

The Sun Newsletter

City of West Melbourne's Community Publication

March/April 2020

Spring Time Recommendations for Municipal Reuse

West Melbourne serves more than 2,100 properties in the city with municipal reuse water for irrigation of landscaping. Typically in late March and throughout April, homeowner demand for reuse irrigation water peaks. When too many users irrigate at the same time, pressures to any particular property drop.

One of the pieces of advice the City can offer is that in advance of peak demand season, homeowners receiving municipal reuse perform routine maintenance of their reuse irrigation systems. If homes on either side of your property seem to have adequate pressures, and your property does not, it may be that you have an irrigation system that is not performing at peak efficiency as it once did. Replacing sprinkler heads is one fairly inexpensive thing to consider trying that might just help considerably.

Another practical tip that is also beneficial to the health of your lawn is to not overwater. Before peak demand season begins, you should check your timer, consider upgrading your timer as might be beneficial, and re-program the irrigation timing on each of your irrigation zones, insuring that you do not program any irrigation zone for longer than is necessary. For example, all things being equal, an irrigation zone on the north side of your property probably does not need as much time as zones on the south or west sides. Users may also consider programming their overall irrigation a bit later in their authorized cycle, where historic peak period demand curves have consistently shown less than absolute peak demand.

The City also reminds citizens in our even/odd address reuse neighborhoods that it is imperative that homeowners not take reuse when it is the time allotted for your neighbors across the street to irrigate. Reminders will also be accomplished through the efforts of City Code Enforcement Officers, who help all our neighbors receiving reuse by seeking compliance with our reuse rules. These rules have been put in place for the benefit of all receiving reuse irrigation water, and may be found by visiting the City's web site.



For questions about reuse, homeowners may contact the City's contract operator, Jacobs, at 321-984-0485.

St. Johns River Water Management District

The St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) is committed to water conservation as a cornerstone of Florida's water sustainability. One of their core missions is protect and ensure the sustainability of Florida's water resources, both belowground in the Floridan aquifer system and aboveground in the many waterways. Individual homeowners, community groups and homeowners' associations (HOAs) play a big part in helping to conserve water.

The St. Johns River Water Management District receives an incredible amount of calls from residents district-wide inquiring about the St. Johns River Management District's role when it comes to the management of stormwater. To help clarify information for residents, information is available online to address [frequently asked questions](#), [understanding stormwater systems](#), and a link for resources for [homeowner associations](#) with access to printable handouts that can be shared.

Visit their site at www.sjrwmd.com for more information.

2020 Census



The results from the upcoming census will shape the future of West Melbourne, as census data directly impacts the amount of federal and state funding distributed to local governments for a variety of purposes.

The count is mandated by the United States Constitution and is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, a nonpartisan government agency.

In mid-March, 2020, West Melbourne households will begin receiving official Census Bureau mail with detailed information on how to respond. This census will be the first where you can respond online, and the City of West Melbourne encourages you to fill out the census for your household online. Other options for responding are by phone or by mail.

If you do not respond to the invitation mailed, you may be visited by a census taker. From May through July, census takers will begin visiting homes that haven't responded to the 2020 Census to help make sure everyone is counted.

All West Melbourne residents are encouraged to complete the census as soon as you receive your postcard from the U.S. Census Bureau. The 2020 Census is more than a population count. It's an opportunity to shape the future of your community.

Friday Concert Series

Free outdoor concerts are planned at the West Melbourne Community Park amphitheater, 3000 Minton Road. Below are the line-up of bands and genre of each. Concerts start at 6:30 p.m.

2020 Winter Concert Series Lineup	
February 28	Cherry Down (contemporary, alternative rock)
March 6	Jersey Mike (rock, country)
March 13	KelMarie (top 40)
March 20	Johnny Danger (timeless classics)
March 27	FIT Band & Florida Tech Band
April 3	Mackenzie Carey (country)



Benefits of Composting

By Anya Johnson

For many people 'decayed organic waste' conjures up an image of a landfill. Fortunately, there is a time-tested, alternative disposal method for this 'stinking pile of general unpleasantness' that not only avoids the pitfalls of landfills, but also reaps its own benefits as a natural fertilizer, called compost.

Composted organic material produces healthier, more effective soil. The food scraps and yard trimmings that we are currently trucking to the landfill can be composted to return nutrients to the soil, creating a lighter soil that better retains water. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) claims compost can also potentially prevent erosion, ward off plant diseases and destructive pests, reduce dependence on harmful pesticides and fertilizers, restore wetlands and remediate soils contaminated by pollutants and weakened by synthetic fertilizers. **This means that compost can contribute to soil that needs less maintenance and a healthier environment overall.**

Composting combats climate change. Compost takes carbon-rich materials, like dry leaves and plant trimmings, and traps the carbon in the soil. Compost also has the added benefit of preventing methane (CH₄), an extremely potent greenhouse gas, from forming through a process known as 'aerobic decomposition.'

