



The Sun Newsletter

City of West Melbourne's Community Publication March/April 2021

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.

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.

MODEST WATER RATE CHANGES APPROVED

As recommended by the City Manager, the City Council recently approved minor changes in City water rates that become effective with the March billing. Fixed monthly rates increase modestly, partially offset by a small reduction in variable consumption rates. For a typical single-family home using 4,000 gallons of water a month, the net scheduled increases are as follows:

Effective March 1, 2021	27 cents a month (0.7% increase)
Effective March 1, 2022	60 cents a month (1.5% increase)
Effective March 1, 2023	80 cents a month (2.0% increase)



The net increase for non-residential customers is also modest, averaging a net 0.6% increase starting with the March bill.

Rates were amended to cover costs of planned water system improvements, including planned water main replacements and looping, and to better financially prepare for the development and construction of a new City water plant in 2025-2026.

COVID 19 VACCINE PREREGISTRATION SYSTEM

Florida officials have launched a statewide preregistration system to help schedule COVID-19 vaccine appointments for residents 65 and older and front-line health care workers. Residents can pre-register for vaccine appointments and be notified when appointments are available in their area.

To use the service for Brevard County, call **866-201-5420** (or 833-476-1525 for TTY users or those with hearing or speech difficulties). You can also go online to myvaccine.fl.gov.

There is also a help line in Brevard County to get questions answered on the pre-registration system. The help line number is 833-540-2041.

Here's how the state preregistration process works:

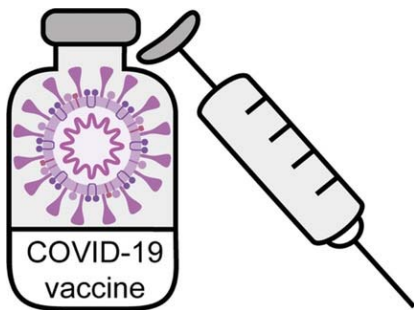
- The myvaccine.fl.gov website will allow individuals who are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to be proactively contacted when vaccine appointments are available at state-supported vaccination sites.
- On the site, residents can select their county, and submit their contact information.
- Once appointments are available, individuals will be contacted by phone call, text or email, and will be assisted in scheduling an appointment.


The Sharecare software will reserve a person's place in line, whether a resident calls or goes to the website to preregister. Eligible categories of residents include:

- Long-term-care facility residents and staff.
- Persons 65 years of age and older.
- Health care personnel with direct patient contact.

If someone does not meet these eligibility requirements, he or she will not be able to preregister.


See flyer to the right from the Florida Department of Health for the appropriate documents you will need to bring with you to your appointment.





COVID-19 VACCINE Proof of Adult Residency

Florida Department of Health · FloridaHealthCovid19.gov



State Surgeon General Scott A. Rivkees issued a **Public Health Advisory on January 21, 2021** prioritizing vaccines for residents and seasonal residents of Florida.


To receive COVID-19 vaccine in Florida, you must bring proof of residency.

RESIDENT
Bring a copy of a valid Florida driver license or Florida identification card.

SEASONAL RESIDENT
Bring copies of two of the following proofs of residential address.

- A deed, mortgage, monthly mortgage statement, mortgage payment booklet, residential rental or lease agreement.
- A utility hookup or work order dated within 60 days before registration.
- A utility bill, not more than 2 months old.
- Mail from a financial institution, including checking, savings or investment account statements, not more than 2 months old.
- Mail from a federal, state, county or municipal government agency, not more than 2 months old.

SEASONAL RESIDENT LIVING WITH A PERMANENT RESIDENT— INCLUDES A PARENT, STEP-PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN
Bring one proof of residential address from the list above, and a statement from the person you are living with.

 **Remember to wear a mask at the vaccine location.**

Florida Health Office of Communications 01/27/21

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:

- Awarded a contract to Insituform Technologies, LLC, for the annual lining (cured-in-place piping) of sewer pipes.
- Approved the professional engineering task order with Infrastructure Solution Services for the Biological Removal Upgrades and permit renewal services at the Ray Bullard Water Reclamation Facility.
- Approved the final plat for John's Landing subdivision.
- Awarded a contract to Danus Utilities for the rehabilitation of Idlewylde #115, Industrial #116 and Arrowood #139 sewer lift stations.
- Approved the budget amendment to sell retiring K-9 Jax, and amend the FY 2020-21 budget to accept a donation and purchase of a replacement dog.
- Approved the First Amendment to the Pineapple Cove Classical Academy Charter School Development Agreement for the second phase of their development, to include a \$250,000 contribution toward future Norfolk Parkway improvements.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2020-16 allowing private communities to choose whether or not to designate private roads for use by golf carts.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2020-10 allowing for commercial entrance feature signs.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2020-18 updating the City's Five Year Capital Improvement Plan.
- Approved Ordinance No. 2020-17 increasing water service charges and reducing water consumption charges effective March 1, 2021.

