



2022 Year in Review





A groundbreaking ceremony for the Joseph Pellicano Law Enforcement Center was held on September 14, 2022.

Message From the City Manager

Thanks to the dedication and tireless work of our employees, elected leaders and community members, 2022 was another extremely productive, successful year in the City of Melbourne.

As you will read in the pages that follow, there were a multitude of noteworthy accomplishments over the past 12 months, including improvements to infrastructure, upgrades to recreational amenities, projects and programs to protect the environment, and the fulfillment of thousands of building permits. Important capital projects that will transform how we offer key services to our citizens and utility customers reached major milestones in 2022, positioning our city for sustainable growth well into the future.

Development in the City of Melbourne continued to be strong, with a variety of new housing and commercial developments either completed or well underway by the end of 2022. City Council took action to expand the supply of affordable housing by approving development incentives and designating \$1.5 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds for affordable housing projects.

2022 was also an election year. On November 22, Melbourne's newest Council Member Rachael Bassett was sworn into office, and re-elected Council Members Julie Sanders and Mark LaRusso (who was also appointed Vice Mayor) took the oath of office to begin their second terms. They joined Mayor Paul Alfrey and Council Members Mimi Hanley, Yvonne Minus and Tim Thomas on the dais. Outgoing Council Member Debbie Thomas was thanked and recognized for her eight years of City Council service.

With the leadership of our Council Members and the hard work and creativity of our staff, the City of Melbourne continued to provide exceptional service to our citizens despite facing many challenges this year, including responding to historic inflation, a challenging labor market, and to two back-to-back hurricanes. The City of Melbourne will continue to take the steps necessary deliver the critical services our residents and business community expect and deserve in a sound and sustainable way.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shannon Lewis', is written over a light blue background.

Shannon Lewis, City Manager

Financial Stability

Despite challenging economic conditions, the City of Melbourne's current fiscal condition remains stable. The City continues to be proactive in managing expenditures, following best practices, and evaluating and implementing cost savings measures.

In addition, the City actively pursued grant opportunities to fund special projects and equipment. In 2022, we received a total of \$3,071,260 for ongoing grant-funded projects and were awarded \$1,465,143 in new grant funding.

In 2022, the City of Melbourne received an "AA+" rating from Fitch Ratings and an "AA" rating from S&P for its Series 2022 General Obligation bonds. The City also maintained its high AA rating from Fitch Ratings for our Water and Sewer Revenue Bonds, a reflection of historically strong operating performance and considerable control over expenses in spite of inflationary pressures. Moody's gave the City as a whole an "Aa2" issuer rating, which is their third highest rating and implies our obligations to be of high quality and subject to very low credit risk.



Margaritaville Marina and RiverWalk architectural rendering.

Growth and Development

Growth and development in the City of Melbourne remained strong in 2022. The City's business-friendly atmosphere, its location on the Space Coast, and its beautiful parks and natural areas continue to attract businesses and new residents. Our current population is now over 87,000 people, and the city is more than 51 square miles in size.

In fiscal year 2022, the City of Melbourne issued 7,635 permits valued at more than \$261 million. A variety of office/commercial, hotel and residential projects were completed or were underway by the end of 2022, including Margaritaville Marina and RiverWalk, which will feature a riverfront hotel, restaurant, marina and event lawn; Element Melbourne



Architectural rendering of the Parasol Senior-Living Apartments project.

Oceanfront Hotel; Parasol Senior-Living Apartments; Trillium Apartments; Dirty Dog Carwash; Skyway Industrial Center; First Watch Restaurant; Hidden Harbor Subdivision; 7Brew Coffee; and the Burton Office Building.

In 2022, City Council approved a proposal for a five-story mixed-use office building that will include retail and restaurant space and public parking (nights and weekends) on Palmetto Avenue. A proposal to develop a mixed-use retail, restaurant and residential building at the corner of Waverly Place and Strawbridge Avenue was under review, and a third property on the east side of Vernon Place was set to be advertised.

The Melbourne City Council also took action to address the problem of affordable housing in our community. New incentives, including lessened setbacks, parking, and square-footage minimums, were approved to encourage more affordable housing development in the City, and more incentives are being discussed related to providing

density bonuses and flexibility for locating affordable housing. Council also designated \$1.5 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for the development of affordable housing. A request for applications for these projects will be issued in early 2023.

