

# The Sun Newsletter

City of West Melbourne's Community Publication

September/October 2022

## Welcome to New City Manager Tim Rhode



City Manager Tim Rhode stepped into his new role as City Manager on September 1, 2022. Mr. Rhode was hired by the City as an Assistant City Manager a year ago on September 17, 2022. Earlier this year and pending the retirement of City Manager Scott Morgan, City Council began recruiting for a new City Man-

ager. After review of the applications and consideration of the needs of the City, Council selected Tim Rhode for the position in May 2022.

He has been actively involved in all aspects of West Melbourne's future including financial and economic development, growth management, and expanding utility projects. He is keenly aware that tasks are to be accomplished while maintaining one of the lowest ad valorem tax rates in Brevard County.

Mr. Rhode's career in local government spans almost 20 years, beginning in Wisconsin. He has served as Village Administrator for the Villages of Hartland and Cedarburg, as well as the City of St. Francis.

Mr. Rhode holds a Bachelor's degree in Public Policy and Administration/Emphasis in Management from the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater and a Master's degree in Public Administration/Municipal Management from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. He and his wife Jana have a daughter who attends Florida International University and a son who attends the University of Indianapolis.

City Council and staff look forward to what Mr. Rhode can do for the City as we move into the future.

## West Melbourne Salutes Hometown Heroes

The City of West Melbourne's Hometown Heroes program honors residents who are actively serving in the U.S. Armed Forces or are veterans, as well as deceased veterans who were immediate family members of current residents, and who had close ties to West Melbourne in life. To celebrate Veterans Day, the City will display Hometown Heroes street pole banners along West New Haven Avenue between Circle Drive and Interstate 95. The banners will include the honoree's name, branch of service, era of service, and photograph.



Qualified nominees will be selected for banners on a first come, first served basis. To qualify for a banner, honorees must be either:

- a current City of West Melbourne resident who is a United States Armed Forces active duty or honorably discharged service member; or
- a deceased veteran who is the immediate family member of a current City of West Melbourne resident, and who had close ties to the City. Immediate family members include wife or husband, son or daughter, mother or father, or grandson or granddaughter.

The City is currently accepting applications for the Hometown Heroes program. In order to have a banner included in the 2022 Veterans Day display, the nomination must be received on or before September 16. For more information on the Hometown Heroes banner program or to apply, please visit [www.westmelbourne.gov/heroes](http://www.westmelbourne.gov/heroes) or call the City Attorney's Office at 321-837-7772.

## Fall Recreation Update

The Recreation Department has been recruiting for new music programs and are pleased to announce the availability of the following:

**Piano Lessons**  
with Vanessa Jara



**Guitar Lessons**  
with Noah



**Voice Lessons**  
with Vanessa Hagans

Also offered this fall will be a **Creative Writing Series** with dates yet to be determined. Contact the Recreation Department for more information.



### Feel Good Fridays!!

This Fall the Recreation Department will continue the "Feel Good Friday" live concerts at the West Melbourne Community Park. Concerts start at 6:00 p.m. During the events, Promise Café will offer hot dogs, pulled pork sandwiches, drinks and ice cream! Grab your blanket or chair and come out to enjoy an evening of great music!

### After School Tennis Lessons

The Recreation Department is also offering after-school tennis lessons, which starts in August. Contact the Recreation Department for age groups and times.

Contact the Recreation Department at 321-837-7779 or go online at [www.westmelbourne.gov/387/Parks-](http://www.westmelbourne.gov/387/Parks-)

## CTE Internship Program

Connecting students and the business community is a successful strategy to fulfill industry needs. With 42 unique programs, industry-recognized certifications, and rigorous cutting-edge instruction, Brevard County School's Career & Technical Education programs provide entry-level skills needed to grow the talent pipeline. Businesses interested in providing the opportunity to mentor a high school student, contact a CTE specialist at 321-633-1000 x 11357 or visit the Brevard Public Schools website for more information.



Career & Technical Education

## Beautification Award

At the City Council meeting on Tuesday, August 9, 2022, City Council presented Joe Kilmer, owner of Top Notch Lawn Care, Inc, with a Beautification Award for his property located at 1221-1223 South Wickham Road. Mr. Kilmer has beautified his property by planting and arranging shrubs and trees as well as providing screening for company equipment.



Pictured from left to right are: Deputy Mayor Andrea Young, Owner Joe Kilmer, Mayor Hal Rose, and Council Member Diana Adams.

## Comprehensive Plan Update

The City of West Melbourne is in the process of updating its Comprehensive Plan, a long-term planning document that will guide our City's growth and ensure that we continue to enhance local quality of life for the next 20 years. Over the year-long process, we will generate the City's vision and direction for its future through feedback from residents and local businesses, and will be crafting updated implementation policies that will support this vision for our future as well as ensure that the City continues to maintain compliance with state statutes.

A visioning workshop has been scheduled for Friday, September 9, 2022, in the Veterans Memorial Complex, 2285 Minton Road, West Melbourne.

The consultant hired by the City to develop the plan, Corradino Group, has set up the following email for the Comprehensive Plan: [WestMelbourneCompPlan2040@corradino.com](mailto:WestMelbourneCompPlan2040@corradino.com) which will be available to answer any questions from residents.

