City of Melbourne provides water and utilities to the residents of the Town of Melbourne Beach.*

[AlertBrevard](#) is used by Brevard County Emergency Management, Utilities, and Fire Rescue to notify businesses and residents for public safety purposes such as hazardous materials incidents, wildfires threatening homes, boil water notices, and other emergency situations. The calls will provide specific instructions for people to follow in order to keep themselves and others safe.

## Fiscal Year 2024 Audit Results

On April 30<sup>th</sup>, Zach Chalifour from James Moore & Co. presented the results of our annual audit in a Town Commission Workshop. We're pleased to report that the Town had a perfect audit for 2024 with no findings! This is an incredible achievement for Finance Manager Kerr and her department. Congratulations! In 2023, we had a nearly perfect audit with only two suggestions on changes for best practices.

To view the entire meeting packet, please go to the [Agendas and Minutes](#) page on our website. You can also watch the video of the workshop on [YouTube](#).

## Budget Meetings

Budget meetings for fiscal year 2025-2026 are in progress as of May. Please keep an eye on the [Town calendar](#) for dates and times.

### Community Center Porch Extension



In May, Public Works finished an exciting project, the rebuild and extension of the Community Center's front porch. The new porch is covered in weather-resistant decking and extends west from the original porch's footprint to the side door. The PW team also repainted all of the Community Center's trim in an effort to further beautify the building's exterior.

# LET'S BE CLEAR...

## Go Fertilizer Free



JUN  
»  
SEP

Summer is rainy season in Florida. When rain washes fertilizer into our waterways, it fuels algae. Go fertilizer free this summer!

*What else can YOU do to save our lagoon?*

ORDINANCE 12-37



LAGOONLOYAL.com





## Officer of the Year Awarded to SRO John Sullivan

Chief Zander and staff attended the 2024 Officer of the Year Banquet on April 17<sup>th</sup> to acknowledge Officer John Sullivan and all of the awardees throughout the county. We are honored to belong to such a great organization that recognizes the great work of our Law Enforcement Officers! Congratulations to all awardees and thank you for your service!

## Community Safety Initiative Recap

We recently wrapped up a successful Helmet and Low-Speed Vehicle Safety Initiative, including a focused Enforcement Day on Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>. Here's a quick look at what we accomplished:

- Officers engaged with students and families near the school to promote helmet and traffic safety
- 9 informational pamphlets were handed out to children not wearing helmets
  - 6 of those children did not have a helmet and were each provided one
- Over 50 children were observed properly wearing helmets
- All children and adults observed in low-speed vehicles were wearing seatbelts
- Officers stopped:
  - 4 juveniles on bicycles to provide educational pamphlets
  - 3 adults on bicycles who ran stop signs; they received verbal warnings
- On Enforcement Day (April 29<sup>th</sup>), officers:
  - Reminded families about Florida's helmet law (required for anyone under 16)
  - Ensured cyclists were obeying traffic rules
  - Checked that low-speed vehicles followed regulations, including:
    - No driving on sidewalks
    - Proper town sticker or license tag displayed
    - Seatbelts worn correctly



Special thanks to SCTPO and Vision Zero for supporting our safety efforts.  
Together, we're helping build a safer and more informed community!

## Low Speed Vehicles & E-Bikes - What are the Rules?

### Low Speed Vehicles (LSVs)

- Only people who have an actual driver's license can drive a LSV
- Everyone in the front seat of the LSV must wear a seatbelt
- Everyone under the age of 18 must wear a seatbelt
- No child can sit on a lap in a LSV
- Children who are mandated to be in a car seat in a car must be in a car seat in a LSV
- LSVs must be registered with the Town or the State of Florida
- LSVs cannot drive on the sidewalk or grass and must stay on the road in the proper lane
- Violations of the above can range from traffic citations to arrest depending on the situation

### E-Bikes

- Class 1, 2, and 3 E-Bikes are entirely legal and allowed anywhere regular bikes are permitted
- Class 4 E-Bikes must be registered with a licensed operator, and are considered a motor vehicle
- E-Bikes must have a label that includes the classification number, top-assisted speed, and motor wattage
- It is illegal to tamper with or modify the E-Bike in a way that changes its speed capabilities or classification without updating the label
- If rider is under 16, they must wear a helmet like a regular bicycle
- E-Bikes must follow all traffic rules like stopping at stop signs and riding with the flow of traffic

## E-BIKE CLASSES



### CLASS 1

Pedal-assist only, with a motor that assists up to 20 mph (32 km/h).



### CLASS 2

Pedal-assist with a throttle, also with a motor that assists up to 20 mph (32 km/h).



### CLASS 3

May be pedal-assist or throttle-only, with a motor that assists up to 28 mph (45 km/h).