Two affordable housing projects were under construction in 2022. The Palms at University is being developed by the Melbourne Housing Authority and will feature 60 new units for elderly and disabled people. St. Stephens Way will include 40 new units for homeless families and is being administered by a partnership of nonprofits in conjunction with the Brevard Homeless Coalition.

The City funded the Melbourne Street to Home Program to help those who are homeless and to prevent others from becoming homeless. Administered by the Brevard Homeless Coalition, the program provided transitional and permanent housing along with case management and prevention assistance for more than 119 people during a seven-month period.

Parks, Recreation and Golf

Harbor City Golf Course reopened this fall with new irrigation, new greens, new tee boxes, and a renovated clubhouse and restaurant.

Staff made improvements to other parks and recreation facilities, as well. They installed new dugouts at various City ballfields and planted new landscaping at several parks and the Melbourne Auditorium. Lipscomb Park was renamed in honor of Eddie Lee Taylor, Sr. New lights were installed at the Fee Avenue Clay Tennis Courts, and the pool liners at Eddie

Lee Taylor, Sr. Community Complex and Fee Avenue Park were replaced. Crane Basketball Court was renovated thanks to donations from Walk-Ons Sports Bistreaux in Viera, Walk-Ons Game On Foundation, and MEC General Contractors.

Many special events and programs were held throughout the year, including the MelBOOM Fourth of July Fireworks Celebration, summer camp, Breakfast with the Easter Bunny, Moonlight Yoga, Walk n Boo, and events to celebrate the winter holidays.



Air Sports Parachute Team's Captain America makes a landing to help kick off the MelBOOM 4th of July Fireworks Celebration.

2022 Special Events



Keeping Our Community Safe

Police Department

In September 2022, construction began on the Melbourne Police Department's new headquarters building, the Joseph Pellicano Law Enforcement Center. The new 76,390 square-foot, two-story building will bring all MPD divisions together under one roof to help make emergency response more efficient and to streamline information sharing. Melbourne voters approved financing the design and construction of the new police facility through general obligation bonds via referendum on November 6, 2018. The Melbourne City Council later named the facility in honor of Officer Joseph Pellicano, who was killed in the line of duty in 1986.

In mid-2022, the Melbourne Police Department entered into a three-year partnership with Central Florida Cares Health System Inc. and Brevard Family Partnership/Brevard C.A.R.E.S. to implement an Adult Mobile Crisis Co-Responder Program (MRT), the first of its kind in Brevard County. The primary goal of the MRT program is to increase public safety by allowing for a more immediate response for an individual in a behavioral health crisis, and to divert individuals in crisis from entering the criminal justice system and emergency department admissions. The program also aims to connect individuals with community resources and treatment services as a long-term solution.

Since the program's implementation, MRT clinicians have responded at the request of Melbourne Police Officers to 72 instances of persons experiencing a mental health crisis. Out these calls, MRT has performed follow-up services to further assist 30 of these individuals in need.



Chief David Gillespie thanked community members for their support during the Joseph Pellicano Law Enforcement Center Groundbreaking Ceremony.

Fire Department

In 2022, the Melbourne Fire Department earned an ISO Class 1 rating, placing it among the top 1% of fire departments in the nation and the top 10% of fire departments in the state of Florida. It is the first fire department in Brevard County to receive a Class 1 rating.

The Insurance Services Office (ISO) Public Protection Classification program recognizes the efforts of communities to provide fire protection services for citizens and property owners, noting that a community's investment in fire mitigation is a proven and reliable predictor of future fire losses. ISO determines the fire risk of communities by evaluating their telecommunications capabilities, water distribution system and capacity, fire department operational response to structure fires, and community risk reduction and prevention programs. Support from the Melbourne City Council, City Manager, Melbourne Police Department Communications



The Fire Department was presented with a Certificate of Recognition for earning an ISO Class 1 designation during the August 9 City Council meeting.

Center, Public Works and Utilities, and the members of the Melbourne Fire Department all contributed to the achievement of this prestigious designation.

Another critical service the Melbourne Fire Department provides is Advanced Life Support (ALS), which allows our paramedics to perform life-saving medical interventions, such as starting an IV, administering drugs, use of cardiac monitors, establishing patent airways and glucose testing. In 2022, the Melbourne Fire Department responded to an average of more than 1,200 emergency medical calls per month with an average emergency response time of 4 minutes 42 seconds.

