

Conservation News



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

Prepare property now for possible hurricanes



The first of last year's storms to wallop Melbourne was Hurricane Frances, shown here beginning to stir up the lagoon at the Melbourne Causeway.

It almost seems as if it has been no time at all since last year's unprecedented hurricane season. You can drive around and still see blue tarps on roofs and observe buildings that have still not been repaired. But, ready or not, the height of the 2005 season is right around the corner and now is the time to start preparations.

To get ready, many people are purchasing hurricane shutters to protect their property. Remember, however, there is another important way to protect your structure that also should be started now — landscape maintenance.

The City is advising property owners to begin pruning trees of dead branches and limbs that could become projectiles in hurricane-force winds. Check for and remove trash, debris and junk items from around your house or other property that could get caught up in high winds. This sort of yard

debris could also get caught up in ditches and canals and increase the potential for flooding.

After you complete your yard

maintenance, place the debris at the curb for collection on Mondays if you live on the mainland, or on Thursdays if you live beachside. The yard waste must be placed in plastic or metal containers that don't exceed 32 gallons in capacity or weigh more than 50 pounds. Plastic bags are not accepted.

Now is also the time to check your garage for unused household hazardous waste items that could be spilled as a result of a storm. These might include containers with leftover pesticides, motor fluids, mineral spirits and pool chemicals. The Sarno Road landfill accepts this waste at no charge on Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. For more information, call them at (321) 255-4365.



City of Melbourne
Public Works & Utilities Dept./
Environmental Community
Outreach Division
2881 Harper Road
Melbourne, FL 32904
Phone: (321) 674-5761
Fax: (321) 674-5765
E-Mail: utilitiesconserve@melbourneflorida.org
Web: www.melbourneflorida.org

Water quality report coming with all June utility bills

Melbourne water customers will all be receiving the City's annual Consumer Confidence Water Quality Report. This year, the reports are being inserted into



water in relation to state and federal standards.

The report shows that the water supplied by the City is in compliance with all standards and regulations and is safe to drink.

the utility bills mailed in June.

The report covers water quality testing performed in 2004 and explains the City's

For additional copies, e-mail your request to jwilster@melbourneflorida.org. call (321) 674-5761.

'05 Trash Bash nets loads of litter in Melbourne

Brevard County was left with copious amounts of scattered and loose debris following last September's hurricanes. By April, having had months to settle back, the need for more cleanup throughout the county was evident. Fortunately, that's when Keep Brevard Beautiful's annual Trash Bash was scheduled.

Every third week in April, volunteers devote their time to make a difference in their community by participating in this county-wide effort to preserve Brevard's beauty.

With 1,670 volunteers, participants were assigned to different locations throughout the county ranging from Titusville to the north, to as far south as Malabar. The City of Melbourne contributed to the project by recruiting 95 volunteers, which included representatives from local organizations, individual residents and high school students aiming to accumulate community service hours.

"It was pretty fun and for a good cause," said 15-year-old Robbie McDoniel, son of Bob McDoniel, who works in the Computer Information Systems Division for the City of Melbourne. McDoniel enlisted his two sons for the cleanup effort.

"I'll definitely do it again next year!" Robbie added.

Robbie and his 17-year-old brother,



Pictured on the right in yellow shirts are Joey and Robbie McDoniel, who attend Palm Bay High School and are the sons of City of Melbourne staffer Bob McDoniel. Other teens in the photo attend Eau Gallie High School. The area this group and others cleaned up during Trash Bash was in the central part of the City along Nieman Avenue. Other areas cleaned included neighborhoods near Lipscomb Park to the south, and in the Booker T. Washington neighborhood to the north.

Joey, are both members of the Marine Corps Junior ROTC program at Palm Bay High School. They say they hope to acquire more participation from their squadron next year.

In all, the City of Melbourne collected 4,820 pounds of potentially dangerous objects and trash which was added in with the entire Brevard County total of 329,667 pounds.

Adopt-a-Road program springing back to action



The Walmart team pictured above includes Bobbie and Nelson Hanson, Shawn Delaney, his daughter Ashlie, and Chris Motta.

Ever wonder what those "Adopt-a-Road" signs located throughout Melbourne represent? They are one of the methods the City uses to keep the streets and medians clean — a challenging task for many municipalities if it weren't for the

assistance given by volunteers.

Participants in Melbourne's Adopt-a-Road program have helped with the cleanup effort by adopting more than a mile of roadways or medians that are maintained by the City. These dedicated individuals, organizations and businesses volunteer to hit the streets at least four times a year to remove unsightly debris, making our community and environment safer and cleaner.

Walmart Neighborhood Market is one of the City's recent Adopt-a-Road participants that have decided to give back to the community by adopting a portion of Florida Avenue between Babcock Street and Lipscomb Street.

On April 11, just a week after being accepted into the program, this group of Walmart volunteers were hard at work

picking up trash along the roadway.

"I think it's a great program to keep the area clean," said Christine Drag, Office Associate for Walmart Neighborhood Market. "We're hoping to return to the site for another round when it gets a bit cooler," she said.

Unfortunately, by then there may be more litter and debris to pick up. For their first visit they found surprising objects.

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

Thanks to their efforts and those by the other Adopt-a-Road participants, Melbourne is cleaner and more beautiful.

For more information about Melbourne's Adopt-a-Road program, please call the Environmental Community Outreach Division at 953-6302 or send an e-mail to mromero@melbourneflorida.org.