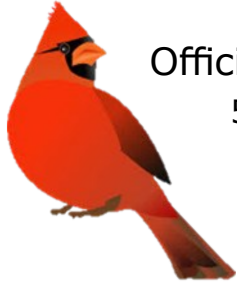


# THE CARDINAL



Official Publication of the Town of Melbourne Village

555 Hammock Road, Melbourne Village, FL 32904

Office: 321-723-8300 \* Fax: 321-984-7219

E-mail: [officeadmin@melbournevillage.org](mailto:officeadmin@melbournevillage.org)

## October 2024

### Mayor's Report

As we enter the holiday months, we invite you to participate in our upcoming events! Please refer to the articles inside and the calendar on the back page for all the dates and details. We hope to see you there!

The Commission has officially approved the resolution and referendum to update our Town Charter. For specifics, see the article on page 2. With no challengers for the open commission and mayoral seats, the Charter referendum is the sole item on the Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> ballot for Melbourne Village. Notably, some items have been removed in the new Charter, as they are more applicable as Town Ordinances. The Commission will address these in future meetings, so stay tuned to our Town website and the Dayton bulletin board for updates.

See inside for some exciting news about the town's 2024-25 Budget and new millage rate. The Finance Committee and the Commission worked very hard on this, and after many meetings and workshops we were all quite pleased with the outcome. A special thank you to Richard Jones for his contributions to this effort. Resident input is vital to the success of our endeavors.

Please join us at Commission meeting or the Mayor's Town Halls if you want to be ahead of The Cardinal news!

Here is a list of *some* of the projects going on in Town:

|   |   |
|---|---|
| Approved FY24/25 Budget and millage rate                                    | Completed Government-in-the-Sunshine-Law training for Town staff, Commissioners, committees, and board members. |
| Hired the Public Works Maintenance Tech                                     | Replaced Town Hall septic.  |
| Received playground and swing set parts. Installation should begin shortly. | Removal of hazardous trees and dead branches to elevate the canopy over our roads will start soon.              |
| Reorganizing Town office to improve workflow and efficiency (ongoing.)      | Refurbishing Street Signs with reflective paint and new poles (ongoing).  |
| Clearing stormwater feeder ditches underway.                                | Stop bars and crosswalks repainted.   |

And finally, I want to thank you for the privilege of serving. Let's keep the conversation going!

Sue Ditty, Mayor



**Veterans Day Celebration**  
**Monday, November 11th**  
Details on Page 8

# Your Vote Matters for the Town Charter Referendum

By Bridget Foster, Vice Mayor

In the upcoming election, your ballot will be four pages long. Four pages! It is absolutely imperative that you avoid ballot fatigue. Please turn to the very last page FIRST and vote on the singular issue Melbourne Village has placed on your 2024 ballot: the new Town Charter. (Then of course go back to page one and vote on all of the other important issues this year!)

The upcoming Town Charter referendum presents an opportunity to shape the future of our town. At its core, the Town Charter is about the fundamental rules that govern the administration of Melbourne Village. It acts as our constitution, outlining the structure of our government, the distribution of powers, and the roles of elected officials. It's a document that affects everything from how decisions are made to how services are delivered. This referendum offers us a chance to address pressing issues, improve transparency, and enhance the effectiveness of our local governance. A 'yes' vote means that you are in favor of replacing the current charter with the new version.

Your participation is essential to this process. By voting, you contribute to a more engaged and effective community, and you help ensure that our town's government reflects the needs and aspirations of all its residents. With so much at stake, it's vital that every eligible voter turns out and makes their voice heard.

A very heartfelt and resounding Thank You to the Charter Review Committee: Steve Pepper, EmilyAnne Thomason, Mary Jane Moon, Gigi Atwell, Debbie Seiler, Marty McAlwee, and DeNeil Harvell. Your hard work and dedication to this project is priceless and your input has been invaluable. Please accept our sincere gratitude.

The proposed new Town Charter is available on our website at [www.melbournevillage.org](http://www.melbournevillage.org), and also in the town office during regular working hours. So mark your calendar, educate yourself, and get out to vote!

