

The Sun Newsletter

City of West Melbourne's Community Publication

January/February 2021

MUNICIPAL ELECTION RESULTS

Congratulations and welcome to re-elected Council Member Pat Bentley, newly elected Council Member Stephen Phrampus, and newly elected Council Member Daniel McDow. Each will serve a four-year term. In addition, we welcome back Mayor Hal Rose for another four-year term. All were sworn into office during the Tuesday, November 24, 2020, City Council meeting.



Council Member Stephen Phrampus

Newly-elected Council Member Stephen Phrampus has lived in West Melbourne for the last four years and is retired from the law enforcement field.



Council Member Daniel McDow

Newly-elected Council Member Daniel McDow has lived in West Melbourne for the last 10 years and is the owner of DBMC LLC.



Council Member Pat Bentley

Council Member Pat Bentley was re-elected and has served on Council since 2008. Mr. Bentley has lived in West Melbourne for 23 years and is retired.



Mayor Hal Rose

Mayor Hal Rose was also sworn into office for a four-year term and was unopposed in the 2020 election. He has served the City for more than 20 years and has lived in West Melbourne for over 30 years.



In addition to the election of Council, five amendments to the City Charter were approved by West Melbourne voters. The amendments covered qualification and reporting for the chief of police, qualifying signatures for candidates, vacancies of council and the mayor, salaries for the council and the mayor, and items to come before the Board of Adjustment.

The voter turn-out for West Melbourne (83.6 percent) was higher than that overall turnout for Brevard County (80.4 percent).

2021 Mayors' Fitness Challenge

In an effort to encourage Brevard County families to get healthier and more active, the City of West Melbourne will participate in the Annual Mayors' Fitness Challenge sponsored by Health First and United Way.



Mayor Hal Rose will be forming a team for West Melbourne again this year. The team with the most points earned by participating in physical fitness events and activities will be named the winner. The event will include an individual weight loss competition for adults with a cash prize. All you have to do is get moving and track your activity.

Events will be different this year than in previous years because of the pandemic. There will be no group walks held so as to discourage large gatherings. There will be more virtual walks and daily challenges. In addition there will be free on-line exercise classes. Random drawings will be held each week for participants reporting their minutes.

If you are interested in participating on the West Melbourne team, registration opens Monday, December 7. For more information, or to register, please visit www.uwbrevard.org and select "West Melbourne" as your team!

There will be a virtual kick-off event on Saturday, February 6, 2021. Stay tuned for more information!

Yoga in the Park

If you want to get out and get some exercise in a group activity, the City is offering two different exercise programs at the West Melbourne Community Park.

Belly Dancing Exercises
Saturdays at 10:00 a.m.

Yoga in the Park
Tuesday/Thursday evenings from 6 to 7 p.m.



All classes will be held at the amphitheater. Please remember that all social distancing recommendations will be maintained. For more information about the cost and/or to sign up, contact the Recreation Department at 321-837-7779.

Exploratory Water Well

If you look carefully, on the north side of Henry Avenue in an undeveloped wooded area between Dorset Drive and Kelley Lane, the City is drilling an exploratory water well. Raw water could be produced as part of the supply for a future water plant to be located on the City's public works property south of Henry Avenue. Water quality and production data from two separate deep (300–500 feet and 800+ feet) underground aquifer zones is being gathered from that exploratory drilling that will provide guidance for the design of the future reverse osmosis water plant.

Currently, West Melbourne purchases all of its drinking water from the City of Melbourne, distributing potable water through West Melbourne's own distribution system. West Melbourne's contract with Melbourne provides for an opt-out opportunity in 2026, provided West Melbourne gives Melbourne notice by the end of 2021. Quality and production data from the test well being drilled in the wooded area on the north side of Henry will confirm and refine quality and production estimates from other area raw water production wells. This data will be combined with the analysis conducted through the comprehensive engineering feasibility study for a new water plant.



Update Your Utility Contact Information

Please take a moment to update your contact phone number and/or email address information with us. It is important that we are able to contact you to keep you informed of any issues regarding your utility account.

A quick link, "**Contact Information Update**," has been added to our website at www.westmelbourne.org/utilities.

