

THE

January 2025



CARDINAL

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Mayor's Report



Another year has flown by in the Village and I want to thank the residents for your continued support for the Commissioners and Staff. Through responsible management of external funds, thoughtful budgeting, and strong collaboration we successfully reduced the 2025 millage rate to 6.85, a trend we hope to continue since the Town's financial position is stronger than in many years.

Residents overwhelmingly voted (387/100), to approve our new Town Charter which will serve us for many years. As your Mayor, I would like to understand why 100 residents voted against the new charter. This many nay votes are indicative of why we strive to increase engagement with our residents with workshops, Mayor's Town Halls, and commission meetings. I welcome your feedback to understand your concerns or address any failure in communication. Contact me at mayor@melbournevillage.org or come to the informal Mayor's Town Hall. (See March calendar, page 11). We're working hard to boost participation with our residents, so in addition to the meetings mentioned above, you can now sign up for the Town's MARVIN report to be better informed (see page 2).

Other 2024 accomplishments made possible using the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds include refurbishing our streets signs with reflective paint, new AC systems, roof, and septic system at the Town Hall, new roof for the Public Works garage, adding electricity and lights in the Public Works pole barn, and repair of the Dayton sidewalk, to name a few. In addition, we completed exterior renovation of the Hester Wagner Community House, replaced the Hall Road culvert, hired a lobbyist, and had our first "clean" audit in many years. And, the Town is fully staffed with a stable, cohesive team working well together and with residents.

It is our intent to keep the momentum going in 2025! After a few setbacks, installation of the HWCH septic system is slated to start soon, and we WILL get our playground installed this spring! We are working closely with our lobbyist to bring in more funding to offset costs for additional projects (see page 3). The Commission will work on updating policies and the personnel manual, create a committee to review our Town Codes (see page 4), and work on instituting a new and improved Town Website. Public Works will use the dry season months to work on stormwater projects and clear Town Right-of-ways (see page 6).

This edition of the Cardinal is chock full of important news and updates which represent just some of the projects your Commission, Town Staff, and volunteers are working on for the benefit of us all. Cut out and keep the Calendar page for key dates and important numbers on the back.

Thank you for the opportunity and privilege to serve as your Mayor for another two years - let's keep the conversation going.

Mayor Ditty



December 2024 Commission Meeting. Photo credit: Gretchen Tüten



Town of Melbourne Village 2025 Legislative Priorities

Your Town Commission continues to partner with **Space Coast League of Cities** and **Florida League of Cities** in order to address priority issues most likely to impact daily municipal operations and governance statewide. These priorities reflect a comprehensive approach to addressing the needs of local governance, environmental protection, and community resilience. Below is the list of priorities agreed upon by the Town Commission for 2025:

Home Rule Protection: Advocate for the preservation and strengthening of home rule to ensure local governments maintain control over policies affecting local matters. Oppose efforts that undermine the autonomy of municipalities in governing local issues.

Homeowners' Insurance Crisis: Address the growing homeowners' insurance crisis by supporting reforms aimed at stabilizing the insurance market, reducing premiums, and protecting homeowners from excessive rate hikes.

Indian River Lagoon / Water Quality Improvement: Secure funding for the restoration and long-term protection of the Indian River Lagoon and other critical water bodies. Advocate for enhanced water quality standards, stricter pollution controls, and increased support for stormwater and wastewater treatment infrastructure.

Florida Form 6 (Financial Disclosure Reform): Support repeal of Florida Form 6, the required yet invasive financial disclosure form for elected officials, and reinstating use of Form 1. This will ensure transparency while protecting privacy and reducing administrative burdens for small municipalities.

Hardening of Utilities: Promote investments in the hardening of utilities to increase resilience against natural disasters and climate-related events. Push for policies that encourage burying power lines, upgrading aging infrastructure, and improving energy grid reliability.

Short-Term Rentals Regulation: Advocate for local authority to regulate short-term rentals in a way that balances economic benefits with the need to preserve residential neighborhoods, maintain public safety, and address community concerns regarding noise, congestion, and use of resources.

Infrastructure Funding for Small Municipalities: Seek increased state and federal infrastructure funding specifically tailored to meet the needs of small municipalities. Focus on road maintenance, water and wastewater systems and drainage, and public facility upgrades that promote long-term sustainability and growth.

