

The Sun Newsletter

City of West Melbourne's Community Publication

May/June 2018

Protect Your Sewer System

Sewage backups into homes and businesses can not only cause damage that is difficult and expensive to repair, but also create health hazards.

There are many causes to sewer backups, including FOG, tree roots, and improper disposal of garbage.

Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)

FOG may clog your pipes and cause a sanitary sewer backup. FOG solidifies when cooled and gets lodged in pipes.

FATS	OILS	GREASES
Butter	Vegetable Oil	Gravy
Shortening	Canola oil	Mayonnaise
Margarine	Olive oil	Melted meat fat
Meat trimmings	Corn oil	Boiled poultry skin
Uncooked poultry skin	Salad dressings	

Please properly dispose of FOG by placing in a disposable container and throwing it in the trash.

Watch Your Roots

Shrub and tree roots, seeking moisture, will make their way into cracks in the sewer line. Once the roots have penetrated the line through cracks, the roots can trap materials and cause a blockage.

Avoid planting trees and shrubs with shallow root systems near your sewer line.

Throw Wipes in Trash

Cleaning wipes and baby wipes do not dissolve, even if they indicate that they are flushable. Instead, they can get stuck in the sewer pipes and pumping equipment, causing costly sewer backups.

Dispose of wipes, and personal hygiene products in the wastebasket.

Food Truck Friday

On the 4th Friday of each month, the West Melbourne Police Athletic League (PAL) is sponsoring an event for individuals to try different foods from different vendors. Each vendor will be making the food right from their food truck or stand. Come enjoy the aromas and the atmosphere while eating outdoors. Bring your family and friends.



The dates of the event for May and June will be May 25 and June 22. The event will be held at the Veteran's Memorial Complex at 2285 Minton Road. from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Recreation Highlights

Conversational English (Adults)

Learn how to speak English with the necessary terms and phrases needed for daily life in America. Featuring dialogues for polite conversation, shopping, directions, emergencies, food, alphabet and numbers and more.

Make-A-Book Course

Capture your moments. Poems, photos, paintings, journals, diaries, short stories and more. From concept to published materials. At the end of the course, you will have a finished book to share with relatives, friends or the public. You will also have a final digital file.

Facility Rentals

The City of West Melbourne is pleased to offer a variety of rental spaces for public activities and private events. We have athletic fields, outdoor party pavilions and an air conditioned community center to hold your next special event.

Contact the Recreation Department at 837-7779 for more information.

Rainy Season Flood Preparations

Florida's hurricane season begins June 1, and preparation for potential flooding is important for public agencies, homeowners associations, and property owners alike. Each has an important role to play in reducing the risks and consequences of flooding.

Last year, our community was among the numerous communities all across Florida and Brevard County where Hurricane Irma and several following days of heavy rains caused extensive flooding. Within the City of West Melbourne, an estimated 85 homes, apartments and businesses experienced flooding, including several homes in our Wood Haven Manor and Woodland Manor neighborhoods. In addition, numerous vehicles in the Reserves of Melbourne apartments and the Buena Vida Estates parking lots flooded during Irma. According to estimates prepared by the National Weather Service, over a five and a half week period, rainfall totals for various locations within West Melbourne ranged from more than 20 inches to more than 26 inches.

There are three principal public agencies that maintain drainage canals and public street swale drainages in our community. The largest and most significant drainage canals south of U.S. 192 are the responsibility of the Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District, a public agency with a locally appointed board whose budgets are approved by the Brevard County Commission. These canals generally flow west and south before eventually heading east to Turkey Creek. The largest and most significant canals north of U.S. 192 are the responsibility of Brevard County. These canals generally flow east and south to Crane Creek. A smaller number of canals in West Melbourne are the responsibility of the City of West Melbourne. These are feeder canals to either the Melbourne-Tillman system or the County system. A map showing principal canal responsibilities may be found on the City's web site.

In addition to canals, public street drainages are the responsibility of the public agency responsible for maintaining the associated public street. In West Melbourne, this is the Florida Department of Transportation for the U.S. 192 drainage, Brevard County for all the major arterial road drainages through West Melbourne (such as Minton and Wickham, Hollywood and Evans, Eber and Ellis), and the City of West Melbourne for the local public street drainages in West Melbourne.

Over the past several months, all four public agencies have been performing maintenance work on their canals, street drainages and swales. In addition, the City of West Melbourne has developed two local



Melbourne-Tillman maintenance of canal along Henry Avenue

drainage improvement projects – one to benefit the Wood Haven Manor neighborhood, and the other to benefit the Woodland Manor neighborhood. These two projects have been permitted by the St. Johns River Water Management District, the reviewing public agency for all drainage modification projects in Brevard County, and have been budgeted and awarded for construction by the West Melbourne City Council. Detailed information on both these projects may be viewed on the City's web site.

