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Melbourne Messenger



Community Information from the City of Melbourne

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Arbor Day to boost tree cultivation with giveaway of 2,000 seedlings

Arbor Day 2000 is to be celebrated in Melbourne on Jan. 21 with a 1 p.m. event to encourage the planting of trees.

During the celebration, 2,000 myrtle holly and dahoon holly seedlings are to be given away, along with brochures on tree preservation.

The celebration at Wells Park is to also set the stage for the planting of 2,000 inches of new trees at the popular park, located south of Hibiscus Boulevard near the Melbourne Library.

Along with the planting of a ceremonial tree, the celebration is to include displays and exhibits by local groups from noon to 2:30 pm., and several schools are to participate.

"Arbor Day is an annual event in Melbourne, and this year the activities are expanded in observance of the Year 2000," said Dan Porsi. He is a member of Melbourne's Beautification and Environmental Advisory Committee, which organizes the celebration.

Porsi said the salute to trees increases the awareness of importance of the plants beyond their visual appeal.

"In Florida, we benefit from the cooling effect of trees, and that also promotes

water conservation. Trees also reduce the air pollution and urban noise," said Porsi.

Groups and agencies providing displays at this year's celebration are to include the South Brevard County Chapter of Keep Brevard Beautiful, the Sierra Club, City of Melbourne Water Conser-

vation Office, Earth Save, Save the Manatee, Brevard County Solid Waste Management, the Sea Turtle Preservation Society, and the Melbourne Garden Club.

Contributing to funds for the seedling and planting programs were Florida Air Academy, the South Brevard Chapter of Keep Brevard Beautiful, the Melbourne Garden Club, Eau Gallie Florist, landscape architect Edward Haeck, the Florida Division of Forestry, and Melbourne.

At the ceremony, the two types of holly seedlings are to be available at no cost.

Porsi said homeowners and businesses interested in planting larger trees have a variety to choose from.

Among recommended trees are holly varieties including American, dahoon, East Palatka, and yaupon.

Popular varieties of oak include live oak, which is salt tolerant, laurel oak, and myrtle oak. Also recommended are both slash pine, which is salt tolerant, and longleaf pine.

Porsi said that other recommended trees include sabal or cabbage palms, red maple, and wax myrtle, along with hackberry or sugarberry, which are both members of the elm family.

TREES

*written by Danielle Davis
Sherwood Elementary
for Arbor Day 1996*

I like trees.
They are home for bees.
Some grow fruit.
You can admire them.
It's fun to climb them.
They give you shade.
They make pencils.
They make paper.
They give you oxygen.
But most of all,
They give us Beauty.



YEAR 2000 preparations were completed by Melbourne in December as the computer-aided dispatch system at the Police Department became the last of three dozen critical systems to be replaced or updated. Pictured are System Analyst Tammy Barger, at left, and Communication Center Supervisor Kelly Humphreys.

Laws give protection to trees

While Arbor Day is celebrated in Melbourne just once each winter, community efforts to protect existing trees and encourage new plantings continue throughout the year.

"Trees are beneficial for so many reasons that most people can find one that is important to them," says Dan Porsi, whose work as a Senior Code Enforcement Officer includes helping residents comply with laws that protect trees.

"The City provides protective regulations for trees and for landscaping, and to promote soil conservation," Porsi explained.

Continued on Back

Melbourne roadway projects move through planning process

Road construction crews will be a familiar site in and around Melbourne in coming years as a variety of improvement projects are undertaken.

Several projects are reaching the construction phase after a lengthy planning process overseen by the Brevard Metropolitan Planning Organization, normally referred to as the MPO.

The countywide organization recently issued a 1999 report on project priorities that summarizes both planning and actual construction for coming months.

"For the 1999-2000 period, the MPO process resulted in many projects advancing to address existing and future traffic needs in Melbourne," said City Manager Henry Hill.

Hill said that of 30 highway projects currently ranked by MPO with a high-priority status, 13 will directly impact traffic in Melbourne. "Some of the projects are reaching the final phases, with construction planned in the near future, while others are at much earlier stages," said Hill.

The planning process allows coordination of projects by cities, the county, and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), he noted.

FDOT provides long-range planning for primary roadways. An example is the current planning for improving portions of Babcock Street south of Hibiscus Boulevard to better serve all forms of traffic.

In addition to projects on the priority list, the widening of Dairy Road has been completed. Funding was provided by Melbourne, Brevard County, and West Melbourne. Melbourne widened Post Road in 1999, and FDOT is to complete work at Post Road and U.S.1 this summer.

Additional information about FDOT projects is available via the Internet at www.dot.state.fl.us, and about the MPO at www.brevardmpo.com.