Preservation of Green Spaces: Maintain zoning laws, encourage funding for conservation, and provide incentives for municipalities to preserve parks, trails, and recreational areas.

Introducing the MARVIN Report!

By Bridget Foster, Vice Mayor



The **MARVIN Report** (Municipal Announcements, Reports, and Vital Information Network) is Melbourne Village's new email notification system designed to keep you informed about what's happening in our community, ensuring you stay connected with essential information quickly and conveniently—all delivered straight to your inbox. This no-reply email will serve as your go-to source for important updates, including:

- Announcements from town officials
- Monthly regular and special commission meeting announcements
- Information about town services and events
- Emergency notifications

How to Sign Up

To begin receiving the MARVIN Report, please send an email to officeadmin@melbournevillage.org with "Sign Me Up for MARVIN" in the subject line. In the email body, include your name and preferred email address. That's it! Your information will be kept private and used solely for town communication purposes.

Note: If you have already submitted your email, you don't need to do it again.

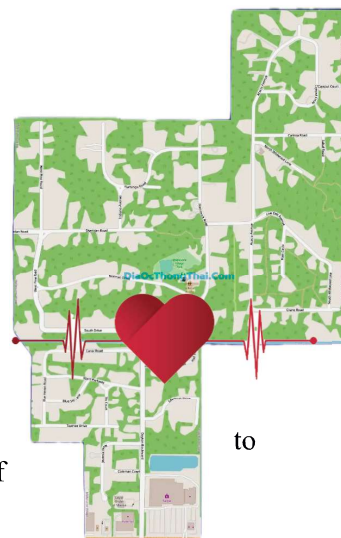
What to Expect

The MARVIN Report is a no-reply email. If you have questions or require further assistance regarding any information shared, please reach out directly to the town office at the email above or call during business hours.

Why Sign Up?

Our goal is to keep you informed and engaged with the latest developments in Melbourne Village. From upcoming events to critical updates, the MARVIN Report will ensure you're always in the loop, wherever you are.

Don't miss out—sign up today
Keep your finger on the pulse of
Melbourne Village!



Municipal Dashboard

By Heather Roberts, Town Clerk/Treasurer

As we step into a new year and a new quarter, we have several updates to share about ongoing town projects and initiatives:

Audit Completion Expected This Month

The Town's annual audit onsite work is set to be completed later this month and will be presented and finalized at the March regular commission meeting. We are pleased to share that all signs indicate a positive outcome. We anticipate passing with flying colors, reflecting our continued commitment to sound financial management and transparency.

Playground Installation Delayed

Unfortunately, the completion of the new playground has been further delayed. The assembly company is currently seeking a new contractor to install the mulch required for the site. Rest assured, we are actively following up with the company and will provide updates during upcoming Town Commission meetings. Your patience and understanding are greatly appreciated as we work through this unforeseen challenge.

HWCH/PW Septic Installation Update

The septic system installation for the Hester Wagner Community House & Public Works Garages has experienced a setback. The location of the system needed to change to meet the site requirements, and as part of this adjustment, some trees will need to be removed. While this delay is unfortunate, these steps are necessary to ensure the system is properly installed. We remain committed to moving the project forward and will provide further updates as they become available.

Fund-Seeking Efforts

The town's lobbyist is currently searching for appropriations for our infrastructure project wish list. These funds would be an ideal way to advance our town's infrastructure goals without overburdening taxpayers. The Mayor will be presenting to our Congressmen and Senators at the Brevard County Legislative Delegation Meeting to inform them about our projects and make our case for the need. This allows us to be visible to the whole delegation and helps get our sponsors to prioritize our requests. We'll continue to share updates as progress is made. Current priorities include:

- **Road Repaving and Re-striping:** Enhancing safety and accessibility for drivers and pedestrians.
- **Stormwater Study:** To identify weaknesses and provide guidance to mitigate flood risk during heavy rain events.
- **Septic Upgrades and/or Sewer Conversions:** To comply with state mandates supporting sustainability and environmental health.

Thank you for your continued support and engagement. Together, we are making strides toward improving the community for all residents. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out or attend the next commission meeting.