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.

Crime Prevention Tips for 2021

COVID-19 relief has created many scams. If someone calls asking for your personal information for COVID relief or solicits your personal information via mail, email or by phone, please refrain from doing so. The federal government will not solicit information from you and they are the only entity authorized to give you COVID relief funds. If you have questions about receiving a stimulus check go to: <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>

Income tax time is nearing and with that comes income tax fraud. If you are mailing your income tax returns, utilize the post office rather than a corner mailbox or your home mailbox by the street. Think of how you can prevent someone from accessing your social security number. For more information about tax fraud or fraud in general, please go to <https://www.ftc.gov/>.

If you have any questions or concerns about these or other topics, you can always contact the West Melbourne Police Department via email at crimeprevention@westmelbourne.org or call 321-723-9673.



2021 Mayors' Fitness Challenge

The 2021 Mayors' Fitness Challenge has started and all those who registered should be logging your minutes once a week. If you have not registered, you can do so at any time during the challenge. Go to www.uwbrevard.org and select "West Melbourne" as your team!

Because of COVID, group activities are being discouraged. However, that does not mean that you can't get up and move. Make plans each weekend to visit a local park that you have never visited before and walk around to see what is offered. As more daylight is left in the evening hours, talk a walk in your neighborhood after dinner. This is a great way to get some exercise and fresh air, but also creates a sense of reconnecting with your community.

You can find ways to get more active that suits your lifestyle or your schedule. **Don't forget to log those minutes!!**



A Look at the Past: Gladiola Farms

*Excerpt taken from History of West Melbourne Florida
by Fred A. Hopwood*

In 1938, West Melbourne was becoming known as the Gladiola Bulb Capital of the United States. West Melbourne's climate and soil are particularly adapted to the cultivation of the "glads" and resulted in more flowers each year.

Several large gladiola farms were prospering in West Melbourne where, during the winter of 1937-1938, three million gladiola were raised in a single acre. It was a growing industry, but too little had been told about the West Melbourne florists who specialized in growing gladiolas for winter shipment. The farms were scattered and in most cases hidden from the roads.



In one issue of the Melbourne Times, it was said that a traffic jam had occurred near the Cravin farm in West Melbourne on a Sunday when the attraction of the gladiolas in full bloom drew in people from all over Brevard County.

Gladiolas were an important enterprise in West Melbourne in the 1930s and 1940s with many flower farms cultivating thousands of dollars worth of the blooms annually for sale in northern markets.

The gladiola industry thrived and prospered in West Melbourne until World War II, when there was no market for bulbs or flowers.

The Sun Newsletter
Published by the City of West Melbourne
Scott Morgan, City Manager 321-837-7771
Write to: City Hall
2240 Minton Road
West Melbourne, FL 32904
Phone: 321-727-7700
Email: info@westmelbourne.org
Website: www.westmelbourne.org

West Melbourne City Council



Front Row from left to right: Andrea Young, Hal Rose, Daniel McDow; Back Row from left to right: John Dittmore, Pat Bentley, Stephen Phrampus, Daniel Batchelor

Mayor Hal J. Rose
321-768-7518
hrose@westmelbourne.org

Deputy Mayor John Dittmore
321-837-7774
jdittmore@westmelbourne.org

Daniel Batchelor
321-837-7774
dbatchelor@westmelbourne.org

Pat Bentley
321-522-7781
pbentley@westmelbourne.org

Daniel McDow
321-837-7774
dmc dow@westmelbourne.org

Stephen Phrampus
321-837-7774
sphrampus@westmelbourne.org

Andrea Young
321-480-2770
ayoung@westmelbourne.org

City Calendar

March 2021

2	Community Redevelopment Agency	6:00 p.m.
2	City Council	6:30 p.m.
9	Planning and Zoning Board	6:30 p.m.
10	Parks & Recreation Advisory Board	6:00 p.m.
14	Daylight Savings Time Begins	
16	City Council	6:30 p.m.
18	Code Enforcement Board	5:30 p.m.
25	Board of Adjustment	7:00 p.m.

April 2021

4	Easter Sunday	
6	City Council	6:30 p.m.
14	Planning and Zoning Board	6:30 p.m.
15	Code Enforcement Board	5:30 p.m.
20	City Council	6:30 p.m.
22	Board of Adjustment	7:00 p.m.
26	Business Advisory Board	6:30 p.m.
28	Police Officers' Retirement Board	9:00 a.m.