

# The Sun Newsletter

City of West Melbourne's Community Publication

May/June 2020

## Volunteer of the Year

At the City Council meeting of March 3, 2020, Mayor Hal Rose and City Council presented the Volunteer of the Year for 2019 to Sandra Michelson.

Ms. Michelson currently serves on the Code Enforcement Board and Charter Review Committee. She has served on several other boards in her 20+ year history of service to the City.



## Hurricane Preparedness

Would you and your family be prepared if a tropical storm or a hurricane were to strike? Do you have emergency supplies gathered in case you have to evacuate during a hurricane?

If you answered no to these questions, you are not alone. Statistics show that many people are ill prepared when a disaster strikes. To avoid being left unprepared, educate yourself and your family about what steps need to be taken before a disaster occurs.

Hurricanes frequently threaten each year and an active season is predicted for 2020. Knowledge and preparation are the keys to surviving when disasters strike. There are many great sources of information available to you such as Brevard County Emergency Management, at [www.embrevard.com](http://www.embrevard.com) as well as the National Hurricane Center at [www.nhc.noaa.gov](http://www.nhc.noaa.gov) and selecting the 'Educational Resources' drop-down menu.

You can also register with AlertBrevard to receive weather related emergency notices. Visit the City's website at [www.westmelbourne.org](http://www.westmelbourne.org).

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## Service on an Advisory Board

The City is looking for residents that have an interest in serving on a board or committee. Currently, there is a vacancy on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. This Board meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of every other month (6 times a year) to review matters related to parks and recreation programs and facilities. The Board is advisory to City Council. Applicants must be a resident of the City of West Melbourne and a registered voter.

There is also a vacancy on the Business Advisory Board. This board meets the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of every other month (6 times a year) to provide advice to the City Council on how the City can implement measures that will promote, improve and meet the needs of commercial establishments. Applicants must hold a current Business Tax Receipt with the City; two members may be from a licensed business located within a one-mile radius of the City in unincorporated Brevard County.

If you are interested in serving, complete an application online at [www.westmelbourne.org](http://www.westmelbourne.org). To have an application sent to you via email or by mail, contact the City Clerk at 837-7774.

## Rainy Season

Florida's rainy season begins June 1, and preparation for potential flooding is important for public agencies, homeowners associations, and property owners alike.

There are three principal public agencies that maintain drainage canal and public street swale drainages in our community. The largest and most significant drainage canals south of US 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 US 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.

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 is 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 the own driveway. Not keeping this pipe clear can impact you and your neighbors in the event of a major rainstorm.



## 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.

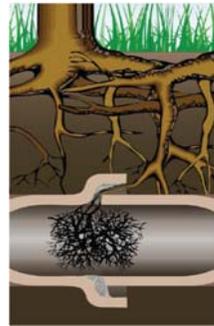
### Fats, Oils, and Grease (FOG)

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

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

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	

### Watch Your Roots



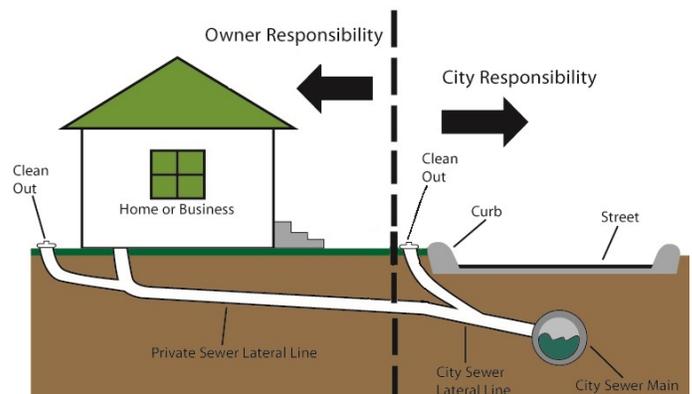
Shrub and tree roots, seeking moisture, will make their way into cracks in the sewer line. Once the roots have penetrated the line through cracks, the roots can trap materials and cause a blockage.

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

### Throw Wipes in Trash

Toilet paper substitutes and flushable wipes are not really flushable. Byproducts of non-biodegradable materials create what is known as a rag in the sewer system. These rags will stop the flow of sewage and create backups into homes. This creates costly sewer backups.