## Town Commission Election Update

We can officially confirm that all positions up for re-election, those of the Mayor and four Commissioners, have been filled without opposition. Mayor Sue Ditty, along with Vice Mayor Bridget Foster, Commissioner Valerie Calenda, Commissioner Fred Anderson, Commissioner Norton Muzzone, and Commissioner Scott Perrine have all been re-elected by virtue of their uncontested positions. Their ongoing leadership will ensure the smooth operation of village affairs and the continuation of existing projects and initiatives, allowing for uninterrupted progress and development. It's a unique situation reflecting the confidence the community has in its elected officials while also signifying a period of calm and stability for Melbourne Village. Overall, we are poised to move forward seamlessly, with familiar faces leading the charge and a community ready to embrace another year of cooperative and effective governance.



# Exciting Updates From the Town Office

By Heather Roberts, Town Clerk-Treasurer

The past few months at the Town Office have been incredibly productive! It has truly been a team effort finalizing the upcoming budget for fiscal year 2024-2025. Together, the Commission and Finance Committee held eight budget meetings, which included two joint workshops and two special commission meetings. As a result, we were able to reduce the new millage rate to 6.8500, a significant decrease from last year's rate of 9.0145.

In addition to budgeting, we have completed several large, long-overdue projects this year, including the replacement of the roofs of the Town Hall and Public Works buildings, replacing the culvert at Hall Road, and installing a new septic system at the Town Hall.

We're also thrilled to announce that, with the invaluable assistance of our lobbyist Jon Costello from Capital Strategy Group, the FDEP agreed to reclassify the unused

Dayton Culvert (Bridge) Grant totaling \$250,000. It has been successfully transitioned to a Stormwater Grant, which will translate into future culvert- and stormwater-related replacements, upgrades, and equipment.

I would like to thank our office staff, Finance Committee, Town Commission, volunteers, and residents for their contributions this year. I'm excited about what lies ahead as we continue to build on our progress!



## Join Us at Our Open House

By Suzy Headon and Marissa Levine, Town Staff

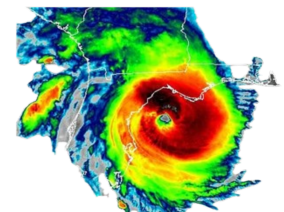
Florida City Government Week is October 21-27, 2024. It is a time for communities across the state to come together and recognize the vital role of local municipal government in our daily lives. This week-long celebration encourages citizens to engage with local officials and staff, learn about government operations, and understand the efforts made to enhance the quality of life in their towns.

We would like to invite you to our Open House on Thursday, October 24th from 1-3pm at the Town Hall. Your participation is most welcome! Come by to say hello, enjoy some light refreshments, and meet the dedicated staff who strive to make your town the best it can be. We look forward to seeing you here!



## Hurricane Checklists and Sandbag Information

Hurricane Supply Lists and Guidance sheets are available in the Town Office and posted on the town website ([www.melbournevillage.org](http://www.melbournevillage.org)). Sandbags are also available in the Town Office. Maximum of 10 sandbags per household. The sand pile is near the Public Works garage on Hall Rd. There is a shovel available, but bag-filling is do-it-yourself.





# Goodbye Summer, Hello Fall!

By Jeff Conklin, Public Works Supervisor



We are excited to announce the addition of a new Maintenance Technician, Greg Tunstall. Greg joined our team in August and has hit the ground running with his extensive experience in landscaping and facility maintenance. You will spot him working throughout the Village, so please take a moment to wave and say hello!

As we say goodbye to a long, scorching summer and welcome the cooler weather of fall, your Public Works Department has been busy and productive. A special thank you to Commissioner Norton Muzzone for all the hard work and support during our search for a Maintenance Technician. His dedication has truly made a difference.

Over the past several months, we have continued to send street signs out for refinishing. We have completed the east side of the village and will continue to send signs out in batches until all are complete. We have also had all of the roads' stop bars re-painted, making them more visible both day and night.

We are pleased to report considerable progress maintaining our village outflow ditches. These areas, which had been neglected for some time, are now receiving professional clearing and cutting. This important work will enhance stormwater flow and enable Public Works to effectively manage and maintain vegetation growth while monitoring the flow to the main canals. We appreciate the tolerance and patience of residents whose properties border these ditches during this clearing process that will provide a long-term benefit for all.

We are also making plans to continue with culvert replacements. Next on our list is the culvert at Savannah Drive and Dayton Blvd. Affected residents will be made aware of the time frame when we have finalized the details. Once this culvert is complete, we will continue replacing culverts in the town on a priority basis.

