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Melbourne Messenger



Community Information from the City of Melbourne

September 2005 • Issue No. 5-05

Public hearings are September 13, 27

Service, facility improvements in budget proposal

The City Council has set public hearings for 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 13 and Sept. 27 at City Hall to solicit comments from the community on a proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

The proposed \$119-million budget would respond to increased costs of operations along with providing improvements in services and facilities.

The planned improvements include:

- The addition of 12 firefighters in the second half of the budget year to staff a new station at the intersection of Eber and Dairy roads. Funding for construction of the station, along with City Hall renovations, is to be provided through a bond issue.

- Resurfacing work on 45 City streets at a cost of \$600,000.

- Park improvements to include a building at Southwest Park with restrooms and a concession area, and major improvements at Lipscomb Park.

- Traffic-related projects including engineering plans for improvements to the flow of traffic on Wickham Road and upgrades to signal controls at four major intersections. Lighted street signs are to also be introduced at major intersections.

- Utility projects to provide improvements to both the water and wastewater systems, including the \$1-million construction of a water main on Harlock Road from Parkway Drive to Post Road.

- Continuation of targeted projects in three redevelopment areas to improve

neighborhoods and the business climate, utilizing funds that result from increases in property values.

- Utilization of nearly \$1.5-million in federal and state grants to continue programs to improve Melbourne neighborhoods and assist low-income individuals and families.

Property Tax Rate to be Reduced

The property rate is proposed to be reduced from \$4.79 per \$1,000 of taxable property valuation to \$4.74. (See the back page for an explanation of tax rates.)

Because of changes in the overall valuation of property in Melbourne, the millage rate would increase revenue by \$1.5-million beyond what would result from the rate referred to as the "rolled-back rate." Both new construction and annexations have increased the amount of taxable property in Melbourne.

Public Hearings Planned

The public is invited to participate in both budget hearings at City Hall. After the first hearing, a tentative budget and millage rate are adopted. After a second public hearing, final action is taken to formally adopt the budget.

The budget includes a \$58.9-million General Fund to provide for day-to-day operations. An \$8.6-million capital improvements fund provides for facilities and infrastructure projects.

Property taxes provide more than 1/4 of General Fund revenues and more than 1/10 of overall revenues to the City.

(Continued on the Next Page)

Information available about sexual offenders living here

Information about the reported residential locations of individuals declared sexual offenders and sexual predators is available from the Melbourne Police Department and via the City's web site.

"Protecting our children is a priority mission of law enforcement agencies, and recent events make it clear that we should continue to make every effort to aid the community in accessing information about sexual predators and offenders," said Chief Don Carey.

Individuals who have been labeled as sexual predators or sexual offenders by Florida courts are listed at a public web site (www3.fdle.state.fl.us/Sexual_predators/) managed by the Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE).

Police Commander Ron Bell explained that information about sexual predators registered as living inside the city limits are listed with photographs at the Melbourne web site (www.melbournefl.com/police/melbpred.htm), with a link to the FDLE list of sexual offenders.

Florida law requires that local police agencies provide community notification when a sexual predator resides within that jurisdiction. Notification about the location of offenders is not required.

"For people who do not have web access, our community service officers can look up the information about any predator or offender registered in a particular area of Melbourne," said Bell. Persons seeking information should call 409-3301 or visit the community relations office at the Melbourne Square Mall.

City Services Included in 2005-2006 Budget Year

Included in the budget for the upcoming fiscal year are a variety of improvements in services to the community and municipal facilities.



The POLICE DEPARTMENT is reassigning six officers from specialized duty funded by grants to regular patrol duties, and is to hire a civilian employee to serve as a victim's advocate. Also provided are replacement vehicles.



The FIRE DEPARTMENT is to open an eighth station midway through the new budget year in response to population growth on the southern side of the City. A replacement fire engine is also to be purchased during the year.



RECREATION facility improvements are planned to include projects at Lipscomb Park and at Southwest Park. Program changes include plans to expedite repairs to buildings, playground equipment, tennis courts, and docks.