As required by state law, the Melbourne Police Department has provided community notice that Kevin W. Koss, Sr., a registered sexual predator, is living in Melbourne at 109 E. New Haven Ave. Additional information, including a photograph, is available from the Police Department (259-1211), on the Internet (melbourneflorida.org/city/police) or by calling the Florida Department of Law Enforcement at 1-888-FL-PREDATOR.

MELBOURNE AREA ROAD IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- Widening of U.S. 1 between Aurora Road and Post Road
- Right-of-way acquisition for the widening of U.S. 1 between Post Road and the Pineda Causeway
- Design of intersection improvements at NASA Blvd. & Ellis Rd.
- Design 4-lane, divided section of Wickham Rd. from 192 to Nasa Blvd.
- Study of traffic circulation in Melbourne north of Post Road
- Study of extension of Apollo Boulevard from Sarno Road to Eau Gallie Boulevard
- Studies completed of Ellis Rd. extension from John Rodes Blvd. to Wickham Rd., and 4-laning John Rodes Blvd. from U.S. 192 to Eau Gallie Blvd.

Agencies coordinate roadway planning

The planning process for improvements to major roadways is not simple. It usually takes several years for a project to be proposed, studied, designed, and built.

Frequently, a project is pursued jointly by cities, Brevard County, and the Florida Department of Transportation. One or more agencies has responsibility for funding each roadway project.

A countywide agency -- the Brevard Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) -- exists to help coordinate the projects, which includes assigning priorities for work. That is important, because the needs are always greater than the available funding, most of which comes from gasoline taxes.

Bill McCord, Melbourne's assistant director of planning and zoning, explains that the MPO process allows for participation by local government representatives and the public.

When federal or state funding is in-

volved, projects must meet stricter standards, McCord noted.

"Most of the design standards are evolving," he explained, noting that safety standards dictate details such as pavement thickness, markings on the roadway, lighting, and crosswalks.

When roadway projects are proposed, a determination of need comes before any detailed planning and design work.

"The projects move up the ladder essentially and are completed when funding is available, so that as one project is completed it opens the door for another to move up the ladder," said McCord.

Motorists won't always know which agency is responsible for a particular roadway, McCord said. In Melbourne, for instance, responsibility for different sections of Babcock Street is assigned to the City, the county, and the state.

Melbourne resurfaces smaller streets each year, and also undertakes street projects to improve drainage.



Students Are Saluted

Melbourne Police Chief Keith Chandler (pictured at center) recently presented certificates of commendation to students who rescued an injured man from the Indian River Lagoon near the Melbourne Causeway. Honored were Caesar Troso, Justin Denning, Jaime Jeffreys, Jacob Mulvehill, and Nick Guilarte. The man, who apparently had been fishing from the causeway, was airlifted to a hospital and recovered.

The **UNVEILING** of a **BILLBOARD** in Melbourne marked the latest effort to recruit citizens into a partnership with police



to combat crime at the neighborhood level.

The moveable billboard display, now located along U.S. 192, was donated by Eller Media Company. The billboard pictures police officers assigned to Melbourne's community oriented policing unit.

Pictured at the unveiling are Jeff Downs, at right, president of a citizen organization called Neighbors Against Crime, Inc. (NAC) and Officer Wolfgang Kermer, who suggested the idea of a billboard message.

"This billboard is just to let the community know that we are here for them, and that we need their support," said Police Lt. Dan Duncan.

Development Projects

The City of Melbourne has completed review or inspection of development projects listed below.

Construction completed:

- Babcock Entertainment / Sports Center, 3960 Babcock St., arcade & sports center.
- Christian Care Ministry, 3507 Carriage Gate Dr., church and ministry offices.
- Dolan Car Lot, 102 S. Harbor City Blvd., car sales lot.
- Enterprise Rent-a-Car, 920 S. Harbor City Blvd., parking addition.
- Forest Plaza, Forest Run Drive, office / commercial building.
- Holmes Regional Medical Center, 450 Hickory St., employee parking lot.
- Ice Plant Building addition, 1604 Tangerine St., office building.
- Melbourne Shopping Center renovation, 1401 S. Babcock St.
- Murphy Oil-Melbourne North, 3006 Sarno Road, service station.
- Nokia parking lot addition, 795 W. Nasa Blvd.