Business Tax Receipts

By Betty Jo Yorio, Commissioner



Are you operating a business from your home? Are you engaged in a profession, occupation, or service where you earned more than \$600 in one year working from your home? If that answer is yes, then you need a Business Tax Receipt (BTR) a.k.a. "Occupational License" from the Town of Melbourne Village per Town Code, Chapter 10. A Business Tax Receipt is a local municipal receipt issued to an individual or business as proof that the company has registered, paid local taxes, and is approved to operate in the town.

The required application process is simple: Fill out and submit an "Application for a Business Tax Receipt" Form including the name of the business and a description of business activities, owner names, business and mailing addresses, and a signature from the Applicant. If the business name is not the owner's first and last name, a fictitious name must be registered with the State of Florida. If the business is incorporated, a copy of the Articles of Incorporation must be submitted. Any profession regulated by the Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR), or any board or commission thereof, shall submit an active state certificate, registration, or license before the town BTR will be issued. Applications for BTRs will be reviewed and approved by the Town Commission during the next regularly scheduled monthly meeting. Once approved, the applicable fee will be due.

BTRs are to be renewed annually by October 1st and the fee is \$20, subject to late fees. Commercial BTR fees vary depending on the type and size of business in accordance with Melbourne Village Town Code, Chapter 10, Section 19. Any further questions may be directed to the Town Clerk during regular business hours.

For Your Own Protection

All tree removals in the town require the homeowner to obtain a permit for removal or a letter from an International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) certified arborist documenting the tree's condition, health, and recommendations and reasons for removal (such as it being dead or dying, posing an unacceptable risk to people or property, or being an invasive tree).



Please note: Town employees do not ensure tree companies are licensed or insured. That is the sole responsibility of the homeowner. To verify they are licensed, use the Florida Department of Business and Professional Regulation (DBPR) online verification portal: myfloridalicense.com or call the DBPR Customer Contact Center at (850) 487-1395. To verify insurance, ask for copies of their liability and worker's compensation policies and call their providers to verify the policies are current and active.

“Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart.” ~Elizabeth Andrew, American Author

The Next Step

By Val Calenda, Commissioner

In 2024, a significant milestone for the Town of Melbourne Village was achieved when the revised Town Charter was adopted by referendum during the last election. This was an important event in the Commission’s work to update much of the town’s administrative and physical infrastructure and is the culmination of a two-year process that started with the appointment of a team of volunteers who, working with the town attorney, reviewed the Town Charter with the task of updating it to bring it in line with current municipal practices and state and federal laws.

This year, the Commission will use the same process to review and update our town ordinances. As with the Town Charter, the ordinances are out-of-date and need to be brought in line with current state laws and statutes. The Commission will be seeking volunteers interested in preserving our way of life here in the Village. We define and enforce what is important in our community through the use of ordinances. Volunteering for the Ordinance Review Committee offers an opportunity to play an active role in ensuring that our regulations reflect the needs of our residents. Please consider stepping forward when the time comes to volunteer.

Camille’s Code Corner

By Camille M. Moore, Code Enforcement Official

Happy New Year! This past year in the Village I have handled many cases and want to briefly summarize those activities for all of you. Each month I submit a report of Code Enforcement actions to the Commission and will share the years’ numbers here. I began working for TMV in late 2023, so 2024 was my first complete year. The following table shows the actions undertaken in 2023 and 2024.

	Possible	Follow-up	Doorhanger	Contact	Opened	Closed	NOV	SUM	CEB
2023	14	10	2	1	17	6	11	4	2
2024	21	13	0	1	23	28	13	8	5

I regularly drive through the Town looking for violations and happily do not see many. As mentioned in earlier articles, overgrowth during the summertime tends to be the most commonly seen violation and usually a Courtesy Letter gets it handled. Now that we are in the winter months, this should dwindle down. I will be honoring the pollinator signs this spring (see adjacent article) and will therefore be more lenient than last spring.

While the Code Enforcement process can be lengthy, it works much faster when I have cooperative property owners who are willing to communicate with me to achieve compliance, or when I receive a complaint that I am legally allowed to act upon. I cannot initiate action based on anonymous complaints per Florida statute, and I always use tact when discussing issues with property owners to help maintain peaceful relations within the Town.

Contact me at code_enforcement@melbournevillage.org, or contact the office staff to file a complaint or get a question to me. 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.

