



2024 Year in Review



Working



Together



Message From the City Manager

2024 was a year of many significant accomplishments for the City of Melbourne – the most visible being the dedication of our new, state of the art police station, the Joseph Pellicano Law Enforcement Center. We also completed several other major infrastructure projects, including constructing new water and wastewater distribution mains, replacing aging stormwater infrastructure, installing new crosswalks, and resurfacing roads.

Development remained active with 8,104 permits issued in Fiscal Year 2024 for projects valued at more than \$362 million. New housing, affordable housing, and commercial developments were under construction, and work to expand the water treatment plant advanced. The City launched a new video series, the Melbourne Minute, to help residents keep up with the many activities going on in the City.

On November 22, Melbourne Mayor Paul Alfrey and Council Member Mimi Hanley

took the oath of office to begin their second terms, and Melbourne's newest Council Members Marcus Smith and David Neuman (who was also appointed Vice Mayor) were sworn into office. They joined Council Members Mark LaRusso, Rachael Bassett and Julie Kennedy on the dais. Outgoing Vice Mayor Yvonne Minus and Council Member Tim Thomas were thanked and recognized for their years of Council service.

Thanks to City Council's leadership and the dedication and hard work of our employees, the City of Melbourne was able to achieve great things over the past year despite continuing economic challenges. We look forward to continuing to provide the excellent service our residents and businesses expect and deserve in the year to come.



Jenni Lamb, City Manager

Financial Stability

Under the leadership of the Melbourne City Council, the City of Melbourne's fiscal condition continues to remain stable despite slowing economic growth and a tight labor market that continue to challenge local governments and businesses nationwide.

Careful management allowed the City to offer one of the most competitive wage and benefits packages for firefighters and police officers in Brevard County and to increase the base wages of all non-union employees to help recruit and retain the best talent.

The City also continued to pursue and receive millions of dollars in grants, such as the \$3 million SAFER grant that enabled us to expand the Fire Department with 12 new firefighters in 2024 and a \$5 million grant for management of biosolids at the Grant Street Water Reclamation Plant. American Rescue Plan Act dollars were also used to fund multiple projects from a new Computer Aided Dispatch system for Police and Fire to new lighting and playgrounds in city parks.

Community Development

Economic Development

Several new businesses opened in Downtown Melbourne in 2024, and more than \$400,000 in private investment has been made to upgrade building exteriors in the Downtown Community Redevelopment Area. The City has been working on several initiatives to help bring more visitors to Downtown, including creating a video and map to help them easily find parking, and increasing police presence and adding security cameras to help them feel safer.

More residents will soon be moving to Downtown with new housing developments underway. The View, a public-private partnership to develop 246 upscale apartments, received approval in 2024, and The Watersedge townhomes development was under construction.

Near the Pineda Causeway, the Pineda Commons business center began to take shape with some of the buildings completed and some still under construction at the close of 2024. Pineda Commons will be anchored by Sprouts Farmers Market and EOS Fitness and will



Security camera on New Haven Avenue



Pineda Commons

include a bank, dentist office, and other businesses and restaurants.

Other new housing developments under construction include the Preserve at Melbourne apartment complex on West Eau Gallie Boulevard and Kendall Pointe Townhome subdivision on North U.S. 1, just south of Post Road.

On A1A, the Element Melbourne Oceanfront Hotel opened in 2024, and construction progressed on the Fairfield Inn Hotel. A new Home2Suites extended-stay hotel was approved for Rialto Place.

Nomad, a new restaurant-entertainment venue, opened in the Eau Gallie Arts

District where an old furniture resale business had been.

At the Melbourne Orlando International Airport, construction of Dessault Falcon Jet's aircraft maintenance facility also continued to progress, and a new 303,600± square foot office building was approved for "Project Daisy."

Bombardier received approval to build a new watercraft test launching facility U.S. 1, south of Sarno Road. The company will test watercraft in the Indian River and Atlantic Ocean from this new facility located on Elbow Creek.

Affordable Housing

A "wall raising" for Habitat for Humanity's first 3D printed homes in Florida was held on December 6, 2024. One of the homes will be for a first-time, low-income homeowner, and the other will be rented by Macedonia Development Corporation to a low-income family. In June 2024, City Council approved a funding agreement to allocate \$500 million in American Rescue Plan Act funds to help construct these two homes on Lipscomb Avenue and an additional home on Steele Street.