Lastly, a friendly reminder that storm season is not over until November 30th. Please stay prepared as we navigate this time of year. Try not to pile yard debris at the street immediately prior to a storm, but instead do your yard prep when the weather is fair. Wishing you all a wonderful Fall season!

## Residential Yard Waste Site

Attention Melbourne Village Residents! Our town's residential yard waste site is exclusively open to you! We offer this convenient space for you to dispose of your own homeowner-generated residential yard waste. Please bear in mind that this site is for plant material ONLY. No household waste, furniture, appliances, or any other items may be deposited at the residential yard waste site. There are signs posted reminding everyone that cameras have been installed and violators will be fined.

For the yard debris that is set out at your street for pickup, please "Can What You Can." Break down and place in trash cans as much material as you are able. The less the claw truck has to claw at our roads and easements, the less damage is done.

Residents may not be aware that our residential and yard waste is continually weighed to help determine our contract cost for the following year's waste pickup. Also, if you hire or allow a professional company or contractor to trim or remove yard debris, they are legally required to take any debris it to the landfill; they cannot leave it on the street or at the town's residential yard waste site. The only exception to this rule is when the town determines the need to urgently remove storm-generated debris or trees for safety or road clearing reasons.





# Camille's Code Corner

By Camille M. Moore, Code Enforcement Official

The Town has recently implemented a secondary means of officiating a Code Enforcement proceeding utilizing a Special Magistrate. This type of meeting is still governed by the State's and Town's legislation and allows for the issue(s) to be heard and decided by the Magistrate rather than the Code Enforcement Board. The Board will still be the "typical" way of achieving compliance, but the Magistrate will be used for complicated cases or if a quorum cannot be achieved.

The most common violations I see continue to be overgrowth/maintenance issues, which are typically closed after a Courtesy Letter is sent. I regularly patrol the Town and note properties that might need attention. I then reinspect once or twice before issuing a Courtesy Letter. Communication with me, Town staff, or your neighbors is the surest way of getting the help you may need in order to comply.

Please reach out to me at [code\\_enforcement@melbournevillage.org](mailto:code_enforcement@melbournevillage.org) with any code-related questions or to file a complaint. Also, you may contact the staff in the office to file a complaint or get a question to me, either in person or over the phone at (321)723-8300. Finally, on the Town's website (<https://melbournevillage.org/>) there are links to all the codes and ordinances being enforced. Above all, I'm here for all of you, and to help ensure you're living in a place you can feel safe in and proud of.

## Who Ya Gonna Call?

By Betty Jo Yorio, Commissioner

If there is something strange in the neighborhood, who are you going to call? In our monthly town commission meetings, residents often ask what to do when certain situations arise in the village. In the case of an emergency always dial 911, but many times circumstances of a non-emergency nature arise where we might not know the proper office or procedure for handling the situation. Here are a few tips that might help:

**Debris or deceased animal in the road:** If you spot something in the road, you may call the town office during normal business hours to report it to our Public Works Department or stop in and fill out a work order. Please note the closest address and type of debris or animal so the staff can find it easily and bring what they need to properly dispose of it.

**Hazards on town roads or rights-of-way:** These include low-lying tree limbs, damage to signage, or road damage such as potholes, degrading shoulders, drainage issues, or dangerous situations on town-owned and maintained property and should be brought to the attention of Public Works for repair through a work order. Public Works can place barricades/cones if needed until the issue is resolved. Work orders can be obtained from the town office staff.

**Complaints or suspicious person/activity:** As a town with public roads, we cannot prevent non-residents from passing through. Unwanted solicitors can be discouraged by posting "No Solicitation" signs on your personal property. Anyone or anything suspicious should be reported to law enforcement who will investigate the situation and ask them to leave if necessary. Remember, traffic violations must be observed by a law enforcement officer in order to issue a ticket, but reporting them will help officers know if there is a problem area, or to look for repeat offenders. Our town law enforcement is provided by the Brevard County Sheriff's Office, and they can be reached through their non-emergency number (321) 952-6371. If you would like to obtain a copy of an incident report written by one of their deputies, a request can be made through the Brevard County Sheriff Department's website. A small fee will apply: [www.brevard.sheriff.com](http://www.brevard.sheriff.com)



# Signs In Town Right-of-Ways

By Scott Perrine, Commissioner

Did you know that Melbourne Village boasts the highest voter turnout rate of all municipalities within Brevard County? It's no surprise that our residents love to make their voices heard in many ways, including yard signs.

