

The Sun Newsletter

City of West Melbourne's Community Publication

July/August 2020

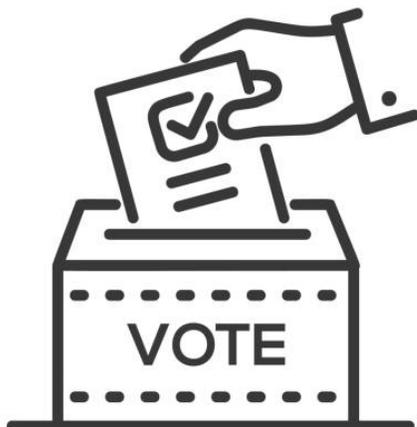
Ballot Referendum for Charter Amendments

On March 12, 2020, the Charter Review Committee concluded its decennial assessment of the City Charter. After months of review, the Committee recommended several amendments to the City Council.

Council has been reviewing an ordinance which will ask that the five amendments be included on the ballot for West Melbourne voters. Citizens will be asked to vote "Yes" or "No" on amendments for the chief of police, candidate qualifying petitions, filling of city council and mayor vacancies, city council and mayor compensation, and powers and duties of the Board of Adjustment.

If approved by Council, these five amendments will be included on the ballot for the November 3, 2020 General Election. Notice of these amendments will be advertised in the newspaper as required and made available for review.

For more information or to see how the charter language will be amended, contact the City Clerk at 321-837-7774 or email chans-com@westmelbourne.org.



West Melbourne Doing Well in U.S. Census Self-Response Rate

As of June 5, West Melbourne households are doing fairly well in self-reporting their household information to the U.S. Census Bureau, compared to Florida as a whole and Brevard County as a whole.

As of June 5, the U.S. Census Bureau reports the following self-response rates:

Florida	58.1%
Brevard County	66.1%
City of West Melbourne	69.6%

While West Melbourne's self-response rate is good, for the more than one-fourth of West Melbourne households who have not yet reported, the City of West Melbourne asks that you please do so. Future federal and state revenues to the City are dependent upon a complete count of people living in West Melbourne in the 2020 Census.

For those who have not yet responded, there are three ways to respond – via computer, via telephone, or via the U.S. Post Office. It is every household's duty to respond, and self-responding insures that a Census taker will not need to visit your home. This is especially important in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, so self-report today!



Hurricane Q & A

What is the difference between a Hurricane Watch Vs Hurricane Warning?

A hurricane watch means that conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are **possible** within the specified area. A hurricane watch is issued 48 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds in an area. Prepare your home and, if you live in a mobile home, review your plan for evacuation in case a hurricane or tropical storm warning is issued. Listen closely to instructions from local officials.

Hurricane warnings indicate that conditions (sustained winds of 74 mph or higher) are **expected**. Because hurricane preparedness activities become difficult once winds reach tropical storm force (sustained winds of 39 to 73 mph), the hurricane warning is issued 36 hours in advance of the anticipated onset of tropical-storm-force winds to allow for important preparation. Complete storm preparations and mobile home residents should immediately leave to a safer location if directed by local officials.

What do the category designations of a hurricane mean?

- | | | |
|-----------|---|-------------------|
| 1 | - | 74-95 mph |
| 2 | - | 96-110 mph |
| 3 (major) | - | 111-129 mph |
| 4 (major) | - | 130-156 mph |
| 5 (major) | - | 157 mph or higher |



What is the worst side of a hurricane?

As a general rule of thumb, the hurricane's **right** side (relative to the direction it is travelling) is the most dangerous part of the storm because of the additive effect of the hurricane wind speed and speed of the larger atmospheric flow (the steering winds).

What is storm surge, and why is it so deadly?

Large and/or strong hurricanes and tropical storms often collect and push water ahead of them, forming a "hill of water" generally to the right side of a hurricane and ahead of the center. That hill becomes destructive when it approaches the shallow waters near a landmass. If winds are strong enough or have enough momentum, that water is forced to inundate coastal areas. Storm surge is the reason that the vast majority of coastal cities have set up evacuation zones. These zones are based on both past hurricanes and ocean models used by meteorologists.

Where can I go to find emergency management information during a hurricane?

Brevard County Management has a website at www.embrevard.com where you can find the current status and updated information on the most recent storm. This website also provides information on school closures, boil water alerts, Alert Brevard notifications, evacuation notices, recovery information and when it's safe to return home. There are many websites and resources online to provide information but please remember to search those that are trusted sources such as West Melbourne, Brevard County, or the State of Florida, a local, county, state or federal agency.



AlertBrevard – Emergency Alert System

Recently, the City switched to a new community emergency notification system called AlertBrevard. This system allows us to notify residents and businesses of safety issues such as boil water notices, hazardous incidents, law enforcement alerts and other emergency situations. This notification system also includes weather alerts such as severe weather and hurricane notices. These calls provide instructions on how to keep you and your family safe.