“Pardon the Pollen” Signs

By Bridget Foster, Vice Mayor



Attention residents! In an effort to support the health of honeybees and other vital pollinators, the town is encouraging residents to delay lawn mowing until May 1st. To help spread the message, “Please Pardon the Pollen – Mowing Resumes May 1st” signs will be available at the Town Office. The signs will be yours to keep and re-use each year! Below is a simple mockup showing approximately what the signs will look like.

By letting lawns grow naturally during early spring, we can provide crucial habitat and forage for honeybees, butterflies, and other pollinators that play an essential role in our ecosystem. The signs will let neighbors and town officials know that your uncut lawn is part of a larger initiative to protect pollinators, not a sign of neglect, therefore you **MUST** have this sign in your yard to avoid a code violation if you are participating.

The Town is subsidizing a portion of the cost to have the signs made, as we believe in this effort and its benefits to us all. Residents will pay \$2. Once they arrive, residents may pick up their signs at the Town Office during regular business hours. Let’s work together to support our pollinators while keeping our town both beautiful *and* informed!



Public Safety Update

Six months ago, the Town Commission approved the renewal of our public safety contract with the Brevard County Sheriff's Department at an annual cost of \$270,408. This expenditure translates to \$22,534 per month, or approximately \$751 per day.

As the largest recurring expense in the town's budget, this contract reflects our commitment to ensuring the safety and security of our community. We take our fiscal responsibility very seriously, and we carefully review the monthly reports provided by BCSO, which outline their activities and services over the previous month. This diligence ensures accountability and the effective use of town resources.

The reports provide insight into BCSO activity within Melbourne Village: On average, deputies conduct approximately 200 residential patrols and 90 business patrols each month. Traffic enforcement efforts, such as stationary observations of traffic, average 14 per month, while traffic stops average 20 per month. There is typically nothing more of consequence to report and they tell us that Melbourne Village continues to be one of the safest places to live in Brevard County.

Based on comments from residents and our own observations, the Town Commission has offered specific guidance to the deputies who attend our monthly meetings. We have requested that, while parked and completing paperwork, they choose visible locations rather than behind Target or near the Public Works garages, in order to serve as a deterrent to speeding and stop sign violations. Additionally, we have asked that all patrols include thorough coverage of the town, ensuring that our dead-end streets receive equal attention.

Cut through traffic and speeding remain a primary concern and an ongoing issue for our community, and so we have encouraged our deputies to adopt a stricter approach to enforcement. So if you are one of our Village residents who presses that gas pedal a little too hard, or who slides through stop signs in your car or even on your golf cart, you may find yourself on the receiving end of the results of our feedback. We remind all residents that adherence to traffic laws applies to everyone, so please bear that in mind as we try to ensure the well-being of those we serve and uphold the standards of service we expect.



Nighttime Walking and Biking

By Scott Perrine, Commissioner

Nighttime walking and biking are a great way to enjoy the Village, but they require extra safety precautions to ensure visibility and courtesy for everyone sharing our roadways.

Wearing reflective gear is essential for both walkers and cyclists, as it makes you more visible to drivers. Reflective vests, jackets, and accessories like armbands or tape can dramatically improve your visibility. Cyclists should equip their bikes with front and rear lights, while walkers can carry flashlights or wear headlamps. If you're bringing a pet along, ensure they're visible too—reflective collars, LED leashes, or clip-on lights can help keep them safe. Shorter leashes can help avoid nighttime accidents.



Cyclists should aim their headlights downward to illuminate the path without blinding others, and walkers should keep flashlights pointed at the ground or their pet. Avoid directing bicycle headlights, headlamps, and flashlights at oncoming traffic, as they can disorient drivers or other pedestrians. Drivers should avoid using the brightest headlight setting so as not to blind pedestrians or others sharing the roadway.

Finally, staying alert and respecting others' space is critical. Reduce distractions by keeping headphone volume low and scanning your surroundings for hazards like uneven pavement or obstacles. By following these tips we can all enjoy nighttime outings safely while ensuring a pleasant experience for everyone around us.



Beautification Committee

By Celia Byrnes

The TMV Beautification Committee has been very busy! Coontie plants have been added to Flamingo Triangle to support our Atala butterflies. The Hester Wagner Community House plantings should start early this year. This work is contracted out to Change of Greenery and will enhance the beauty and appeal of the property. At Printshop Crossing, invasive plants have been removed and native plantings will be added. Thanks to Jeff and Greg for mowing and to everyone who has contributed to these efforts.