Under construction:

- Animal Medical Clinic addition, 4020 Babcock Street.
- AT&T equipment building, 900 Sarno Rd.
- Aurora Storage Facility, 2600-2632 Aurora Road, mini-storage and offices.
- Circles of Care, Inc., 2020 Commerce Dr., building addition with parking.
- Cronin Medical Building, 1331 S. Harbor City Blvd., 2-story medical office.
- Eagle Lake Two, east of Babcock St., south of Eber Road, single family homes, 124 units.
- Eau Gallie Business Center, 1020 Eau Gallie Blvd., two office buildings.
- Essentials Spa, 940 S. Harbor City Blvd., retail sales store.
- First Baptist Church of Melbourne, 3351 Dairy Rd., church building.
- Florida Instit. of Technology facilities management building, 150 W. University Blvd.
- Florida Power & Light unattended substation, 4675 N. Wickham Road.

- Forest Creek Professional Center, 4501 & 4521 N. Wickham Road, office buildings.
- GE-Harris Corporate Headquarters, 1190, 1192, 1194 W. NASA Blvd., office building, daycare building, airbrake building, 586 parking spaces.
- J.W. Williams Building Complex, office and warehouse buildings, 864 Washburn Rd.
- Macedonia Baptist Church, 2729 Lipscomb St., 2-story educational building.
- Magnolia Lakes Phases 3/4, off Eau Gallie Blvd. near Sarno Rd., residential homes.
- Mosswood Homes Phase 2, Mosswood Ave., 5 units.
- Mosswood Townhomes, Phase 2, west side of Stewart Rd., residential townhouses, 7 units.
- Odyssey Park Offices, Phase 3, office complex, 770 North Dr.
- TWC Equipment Bldg., 903 Pegasus St., electronic transmission facility.
- Walgreen's, 1213 Palm Bay Rd., single-story pharmacy.
- West Shore Ambulance, 10 N. Nieman Ave., ambulance service building.

Approved for construction:

- Century Oaks, 4001 Stack Blvd., 2-story adult congregate living facility.
- Florida Sheet Metal, 560 North Drive, office & manufacturing building.
- Granite Oaks, 1685 Hibiscus Blvd., medical professional building.
- Granite Oaks, 1745 and 1735 Hibiscus Blvd., two 3-story office buildings.
- Kiraly Industrial Park, 2911 and 2915 Dusa Drive, two commercial buildings.
- Our Lady of Lourdes Parish Hall, Fee Avenue, parish hall renovation.
- Florida Sheet Metal, 560 North Drive, office & manufacturing building.
- Harvard Apartments, Phase 2, Palm Bay Road, apartment complex.
- Holiday Shops, 2470 N. Harbor City Blvd., commercial building addition.
- Lexus, 125 Dale Ave., parking lot expansion.
- Rockwell-Collins Phase 4 Building 307, 1100 W. Hibiscus Blvd., parking lot addition.

For info. contact the Engineering Dept., 953-6361.

Improvement Projects

The City of Melbourne is pursuing listed improvement projects to maintain and improve services to the community.

Completed:

- Melbourne Police Dept. fuel system modifications, \$32,000.

Under construction:

- Covered storage building at Public Works Complex on Harper Road, \$71,250.
- Dairy Road improvements, \$4.28-million (Melbourne share of \$8.84-million cost).
- DB Lee & Grant St. wastewater treatment plant improvements, Ph. IIB, \$3.87-million.
- Fire Station 71, driveway apron replacement, \$14,800.
- Harbor City Golf Course cart path replacements & Melbourne Golf Course cart path replacements, \$182,255.
- Jimmy Moore Park renovations, \$227,834.
- Sediment source control, paving & drainage improvements, Goode Park Terrace, \$174,420.
- Sherwood Park swimming pool replacement, \$657,590.
- Trailer Haven water line replacement, Phase II, \$447,902.
- Water main replacement on U.S. 1 from Mobiland to Honeybrook, in-house.
- Wells Park renovations, \$84,432.

Out for bids:

- Columbus Street paving.
- D.B. Lee Wastewater Facility sludge thickening improvements, and reuse pump station improvements.
- Fee Avenue parking improvements.
- French drain replacements, citywide.

Under design or ready to bid:

- Bowe Gardens water line replacements.
- City Hall parking lot improvements.
- D.B. Lee Wastewater Facility master lift station site location & conceptual design.
- Foundation design for new ground storage tank at Canova Beach.
- Harbor City Golf Course culvert replacements & Melbourne Golf Course drainage improvements.
- Old Eau Gallie water line replacement, segments 3 & 4.
- Phase III improvements at two wastewater treatment plants.
- South Fairway Drive culvert replacement.
- Surface water treatment plant improvements.
- Utility relocations associated with Croton Road widening.
- Water distribution system master plan and improvements.
- Water main replacement across Melbourne Causeway, 20-inch line.

For more information contact Pat Fleming, Project Engineer, at 953-6313, or Rory Dittmer, Design Supervisor, 953-6344.