Council also approved a \$500 million ARPA funding agreement to Brevard Neighborhood Development Coalition Inc. (BNDC) to construct Greater Heights II, a multifamily rental building containing eight units for very low-income households on property owned by BNDC on Masterson Street. Plans for the project were under review by the end of the year.

The Capernaum Apartments development (located west of U.S. 1 and south of Sarno Road) was under construction in 2024. The

development will provide 25 units of very low affordable housing for young adults who have aged out of foster care.

Community of Hope Inc. made progress toward the completion of the construction of a single-family home on Elizabeth Street. It will be a rental property for very low to moderate-income families.



Habitat for Humanity's 3D printed home
"wall raising" ceremony

Historic Preservation Study Conducted at Line Street Cemetery

In mid-October, ground penetrating radar (GPR) survey work was conducted at the Line Street Cemetery, located at 718 WH Jackson Street. The work was funded by a State of Florida Abandoned African-American Cemeteries grant that was awarded to the City of Melbourne in May.

The GPR was done to discover if there were additional burials outside of the fenced area that had delineated the known cemetery boundaries, as well as the location and number of burials within the fenced area.

The study revealed there were 13 burials within the fenced boundaries and an

additional 31 burials outside the fence, mostly to the north side of the cemetery. Flags and markers were placed to identify these locations, and a temporary fence was installed around the entire property. The City is pursuing grant opportunities to fund additional preservation work at the cemetery, including installing a permanent fence and interpretive signage.

The Line Street Cemetery has a significant connection to one of the founding members of the City of Melbourne, William Wright Brothers. Mr. Brothers, along with Peter Wright and Balaam Allen were formerly enslaved people who settled in Crane Creek in the mid-1880s. Brothers and his wife, Mary Silas, are buried in the Line Street Cemetery. The cemetery was established in 1901.



Flags mark the boundaries of grave sites found during the ground-penetrating radar survey of Line Street Cemetery.

Parks, Recreation and Golf Improvements and Renovations

A total of 12 new playgrounds were installed at different parks in the City of Melbourne this year. New lights were installed at the Fee Avenue tennis courts, the baseball field at Eddie Lee Taylor, Sr. Community Complex, and the softball field at Jimmy Moore Park. Restrooms at the Eddie Lee Taylor, Sr. Community Complex were remodeled, and McGrath Field's infield was renovated.

A major project to replace the irrigation and greens at Crane Creek Reserve Golf Course was completed at the end of the year. The greens, pump system, and irrigation were replaced, and the driving range was expanded. Golf staff also improved bunkers, fairways and tee boxes. The Pro Shop interior was painted, and new merchandise displays were installed. Crane Creek Reserve re-opened on January 11, 2025.

A wide variety of classes, activities and special events were held at the City's community centers and parks, including the first Jimmy Buffet Day event at Front Street Park. The Parks, Recreation and Golf Department also completed a strategic plan and master plan to guide future programming and facilities



Magnolia Park's new playground



Crane Creek Reserve Golf Course



McGrath Field



Swim lessons



Summer camp at Eddie Lee Taylor, Sr. Community Center

Improving Infrastructure

Road Improvements

Approximately five miles of roads were repaved in Fiscal Year 2024, with more paving work underway by the end of the calendar year, including Pirate Lane and residential streets throughout the City's neighborhoods. Drainage improvements and other repairs were also made to these roadways where needed.

A new dedicated southbound turn lane was added to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard at NASA Boulevard to improve traffic flow in the area – especially during rush hour.

A restoration project to stabilize 410 feet of Indian River Lagoon shoreline along Pineapple Avenue that was eroding away was completed using 1,335 tons of rock. This work will prevent future erosion from damaging the roadway and the foundations of FPL transmission poles.



Pirate Lane repaving



New crosswalk in front of Melbourne High School

Pedestrian Safety Projects

A project to install new sidewalks and make other pedestrian safety improvements around Melbourne High School was completed just in time for the start of the new school year. Since then, students have been using the new crosswalk between the school and the Publix shopping center, and drivers have been complying with the 15 MPH flashing beacon school zone signs. The project also included the installation of approximately 400 feet of drainage pipe and inlets, concrete curb and gutter and valley gutter to improve drainage on Bulldog Boulevard.