I'm still looking for additional members for the Beautification Committee. See page 11 for details about the committee and then let me know if you're interested in joining us! Call Celia at (832) 466-5577 to volunteer.



Waste Pro and Yard Waste

By Sue Ditty, Mayor

Attention: Waste Pro is considering changing our recycling day to Thursdays starting in Spring. Stay tuned for more information.

In December 2023, the Town renewed its multi-year contract with WastePro. Like other trash collection providers, Waste Pro has experienced increased costs of doing business, resulting in raised rates for residents. However, Waste Pro agreed to slowly implement the increase over 3 years instead of one significant jump. As a result, the new 2025 residential curbside rate will be \$35.38 per home effective February 1, 2025. This charge will appear as “Garbage” on your Melbourne Utility (water) bill.

The Commission and residents present during contract discussions agreed that Waste Pro provides excellent service tailored to our unique community’s needs. No other company provides the personal service or the multiple collections included in our contract: trash twice a week, yard debris twice a week, and recycling once a week. Hand pick-up like we have with Waste Pro is essentially non-existent with other companies.

I attended multiple briefings after Hurricane Milton and verified that TMV did not qualify to apply for FEMA debris contractors. Despite this, Waste Pro began collecting debris the day after the storm and continued their scheduled pick-up days. The sheer volume of debris in our wooded community, multiple piles by residents, and large piles created by contractors hired to clear yards resulted in repeated trips to the same areas, delaying trips to other areas of the town. Other communities were still waiting for FEMA contractors weeks after our entire Town was serviced.

You have options to facilitate the yard debris pick-up process after major events: take it to the Town’s yard debris holding area on Hall Rd, put it in cans which are picked up on Mondays, avoid mixing it with fencing or other construction debris, and ensure your debris piles are not under power lines or low hanging branches where it is difficult, if not impossible, for the claw truck to remove them. Please be responsible and ensure that contractors haul away any debris created, as required by our Town Code and Waste Pro contract. On some of the roads in town, neighbors made large, shared debris piles which helps speed up the collection process as fewer stops are required. Your cooperation matters!

The Best Forums for Community Issues

By Bridget Foster, Vice Mayor

In today’s digital age, websites like NextDoor provide a convenient way to connect with neighbors. However, when we have a question or concern about community issues, these platforms fall short. Bringing your comments directly to a Town Commission meeting or a Mayor’s Town Hall offers distinct advantages that online forums simply can’t provide.

Town meetings provide a structured environment where residents can voice concerns directly to officials with the authority to make decisions and allocate resources. Unlike social media, town meetings allow for real-time feedback and solutions. Online posts may never reach the right people, as your Town Commission and staff do not monitor nor participate in every discussion. Additionally, in online forums, tone and context can be misinterpreted, diluting the seriousness of legitimate issues and leading to misinformation rather than a constructive outcome.

For official town information, do not turn to social media. Instead, rely on trusted sources such as the town website (melbournevillag.org), the Dayton bulletin board, and the Town Office sign holder. While social media can be a helpful supplemental tool, it should not replace direct conversations at town meetings, which remain the most effective avenue for positive change.

When you do use platforms like NextDoor, it’s important to limit your audience to Melbourne Village residents. Broadening the audience to include individuals outside the community can further spread misinformation and invite unhelpful commentary. Keep discussions respectful and locally targeted to protect the community’s integrity. By choosing appropriate channels and maintaining constructive dialogue, you will contribute to a more informed and unified community. Your neighbors thank you!



Winter Updates: Improvement Projects

By Jeff Conklin, Public Works Supervisor

This winter, we’re excited to announce several town improvement projects, including replacing damaged culverts and reshaping swales (ditches) to a depth of 4” below driveway culvert bottoms—deeper than they’ve been in years. This upgrade will improve water collection and drainage, allowing stormwater to slowly soak into the ground while accommodating heavy rainfall. Benefits include reducing culvert damage from prolonged wetness and minimizing sediment and debris buildup. To ensure the stormwater system works effectively, please avoid re-sodding or planting trees in cleared ditches and swales. These efforts are essential for maintaining proper drainage and protecting our town’s infrastructure.

