

# Conservation News



Environmental News and Information from the City of Melbourne  
Public Works & Utilities Department ~ Environmental Community Outreach Division

## Annual Trash Bash frees City of 9,324 pounds of litter thanks to 311 volunteers and donors

This year, Melbourne had a record 311 volunteers participating in the annual Trash Bash that was held March 17.

These volunteers collected 9,324 pounds of trash and recycling from 11 designated sites located throughout the City. The check-in locations included two on Florida Avenue — one at Southwest Park and the other at Melbourne Central Catholic School; Pirate Lane near Palm Bay High School; Lipscomb Park; the Housing and Community Development Office on University Boulevard; Neiman Avenue at the Elks Lodge #1744; McGrath Field on Stewart Road; Carver Community Center; Ascension Catholic School; Apollo Surgery Center at 375 S. Wickham Road; and Howard E. Futch Park, beachside to the east of Paradise Boulevard.

Volunteers were provided safety vests, gloves, litter grabbers, and bags. Not only the necessary supplies were provided, but many local businesses generously donated food and beverages.

The City offers its sincere gratitude to the following businesses:

- Croissant Chateau Bakery, 817 E. New Haven Avenue
- Dunkin' Donuts, 1500 S. Harbor City Boulevard
- Dunkin' Donuts, 290 S. Wickham Road
- House of Joe, 1220 New

Haven Avenue

- Krispy Kreme Donuts, 2040 N. Wickham Road
- Love Bugs Donuts and Bakery, 1609 S. Wickham Road
- McDonalds, 25 W. Hibiscus Boulevard

the past two years, and based on results, will likely earn the title again this year. The overall winner won't be known until early May since Cocoa elected to hold their event during late April, the only city to do so.



*Pictured is the Trash Bash team that worked from the Ascension Catholic School check-in site.*

Melbourne bested itself from the past two years. Prior to 2012, Adopt-a-Road litter cleanups throughout the entire month were included. In 2012 the rules changed and only trash picked up by volunteers during the event counted toward the total. The following are totals from the past three years for Trash Bash only:

2010: 193 volunteers who collected 7,823 pounds of trash

2011: 225 volunteers who collected 6,401 pounds of trash

2012: 311 volunteers who collected 9,324 pounds of trash

Melbourne's Environmental Programs Coordinator Jennifer Thompson worked strenuously to coordinate this massive effort.

"The success of this event hinges on residents volunteering to aid our cause and this year was a huge accomplishment for Melbourne," Thompson said. "Watching so many citizens choose to clean up litter on St. Patrick's day was impressive and our city looks more beautiful from their efforts."

- McDonald's, 445 S. Wickham Road
- Publix
- Smokey Bones, 1510 W. New Haven Avenue
- Sonic, 4011 N. Wickham Road
- Starbucks, 1700 W. New Haven Avenue
- Too Jay's, 1700 W. New Haven Avenue
- Walmart Super Center, 1000 N. Wickham Road
- Walmart, 1001 E. Eau Gallie Boulevard
- Neighborhood Walmart, 3550 S. Babcock Street
- Walmart, 3950 N. Wickham Road
- Winn Dixie, 961 E. Eau Gallie Boulevard

The City has won the competition among Brevard cities in the large city category for



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## Drop Savers contest winners recognized

To promote water conservation awareness among school children, the City held a Drop Savers poster contest open to local schools. The contest is sponsored by the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association.

Overall winners were selected by a panel of eight judges — one from upper elementary school and one from middle school.

Michelle Tripp, a seventh grader from DeLaura Middle School in Satellite Beach and Taylor Atkinson, a fourth grader from Sherwood Elementary School in Melbourne, won top honors. They were presented with certificates and gift cards at



*Pictured during award ceremony from left: DeLaura student Michelle Tripp, DeLaura art teacher Vickki Thacker, Mayor Harry Goode, ECO Manager Jennifer Wilster, Sherwood student Taylor Atkinson, and Sherwood art teacher April Murphy.*

a recent City Council meeting. Both were accompanied by their art teachers and parents. The art teacher from DeLaura Middle School is Vickki Thacker and the art teacher from Sherwood Elementary School is April Murphy.

The student awards segued, appropriately, with the mayor issuing a proclamation naming April as Water Conservation Month in the City of Melbourne to encourage all citizens and businesses to help protect our precious resource by practicing water saving measures and becoming more aware of the need to save water.

## April proclaimed as KBB month

Keep Brevard Beautiful (KBB) Executive Director and former state legislator Tony Sasso accepted a proclamation from Mayor Goode at the March 27 City Council meeting. The proclamation named April as Keep Brevard Beautiful Month in Melbourne.

KBB was recognized for their efforts to clean and beautify Melbourne and make the City more attractive for residents, vacationers and prospective residents. Further, it encouraged all citizens, businesses, civic groups, governmental agencies, and other organizations to work together to preserve the natural beauty of Melbourne.



*Mayor Harry Goode (right) reads proclamation as KBB Executive Director Tony Sasso accepts.*

## Brief history of Earth Day — celebrate on April 22 and all year

Each year, Earth Day -- April 22 -- marks the anniversary of what many consider the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970.

At the time, Americans were slurping leaded gas through massive V8 sedans. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of legal consequences or bad press. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. "Environment" was a word that appeared more often in spelling bees than on the evening news. Although mainstream America remained oblivious to environmental concerns, the stage had been set for change.

The idea came to Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson, then a U.S. Senator from Wisconsin, after witnessing the ravages of the 1969 massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California. Inspired by the student anti-war movement, he realized that if he could infuse that energy

with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution, it would force environmental protection onto the national political agenda. Senator Nelson



announced the idea for a "national teach-in on the environment."

As a result, on the 22nd of April, 20 million Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized

protests against the deterioration of the environment. Groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories and power plants, raw sewage, toxic dumps, pesticides, freeways, the loss of wilderness, and the extinction of wildlife suddenly realized they shared common values.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, city slickers and farmers, tycoons and labor leaders. The first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water, and Endangered Species Acts.

As 1990 approached, a group of environmental leaders asked Denis Hayes to organize another big campaign. This time, Earth Day went global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries.

*Excerpts courtesy of [www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org)*