UTILITIES projects are to include the addition of two buildings needed for wastewater treatment operations. Three new employees are to allow programs to improve the water distribution system and the streets division operations.

New markings are selected for Melbourne Police Department vehicles

A dramatic change in the appearance of vehicles used by the Melbourne Police Department is underway, as will soon be evident when 10 patrol cars that carry a new design are put into service.

The new design is being applied to black-and-white patrol cars, said Deputy Chief Steve Mimbs, as the City begins to phase out the old design, which was applied to white patrol cars. The new design retains white doors and roof.

"This is a sharp, clear design that allows the cars to be more quickly identified as being from the Melbourne Police Department," Mimbs said.

The word "POLICE" appears in large, red lettering on the sides of each car, with "Melbourne" in a smaller size above it.

The department badge is displayed at the front of the car on black fenders. The department's web site address (www.melbourneflorida.org/police) is on the rear bumper.

"We looked at a number of different designs to find something that would work well with traditional, black-and-white cars," said Mimbs.

Proposed budget for upcoming fiscal year to be discussed at two public hearings

(Continued From Front)

Other sources of revenue include municipal franchise, license, and permit fees; interest income; portions of gasoline and sales taxes; and grants from state and federal agencies.

The budget also includes two funds that receive revenue directly from customer payments: a \$2.5-million fund for the two municipal golf courses and a \$41.4-million Water and Sewer Fund.

Utility projects include completion of improvements to the wastewater system and



GREATER VISIBILITY is among the benefits of a new patrol car design that is being phased in for the Melbourne Police Department. Pictured are Lt. Ron King and Sgt. Sean Riordan.

"We wanted a design that is distinctive so that law enforcement vehicles are quickly recognized, and this design also is much more reflective so that recognition is

easier at night."

Mimbs said that the new markings will eventually be displayed on all the department's patrol cars.

to the water distribution system.

A budget of \$1.1-million is proposed for the City stormwater program, an assessment-funded effort to reduce flood risks and comply with federal environmental mandates.

A \$10.8-million budget for the Melbourne International Airport will also become part of the municipal budget prior to final approval.

The Airport is a municipal agency that operates independently and is overseen by a seven-member Airport Authority.

The budget document is available for inspection at the City Clerk's Office.

The text of the City Manager's budget transmittal letter to Council, which discusses City finances and goals for the coming fiscal year, is available via the Internet at www.melbourneflorida.org/pub. Print copies can be requested from the Public Information Office at 953-6282.

DEPOSITS REFUNDED: A refund of deposits to a majority of the residential customers who receive water and sewer service from the City of Melbourne is underway in the form of credits on utility bills.

Finance Director Michele Ennis explained that the City Council recently enacted changes to requirements for deposits. Residential customers who maintain a good payment history for 12 months are to have their deposits returned, she explained.

"In many cases the amount of the deposit credit on a bill may exceed the monthly bill amount and a negative balance may result," Ennis explained.

At present the deposits for water and sewer service at a typical home total \$120. In the past the deposits were held until an account was closed. Since 1994, Melbourne has returned interest on deposits to utility customers as a credit. The City provides water services to about 52,500 residential utility accounts.

Co-sponsors added to July 4 fireworks fund supporters

The City's fund-raising effort in support of the Independence Day celebration exceeded the \$14,000 goal, with additional co-sponsors Intracoastal Marina of Melbourne, Inc.; Marina Towers, LLC; Palm Bay Developers, LLC, and Riverside National Bank contributing at the \$500 level after the last newsletter issue went to press.

Individual and family contributors not listed in the last newsletter include Jerry & Peggy Oliver; Kathleen H. Spatenga & L.E. Newman in memory of Elaine; Norman F. Williams, and John & Karen Windsor.

Businesses added to the contributor list included Gatto's Tire & Auto Service, \$250; Data Flow Systems, \$200; Ascension Catholic Church Educational Bingo, \$134;

Hott Flixx and The Ulian Realty Corp., \$100; and Pamco R&D, Inc., \$25.

Co-sponsors providing \$1,000 included Brevard County Parks & Recreation; Harris Sanitation - a Waste Management Company; and Melbourne Greyhound Park.