We’ve also hired a professional tree service to provide some much-needed trimming and maintenance in town right-of-ways. Low hanging limbs will be trimmed to improve visibility, and dead branches will prevent potential hazards and create opportunities for new, healthy growth to flourish.

While these projects may occasionally disrupt daily routines, we are committed to minimizing any inconvenience. We encourage residents to stay informed through newsletters and community updates. Your patience and understanding as we complete these projects are greatly appreciated. Thank you for your continued support as we work together to enhance our town’s infrastructure and enhance its natural beauty.

Rediscover the Charm of Hester Wagner Community House

By Suzy Headon, Deputy Clerk

Looking for the perfect venue for your next event? The Hester Wagner Community House is as inviting as it is affordable. Nestled in quiet, natural surroundings, this historic gem is ideal for any event, from baby showers and birthdays to wedding receptions and celebrations of life. But don't miss out—this venue is in high demand!

Rental Rates & Details

- Refundable Security Deposit: \$200 due at time of booking. Deposits can be made in person or via credit card (a 3.25% processing fee will apply for payments made by phone).
- Rental Rates:
 - Monday–Thursday: \$130 per day
 - Friday–Sunday: \$250 per day
- Access Hours: 9am to 9pm for each day of your booked reservation.

Cancellation Policy

We understand plans can change, however in order to ensure that everyone has a fair opportunity to book this sought-after venue here's our generous cancellation policy:

- More than 1 week before the event: 100% refund of your deposit amount.
- 1 week to 48 hours before the event: 50% refund of your deposit amount.
- 48 hours or less before the event: No refund.

Secure your booking today and experience the perfect blend of history, beauty, and affordability!



Town Hall Makeover?

By Bridget Foster, Vice Mayor

Here's an idea we're exploring! Have you noticed some little changes at the Town Hall? Some things have been shifted around as we start thinking about the possibility of a remodel. We're considering relocating the entrance to the front of the building to create a more natural flow, reconfiguring the administrative offices to enhance team communication, and freeing up space for additional meeting areas and storage solutions. These potential changes could make the Town Hall more functional, welcoming, and efficient, while also encouraging greater public engagement. We're still in the early stages and will need to carefully budget and plan before moving forward. Stay tuned as we explore this exciting possibility!

Do You Know What To Do When Someone Is Choking?

Fact: This town loves to get together and share a meal as a way to connect, celebrate, and enjoy each other's company.

Also Fact: Of all choking deaths each year, around 41% are caused by food.

Have you heard that the Town has invested in two LifeVac Airway Clearing (anti-choking) devices? One is located at Hester Wagner Community House and the other is located at the Town Hall. LifeVac can be used on both adults and children, and can even be self-administered.

Important! Prior to using LifeVac, you should call 911 and then follow established choking protocols:

1. Recognize complete airway obstruction. If the person can't speak, cough, or make any noise, they likely have a complete obstruction. They might try to communicate nonverbally by make the universal choking sign of placing their hands at their neck. If you suspect they are suffering from a complete obstruction, ask them, "Are you choking?" If they nod, ask "Can I help you?" Encourage them to attempt a forceful cough in order to dislodge the object. If unsuccessful, progress to step 2. *If choking victim is frail, obese, or has physical impairments such a being in a wheelchair, skip steps 2 and 3 and progress to step 4.



2. Perform five back slaps. Position yourself behind the victim. Using the heel of your palm, strike the victim between the shoulder blades forcefully five times. If unsuccessful, progress to step 3.



3. Perform five abdominal thrusts. Position yourself behind victim. Make a fist with your dominant hand and place it over the victim's navel. Place your non-dominant hand over your fist. Roll both hands upward until hands are positioned with thumbs facing toward you. Pull up and in, forcefully and continually, five times.



4. Implement LifeVac. Please consider taking the time to educate yourself on this lifesaving device. Go to lifelvac.net/training/ for their free four-minute training video, or use the QR code below.