You can receive these critical alerts in numerous ways – text messages, telephone calls or email. You can choose to receive them on landlines and/or cell phones and can change your preferences at any time. Additionally, the information you provide is used solely for emergency notifications and is never sold to a third party.

To sign up for this important service, visit the City's web page at www.westmelbourne.org. If you should have any questions, please call City Hall at (321) 727-7700.



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:

- Adopted Resolution No. 2020-06 vacating an unpaved portion of Espanola Way on the west side of Carolina Street.
- Awarded a contract to Doug Wilson Enterprises, Inc., in the amount of \$332,275 for the expansion and renovation of the maintenance building at West Melbourne Community Park.
- Approved continuing contracts for city engineering projects from Infrastructure Solution Services, Hazen and Sawyer, DRMP, Bowman Consulting, and Chen Moore and Associates.
- Awarded a contract to Young's Communication Co., Inc., in the amount of \$83,056 for the extension of a water line in Fell Road and Fellwood Estates.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2020-07 providing waivers and reduction of certain fees to assist small businesses recovering from business losses due to impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2020-08 approving group health insurance plans for the 2020-2021 plan year.
- Approved a task order for the engineering design of an additional eastbound lane on Norfolk Parkway approaching Minton Road.
- Approved the final plat of Space Coast Town Centre East—Phase 1.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2020-02 to provide for amendments modifying the City's Charter be included on the November 3, 2020 ballot.

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.

Gazebo Gets a Facelift



The gazebo at Jan Lieson Crossroads Park on Minton Road was recently painted by the Parks and Recreation employees.

West Melbourne Community Park

The West Melbourne Community Park continues to open in phases.

With the issuance of the Governor's Executive Order for Phase 2 to Re-Open Florida, staff began to work toward having all portions of the park open to the public.

The 41,100 square foot skate park re-opened on June 5 with hours from 8:30 am to 9:00 pm.

Plans to open the 12-feature splash pad should occur in mid-June once repairs are made. The regular summer hours will be 10 am to 7 pm.

It is expected the Field of Dreams will open in either June or July, once repairs are made and a policy is developed for use of the facility.

For more information, contact the Recreation Department at 321-837-7779.

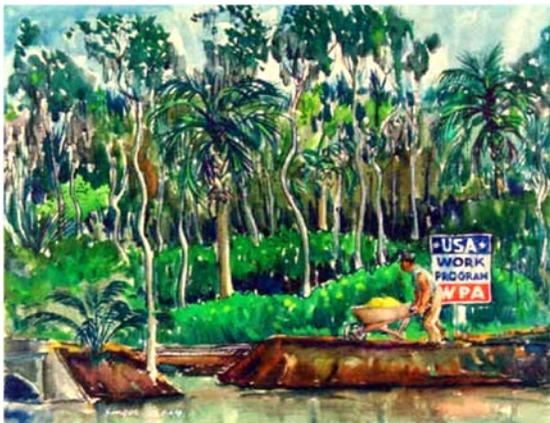


A Look at the Past: Works Progress Administration (WPA) Workers

Reprinted from *History of West Melbourne*
Fred A. Hopwood

During the depression of the thirties, the federal government supplied the money to pay those in need and who were willing and able to work on projects selected by local people, and if the employee had a large family he was allowed a supply of surplus food. The pay was 20 cents per hour and they worked on road building and maintenance. One of the projects was the Kissimmee Highway (U.S. 192), which had washed out by high water in 1934. The WPA Superintendent obtained workers by traveling past Minton's Corner (corner of Minton Road and U.S. 192) at 5 mph so that men could climb aboard and were assured a day's work.

There were no chain stores or supermarkets and many of the grocery stores were family owned. Most of the grocers gave a week's credit to WPA employees, but until the prior weekly bill was paid, no more credit was available. One week the Jacksonville office, through some oversight or error, failed to get the payroll back to Brevard County. In addition, the shipment of surplus commodities had been delayed and there was no food, no money and no credit. Although only a matter of days, there was a threat of hungry people breaking into the stores.



Painting by Clyde Singer, an American artist who focused his work on rural and small town life, entitled *USA work program, WPA, Florida*.

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.

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City Calendar

July 2020

3	Independence Day—Offices Closed	
7	City Council	6:30 p.m.
12	Planning & Zoning Board	6:30 p.m.
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.
29	Police Officer's Retirement Board of Trustees	9:00 a.m.

August 2020

11	Community Redevelopment Agency	6:00 p.m.
11	City Council	6:30 p.m.
12	Planning & Zoning Board	6:30 p.m.
18	Primary Election Day	
20	Code Enforcement Board	5:30 p.m.
24	Business Advisory Board	6:30 p.m.
27	Board of Adjustment	7:00 p.m.