As election season approaches, we would like to remind residents of Town guidelines regarding political sign placement. Signs may be placed only on your own private property, specifically within your yard. Posting signs in town-right-of-ways, which include streets, sidewalks, and public easements, is prohibited. The town right-of-way is



defined as a depth of ten (10) feet from the edge of the pavement, or to the top of the far side of the swale from the road, whichever is deeper.

Please note that any signs placed in these restricted areas will be collected by the Town's Public Works Department. If your sign is removed, it can be picked up at the Town Hall during regular business hours.

Let's all work together to preserve the beauty of our Town during this very active election year!

## Free Artesian Well Plugging

By Bridget Foster, Vice Mayor

An artesian well is a well that has been drilled into an aquifer in a location where the underground pressure is great enough for the water to rise inside the well. In some cases, the water is under enough pressure to rise from the aquifer to the land's surface without need of a pump. These artesian wells are known as free-flowing wells.

Free-flowing artesian wells can potentially waste millions of gallons of water each day. Uncontrolled, improperly constructed, or deteriorating artesian wells can have an adverse impact on the quantity and quality of water within aquifers and other water bodies. Even non-flowing, abandoned wells can act as a conduit for sources of contaminants to enter the aquifer from the land's surface. Proper plugging of these wells helps to prevent contamination of our groundwater supply.

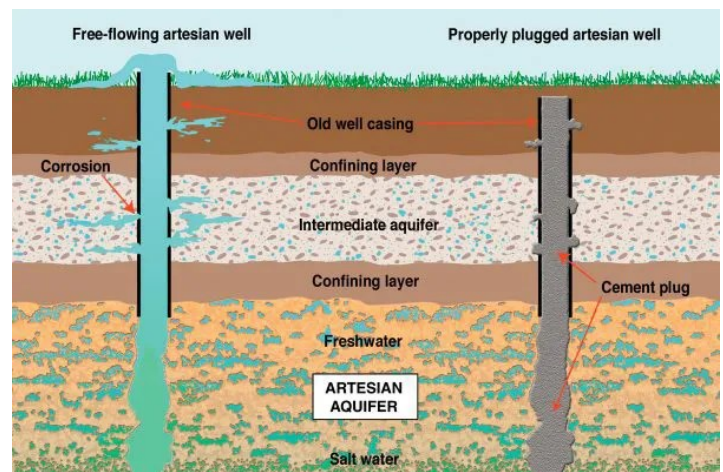
The Florida Legislature has enacted regulations requiring well owners to control the flow of their artesian wells by installing valves or other flow-control devices. Wells that cannot be controlled due to deterioration of the valves or casing must be permanently plugged.

Costs to plug a well can vary depending on the size and depth of the well and the plugging method required, but it generally costs (districtwide) several thousand dollars to properly plug each well. However, the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD) offers a free program to plug abandoned artesian wells within its 18-county jurisdiction. The Abandoned Artesian Well Plugging Program is intended to safeguard aquifers and preserve water quality.

Assistance is offered through technical guidance, detection, evaluation, and oversight of licensed well contractors while the well is being permanently plugged.

Most free-flowing wells are on private property, therefore the SJRWMD relies on these private property owners to identify wells and to work cooperatively to permanently halt the waste of water. To notify them of a free-flowing well, please call (386) 643-1152. For more information on their free and cost-sharing program, contact the Abandoned Artesian Well Plugging Program Manager:

Gary Foster, Hydrologist P.G. (386) 329-442 or email at [gffoster@sjrwmd.com](mailto:gffoster@sjrwmd.com).



# Town Trunk-n-Treat Event

By Fred Anderson, Commissioner



It's that spooky time of year again! Come join in the fun at the Town-sponsored Trunk-n-Treat event in the AHF parking lot on October 31st. This family-friendly event ensures a safe trick-or-treating experience. All town residents are welcome. Decorate yourself and your golf cart, car, or truck, and bring some treats to pass out. The event is open from 6pm-8pm, so if you're handing out candy, arrive a little bit early to get set up. Let's all come together, have some fun, and enjoy a safe, community-focused event with neighbors and friends!



**Daylight Savings Time** ends on Sunday, November 3, 2024 at 2:00am. Remember to turn your clocks backward one hour to 1:00am. Of course, smart devices will do this for you automatically. This is also a great time to replace batteries in all smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors.

