



Restoring Infrastructure ~ ~ Preserving Property Values

As happened with other local governments throughout our nation, the economic downturn that began in FY 2007/08 greatly lowered our property values and commensurately reduced tax revenue for our City's General Fund (operating budget). This meant that we could no longer use the General Fund to supplement our Capital Assets Fund or Stormwater Utility Fund when needed for expensive infrastructure projects such as street repaving and stormwater-system improvements to prevent flooding or improve stormwater quality. (While these Funds were not affected by property tax reductions, during the poor economy our City was unwilling to make up any of the difference by increasing the fees which support those Funds.) This forced us to re-prioritize our needs, funding only those services deemed most essential (such as Police, Fire, and other basic services) and postponing expensive infrastructure projects.

Now many of our streets are so severely deteriorated that fixing the growing backlog of problems can no longer be postponed. As discussed in a previous *Beachcaster*, our City must also undertake additional stormwater-treatment projects to meet State requirements to reduce the amount of nutrients (nitrogen and phosphorous) in our stormwater runoff. Consequently, in January, City staff presented to Council the proposal discussed below to address our immediate street and stormwater-system needs (see PowerPoint presentation at www.satellitebeachfl.org).



Because our City had insufficient revenue during the economic downturn to continue our cycle of routine street repaving, filling potholes as needed became the norm. Now, on numerous streets in our City, such repairs are no longer feasible and repaving can no longer be postponed.

How did we get here?

Because a number of variables contribute to road degradation, there is no hard and fast timeline for street repaving. However, before the economic downturn, our streets were on a 25-to-30-year (depending on street conditions) routine repaving cycle, and our City reserved \$100,000 each year for this. After the downturn, however, the following occurred:

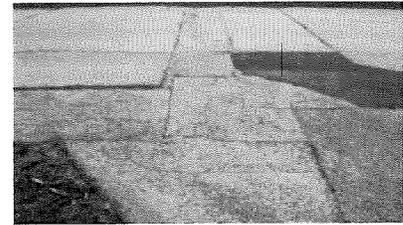
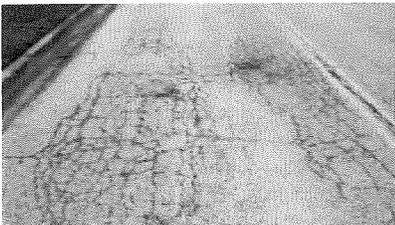
- ◆ Our City no longer had sufficient revenue to continue routine repaving, so our Public Works Department focused on street maintenance (e.g., filling potholes) sufficient to insure the safety and usability of City streets.
- ◆ The last street repaving projects funded by the City occurred in 2006; since then, the only street repaving has occurred as part of a grant-funded stormwater project or the President's 2008 stimulus package.
- ◆ Except for committed expenditures from the Capital Assets Fund (e.g., payments for the David R. Schechter Community Center), our City focused its capital expenditures on emergency repair of buildings (air conditioners, roofs, etc.) and other facilities, and unavoidable maintenance/replacement of City vehicles and public safety and Public Works equipment.
- ◆ Even though street maintenance has become more proactive with the improved economy, a large backlog of street projects now exists.

What do we need?

As with all aspects of this proposal, the following projects are the best estimates of our City Engineer and staff at this time. Features and other aspects may need to be modified as planning progresses.

1. Roosevelt Avenue Reconstruction. As a main connector street between South Patrick Drive and SR A1A, Roosevelt Avenue has been a concern of residents for several years. With 64% of the roadway originally constructed of concrete, years ago Roosevelt Avenue began cracking and showing other signs of wear, so it was eventually paved over with asphalt. Unfortunately, the original concrete is now failing badly, causing the asphalt's current problems.

To properly fix this street, the **concrete portion (3,050 linear feet)** must be removed and reconstructed, or crushed in place for use as base material in the reconstruction of that portion; the **remaining portion (1,700 linear feet)** must be milled and repaved. In addition, our City's Comprehensive Plan requires street projects to include the concept of "**Complete Streets**" to ensure a walkable/bikeable community. Accordingly, current plans will add an 8-ft-wide sidewalk (for use by pedestrians and bicyclists) along the south side of Roosevelt (a narrower sidewalk already exists on the north side of the street).