# YOUR COMMUNITY NEEDS YOU!



Did you know that 65% of firefighters and emergency responders in the United States are volunteers, and that volunteer fire departments save US tax payers approximately 46.9 billion dollars per year?

Being a volunteer emergency responder is a rewarding experience and an extraordinary way to serve your community.

## Are you ready to answer the call?

Visit [www.MakeMeAFirefighter.org](http://www.MakeMeAFirefighter.org) or stop by Fire Station #58 (the Melbourne Beach Volunteer Fire Department) for more information.



## Volunteer Spotlight - Lauren Hardman

Lauren's first paddling practice for dragon boat racing took place on August 12, 2017. After 1 ½ years on a team, she was asked to step into a coaching role. She took her team to Nationals, and they were on track to attend Worlds before it was canceled due to COVID. In 2022 her team once again made it to Nationals, then attended Worlds in Sarasota. From there, Lauren joined a more competitive team near The Villages called The HEAT. As a member of The HEAT, Lauren has attended Club Crew Nationals and Club Crew Worlds in Ravenna, Italy (CCWC). She attended her first Team USA tryouts in November of 2024, and was invited to the team in March of this year. Worlds 2025 will start on July 14 in Brandenburg, Germany, and the Olympic Committee will be watching to explore the possibility of adding dragon boating to the Olympics. Lauren attributes her success to the support of her family, her coach Tek Li, and her weight trainer and nutritionist Lauren Brandon. Lauren joined the MBVFD in 2003, inspired to make a difference after the events of 9/11. Initially, she wanted to focus on the Marine Rescue side of the department, which required her to start as a firefighter. With a three-year-old and one-year-old at home and a husband

at sea, Lauren began training. Eventually, Chief Seth Stark pushed her towards the Driver/Engineer path. With that under her belt, she started working towards instructor certification. Thanks to her BA in Secondary Education & Mathematics, she was able to jump into a Level 2 Instructor role, then earned her Level 3. During her time in MBVFD, she has also been a CPR Instructor, Treasurer for the MBVFA, and has organized fire prevention weeks at Gemini as well as charity golf tournaments. Through it all, she has retained a passion for Marine Rescue. The MBVFD is so proud of her hard work and will be cheering her on for Worlds 2025!



MBVFD and Indian Harbour Beach VFD recently taught a joint in-house Emergency Medical Responder program; the 56-hour training program is state-recognized. MBVFD members who completed the inaugural course were Deputy Chief John Miller, Lt. Amber Brown, Lt. Claude Russo, FF George Walters, FF Sam Cox, and FF Timm Bowman.

# 5 Steps for Hurricane Preparedness



2025



KNOW YOUR RISK



**Step 1** of hurricane season preparedness is knowing your risk.

Things to consider when assessing your risk:

- Do you live in a mobile or manufactured home?
- Do you live in an evacuation area?
- Do you live in a flood-prone area?
- Are you water or electricity dependent, or do you have special needs?

Always have an evacuation plan for a tropical storm or hurricane. If a storm is approaching and you feel unsafe in your residence, find a location where you feel safe for the duration of the storm.

**Step 2** of preparedness is build a kit.

A disaster supply kit is a collection of essential items you may need in the event of tropical storm or hurricane. Assemble your kit, and review it annually. If you evacuate, take your kit with you.

A full list of supplies can be found on Brevard County's website: <https://brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/BePrepared/Step2BuildAKit>



2025



BUILD A KIT



2025



HAVE A PLAN



**Step 3** of preparedness is having a plan. It is important that your family has a plan if a tropical storm or hurricane is in the forecast. Consider the following questions when making a plan:

- What factors will make me evacuate?
- Where will I go if I need to leave?
- When will I leave to ensure my safety?
- Who is coming with me if I evacuate?
- How far will I travel if I leave?

**Step 4** of preparedness is stay informed. Information is critical before, during, and after a tropical storm or hurricane.

Get vital emergency information multiple ways:

- Follow Brevard Co. Emergency Management on Facebook, Twitter & Nextdoor
- Text BREVARDEOC to 888777 for countywide text notifications
- Ensure Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) on your cell phone are turned on
- Use a weather radio tuned to 162.550
- Sign up for AlertBrevard location-based notifications: <https://www.brevardfl.gov/EmergencyManagement/AlertSignup>



2025



STAY INFORMED



2025



GET INVOLVED



**Step 5** of preparedness is get involved. There are many ways to get involved:

- Talk to your neighbors so that they know their risks and encourage them to be prepared.
- Before donating any goods, wait for instructions from local officials or check with a specific organization.
- Make a financial contribution to a volunteer agency involved in disaster relief.
- Volunteer with existing disaster support organizations such as United Way, 2-1-1 Brevard, the Salvation Army, and Brevard Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).