**Watering Schedule Changes:** Irrigation days and hours are restricted by order of the St. Johns River Water Management District water conservation rules, and are as follows: Homes with odd-numbered or no addresses may water on Saturdays, while homes with even-numbered addresses may water on Sundays. All watering must be done between midnight and 8am, or between 6pm and midnight, and only once per day on your designated day. Hand watering and low-volume irrigation (eg: soaker hose or drip irrigation) of plant material *other than lawns or turf grass* may be done at any time.



## HONORING MELBOURNE VILLAGE VETERANS!

Mark your calendars for Monday, November 11, 2024, at 11 AM in the AHF Hall as we come together for our Second Annual Veterans Day Celebration! Join us for a heartfelt tribute, featuring a warm welcome from Mayor Ditty, followed by hotdogs, chips, brownies, and refreshing lemonade and iced tea.

We want to honor our heroes with a special slideshow showcasing our service members. If you're a Veteran, active duty, or reservist, please send us your pictures to be included. Send scans of your photos via email ([Officeadmin@melbournevillage.org](mailto:Officeadmin@melbournevillage.org)), or you can bring them to the Town Office.

Let's celebrate our brave men and women together!



# Join the Conversation: Mayor's Town Hall Meetings

Engaging with your local government doesn't have to be daunting or formal. In fact, it can be as welcoming and relaxed as a coffee chat with your neighbors. That's exactly what the quarterly Mayor's Town Hall Meetings aim to be: an open, informal space where you can voice your concerns, share ideas, and stay informed about what's happening in our town.

Our town hall meetings provide a unique opportunity for residents to connect directly with the Mayor in sessions that are designed to foster open communication and ensure that your voice is heard. Here's why you should consider attending:

1. **Open and Casual Forum:** These meetings are all about creating a comfortable environment where everyone feels welcome to participate. Whether you have questions about new policies, concerns about local issues, or ideas for community improvement, the town hall meetings are the perfect platform to share them.
2. **Stay Informed:** The Mayor uses these meetings to provide updates on recent developments, upcoming projects, and key decisions affecting our community. It's a chance to get the latest information straight from the source and understand how it impacts you and your neighbors.
3. **Direct Interaction:** Unlike more formal settings, these town hall meetings are designed to facilitate direct interaction where you can engage in meaningful discussions, ask questions, and receive immediate feedback.
4. **Community Building:** Attending these meetings helps build a stronger sense of community. It's an opportunity to meet fellow residents, discuss shared concerns, and work together to enhance the quality of life in our town.

## What to Expect







- **When and Where:** The town hall meetings are held quarterly at the Town Office. The schedule for these meetings is in each edition of The Cardinal and posted on the bulletin boards and website in advance, so be sure to mark your calendar.
- **Atmosphere:** The tone of the meetings is informal and approachable. With no formalities, you can expect a friendly and engaging atmosphere where open dialogue is encouraged.
- **Refreshments:** To make your visit even more enjoyable, coffee and donuts are provided. It's a small touch designed to make the meetings more inviting and to give you a chance to relax and mingle with other attendees.

So, join us at the next Mayor's Town Hall Meeting. Your participation makes a difference in shaping the future of our town. Get involved, ask questions, and contribute to the vibrant fabric of this community. We look forward to seeing you there, where we can keep the conversation going!