### **Who's Responsible When the Plumbing Backs Up?**



## City Council Actions

Your City Council works hard and makes decisions on important issues. Your elected officials all seek 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:

- Adopted Resolution No. 2020-04 vacating an unnecessary easement on Tract G-5 of the Coastal Commerce Center.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2020-01 accepting the dedication of water distribution system and sanitary system for the Sawgrass Lakes Phase Five subdivision.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2020-02 approving development impact fee funding for roadway improvement projects and amending the 2019-2020 Capital Improvement Construction fund budget.
- Approved a task order for professional engineering services for the Hollywood Boulevard and Imagine Way Intersection Signal and Street Improvement Project in the not-to-exceed amount of \$80,640.
- Approved the gated community and recreation fee agreement for Ascend Hammock Landing apartment complex.
- Held a public hearing in advance of considering a Community Development Block Grant application.
- Received the West Melbourne/Brevard County Joint Community Redevelopment Agency FY 2018-2019 Annual Report.

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

## Council/Mayor Election Year

A City election is scheduled as part of the General Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Registered voters will be asked to select three City Council members and a Mayor. To be eligible to vote in the General Election, you must register to vote by October 5, 2020.

The Mayor and Council elected in the general election will serve four-year terms through November 2024. If you are interested in running for City Council or for Mayor, contact the City Clerk at 321-837-7774 to obtain information about running for office. Candidates must announce their candidacy prior to qualifying. The qualifying period will be from 12:00 noon on July 30, through 12:00 noon on August 13, 2020.

For more information on the upcoming election or to register to vote, visit the Brevard County Supervisor of Election website at [www.votebrevard.com](http://www.votebrevard.com), or call 321-633-2124.

Polling locations for those precincts located within the City are listed below.

Precinct	Voting Location
309	Veterans Memorial Complex 2285 Minton Road, West Melbourne
503	West Melbourne Public Library 2755 Wingate Blvd, West Melbourne
523 and 525	Wesley United Methodist Church 2075 Meadowlane Ave, West Melbourne

## City of West Melbourne Boasts Strong Financial Position

As the world and our nation endures an economic downturn, West Melbourne citizens, businesses and not-for-profit organizations should be pleased to learn that the City of West Melbourne's financial position is very strong. Our City has a small debt load, a very large cash position, and our money market and very short term, highly rated bond investments are all invested entirely consistent with our mantra that safety and return of principal is our number one goal, and that there is no secondary goal. We have not, and will not, ever venture into longer term or lower rated bonds looking to increase yield.

The financial strength of the City of West Melbourne is important. It enables the City to continue to provide citizens with the high quality municipal services that have come to be expected. We have substantial reserves to carry us through the downturn. While none of us knows how long the economy will be on its heels, West Melbourne is prepared to deliver not only our most essential services, including law enforcement, drinking water, and sanitary sewer service, but services that improve the quality of life in our community, including planning and parks and recreation services.

City financial statements and budgets may be found on our website. Management reports quarterly to the City Council on the status of the City's revenues and expenses. For those with greater interest in the City's finances, citizens are welcome to contact City Manager Scott Morgan or Finance Director Margi Starkey.

**A Look at the Past:  
The West Melbourne Ferry  
By Mary B. Hewitt**  
*Reprinted from January 2015*

Friends and relatives who lived on both sides of the St. Johns River and wanted to visit with each other had to take the West Melbourne Ferry in order to do so.

The West Melbourne Ferry was one of the most interesting operations I have researched while writing these articles. The loading dock was on Highway 192. The St. Johns River at this site was 200 – 300 feet wide, very deep, and overhanging with a thick fringe of overgrowth. The river was dotted with lily-pads, and was the color of very strong brewed tea.

The ferry was actually a primitive barge, just barely long enough to accommodate a light Model-T or a wagon, driver, and two mules or horses. It was operated by a single cable that came up out of the brownish water and ran through a roller on a post. A couple of slotted handles hung from the cable.

The trick was to hook the ferry on the cable and then walk along the length of the ferry pulling the barge toward the opposite bank.

During times of high water, the ferry was useless and travelers had to detour to Lake Winder in Cocoa and use the county ferry.



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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**

(subject to change - please check our website)

**May 2020**

5	City Council Workshop	5:30 p.m.
5	City Council	6:30 p.m.
12	Planning & Zoning Board	6:30 p.m.
13	Parks & Recreation Advisory Board	6:00 p.m.
19	Community Redevelopment Agency	6:00 p.m.
19	City Council	6:30 p.m.
21	Code Enforcement Board	5:30 p.m.
25	Memorial Day — Offices Closed	
28	Board of Adjustment	7:00 p.m.

**June 2020**

2	City Council Workshop	5:30 p.m.
2	City Council	6:30 p.m.
9	Planning & Zoning Board	6:30 p.m.
16	City Council Workshop	5:30 p.m.
16	City Council	6:30 p.m.
18	Code Enforcement Board	5:30 p.m.
22	Business Advisory Board	6:30 p.m.
25	Board of Adjustment	7:00 p.m.