# Happenings Around Town



*Left: Abby Shepard completed her Eagle Scout project at Loggerhead Park, refreshing the park sign and planting native plants with a team of volunteers.*

*Right: the South Beaches Little League had their Opening Day parade on February 22<sup>nd</sup> down Oak Street.*



*Below: the Environmental Advisory Board held Nature Day on April 5<sup>th</sup> to educate attendees on sustainability, the local ecosystem, and environmentally-friendly topics.*



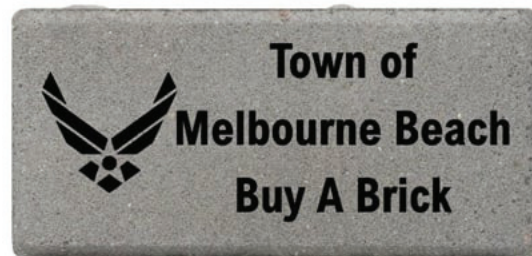
*The Parks Board held Spring Fest on March 8<sup>th</sup>, the main draw of which was the Kids Business Fair. They also had an Easter Celebration on April 19<sup>th</sup> with an egg scavenger hunt, face painting, and magician show.*



## Honor Walk Brick Fundraiser

In appreciation of the dedicated military members who bravely serve our country in the United States Armed Forces, the Melbourne Beach Parks Board, on behalf of the Town of Melbourne Beach, is holding a buy-a-brick fundraiser to create an Honor Walk to be located in front of the Community Center. Please participate in making this a place of pride in the Town. You can customize your engraved brick in honor of a family member or show your support for anyone in the military.

This fundraiser is open to both residents and non-residents. Visit <https://polarengraving.com/townofmelbournebeach> to place your order today.



4"x 8" engraved brick with logo : **\$100**



4"x 8" engraved brick **\$80**

# Town Commission Meeting Highlights

## **March 19, 2025 – Regular Town Commission Meeting**

- Approved the second reading of Ordinance 2025-01 Building Elevation
- Appointed Jeanette Soucy to the Parks Board as an alternate member
- Approved Resolution 2025-04 Budget Amendment
- Approved the Interlocal Agreement for the formation of a Metropolitan Planning Organization
- Failed for a lack of second to reallocate the \$7,500.00 and the \$10,000 from Fund 351 to the newly created contingency Fund 175
- Approved amendments to Resolution 2024-11 to revise owner-occupied fees

## **March 19, 2025 – Special Town Commission Meeting**

- Approved receiving bids for Phase 1 of cameraing the 36” outfall and storm pipe along S. Palm Ave. and Phase 2 of swale work

## **March 31, 2025 – Special Town Commission Meeting - First Meeting**

- Approved up to \$20,000 for the repair of the stormwater pipe break at the intersection of Riverside Dr. and Ave. A

## **March 31, 2025 – Special Town Commission Meeting - Second Meeting**

- Approved getting three quotes for a shingle roof with options to remove the cupola and add ridge venting for the Fire Station

## **April 16, 2025 – Regular Town Commission Meeting**

- Approved the roof replacement for Old Town Hall History Center and request for a 25-year lease from Brevard County
- Approved G&G Roofing bid for the Town Hall roof with an additional \$750 budgeted for venting of the Fire Station cupola
- Approved posting of the RFQ for professional engineering services

## **April 23, 2025 – Special Town Commission Meeting**

- Qualified all four companies who submitted proposals to the RFQ for Town engineering services

## **May 21, 2025 – Regular Town Commission Meeting**

- Approved Resolution 2025-05 Establishing a Technology Advisory Board with the change of having a 2-year term
- Approved Resolution 2025-10 Supporting DOGE and requesting assistance, including AI-driven auditing for review and evaluation of current and future budgets and operations
- Did not adopt Section 3.03 on the Interference Clause from the Charter Review Committee’s recommendations
- Approved posting of RFP for Phase 1 of the Basin 1 stormwater project
- Approved Resolution 2025-08 Stormwater Utility Assessment Roll Certification
- Approved Resolution 2025-09 Standards to safeguard against cybersecurity threats
- Failed for a lack of second to terminate the Town Manager for cause
- Failed for a lack of second to give the Town Manager a 30-day warning letter & put out a bid for the Town Manager contract
- Motion failed to put out a bid for the Town Manager contract
- Motion failed to initiate an open hiring process for the Town Manager
- Approved a Special Meeting for a performance evaluation of the Town Manager
- Approved a Special Meeting for a discussion of the Town Manager position
- Approved rescinding the G&G Roofing contract for Old Town Hall History Center & putting the roof out for RFP
- Approved rescinding the G&G Roofing contract for Town Hall & approaching EDC Haley Ward for consultation
- Approved site plan for 394 Riverview Lane



# Town Commission Meeting Highlights (continued)

## June 2, 2025 – Special Town Commission Meeting - First Meeting

- Tabled discussion of proposals from the RFQ for Building Official services

## June 2, 2025 – Special Town Commission Meeting - Second Meeting

- Completed performance evaluation of Town Manager

## June 2, 2025 – Special Town Commission Meeting - Third Meeting

- Approved posting of RFQ for Town Manager position

## Town Board Highlights

### Charter Review Committee

The Charter Review Committee held their final meeting on May 5, 2025 which was then immediately followed by a joint workshop with the Town Commission. At the workshop, they advised the Commission on the changes to the Town Charter that they suggest should go to referendum.