These photos illustrate the condition of parts of Roosevelt Avenue. Significant roadway problems exist along the full length of this street.

2. Milling/Repaving of Damaged Streets. Several streets in the south end of our City that were built in the 1970s have never been repaved. These streets now require many manhours for pothole repairs and are so deteriorated that further degradation could compromise the road base and require reconstruction (up to 2.5 times more expensive, depending on level of degradation) rather than repaving. Many other streets in our City are nearing the end of their routine repaving cycle and will be addressed when that cycle resumes in five years (FY 19/20). In the meantime, we will immediately begin to fix our **most-damaged streets** by repaving the 18 streets (almost five miles) shown in the table below.

Did you know . . .

- *Potholes result from water infiltrating cracks in the asphalt, causing the asphalt to separate from the base material.*
- *Then traffic causes the asphalt to break away, forming a pothole.*
- *Just one of our large pothole repairs can take up to 24 manhours and two tons of asphalt to complete.*

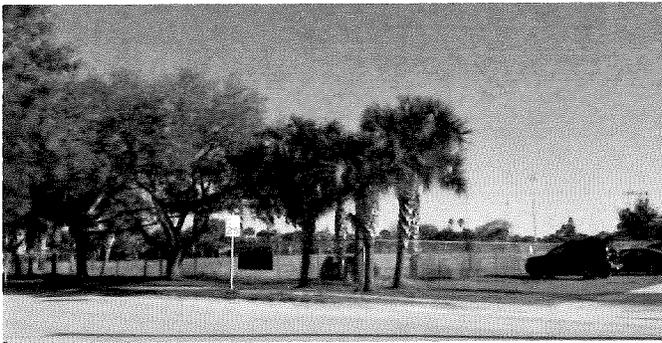
Street Repaving Cost Estimates

Updated 1-22-15

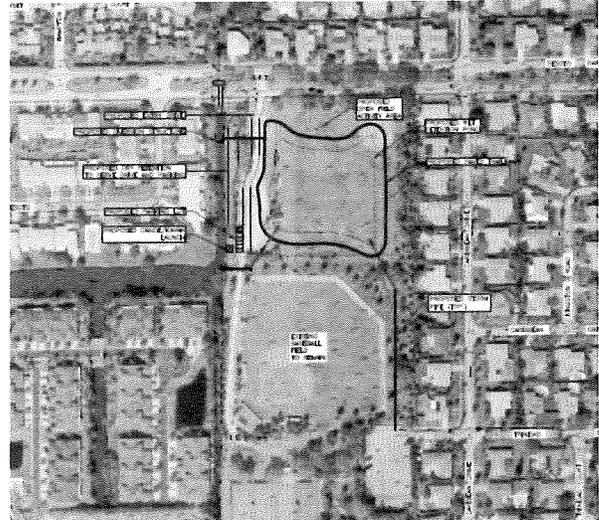
| Street Name | Linear Feet (LF) | Cost w/o Milling @ \$23/LF | Cost with Milling @ \$27/LF |
|-------------------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Atlantic Drive | 1920 | \$ 44,160 | |
| Barcelona Court | 1362 | \$ 31,326 | |
| Canal Court | 550 | \$ 12,650 | |
| Curb Replacement | | | \$ 48,273 |
| DeSoto Pkwy (400 Block) | 638 | | \$ 17,226 |
| Hedgecock Court | 540 | | \$ 14,580 |
| Hibiscus Drive | 2575 | \$ 59,225 | |
| Megellan Avenue | 1070 | | \$ 28,890 |
| Ocean Drive | 650 | \$ 14,950 | |
| Ocean Spray | 1720 | | \$ 46,440 |
| Palm Drive | 2580 | \$ 59,340 | |
| Palmetto Avenue | 1150 | | \$ 31,050 |
| Poinsettia Drive | 2590 | \$ 59,570 | |
| Seville Court | 1706 | \$ 39,238 | |
| Sherwood Ave | 270 | | \$ 7,290 |
| Sunrise Avenue | 1200 | | \$ 32,400 |
| Temple Street | 1380 | | \$ 37,260 |
| Trinidad Drive | 1501 | | \$ 40,527 |
| Verbenia Drive | 2635 | \$ 60,605 | |
| | | | |
| Subtotals | 26,037 | \$ 381,064 | \$ 303,936 |
| | | Total Cost | \$685,000 |

3. **Glenwood Stormwater Pipe Reconstruction.** With stormwater flow in the Glenwood pipeline impeded by root infiltration, this **3,700-foot-long drainage pipe** has continuous problems that are difficult to address, because its location through the back yards of 62 homes along Glenwood and Hamlin Avenues makes it inaccessible for replacement. So rather than tear up residents' properties to replace this clogged and deteriorated pipe, a technology called "**sliplining**" will be used to clear and internally strengthen and seal the pipeline.