LIFEVAC

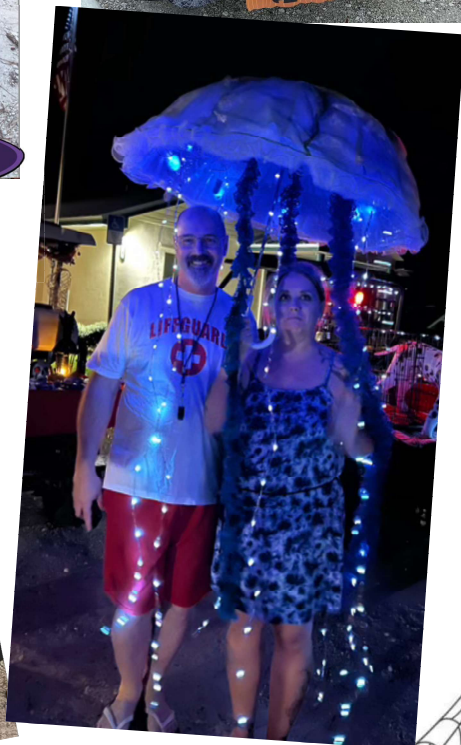


Halloween Shenanigans

By Fred Anderson, Commissioner



The Town's Trunk 'n Treat on Halloween Night was a success again this year with a great turn out! It was very festive, with town officials and many adults and children in costume. Please enjoy a few of our photos of the event, and then plan to join us next year!



Veteran's Day 2024

By Fred Anderson, Commissioner

As always, we had great attendance at our annual Veteran's Day Event honoring our town Veterans... we even had to pull out more chairs! A heartfelt thank you to Mayor Ditty for her moving speech and slide show of town Veterans and residents' Veteran family members. Everyone seemed to enjoy the hot dogs and snacks, too. Be sure to thank your Town Commission who helped put this event together.

Note: If we didn't have your picture(s) in our slide show, we apologize. The last-minute decision to put the slideshow together meant that we didn't get notice out in time and we even missed a few of your photos that *did* get sent in on time. Please forgive us and re-send your pics now! We will save them in the slideshow for next year, we promise.



Charlie Smith



Bill Paine



Dwight Davies



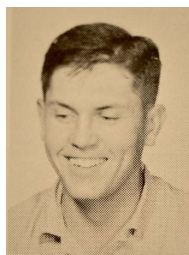
Jeff Ditty



Mark Smith



Caleb Cronkite



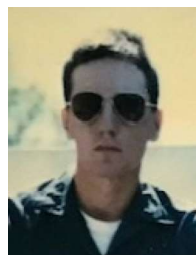
Jim Maxner



Paul Ishman



Christopher Salmon



Tom Busby



Marty McAlwee



Len Armstrong



Charlie Buchanan



Valerie Calenda



Tony Calenda



Kevin Foster



Richard Bryant

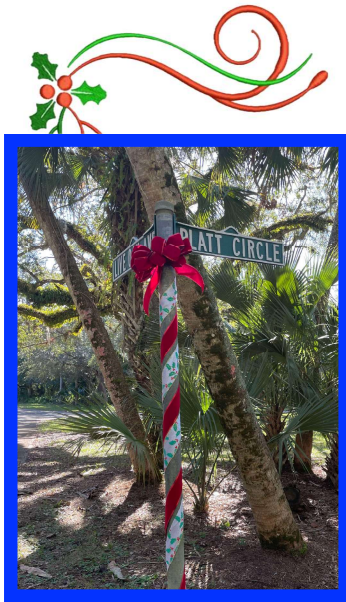


Dave Zeitz





Thank you to Santa's Elves: Leslie Fay, Hilda Brockman, Norton & Lorrie Muzzone, and Kevin & Bridget Foster for decorating the street poles for the holidays!



Celebrating Our Volunteers!

By Norton Muzzone, Commissioner

As we travel through our town, the beauty of Melbourne Village surrounds us—whether seen through a car window, noticed during a leisurely stroll, or experienced while pedaling a bike down our charming streets. The same holds true for those who explore our off-road paths, embracing the natural wonder of our exceptional and awe-inspiring community. From scenic views to town holiday and social events, there's so much that makes Melbourne Village special.

None of this would be possible without the incredible efforts and thoughtfulness of our volunteers. Their generosity, skills, time, and dedication are the foundation of our vibrant, historic community, making it all possible. It's difficult to find the right words to express just how much their hard work means to us as they continue to make remarkable contributions year after year.

To show our heartfelt gratitude, we have sent out the invites and will be hosting our annual Volunteer Appreciation Dinner in late January in order to thank all those who help make Melbourne Village such a unique and cherished place to call home.