### Environmental Advisory Board

The EAB continues to work on the sea turtle conservancy lighting ordinance and landscaping/tree ordinance. They are working on details for an e-waste roundup and a hazardous waste roundup. The Board recently presented an impervious surface comparison for FL beachside communities to the Commission. They are also looking into ways to educate the community on invasive lizards.

### Historical Preservation & Awareness Board

No new business to report

### History Center Board

No new business to report

### Parks Board

The Parks Board continues to receive orders for Honor Walk bricks. They are planning a Back to School Bash for August 8<sup>th</sup> as well as brainstorming additional activities in the park.

### Planning & Zoning Board

The P&Z Board is currently researching restrictions related to pickleball courts. They also recently approved a site plan for 394 Riverview Lane.

## Employee Feature: Finance Manager Jennifer Kerr

Jennifer's family came to Brevard County in 1990. They lived on Hibiscus Trail from 1990 to 1996, and in 1996 they moved outside the Town limits. She has fond memories of the events and holidays in the Town of Melbourne Beach, from Founders' Day, when her little sister was in the dunk tank, to Christmas Eve when Santa would come by the house on the Fire Truck delivering presents. This Town still feels like home to Jennifer's family even though they do not live within the boundaries today.

Jennifer graduated from the University of Florida in 2011 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA). She then graduated from Florida Institute of Technology (FIT) in 2017 with a Master of Business Administration (MBA) with a Specialization in Accounting. Jennifer worked in various departments for Brevard County Government with the Board of County Commissioners from 1995 to 2019, before coming on full-time with the Town of Melbourne Beach.



## Sea Turtle Nesting Season

Atlantic sea turtle nesting season officially began on March 1<sup>st</sup>. From now through November, female sea turtles will return to our beaches to lay their eggs. Nesting and hatching is a very difficult process for sea turtles. What can you do to help?

- Avoid lights on the beach at night (flashlights, cell phones, other sources of artificial light)
- NEVER disturb a nest or turtle
- If you dig a hole on the beach, fill it and smooth the sand before leaving
- When boating, obey speed signs and don't anchor in seagrass
- Pick up litter to prevent turtles from mistaking trash for food
- If you see a turtle, hatchling, or nest you think is in distress, contact the Sea Turtle Preservation Society Emergency Voicemail at (321) 206-0646

For more information, visit <https://seaturtlespacecoast.org/> and <https://conserveturtles.org/>

Let's make Melbourne Beach the best place it can be for sea turtles!



## Town Meetings

Meeting	Date	Time	Location
Planning and Zoning Board	First Tuesday as needed	6:30 pm	Community Center
History Center Board	First Tuesday	4:30 pm	2373 Oak Street
Town Commission Workshop	First Wednesday as needed	6:00 pm	Community Center
Code Enforcement Magistrate	Last Tuesday as needed	4:00 pm	Community Center
Historical Preservation and Awareness Board	Second Tuesday	4:00 pm	Ryckman House
Parks Board	First Thursday	6:00 pm	Community Center
Regular Town Commission Meeting	Third Wednesday	6:00 pm	Community Center
Board of Adjustment	Third Thursday as needed	6:00 pm	Community Center
Environmental Advisory Board	Fourth Wednesday	7:00 pm	Community Center
Police Pension Fund	March, June, Sept., Dec.	5:30 pm	Training Room

## Ongoing Community Activities

- Flow and Be Strong Exercise Class in Ryckman Park every Wednesday at 8:30 am
- Mayor's Hours in the Community Center every Wednesday from 10:00 am - 12:00 pm
- My Musical Tree Class in Ryckman Park the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month from 10:30 am - 11:15 am
- Sunset Flow Yoga in Ryckman Park every Thursday at 6:00 pm
- Tai-Chi in Ryckman Park every Friday from 9:30 am - 11:15 am

507 Ocean Avenue, Melbourne Beach, Florida 32951

Phone: (321) 724-5860 | Fax: (321) 984-8994 | [melbournebeachfl.org](http://melbournebeachfl.org)

Brevard County's Oldest Beach Community - Established 1883

MBPD Non-Emergency Admin: (321) 723-4343 | MBVFD Non-Emergency Office: (321) 724-1736

**Call 911 for Emergencies**