The Fire Department also continued its efforts to increase the number of firefighters certified in technical rescue, which includes trench rescue, rope rescue, vehicle machinery rescue, confined space rescue, and structural collapse. By the end of 2022, 40 firefighters were certified, which allows the department to have 13 certified firefighters on each shift. The department is working to become a state-recognized light technical rescue team in 2023.

Hurricane Response

City staff prepared for and responded to two hurricanes in 2022 – Ian and Nicole. More than 5,000 sandbags were prepared and distributed to residents ahead of Hurricane Ian. The City's Emergency Operations Center was activated for both storms, and employees were staged and ready to respond in the event the city sustained significant damage. Because impacts to the City of Melbourne were minimal, some city employees were deployed to Florida's west coast to help assist with recovery efforts in the weeks after Hurricane Ian devastated that area.

City employees worked hard to produce and distribute 5,000 sandbags ahead of Hurricane Ian.



Improving Infrastructure

The City of Melbourne continued to invest in infrastructure improvements that will benefit our community today and well into the future.

Making Our Streets Safer

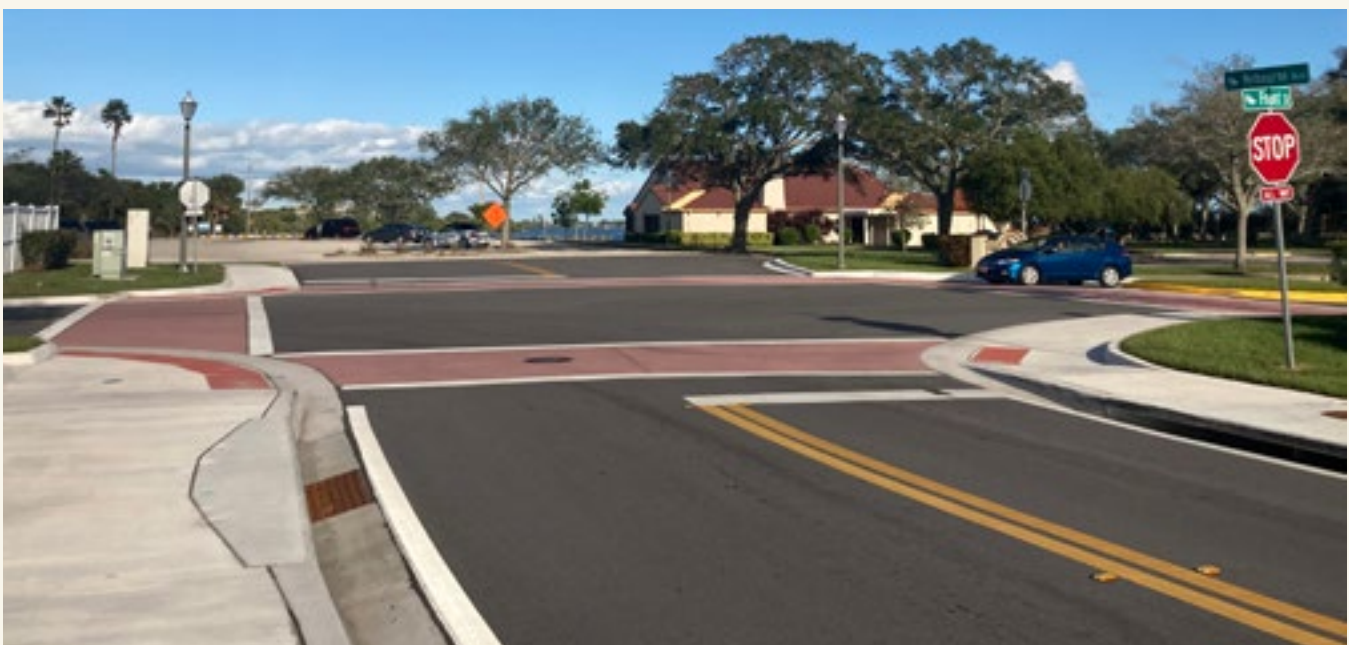
Ongoing roadway improvements included the completion of two major complete street projects on Front Street and on Pineapple Avenue. "Complete streets" are designed to allow for safe access for all roadway users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

The Front Street Complete Street Project made several improvements to Front Street, including constructing 16-foot wide lanes, 12 parallel parking spaces on either side of the road, and 5-foot sidewalks on both sides. Improvements were also made to Melbourne Avenue, including reconstruction of a 10-foot bicycle path on the north side and a 6-foot sidewalk on the south side. Drainage systems were

improved, utilities were upgraded, and the roadway was reconstructed and resurfaced.