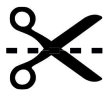
Mayor Ditty and the Town Staff enjoying some food & fun!

A Note from FPL Regarding Your 2025 Billing Year

Temporary Hurricane Restoration Surcharge: Hurricanes and severe weather are part of living in Florida. When a hurricane strikes, FPL works safely and as quickly as possible to restore power to our customers, sometimes bringing in thousands of additional lineworkers from other states to help. Such emergency restoration costs are not reflected in your bill until after a storm. The Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) has approved FPL's request for a temporary charge to cover costs from Hurricanes Debby, Helene, and Milton. This charge also replenishes funds used after Hurricane Idalia in 2023. It will add \$12.02 to a typical 1,000-kWh residential bill from January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

2025 Bill Estimates: Even with this added surcharge, bills in 2025 will still be below the national average. The 2025 estimates include the hurricane surcharge and other annual adjustments, such as fuel costs. For example, a typical bill 1,000 kWh residential customer bill starting in January 2025 would go from \$121.19 to \$133.99.

***Note:** The Cardinal is including this information for you as an FYI. We were not involved in the decision and have no further details. If you have questions, please contact FPL directly.



Town of Melbourne Village Calendar

FOUNDERS' DAY SAVE THE DATES!

4/26 ICE CREAM SOCIAL AT HWCH

4/27 FOUNDERS' DAY EVENT

January 2025			February 2025			March 2025		
1	Wed	New Year's Day (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	Presidents' Day (Office Closed)	15	Sat	Mayor's Town Hall
20	Mon	MLK & Inauguration Day (Office Closed)	18	Tues	Finance Cmte Mtg	18	Tues	Finance Cmte Mtg
21	Tues	Beautification Cmte	18	Tues	Beautification Cmte	18	Tues	Beautification Cmte
21	Tues	Finance Cmte Mtg	25	Tues	Commission Mtg	25	Tues	Commission Mtg
25	Sat	Volunteer appreciation dinner @ HWCH						
28	Tues	Commission Mtg						
April 2025			May 2025			June 2025		
14	Mon	Space Coast League of Cities	12	Mon	Space Coast League of Cities	9	Mon	TMV Hosts Space Coast League of Cities
15	Tues	Beautification Cmte	20	Tues	Finance Cmte Mtg	14	Sat	Mayor's Town Hall
15	Tues	Finance Cmte Mtg	20	Tues	Beautification Cmte	17	Tues	Finance Cmte Mtg
22	Tues	Commission Mtg	26	Mon	Memorial Day	17	Tues	Beautification Cmte
26	Sat	TMV Ice Cream Social	27	Tues	Commission Mtg	24	Tues	Commission Mtg
27	Sun	TMV Founder's Day						

- 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? Some meet regularly and others meet only as needed.

Current openings:

Beautification Committee is in need of 3 members. This committee is responsible for planning, organizing, and overseeing projects that improve the aesthetic appearance of the town. They plant native plants and flowers, maintain landscaping, and advise the Town Commission regarding beautification projects and ideas.

Code Enforcement Board is in need of one alternate. This board is responsible for ensuring compliance with Town codes and ordinances, including areas such as occupational licensing, building regulations, zoning, litter control, environmental issues, animal control, abandoned property, land use, and sign codes.

Town Review Board is in need of one alternate. This board maintains those features of residential neighborhoods specifically identified by Town residents and the Town Commission as core community value (3rd. 2012-01). They also fulfill Planning and Zoning duties, including conducting and preparing comprehensive planning programs or portions thereof for the Town. Meets as needed.

Solid Waste Collection Information WastePro Contact Information

321-837-0055

wasteprousa.com/town-of-melbourne-village/

Monday: Recycling and yard trash. Place yard waste in containers or cut to 4-foot lengths.

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, please contact WastePro.

Reminder: Containerize small items whenever possible. 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.



Contacting Town Officials

Letters should be addressed to the Mayor, Vice Mayor, or Town Commission:

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

Website: www.melbournevillage.org

All written communication with Town Officials is considered public record.

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

Town Commission

MAYOR

Sue Ditty

mayor@melbournevillage.org

VICE MAYOR

Bridget Foster

COMMISSIONERS

Fred Anderson

Valerie Calenda

Norton Muzzone

Scott Perrine

Betty Jo Yorio

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