If you do not have access to a computer, there is a blank form on the back of your bill. You can also pick up the form at City Hall or call 321-837-7750 to have one mailed to you.

Thank you for helping us better serve you.

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 the last few months:

- Approved annual salary increases for the City Manager, City Attorney and Chief of Police.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2020-24 providing for building permit fee reductions to assist in the economic recovery from impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, which supplemented those reductions approved by Resolution No. 2020-22.
- Approved the purchase of two BMW motorcycles for the Police Department.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2020-09, containing code revisions to the fence code to modify setbacks for residential corner lots.
- Approved an agreement with the police union organization, Coastal Florida Police Benevolent Association, with a term ending December 31, 2022, and approved Resolution No. 2020-26 amending the 2020-2021 budget.
- Approved the purchase of a replacement John Deere tractor and for three public works fleet vehicles.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2020-28 approving the Brevard County Local Mitigation Strategy Plan.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2020-29 approving the certified results from the November 3, 2020 election.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2020-30 approving an agreement with the Florida Department of Transportation for the maintenance of certain right-of-ways.
- Received the annual reports and made appointments and reappointments to various boards and committees.

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.

Lights! Camera! Action!

The West Melbourne Police Department has been creating informative videos on various topics of importance to the community. Such topics include vehicle burglary prevention, porch pirate theft prevention and the dangers of driving under the influence. The videos have been posted to the Police Department's social media accounts (Facebook, Instagram, YouTube, Nextdoor and Twitter).

Please take a few minutes to check out the videos, use the comment section to share your thoughts or give suggestions for future videos. We want to make sure during this challenging time to share this important information so you can be a more informed citizen and partner with us to keep our community safe.



Mayor Hal J. Rose Honored

The Florida League of Cities recognized Hal J. Rose for 20 years of service to West Melbourne with the John Land Years of Service award. The award is named in honor of John Land, former mayor of Apopka, and is presented to those who have reached a landmark in years of service. The League supports municipal leaders as they strive for excellence in governance of their cities.

Mayor Rose was recognized at the City Council meeting of November 24, 2020 with a plaque, resolution issued by the League, and a pin.

A special video was prepared by the League and played before the public at the City Council meeting.

Congratulations to Mayor Rose!



A Look at the Past: Gebrowsky Farm

*Excerpt taken from recounting by
Martha Gebrowsky Mirowsky*

Alexander Gebrowsky (born in Kiev, Russia) and Mary Gebrowsky (born in Austria, Hungary) settled in West Melbourne at the property at the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Fell Road.

Originally, Alexander worked in the coal mines in Colorado until he became sick with pneumonia. The doctor at that time told him to leave "cold" country. He then bought 30 acres of land in Florida, sight unseen. Alexander, Mary and the three children traveled from Colorado by train to Titusville and then hired a taxi (horse and buggy) to take them the rest of the way to Melbourne. Alexander worked for the Union Cypress Railroad until his death in 1931.

The family grew to have a total of eight children and they farmed the land and grew potatoes, watermelon and onions. The crops were taken to Hopkins Freight Station where they were shipped up north. In 1925, the family stopped farming and went into the dairy business. All the milk not used by the family was sold to residents, restaurants and a few businesses in Melbourne.

Education was very important to the Gebrowsky family. The children walked by dirt road to the school bus stop on Highway 192. All the children were able to achieve a high school education and one went on to become a doctor.

After the death of Alexander, Mary continued working the dairy farm and raising the children. Some years later, when the property was sold, it was developed into the Saddlebrook subdivision.

The Sun Newsletter
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City Calendar

January 2021

1	New Year's Day—Offices Closed	
12	Planning & Zoning Board	6:30 p.m.
13	Parks and Recreation Advisory Board	6:00 p.m.
18	Martin Luther King Day—Offices Closed	
19	City Council	6:30 p.m.
21	Code Enforcement Board	5:30 p.m.
27	Police Officer's Retirement Board	9:00 a.m.
28	Board of Adjustment	7:00 p.m.

February 2021

2	City Council	6:30 p.m.
9	Planning & Zoning Board	6:30 p.m.
15	President's Day—Offices Closed	
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.