Co-sponsors providing \$500 included American Business Interiors; Bright House Networks; CH2MHill; Dean, Ringers, Morgan & Lawton, P.A.; East Coast Lumber & Supply Co.; Florida Today; Frazier Engineering, Inc.; Glover Oil Company, Inc.; ICMA-Retirement Corp.; Northrop Grumman Integrated Systems; Pence Companies; Rigdon, Alexander & Rigdon, LLP; Rockwell Collins, Inc.; Saturn Space Coast; and the City of West Melbourne.

City's 'Adopt-A-Road' program allows volunteers to remove litter from City roadways

By Jennifer Wilster

Environmental Community Outreach Manager

Ever wonder what those "Adopt-a-Road" signs located throughout Melbourne represent? They are reminders that volunteers are tackling the challenge of keeping streets and medians clean.

Participants in Melbourne's Adopt-a-Road program hit the streets at least four times a year to remove unsightly debris, making our community both cleaner and safer.

Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market is

one of the City's newest participants, with volunteers adopting a portion of Florida Avenue between Babcock Street and Lipscomb Street.

"I think it's a great program to keep the area clean," said Christine Drag, Office Associate for Wal-Mart Neighborhood Market, after the first collection effort.

"We're hoping to return to the site for another round when it gets a bit cooler," she said.

During their first collection they found surprising objects. "Some of the items we



The Wal-Mart team that has joined the litter control program includes, pictured from left, Bobbie and Nelson Hanson, Shawn Delaney, his daughter Ashlie, and Chris Motta.

picked up included a couple of bicycles, a bunch of tires and part of a baby's crib," said Shawn Delaney, an employee who participates in the program.

For more information call the Environmental Community Outreach Division at 953-6302 or send an e-mail to mromero@melbourneflorida.org.

Development Projects in the City of Melbourne

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

Construction completed:

- Brandon Buildings, 2080 & 2090 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., professional/office buildings.
- Bright House Networks, 720 Magnolia Ave., office / warehouse.
- Jellybean Junction expansion, 3115 New York Ave., daycare facility.
- M&M Tile Building, 1291 & 1301 Lake Washington Rd.
- Northrop Grumman modular office, 1500 W. Nasa Blvd.
- PDS Warehouse, 680 Atlantic Rd., expansion of document storage.
- Princeton Mini-Storage, 1060 Polo Dr.
- Pruitt Real Estate Office Building, 125 W. New Haven Ave.
- Reflections at the Fountains, Eber Rd. & Stack Blvd., residential subdivision (Ph. 2).
- Thorton Manufacturing building, 330 & 340 Stan Dr., industrial.
- Wickham Club Apartments, SE corner of Wickham Rd. & Weston Dr.

Under construction:

- Astro Too Warehouse, 2910 & 2920 Dusa Dr., warehouse
- Dr. Burns Office, 481, 485, 489, 493 N. Harbor City Blvd., office
- Cascades at Longleaf, off Wickham Rd., north of Cascades, residential.
- Chris Burton Homes, 3999 N. Harbor City Blvd.
- Christopher Homes road extension, Catterton Dr.
- Continental Motor Cars parking expansion, 509 E. Nasa Blvd.
- Cypress Springs Condominium, 160 Eber Rd.
- Dunkin Donuts at Lake Washington, 2996 & 2998 Lake Washington Rd.
- Eagle Harbor Commercial Center, 3860, 3900, 3940 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., commercial.
- Eau Gallie Blvd. Office Park, Eau Gallie Blvd., commercial complex.
- Explorer Elementary-Middle School, 4400 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., charter school.
- Fairway Auto Repair, 1667 Steele St.
- Glenwood Plaza, 1049 & 1051 Eber Rd., commercial facility.
- Global Realty, Inc., 300 Vesta Cir. & 1500 Airport Blvd., offices.