In addition to these four public agencies, many properties in West Melbourne have local drainage systems that are the responsibility of the local homeowners association. Homeowners associations are advised to check their key inflow and outflow structures to insure that they are clear of debris, and for those associations with multiple connected retention ponds, keeping the connections between the retention ponds clear is also critically important. A few HOAs even



Flooding during Tropical Storm Fay in 2008

arrange to pre-pump down their retention ponds when large storms are predicted, provided they have the advance permission of the Melbourne-Tillman Water Control District. Such action by the Westbrooke HOA prior to Irma helped immensely in the avoidance of what would most certainly otherwise have been substantial flooding throughout Westbrooke.



Local street-side swales correctly cleared of debris

Private property owners also have responsibilities to reduce the risk of flooding for themselves and their neighbors. The most important preparation that homeowners in older neighborhoods with local street side swales can do to make sure the pipe under their driveway has not filled up with debris or dirt. While it is the City or County's responsibility to maintain the swales themselves, it is each homeowner's responsibility to maintain the pipe under your own driveway. Not keeping this pipe clear can impact you and your neighbors in the event of a major rainstorm.

Of course, no one should ever throw yard debris or other trash into public canals or onto canal banks, nor in nor along the banks of homeowner association retention ponds, nor pile yard trash blocking street side swales, as these actions can cause blockages that can increase the risk of area flooding.

Another important precaution that all homeowners can take is to purchase flood insurance. Virtually all of West Melbourne is outside formally mapped FEMA flood hazard zones. This means that flood insurance for homes throughout West Melbourne is fairly inexpensive. Particularly if you live in an older neighborhood, purchasing flood insurance each year may well be one of the best investments you can make in protecting your home.

City Council Actions

Your City Council meets twice a month to discuss important issues. Many local issues are studied and decisions are made by your elected officials to make this a better community. Here are a few decisions that your Council has made on behalf of the citizens and businesses of West Melbourne in last few months:

- Held an initial public hearing on a potential application for Community Development Block Grant funds
- Adopted a resolution officially naming the private internal roadways in the Aventine Apartments
- Approved a replat of Tract G of Coastal Commerce
- Awarded a contract for the rehabilitation of three sewer lift stations
- Annexed a one-acre property located 1720 South John Rodes Boulevard
- Approved the final plat for Phase One of the Cypress Landings Subdivision
- Adopted a code amendment to allow artisan beverage establishments subject to a conditional use permit in the Commercial New Haven and Commercial Wickham zoning districts
- Received the annual report for the West Melbourne-Brevard County Joint Community Redevelopment Agency
- Awarded a bid for construction of the Wood Haven Manor Drainage Improvement project
- Awarded a contract for full-depth patching a portion of the roadway surface on Dairy Road
- Approved an Interlocal agreement with Brevard County and the City of Palm Bay for the equitable cost sharing of the maintenance for the future traffic signal under construction at the Palm Bay Road and Durham Drive/Riviera Drive intersection

For more information on Council meetings, visit the City's website at www.westmelbourne.org. You can view agendas, minutes, summaries of action, or watch a Council meeting live on the first and third Tuesday of the month.

A Look at the Past
 “1960s in West Melbourne”
 By Peter Morton

The National Bank of West Melbourne was formed in 1965. The bank was located where Bank of America is currently located at 3003 West New Haven Avenue. Judge Platt was Chairman of the Board. A large set of Long Horn Cattle horns was placed on the wall over the President’s desk and chair. One day, the Bank President left his chair to go into the bookkeeping department and a few seconds later the horns fell off the wall and pierced through his chair.

The reason you will hear facts and yarns of the bank was because it was the centerpiece of the West Melbourne community. The residents felt they had come into the bigtime to have their own bank!

Reuman’s Gulf Station was located on the corner of the old Minton Road (Meadowlane Avenue) and Route 192. Minton Road was later moved to align with Wickham Road. The gas station was the opposite side of Minton Road from the National Bank. Gas was paid for by IOU’s to Mrs. Reuman, who placed them in a cigar box. Purchaser’s came in at the end of each month and paid for their IOU’s.

DO YOU WORK IN THE CITY?

We are looking for individuals who work in West Melbourne to serve on our **Business Advisory Board**. This Board provides input on issues before Council that affect the business community.

Contact the City Clerk at 837-7774 for more information or to have an application sent to you. You can also find the online board application at www.westmelbourne.org.

The Sun Newsletter
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(Back L-R) John “Coach” Tice,
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City Calendar

May 2018

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| 1 | City Council meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 2 | Police Officers’ Retirement Board meeting | 9:00 a.m. |
| 9 | Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting | 6:00 p.m. |
| 10 | Planning and Zoning Board meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 15 | Community Redevelopment Agency meeting | 6:00 pm. |
| 15 | City Council meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 17 | Code Enforcement Board meeting | 5:30 p.m. |
| 24 | Board of Adjustment meeting | 7:00 p.m. |

June 2018

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| 5 | City Council meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 12 | Planning and Zoning Board meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 19 | City Council meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 21 | Code Enforcement Board meeting | 5:30 p.m. |
| 25 | Business Advisory Board meeting | 6:30 p.m. |
| 28 | Board of Adjustment meeting | 7:00 p.m. |