Another pedestrian safety project was completed near the intersection of University Boulevard and Bruce D. Buggs Street (formerly Grant Street). The project included a raised, mid-block crosswalk over University Boulevard at Bruce D. Buggs Street; installation of an 8-foot wide median in the roadway to provide pedestrian refuge; and rectangular rapid flashing beacons to alert drivers to pedestrians in the crosswalk. The access road that parallels University Boulevard was also realigned to further reduce conflict points for pedestrians and improve safety of the intersection.

Three new bus shelters were installed in 2024: one at NASA Boulevard, just east of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard; one in front of the new Joseph Pellicano Law Enforcement Center; and one on Babcock Street, just north University Boulevard.

Water Plant Expansion Progress

A project to expand the City of Melbourne's reverse osmosis (RO) groundwater production plant continued to progress. Construction of a new deep injection well to dispose of the concentrate that is part of the RO water treatment process has been successfully completed.

The deep injection well is one part of a multiyear project to expand the reverse osmosis water production plant that will include the digging of additional groundwater wells and construction of additional treatment facilities and infrastructure. When the reverse osmosis plant expansion is complete, equal amounts of the City's water will come from wells and Lake Washington, resulting in improved water quality, significant reduction in operating costs, and greater stability and redundancy.

Work to replace and upgrade the RO plant's degassifiers and scrubbers (key components necessary in the RO treatment process) has also been completed. At the surface water treatment plant, construction of a new filter drain line was completed and a project to rehabilitate the existing filter gallery began.



Deep injection well construction



New water distribution main along NASA Boulevard, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and Apollo Boulevard

Water Distribution Projects Completed

A new water distribution main along NASA Boulevard, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, and Apollo Boulevard was constructed in 2024. The new main was located outside of airport property so that future maintenance and repair activities will not impede airport operations or damage taxiway infrastructure. Water service mains for nine existing airport buildings will be reconfigured to connect to the new water main, and the existing water main will be grout-abandoned in place once the new water main is in service.

An old cast iron water main was replaced on Cassia Boulevard in Satellite Beach. This is part of a larger project to replace old cast iron water mains in the central Satellite Beach area. Water main replacement on Cinnamon Drive, Harwood Avenue, Norwood Avenue, Glenwood Avenue, Hamlin Avenue and Sherwood Avenue have already been completed.

Comprehensive Water Service Line Inventory Created

In October, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced its final Lead and Copper Rule revisions, which are intended to reduce the risk of lead exposure by identifying lead service lines and expediting their removal from drinking water systems nationwide. As part of this effort, the City of Melbourne has been working on a comprehensive inventory of our entire water distribution network, which encompasses more than 60,000 residential and commercial service lines. An online service line inventory map where water customers can view the current inventory is available along with more information about the project at www.melbourneflorida.org/lead.

New Wastewater Force Main Constructed

A new 36" wastewater force main has been constructed between Apollo Boulevard and Croton Road. It is 6,000 linear feet long and will provide redundancy for existing customers and additional capacity for future customers west of I-95.

This is the first phase of a larger project to expand and improve wastewater service in the City. Future phases include extending the Western Force Main and constructing a new lift station on John Rodes Boulevard just north of St. Johns Heritage Parkway. There will also be an additional force main constructed to connect the lift station at Croton Road and Leewood Boulevard to the new force main.

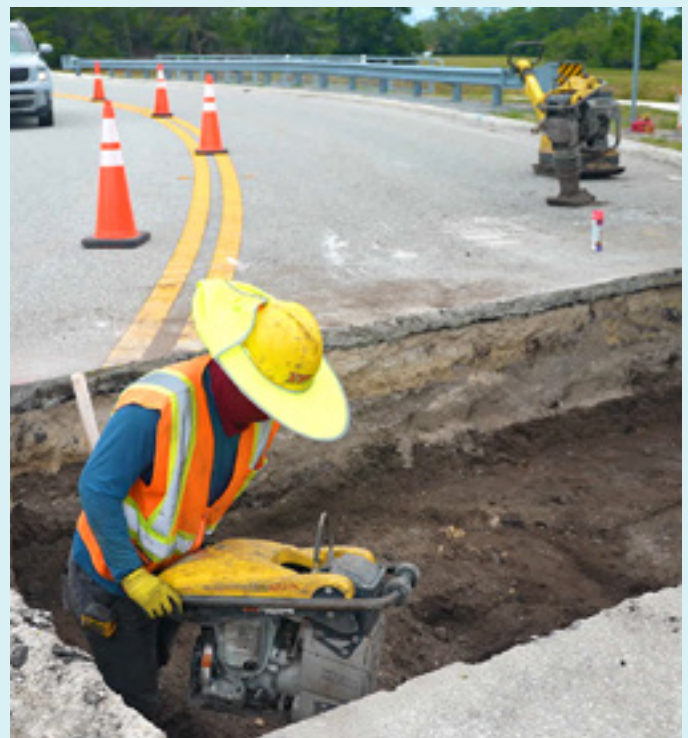
Drainage and Stormwater Infrastructure Improvements