4. **DeSoto Field Stormwater Conversion.** Helping us meet State-mandated stormwater-quality improvements, this project will convert a practice field abutting DeSoto Parkway into a large **stormwater pond** that will clean stormwater primarily with denitrofication material before it reaches the Lagoon. As a result, the north half of DeSoto Field will become an **attractive park**, with a lake, fountain, surrounding sidewalk, benches, and a canoe/kayak launch into the abutting canal.



The photo above shows the DeSoto practice field from DeSoto Parkway. At right is the conceptual plan for the conversion of this field.



5. **Pelican Coast Athletic Field Upgrades.** Because the DeSoto practice field will be eliminated by the stormwater project, we have a **conceptual plan with Patrick Air Force Base** that would allow us to relocate DeSoto's athletic activities to PAFB's lighted soccer field at Pelican Coast along South Patrick Drive. (When our City annexed Patrick's former south housing area, PAFB retained ownership of the recreational and other facilities on that property.) This field and adjacent parking area are an improvement over the DeSoto practice field. The proposed plan would entail a long-term lease at no cost to us, and **we would provide necessary upgrades** (initial field preparation, sod, improved lighting, fencing, and restroom) **and ongoing maintenance.** It would also provide our first athletic facility in this newest area of our City.

What will it cost?

The following project costs and completion times are our City Engineer’s best estimates at this time.

| Project | Estimated Cost | Estimated Completion |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Roosevelt Avenue Reconstruction | \$ 780,000* | Late 2016 |
| 2. Milling/Repaving of Damaged Streets | 685,000 | Late 2016 |
| 3. Glenwood Stormwater Pipe Reconstruction | 500,000 | Late 2016 |
| 4. DeSoto Field Stormwater Conversion | 420,000* | Mid-2017 |
| 5. Pelican Coast Athletic Field Upgrades | 115,000 | Early 2016 |
| <i>*City’s cost after anticipated impact-fee or grant funding</i> | | |
| Total Estimated Cost of All Projects | \$2,500,000 | |

How can we fix it?

One of the funds in our City budget is the previously-mentioned **Capital Assets Fund**, which receives its revenue from the **utility tax** our residents pay **on electricity and gas (propane and natural gas)**. Our City established this fund years ago as a dedicated revenue source **for capital expenditures only**.

Currently set at 6%, this fiscal year’s budget shows annual utility tax revenue of \$381,999 (96% from electricity). This amount will fund facilities (buildings and recreation areas) maintenance and improvements, as well as maintenance/replacement of City vehicles, public safety equipment, and Public Works equipment. However, it is not sufficient to address the backlog of capital projects discussed in this *Beachcaster*.

Consequently, to generate the necessary funds, our City is proposing the following:

- **Increase the utility tax on electricity and gas from 6% to 10%.** This will generate additional revenue each year of \$255,939 for our Capital Assets Fund. Of this additional amount, \$225,000 would be used for annual payments on proposed financing (see below), and the remaining \$30,939 would be annually set aside to help fund routine street repaving when the cycle resumes in FY 19/20.
- **Obtain 15-year financing for \$2.5 million**, to be repaid as discussed above. The proposed utility tax increase would provide a dedicated funding source sufficient to pay off the principal and interest in 15 years.
- **Select a Financial Advisor** to help our City obtain the most advantageous financing.