**Next Mayor's  
Town Hall Meeting:**



# Town of Melbourne Village Calendar

| October 2024  |      |   | November 2024   |        |  | December 2024   |      |  |
|---|------|---|---|--------|--|---|------|--|
| 14  | Mon  | Space Coast League of Cities Meeting        | 5   | Tues   | Election Day                                       | 9   | Mon  | Space Coast League of Cities meeting   |
| 15  | Tues | Finance Cmte Mtg                            | 11  | Mon    | <b>Veteran's Recognition Event</b> (Office Closed) | 10  | Tues | Finance Cmte Mtg   |
| 15  | Tues | Beautification Cmte                         | 11  | Mon    | Space Coast League of Cities Meeting               | 14  | Sat  | Mayor's Town Hall  |
| 22  | Tues | <b>Commission Mtg</b>                       | 19  | Tues   | Finance Cmte Mtg                                   | 17  | Tues | Beautification Cmte  |
| 31  | Thur | <b>Halloween Trunk 'n Treat</b>             | 19  | Tues   | Beautification Cmte                                | 17  | Tues | <b>Commission Mtg</b>  |
|  |      |   | 26  | Tues   | <b>Commission Mtg</b>                              | 25  | Wed  | <b>Christmas Day</b> (Office Closed)    |
|   |      |   | 28-29   | Th-Fri | <b>Thanksgiving Holiday</b> (Office closed)        |   |      |  |
| January 2025  |      |   | February 2025   |        |  | March 2025  |      |  |
| 1   | Wed  | <b>New Year's Day</b> (Office closed)       | 10  | Mon    | Space Coast League of Cities                       | 10  | Mon  | Space Coast League of Cities   |
| 13  | Mon  | Space Coast League of Cities                | 17  | Mon    | <b>Presidents' Day</b> (Office Closed)             | 15  | Sat  | Mayor's Town Hall  |
| 20  | Mon  | <b>MLK Day</b> (Office Closed)              | 18  | Tues   | Finance Cmte Mtg                                   | 18  | Tues | Finance Cmte Mtg   |
| 25  | Sat  | <b>Volunteer appreciation dinner @ HWCH</b> | 18  | Tues   | Beautification Cmte                                | 18  | Tues | Beautification Cmte  |
| 21  | Tues | Beautification Cmte                         | 25  | Tues   | <b>Commission Mtg</b>                              | 25  | Tues | <b>Commission Mtg</b>  |
| 21  | Tues | Finance Cmte Mtg                            |  |        |  |  |      |  |
| 28  | Tues | <b>Commission Mtg</b>                       |   |        |  |   |      |  |

- **Boards that meet on as-needed basis are not listed:** Code Enforcement Board, Town Review Board, Board of Adjustments
- **Workshops are a forum for discussion.** Final decisions and voting only happen at Commission Meetings.
- **Resident attendance is wanted at all workshops and meetings.** Stay informed. Be part of the discussion and decisions.



Did you know that the Town has many active Boards and Committees that rely on resident volunteers, many of which are in the need of new members? Some meet regularly and others only as needed.

Current opening:

## Code Enforcement Board

Enforces Town codes and ordinances, including, but not limited to, occupational license, fire, building, zoning, litter, environmental, animal control, abandoned property, land use, sign codes and ordinances

**Please contact the Town Office to learn more or if you are interested in volunteering.**

Town of Melbourne Village  
555 Hammock Road  
Melbourne Village, FL 32904



**Solid Waste Collection Information**  
**WastePro 321-837-0055**

[wasteprousa.com/town-of-melbourne-village/](http://wasteprousa.com/town-of-melbourne-village/)

**Monday** Recycling and yard trash. Place yard waste in containers or cut to 4-foot lengths. "Can what you can." No recycling in plastic bags!

**Wednesday and Saturday** Regular garbage, regular household rubbish.

**Large Items** If large appliances (stoves and refrigerators, with doors removed) and furniture are not picked up within a few days, contact Waste Pro.

**Reminder:** Do NOT place large piles of yard waste directly beneath power lines or next to mail boxes. The clam truck cannot be operated under power lines. If you must place yard waste in plastic bags, do not seal them (leave them so they can be easily opened). The best option is to containerize small items whenever possible.

**Contacting Town Officials**

Letters should be addressed to the Mayor, Vice Mayor, Commissioner, or Commissioners:  
Town of Melbourne Village  
555 Hammock Rd  
Melbourne Village, FL 32904  
M-F 9:30am-3:30pm  
phone: 321-723-8300

Website: [www.melbournevillage.org](http://www.melbournevillage.org)

Contact the Office and Commissioners at  
officeadmin@melbournevillage.org

Written communication (including email) with Town Officials pertaining to Town business is considered public record.

**Regular Town Commission Meetings are held at 6:30 pm on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of every month at the AHF Hall unless noted.**



**SHERIFF WAYNE IVEY**  
**BREVARD COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE**

Non-Emergency  
**(321) 952-6371**

Non-Emergency 772 Area  
**(772) 663-6269**

Community Services  
**(321) 264-7755**

[www.Brevardsheriff.com](http://www.Brevardsheriff.com)





**The Town Commission**

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| MAYOR         | Sue Ditty<br>mayor@melbournevillage.org   |
| VICE MAYOR    | Bridget Foster  |
| COMMISSIONERS | Fred Anderson<br>Valerie Calenda<br>Norton Muzzone<br>Scott Perrine<br>Betty Jo Yorio |