The last phase of a project to replace an 84-inch failing corrugated metal storm drain pipe that runs between Hickory Street, Apollo Boulevard and a parking

lot was completed in the spring. Cured in place pipe repair technology was used to minimize disruption to the roadway and the time it needed to be closed to traffic.

In October, work to alleviate street flooding along Cypress Avenue was completed. Three storm drain inlets were constructed, and stormwater pipes were installed underneath the roadway and in the right-of-way to carry stormwater away after heavy rains. Cypress Avenue was repaved after the drainage work was completed, and no flooding issues have been reported since the project was finished.

Toward the end of the year, a project to replace two failing 36-inch metal stormwater pipes under Nicklaus Drive with a single 84" reinforced concrete pipe was nearing completion. The old pipes were falling apart and were filling up with debris. The new concrete pipe will not corrode or fail and will improve drainage in the neighborhood.



New wastewater force main construction

Public Safety

Melbourne Police Department Completes New Station Earns Re-accreditation

A ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony was held in late 2024 to celebrate the completion of the construction of Melbourne Police Department's new police headquarters facility, the Joseph Pellicano Law Enforcement Center. The new police station will allow for greater efficiency in operations, provide better service to the public, and will improve the City's ability to respond to disasters. The facility opened to the public on February 3, 2025.

Another major milestone for the department was earning re-accreditation from the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. To earn re-accreditation, the Melbourne Police Department had to meet 237 standards required by the Commission for Florida Law Enforcement Accreditation. Receiving a reaccredited status demonstrates a continued commitment to professional excellence and the Melbourne Police Department's commitment to maintaining the highest standards of professionalism and best practices in law enforcement.



Joseph Pellicano Law Enforcement Center Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Melbourne Fire Department Expands and Plans for Future Growth

By the end of 2024, the building design of a new fire station to replace Fire Station 72 (located at the corner of Sarno Road and Wickham Road) was completed. Planning for the replacement of two existing fire stations and the construction of a new fire station near the Melbourne Orlando International Airport was underway.

The new stations will replace aging infrastructure and will position the Fire Department to maintain its excellent response times as the City continues to grow.

The Fire Department was able to add 12 new firefighters in 2024 thanks to a \$3.3 million grant from FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) program. In December, a new fire engine was placed into service at Station 71.



New fire engine



City crews filling sandbags before Hurricane Milton

City Responds to Hurricane Milton

In October, the City of Melbourne responded to the threat of Hurricane Milton by preparing all facilities and activating its Emergency Operations Center. City employees filled and distributed approximately 15,500 sandbags before the hurricane arrived to help residents protect their homes. Fortunately, the City of Melbourne was spared major damage. However, Hurricane Milton left behind a large amount of debris throughout the City. To expedite its removal, the City joined with Brevard County to bring in additional debris haulers.

Protecting Our Environment

There were 777 volunteers who participated in the City's Adopt-a-Road program and the annual Trash Bash clean-up event in Fiscal Year 2024. These dedicated volunteers removed 12,473 pounds of trash from more than 19 miles of roadways and other sites in the City of Melbourne. In addition, 25 volunteers picked up 815 pounds of trash from Ballard Park and along its shoreline as part of International Coastal Cleanup Day (September 21, 2024).

Also in Fiscal Year 2024, 170 cubic yards of debris were removed from the City's 16 baffle boxes, and the street-sweeping program cleaned up 930,900 pounds of litter and debris from City streets.

In March 2024, a new baffle box was completed near NASA Boulevard and the railroad tracks, which removes pollution from a 155-acre drainage basin around NASA Boulevard for areas primarily east of Babcock Street. Baffle boxes are underground structures made up of chambers that trap debris, trash, and other pollutants from stormwater that flows off of streets and into storm drains after heavy rains. The City of Melbourne is working to construct baffle boxes at key points throughout the city to keep pollution out of the Indian River Lagoon.



International Coastal Cleanup volunteers



Volunteers removing trash from the Ballard Park shoreline



Trash Bash volunteers