## 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 the purchase of new playground equipment for Clements Wood Park.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2022-13 exchanging a position in the Recreation Department from a Recreation Supervisor to a new Coordinator position for Special Populations.
- Adopted Ordinance No. 2022-09 revising the landscape and tree codes to provide more stringent requirements for tree removal, preservation and general landscaping.
- Appointed Diana Adams to City Council for the unexpired term vacated as a result of the resignation of Daniel Batchelder.
- Approved an employment agreement with City Manager Designee Tim Rhode.
- Approved a rate increase of 60 cents a month for Waste Management as the solid waste collection franchise holder for the final year of the contract from October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023.
- Approved the final plat of Phase 1A of the Space Coast Town Center creating Lot 2 in the mixed use development located west of Interstate 95, east of St. Johns Heritage Parkway and south of U.S. 192.
- Approved the first amendment to the development agreement for the Space Coast Town Center incorporating the development of a 4.65 acre pond previously owned by Brevard County.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2022-12 and Ordinance No. 2022-13 for the small scale map amendment and rezoning for a 4.65 acre pond that would be incorporated into the Space Coast Town Center.
- Approved the site plan for Integra Apartments for a 319-unit community located at the northwest corner of U.S. 192 and St. Johns Heritage Parkway.
- Approved funding the water portion of the Melbourne Estates project to be constructed concurrently with the Melbourne Estates Flood Risk Reduction Project by the contractor Young's Communication, Inc.
- Established a proposed millage rate at the rollback rate of 2.1186 per thousand dollars of taxable value for the purpose of advertising a Wednesday, September 7, 2022, public hearing to consider adopting a tentative budget and proposed millage rate.
- Adopted Resolution No. 2022-12 updating the listing of landscape plants to the meet the City's minimum code requirements.
- Approved a three-year agreement with Brevard County's Natural Resource Management Department Stormwater Program for the administration of the City's stormwater program.
- Approved cost share agreements with Save Our Indian River Lagoon for septic-to-sewer projects for neighborhoods along Sheridan Road.

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

## General Election and Early Voting

We want to remind residents that there will be a general election this year on November 8, 2022. West Melbourne residents will be asked to elect three persons to fill seats on the City Council.

Early voting will be available at several locations across the County from October 4 through November 4. The early voting site located in West Melbourne is at the Max K. Rodes Park Community Center at 3410 Flanagan Avenue, and will be open Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The site will also have a secure ballot intake station for voters wishing to drop off their mailed ballots. Registration for voting in the general election will close October 11, 2022.

To register to vote or obtain more information on other early voting locations, visit the Brevard County Supervisor of Elections website at [votebrevard.gov](http://votebrevard.gov).



## A Look at the Past: City Administrators and Managers

The City Manager is the Chief Administrative Officer for the city, providing executive leadership in compliance with the City Charter and state statutes. He or she is responsible for all activities and operations of the city; and ensures the financial integrity of the municipal organization while providing policy advice and administrative support to the Mayor and City Council.

When the City was first incorporated in 1959, City staff included a City Clerk and Building Inspector. As years went by other positions were added, such as Town Marshall, Public Works crew members, a bookkeeper, and others. However, the overall management and operation of the City was handled by the Council.

At the meeting of June 6, 1978, City Council appointed **James W. Manuel III** as the first City Administrator. He began work on June 7, 1978, and served a little over a year.

Late in 1979, **John Saxton**, was hired as City Administrator at an annual salary of \$18,000, but only served for about six months, ending his employment in June 1980.

**Mark Ryan**, the Parks and Beautification Director, was assigned as the Acting City Administrator in mid-1980, which he served until November of that same year, when he was appointed to the permanent position starting with an annual salary of \$16,000. It was during his service that the position was renamed to City Manager. Mr. Ryan served as City Manager for almost 25 years, leaving in February 2006.

In August of 2006, Council hired **David Reynal**, who served for 3 years, leaving in July 2009.

Following the resignation of Mr. Reynal, Council recruited **Scott Morgan**, a professional city manager from California, who started in July 2009 and recently retired at the end of August 2022.

City Manager **Tim Rhode**, who started September 1, 2022, is the City's sixth City Manager, and will follow the other leaders by taking the City into the future.



The Sun Newsletter  
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## West Melbourne City Council



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## City Calendar

### September 2022

5	Labor Day Holiday—Offices Closed	
7	City Council	6:30 p.m.
13	Planning & Zoning Board	6:30 p.m.
14	Joint Parks & Recreation Advisory Board and Business Advisory Board	6:00 p.m.
15	Code Enforcement Board	5:30 p.m.
21	City Council	6:30 p.m.
22	Board of Adjustment	7:00 p.m.

### October 2022

4	City Council	6:30 p.m.
12	Planning & Zoning Board	6:30 p.m.
18	City Council	6:30 p.m.
20	Code Enforcement Board	5:30 p.m.
24	Business Advisory Board	6:30 p.m.
26	Police Officers Retirement Board	9:00 a.m.
27	Board of Adjustment	7:00 p.m.