The Pineapple Avenue Complete Street Project included a multi-use trail on the east side of Pineapple Avenue, pedestrian safety and corridor aesthetic enhancements, upgrades to ADA curb ramps, sidewalk replacement, enhanced decorative patterned pavements at key intersections, red-brick colored crosswalks, gateway landscaping, decorative lighting along the trail, speed cushions for traffic calming and pedestrian-actuated "Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons" for two midblock crosswalks.

The Gramling Park Drainage Improvements Project was completed in order to alleviate roadway and lot flooding in the neighborhood. As part of the project, a 575 linear feet trench drain system was installed along the east curb line of the eastern portion of Colbert Circle.



Front Street Complete Street Project.



Foundation concrete pour for the degasifier scrubber project at the water production plant.



Fusable pipe ready for directional drilling along Pineda Causeway.

Water Plant Expansion in Progress

Significant progress was made in 2022 on work to expand the City of Melbourne's reverse osmosis (RO) groundwater production plant that will result in improved water quality, significant reduction in operating costs, and greater stability and redundancy.

Currently, 75 percent of Melbourne's water comes from Lake Washington, which is challenging to treat due to periodic algae blooms, storms and other issues. The other 25 percent comes from brackish groundwater, which is less costly and easier to treat. When the expansion is complete, equal amounts of the City's blended water will come from wells and the lake.

Two new groundwater production wells were finished this year. An additional six more wells are also proposed to supply 12.5 million gallons of water per day (MGD) up from the current 5 MGD they currently produce.

Along with the new wells, another key component of expansion has been achieved. The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP) awarded a draft permit to construct a deep injection well to dispose of the waste concentrate that is left over after the brackish groundwater goes through the RO water treatment process.

Major New Water Distribution Line Nears Completion

A joint project with City of Cocoa to add an additional water line across the Pineda Causeway to service the barrier island is expected to be completed in spring 2023. The project includes the construction of a 16-inch water transmission main from U.S. 1 to South Patrick Drive and will serve as a third feed for drinking water to the beaches. The project also includes a parallel water main to serve Cocoa. When completed, it will improve pressure and flow to beachside customers and will provide redundancy if one of the two existing pipelines to the beaches needs to be placed out of service for maintenance or repairs.

Protecting Our Environment

In 2022, the City of Melbourne continued efforts to keep pollution out of the Indian River Lagoon and keep our City streets and neighborhoods clean.

A second-generation baffle box was installed at the south end of Grant Place to capture and treat stormwater from a 103-acre drainage basin within the boundaries of Fee Avenue and Melbourne Avenue and Municipal Avenue and Oak Street. It is estimated to reduce the total amount of nitrogen going into the Indian River Lagoon by about 937 pounds per year and total phosphorus by approximately 193 pounds per year. In 2022, the City also completed installation of the necessary infrastructure to convert a neighborhood from septic to sewer.

The new state budget that went into effect on July 1 included \$1.3 million to help fund a project to restore Spring Creek and improve water quality in the Eau Gallie River and Indian River Lagoon. It will include replacement of an 88-foot section of corrugated metal stormwater pipe, installation of a second-generation baffle box, and dredging of approximately 9,500 cubic yards of silt and sedimentation currently within Spring Creek. The installation of a second-generation baffle box and dredging of sedimentation in the creek is expected to remove approximately 1,205 pounds of total nitrogen and 252 pounds of total phosphorous annually.

We also coordinated volunteer cleanup teams that help rid our city of litter. In 2022, the City of Melbourne coordinated 22 Adopt-a-Road groups comprising 570 volunteers who removed 7,980 pounds of litter from our city. We also coordinated volunteers during one-day clean up

events, including International Coastal Cleanup on September 17 and Trash Bash on April 9. During International Coastal Cleanup Day 35 volunteers collected a total of 10 bags equaling 100 pounds of trash. During the Trash Bash event 185 volunteers collected 157 bags of trash equaling 7,900 pounds of litter.

The City's Environmental Community Outreach Division also helped organize educational events like the Florida-Friendly Landscaping Seminar and Indian River Lagoon Day and held a native garden planting event on Earth Day at Crane Creek Golf Course. The Curb Contamination Program – a personalized outreach effort aimed at helping residents better understand what can and cannot be recycled in curbside recycling carts – was relaunched in October 2022.



Volunteers helped create a native plant garden at Crane Creek Reserve Golf Course on Earth Day.