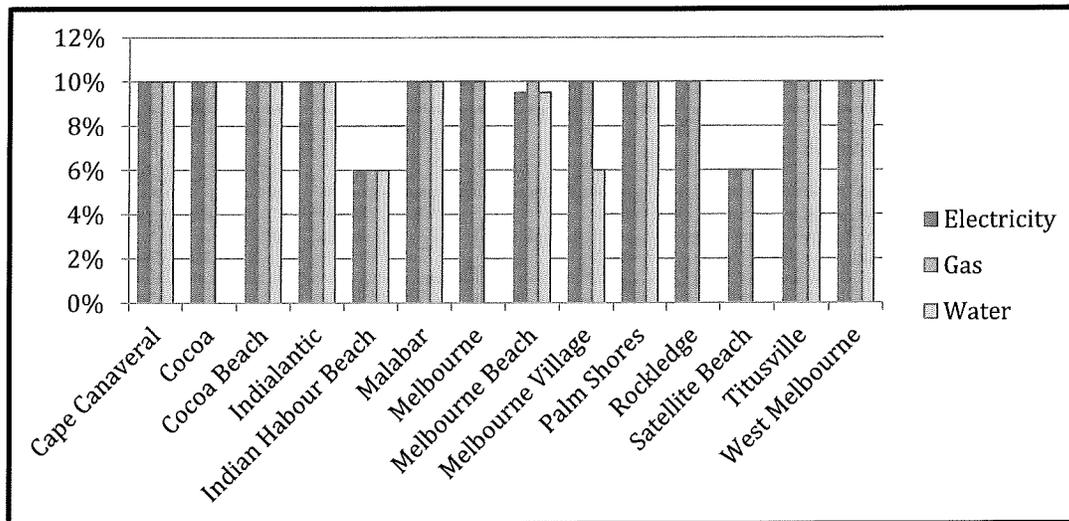
How would the utility tax increase affect you?

Assuming electrical charges of \$200 per month:

- 6% utility tax: \$12 per month (\$200 x .06)
- 10% utility tax: \$20 per month (\$200 x .10)
- Monthly increase: \$8

Right now, our City has the **lowest utility tax in Brevard County**. Even with the 4% increase on electricity and gas (unlike most cities, we do not have a utility tax on water), we will still have Brevard’s **second-lowest utility tax**.

How does Satellite Beach's utility tax compare with other cities in Brevard County?



City Council and staff believe **the following circumstances make our proposal appropriate** at this time:

1. We will not be able to catch up on the repaving backlog or address the other pressing infrastructure projects without a large initial outlay of funds.
2. Our repaving problems will get worse and costs will increase the longer we wait.
3. Interest rates for financing are currently low.
4. DeSoto Field provides a dual opportunity:
 - a. It can accommodate one of our State-mandated stormwater projects, and
 - b. A new partnership with PAFB could allow us to replace the practice field abutting DeSoto Parkway with a better athletic facility in the north end of our City.

Let us hear from you!

City Council and staff have been or will be holding **town hall meetings** in five locations throughout the City to update residents and encourage their comments and ideas. Invitations have been or will be mailed to residents in each of the five areas. These meetings were/will be on **January 26** (at Montecito), **February 11** (at United Methodist Church), **February 26** (at Oceanside Community Church), **March 7** (at Our Father's House), and **March 30** (at the Satellite Beach Public Library).

Residents may also submit comments to our **City Manager** at cbarker@satellitebeach.org or 773-4407, or to our **Public Works Director** at apotter@satellitebeach.org or 777-2309.

Residents' comments will also be welcome at the following **related Council meetings/actions**:

| City Council Meeting | City Council Action |
|----------------------|--|
| March 18 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Consider contract for Financial Advisor. ◆ Conduct 1st public hearing on ordinance to increase utility tax. |
| April 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Conduct 2nd public hearing on ordinance to increase utility tax. If ordinance is approved, Council can proceed with 7/15 meeting. |
| July 15 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Consider financing documents for projects. ◆ Consider construction contracts for street repaving and Roosevelt Avenue reconstruction. |

This special edition Beachcaster was prepared by Councilwoman Lorraine Gott based on information provided by the City Engineer and staff.

Important Message from Police Chief Pearson

The past couple of weeks have been extraordinary for Satellite Beach. Among the unusual events were two major crimes: the attempted murder of a teenager outside his home on Glenwood Avenue (arrests have been made in this incident) and a homicide on a construction site on Shell Street (still under investigation). Understandably, without all the facts, some residents are anxious about what this means for safety in our City. Police Chief Jeff Pearson wants everyone to know that he has taken steps to ensure that Satellite Beach remains an extremely safe, quiet community. Accordingly, our Police Department is **increasing patrols throughout our City**, including beach, residential, and commercial areas. "This will not only deter crime, but will also help return that feeling of safety and security our residents and businesses deserve and have come to expect," Chief Pearson commented.