- Hammock Trace Preserve, 295 S. John Rodes Blvd., residential.
- Harbor City Academy, 2910 Pat McKee Place.
- Holmes Regional Medical Center expansion projects, vicinity of Hickory St. & Sheridan Rd.
- Home Depot, Wickham Road, commercial/retail.
- Interstate Battery, 3133 Sarno Rd., warehouse and retail.
- ISO Parts, manufacturing, 3149, 3153 Skyway Cir.
- The Landings aka Brandon T-hangers, 1471 General Aviation Dr.
- Legacy at Hibiscus Park apartments, northeast corner of Hibiscus Blvd. & Airport Blvd.
- Manatee Cove Apartments, West side of US1 / Nasa Blvd., residential.
- Melbourne Landfill & Recycling Center, 3351 Sarno Rd., waterline construction, hydrants.
- Nasa Palms Professional Center, 1515 W. Nasa Blvd., medical offices.
- Oak Forest Subdivision, John Rodes Blvd. / Aurora Rd.
- Oak Hammock Estates, 2500 McGraw Rd., residential.
- Pineapple Ridge Offices, 2551, 2591, 2671, 2691, 2711 W. Eau Gallie Blvd., commercial.
- Porsche dealership, 509 E. Nasa Blvd..
- The Preserve at Longleaf, west of Wickham Rd. and north of Post Rd., 298 apartments.
- Riverwalk Club Villas & Town Homes, Eau Gallie Blvd., residential.
- Rose Professional Center, 2775 N. Wickham Rd.
- Skyway Business Condos, 3168 & 3172 Skyway Cir., warehouses.
- Watermill Express, 1242 Sarno Rd.
- 2200 Wickham Business Park, industrial, 2200 Wickham Rd.
- Wickham Park phase 1 improvements, 2500 Parkway Dr., county park.
- Windward Point Condominium, Front St.
- Workman Mortgage Co., 4015 N. Harbor City Blvd.

Approved for construction:

- Building for Tom Davis, 505(e) & 515(w) Distribution Dr., office/warehouse.
- Eau Gallie Woodworking, 1477 Guava Ave.
- Edak, Inc., 630 Distribution Dr., commercial.
- Holmes Regional Medical Center southeast parking lot.

For information contact the City of Melbourne Engineering Dept. at 953-6361.

Improvement Projects

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

Completed projects:

- N. Babcock St. realignment, \$1.4-million.
- Sherwood Park drainage improvements, \$385,285.

Under construction:

- Booker T. Washington area utility and pedestrian improvements, \$471,000.
- Eber Road widening, \$3.84-million.
- Phase III improvements at D.B. Lee Wastewater Treatment Plant, \$15.6 million.
- Surface water treatment plant improvements, \$23.4 million.
- Utility relocations associated with Croton Road widening and U.S. 1 widening, \$593,257.

Under design or ready to bid:

- Babcock St. / NASA Blvd. intersection improvements.
- Charles Drive stormwater pond.
- City Hall modifications.
- Fee Avenue Park retention wall.
- Fire Station 78, Eber Road.
- Hickory Ditch stabilization.
- Hoag Avenue paving.
- Lipscomb St./Florida Ave. intersection improvements.
- Pirate Lane culvert replacement.
- Roadway resurfacing for Fiscal Year 05-06.
- Street resurfacing program.
- Trickling filter upgrade at Grant Street Wastewater Treatment Plant.
- Water distribution master plan improvements.

For more information contact Rory Dittmer, Design Supervisor, 953-6344.

Contacting the City Council

● **Mayor Harry Goode**, 953-6255, send email messages c/o City Clerk (cityhall@melbourneflorida.org) ● **Vice Mayor Richard Contreras**, District 1, 242-6350, email messages c/o City Clerk (cityhall@melbourneflorida.org) ● **Mark LaRusso**, District 2, 779-8505, email c/o City Clerk (cityhall@melbourneflorida.org) ● **Kathy Meehan**, District 3, 984-7588, email c/o City Clerk (cityhall@melbourneflorida.org) ● **Grace Walker**, District 4, 723-4277, send email messages c/o City Clerk (cityhall@melbourneflorida.org) ● **Cheryl Palmer**, District 5, 242-2009, email to cpalmer5@cfl.rr.com ● **Loretta Hand**, District 6, 752-8149, email c/o City Clerk (cityhall@melbourneflorida.org). *Please note that email received by the City of Melbourne is considered public record.*