Compost beautifies the world! When done in a community context, composting can encourage more eco-conscious citizens, save individuals and the community money, stave off most health and environmental complications caused by the landfill, and help "keep Brevard beautiful!"

If any residents have questions, would like to offer suggestions, or are interested in learning more about getting involved in a community-scale composting service, contact Anya Johnson at wmlbcompost@gmail.com.



Composting center for the Town of Melbourne Beach.

Anya Johnson is a senior at West Shore Senior High School and is completing a project of interest that stretches current abilities and teaches a new skill.

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:

- For a 24.64 acre property located at the northwest corner of St. Johns Heritage Parkway and West New Haven Avenue, approved Ordinance No. 2019-20 annexing the property, approved Ordinance No. 2019-22 to amend the future land use, and approved Ordinance No. 2019-23 to rezone the property to Gateway Interchange.
- For a 7.33 acre property located on the east side of Woodland Drive, approved Ordinance No. 2019-27 to amend the future land use map designation and approved Ordinance No. 2019-28 to rezone to Institutional for The Cottages at Buena Vida.
- Approved the annual update to the City's Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.
- Approved an extension until June 11, 2021, to commence construction for the Grace Church property on Minton Road.
- Awarded a contract to Young's Communication Company in the amount of \$1,099,764 for the Columbia Lane-Brandywine Lane Water Main Project.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2019-24 providing for the establishment of regulations for the review and approval of extrajurisdictional developments that require infrastructure improvements within West Melbourne.
- Approved the purchase of warning signs for the Imagine Way school zone.
- Awarded a contract to Danus Utilities, Inc., in the amount of \$438,260 for the rehabilitation of four sewer lift stations

For more information on Council meetings, visit the City's website at www.westmelbourne.org. View agendas, minutes, summaries of action, or watch a Council meeting live.

2019-2020 Citizen Leadership Academy Graduates

Mayor Hal Rose and City Manager Scott Morgan presented certificates to the graduates of the 2019-2020 West Melbourne Citizens Leadership Academy on January 21, 2020. This seven-week academy ran from November 12, 2019, through January 15, 2020. Participants learned about the inner-workings of their municipal government and included walking tours of various City facilities. Look for the start of the 2020-2021 Academy this fall.

Graduates of the 2019-2020 West Melbourne Citizens Leadership Academy (not all shown in photo) were:

Will Decker
Cathy Devine
Nan Evans

Hugh MacDonald
Joan Mac Donald
Nicholas Meadows

Grisel Reid
Linda Smura
Brett Tam



A Look at the Past: Interstate 95 Alignment in Southern Brevard County

In 1962, the south Brevard reach of I-95 was being proposed. Preliminary drawings showed the roadway located well east of its current location. At that time, the highway was proposed to cut through the airport property and through Melbourne Village. This proposal would have dissected the City of West Melbourne at that time.

On February 21, 1962, the West Melbourne City Council met and asked that letters to be written to the state legislators as well as the state engineer in Deland asking that the road be placed further west, proposing that it be west of John Rodes Boulevard. Concern was expressed at that time that it would cut through the landing fields for the airport.

I-95 officially opened in 1965 and was built west of the city limits at that time. Today, West Melbourne has expanded and annexed properties west of I-95, particularly along U.S. 192. The exits along most of Florida's Interstates switched from sequential numbering to mileage-based in 2002. There are currently two exits from I-95 to West Melbourne: Exit 176 at Palm Bay Road and Exit 180 at West New Haven Avenue. With the new interchange under construction at Ellis Road, there will be a third West Melbourne exit from I-95, Exit 181.



Are you an instructor? Do you need a place to hold classes? We have a space for you! Contact the Recreation Department at 321-837-7779.

The Sun Newsletter
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(Back L-R) Council Member Daniel Batcheldor, Council Member Pat Bentley, Deputy Mayor John Dittmore, and Council Member Adam Gaffney
(Front L-R) Council Member Andrea Young, Mayor Hal J. Rose, and Council Member Barbara A. Smith.

West Melbourne City Council

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City Calendar

March 2020

3	Community Redevelopment Agency	6:00 p.m.
3	City Council	6:30 p.m.
8	Daylight Savings Time Begins	
10	Planning & Zoning Board	6:30 p.m.
11	Parks & Recreation Advisory Board	6:00 p.m.
12	Charter Review Committee	6:30 p.m.
17	Presidential Preference Primary	
19	Code Enforcement Board	5:30 p.m.
26	Board of Adjustment	7:00 p.m.

April 2020

7	City Council	6:30 p.m.
9	Charter Review Committee	6:30 p.m.
12	Easter	
14	Planning & Zoning Board	6:30 p.m.
16	Code Enforcement Board	5:30 p.m.
21	City Council	6:30 p.m.
23	Board of Adjustment	7:00 p.m.
27	Business Advisory Board	6:30 p.m.
29	Police Officers Retirement Board	9:00 a.m.