City provides protections for trees, assistance to residents

Continued From Front

“One important goal of these ordinances is to preserve the aesthetics of our area,” he noted.

City laws extend protections to mature native trees including oak, pine, maple, rosewood, magnolia, walnut, sycamore, sweet bay, red bud, pecan, elm, crabapple, and loblolly bay.

Trees of those varieties are protected if they have trunks that are four inches in diameter or larger at a point four feet above the ground, Porsi said. Any removal of protected trees at a business site requires a City permit, while a removal at an existing home does not.

Porsi said that the preservation and planting of native trees is encouraged because they can tolerate Florida weather and require less water and fertilizer than do other plants.

Invasive, non-native trees imported from other areas are not protected, and Porsi explained that the City encourages removal of those plants.

Pest tree species which can crowd out native plants include punk trees, paperback, Norfolk island pine, Australian pine, Brazilian pepper, bishopwood, castorbean, poisonwood, chinaberry, eartree, and eucalyptus (all varieties except cinerea).



Dan Porsi

“One concern is that people may not understand the differences in the trees and go onto an undeveloped property and begin to indiscriminately clear the land,” Porsi explained. The City provides visual surveys on request to help property owners identify protected trees.

Porsi said lot clearing requires a City permit, and unauthorized work can result in penalties as well as a requirement that trees be replaced.

Also in effect are restrictions on the amount of canopy that can be cut from protected trees, Porsi said. A permit is required if more than 20% of a canopy is to be removed.

“Trimming more than 20 percent of a canopy is not healthy for a tree,” said Porsi.

“We try to work with homeowners and businesses to answer any questions about the restrictions so that they can comply while completing their projects,” added Porsi. He can be contacted at the Code Compliance Division, 953-6358.

Copies of the City’s tree ordinance can be obtained from the City Clerk’s Office. The text of the ordinance is also available via the Internet. Access is available by way of Melbourne’s web site at www.melbourneflorida.org.

Melbourne’s “Groundwater Guardian”

community designation has been awarded for a second year, a reflection of ongoing projects to protect water resources.

After becoming just the second Florida city to earn the designation, Melbourne is continuing educational and awareness projects, said Jennifer Wilster, the City’s environmental community outreach manager.

A team that guides the effort includes community members and representatives from education, business, and government agencies. It was announced recently that one of the committee’s projects, a water conservation publication, earned a top award from the Florida Government Communicators Association, and an additional award from the Florida Newspaper and Advertising Marketing Executives. Copies can be requested from the City by calling 674-5761.

The guardian designation is awarded by the Nebraska-based Groundwater Foundation.



TREE CITY: Melbourne has for ten years been a “Tree City U.S.A.” community, a designation which is earned by municipalities from the National Arbor Day Foundation as a result of programs to promote urban forestry.



MEMORIALS: Trees have been planted by area families in many Melbourne parks in memory of loved ones. A memorial program allows for the contribution of both trees and plaques. Information is available from Parks Administrator Jeff Dawson, who can be contacted at 953-6230.

Contacting the City Council

☐ **Mayor John A. Buckley**, 254-1165, or send email c/o the City Clerk (cityhall@melbourneflorida.org); ☐ **Steven Beltz**, District 1, 259-0386, or send email to srb@juno.com; ☐ **Vice Mayor Ed Palmer**, District 2, 254-4794, email c/o the City Clerk (cityhall@melbourneflorida.org); ☐ **Pat Poole**, District 3, 723-4453, email c/o the City Clerk (cityhall@melbourneflorida.org); ☐ **Grace Walker**, District 4, 723-4277, email c/o City Clerk (cityhall@melbourneflorida.org); ☐ **Cheryl Palmer**, District 5, 254-7063, email to candbpalmer@juno.com; ☐ **Loretta Isenberg-Hand**, District 6, 752-8149, email to Loretta97@aol.com

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

Held at City Hall, 900 E. Strawbridge Ave.

Board of Adjustment, last Monday, 6:30 p.m.
Citizens Advisory Board, 1st Monday, 7:30 p.m.
City Council, 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Code Enforcement Board, 1st Thursday, 6 p.m.
Downtown Architect. Board, 3rd Wed., 6 p.m.
Downtown Redevel. Comm., 3rd Thurs., 8 a.m.
Golf Courses Advis. Board, 2nd Wed., 7 p.m.
Planning & Zoning Board, Thursdays following 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, 7:30 p.m.
Police Community Relations Council, 4th Thurs., 7 p.m., at Carver Park Comm. Center or Grant St. Comm. Center. Call 259-1211 ext. 236.
For info. contact the City Clerk at 953-6225

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