The MELBOURNE MESSENGER

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NOTICE OF PROPOSED PROPERTY TAXES - DO NOT PAY - THIS IS NOT A BILL

TAXING AUTHORITY	PROPERTY TAXES LAST YEAR	TAXES THIS YEAR IF PROPOSED BUDGET CHANGE IS MADE	HEARING DATES	TAXES THIS YEAR IF NO BUDGET CHANGE IS MADE
County	\$xxx	\$xxx		\$xxx
MELBOURNE	^(A) \$358.92	^(B) \$355.61	Sept. 13, 27	^(C) \$324.38
School District	\$xxx	\$xxx		\$xxx
Water Mgt.	\$xxx	\$xxx		\$xxx
PROPERTY VALUE AS OF JAN. 1:	ASSESSED VALUE	EXEMPTION	TAXABLE VALUE	
	⁽²⁾ \$100,000	⁽³⁾ \$25,000	⁽⁴⁾ \$75,000	
LAST YEAR'S ASSESSED VALUE: \$100,000 ⁽¹⁾				

Notices reflect property values, City millage

Property owners receive from the Brevard County Property Appraiser's Office an annual notice of proposed tax rates similar to the one shown above. It reports:

1. LAST YEAR'S ASSESSED VALUE of your property, as set by the Appraiser, is at the bottom of the form. Direct questions about assessments to the Appraiser (690-6880 or 255-4440). The assessed value used in this example is \$100,000.

2. The CURRENT ASSESSED VALUE is set by the Appraiser to reflect current market conditions. Year to year, the value of an individual property may change. The valuation on the hypothetical property is \$100,000, unchanged from the previous year. However, any particular Melbourne property owner could see a change in assessed value.

3. TAX EXEMPTIONS to which you are entitled are shown nearby. In this example a Homestead Exemption value of \$25,000 is shown.

4. The TAXABLE VALUE of the property is calculated by subtracting the exemption from the assessed value. In this example, the result is a taxable value of \$75,000. Using that value, the Appraiser determines how much tax is due.

Information about Melbourne taxes is reported as follows:

A. TAX PAID LAST YEAR is shown toward the top of the form. The amount reflects a City tax rate of 4.7856 mills. A mill produces \$1 in taxes for each \$1,000 of taxable property value, so last year's tax rate was about \$4.79 per \$1,000 of taxable property value. Since last year's taxable value was \$75,000, total City tax was about \$359 (75 x \$4.79).

B. The PROPOSED TAX is 4.7415 mills, a reduction from the previous year. Since the taxable value is \$75,000, the proposed tax is about \$356.

C. A "ROLLBACK TAX RATE" of 4.325 mills would maintain revenue at the level received in the previous tax year. Melbourne's taxable property values have increased. That tax rate would be about \$324. State law requires that each taxing agency calculate the rollback rate during the budget process.

COUNCIL MEMBERS COMPLETE TRAINING

Melbourne City Council members Kathy Meehan and Mark LaRusso have successfully completed the "Institute For Elected Municipal Officials," a three-day training activity provided by the Florida League of Cities.

The program has been provided since 1992 to more than 1,200 elected officials, and is available to those who are newly elected as well as veterans of public office.

Meehan is serving a first term after election to the District 3 Council seat.

LaRusso is serving a first term after election to the District 2 Council seat.

The primary objective of the Institute is to provide elected municipal officials with an intensive academic program that will assist them in effectively meeting the requirements of their elected role. The program offers a comprehensive overview of Florida municipal government, presented by a faculty of top professionals in the field.



BEAUTIFICATION AWARD: New Visions Nursery, a company that helps owners improve the looks of their properties, was saluted by the Melbourne Beautification & Environmental Advisory Committee for its own appearance. The business at 1861 N. Harbor City Boulevard was given a beautification award in the retail sales category for single-tenant buildings. The committee members vote on a monthly basis to reward beautification efforts throughout the City.