Check out these highlights . . .

❖ **Saturday, March 14, 10am to 1pm – Satellite Beach PAL at the Teen Zone**

Free presentation: **“Operation Not on Our Watch” (Operation NOW)**, a graphic driver-safety program for teens who are driving or will be driving soon. Parents are also welcome. Reservations not needed. For information on all PAL events, please visit www.satellitebeachpal.org or call (321) 777-8336.

❖ **Friday & Saturday, April 3 & 4 – PAL Giant Indoor Garage Sale**

All proceeds go to Satellite Beach PAL youth programs.

❖ **Saturday, April 18, 9am to 2pm – Beautification Board’s Plant Sale**

The **Beautification Board** will hold its **annual plant sale on April 18** with varieties of ornamentals, fruit trees, herbs, hanging baskets, and perhaps even a palm or two—and always reasonable prices! We’ll be at the **west end of the Schechter Center parking lot**. Plan now for all your plant needs.

❖ **Sunday, April 19, 8am to noon – Satellite Beach PAL & Lions Club Pancake Breakfast**

All you can eat for \$5. Tickets available from Recreation Department and PAL or Lions Club members.

❖ **55+ Club**

Members get together for lunch, movies, book club, mahjonn, special celebrations, and **other events you can find at www.55plusclubofsb.com**. You don’t have to be a Satellite Beach resident to join.

From the Satellite Beach Recreation Department . . .

★ **March 7 -- Little League Opening Day**

★ **April 2 -- Flashlight Egg Hunt**

★ **March 7 -- Annual Citywide Rummage Sale**

★ **April 4 -- Breakfast w/the Easter Bunny**

★ **March 14 -- 3rd Annual Tykes Olympics**

★ **April 11 -- Samsons Island Open House**

★ **March 15 -- Jazz in the Park**

★ **April 25-26 -- Relay for Life of S. Brevard Beaches**

★ **March 28 -- Annual Fish Earth Day**

For event details, visit Recreation Office or satellitebeachrecreation.org OR call [773-6458](tel:773-6458).

We’re on Facebook!

Did you know that our City is on Facebook? **Like** one or all of these pages and get regular City updates:

- **City Manager:** www.facebook.com/SatBchCM
- **Fire Department:** www.facebook.com/satellitebeachfire
- **Recreation Department:** www.facebook.com/SatelliteBeachRecreation
- **Police Department:** www.facebook.com/satellitebeachpolicedepartment

Satellite Beach City Hall
565 Cassia Boulevard
Satellite Beach, FL 32937
www.satellitebeachfl.org
(321) 773-4407

PRST STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MELBOURNE, FL
PERMIT NO. 495



City workers help rescue 19 manatees!

Included in our February week of extraordinary events was the successful rescue of 19 manatees seeking warmer water in a drainage pipe along Cassia Boulevard, where they became trapped. Here's how it happened.

■ Litter and lawn debris are stopped by the grate on the stormwater pipe that goes from the canal to the Municipal Complex retention pond. This requires City workers to remove the grate to clean out the pipe.

■ During this maintenance last year, manatees began entering this pond. After we discussed this with Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission (FWC) staff, they requested that we keep this grate off so that the manatees could access the pond as a cold-weather refuge. Consequently, manatees have been in the Municipal Complex retention pond for months this winter.

■ This year, FWC requested us to place a grate on the pipe entrance on the east side of the pond. Unfortunately, we were not able to get this installed in time (an appropriate structure—not a simple grate—had not been completed) to prevent the 19 manatees from entering that side of the pipe for the first time.

■ The day after the rescue, we placed a temporary grate on the east side pipe entrance and are now completing design of the permanent structure that will serve the dual purpose of protecting the manatees and ensuring an unimpeded flow of drainage. Completion of this project is anticipated within four months.

■ Along with FWC, Sea World, and PAFB employees, our Public Works, Fire, and Police Departments all helped with this effort, which included cutting out a section of the pipe and lifting the manatees out one by one. We're extremely proud of our employees and grateful to the residents who came out and supported us with kind words and cheers.



A manatee waits to be freed; workers cut through the storm pipe; and a rescued manatee waits for release.