



Prebble Q Ramswell

Positive Change By and For the People. Florida's Future Begins With Us!



THE RAMSWELL REVIEW

A monthly newsletter from Destin City Councilmember Prebble Q Ramswell

July 1, 2015

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▶ Main Street Facelift

Main Street is getting a facelift! Thanks to a public-private partnership with Trees Destin, Main Street has a new look. This is only part of the plan! The Main Street Betterment Alliance has been hard at work on a community garden and even worked with the American Legion to hold a successful 1st Annual Car Show.

The City has also been addressing many repairs and necessary improvements along the street. Among the fixes: More than 30 Braille mats at street crossings have been removed and will be replaced and exposed nails hammered down flush with the concrete; missing and inoperable sprinklers heads along the sidewalks are now working and watering the right of ways; the dead and dying lantana in the medians was replaced with new plants; all 38 light poles are lit again --as many as 14 were out as of two months ago; and the six dead and dying trees in front of the Gulf Power transmission station have been cut down and removed.

I know I am not alone when I say I look forward to the continued rejuvenation of this cherished area in the heart of Destin! Many thanks to Trees Destin for the photos, and to the Main Street Betterment Alliance for the use of their logo and the improvement update.



The installation of the palm trees along Main Street was quite a production. As you can see from the before and after photos on the right-- the difference is amazing. Also pictured: Allen French of Trees Destin

▶ Destin High School???



Destin High School??? There has been a renewed interest in exploring the viability of having our own high school. Over the past few weeks I have heard from several people wanting us to renew exploration into the concept. I must admit, I am highly in favor of such a plan and note that having a DHS is one of the items the council saw as desirable during our vision session. I am always considering potential locations as adequate land is a necessity. I continue to believe that the Old Time Pottery/Lively Theater area would be excellent, as would the property on Henderson Beach Rd between Commons and 98, east of Wal-Mart. This is a property several residents have suggested as well. Additionally, it is also across the street from the former Y pool-- another plus as a potential athletic facility for the school (or school system as a whole).

Our elementary and middle school have had to add classes and teachers the last few years because of the increase in students, and the middle school has already had to add trailers and has more planned. The number of teachers at Destin Elementary has risen from 38 to 51 in the last ten years, with a high of 65 before the fifth grade moved to the middle school. Both the middle school and elementary school have each had an increase in enrollment of ~100 in the last few years.

Additionally, a high school in Destin would not necessarily have to be a traditional high school. There has been feedback indicating a charter high school would be well-received.

Let me know your thoughts. Viable? Not? Charter School?

▶ News & Pending



HERITAGE RUN STORMWATER PROJECT: The City has been working diligently with our State Rep. to secure funding for this very important project. I am thrilled to announce that Rep. Gaetz was able to secure \$500k towards this project and Gov. Scott has approved it. At our City Council meeting on July 6th, Rep. Gaetz will discuss this and other legislative results that impact Destin.

SHORT-TERM RENTAL OCCUPANCY LIMITS: We had a very successful workshop on the problems associated with short-term rentals. The discussion will return to Council for formalized motions probably a July meeting. Several local HOA's have changed or are in the process of changing their covenants and restrictions to address this issue, as well as the wedding venue rental issue.

TAXI REGULATION: The taxi regulation issue should be on the agenda for July 20th.



CELL PHONE TOWERS AT CRAB TRAP: IT'S A BIRD, IT'S A PLANE, IT'S A...CELL TOWER? I have heard from several residents upset about the new tower that appeared almost overnight at the Crab Trap. The city is in discussions with the multiple parties to look into the situation. I will keep you posted.

MARIJUANA DISPENSARIES: Before the November '14 elections, I had brought up the potential for a dispensary to review our ordinances in terms of allowable locations for marijuana dispensaries the event of legalization in some form. That time has come and staff is to report back with legal guidance this month.

OPEN CONTAINER: The County Commissioner meeting was a lively one. Vocal opposition to the proposed open container areas adjacent to Destin Middle School proved successful, as Developer Peter Bos rescinded his request for the pathway and the Commons. This left his new third choice- the marina (which was not on the table when the City Council had discussions on the subject). After healthy debate, this proposition failed 3-2. The vote puts an end to the open container discussions around DMS.

SIGNS, signs everywhere there's signs.... Or maybe not. We are still waiting on the completion and installation of street signage along 98.

EAST PASS/OSTEEN ACCESS/PARCEL B CONCERNS: I have received multiple emails from people concerned about the dangers resulting from the Emerald Grande shuttle's prop digging a trench. I am looking into the matter and will report back.

▶ Upcoming

What's Ahead...

MEETINGS:

4th of July Fireworks: July 4, 9pm @ East Pass; Broadcast live on Z96
City Council: July 6th and 20th, 6pm @ Annex
Code Enforcement Hearing: July 9th and 23rd, 5:30 PM @ City Hall
Adopt-A-Street Cleanup: July 11

Hello Friends!

Thank you for subscribing to my monthly newsletter, *the Ramswell Review*. It is my goal to improve communication between the city and its citizens, and act as a conduit of information on issues that affect our community and future.

There are many important issues to face in the coming weeks and months and it is important that we are all as educated and informed as possible so that we can make the best decisions for Destin. I value your input and insight and am always available to you. I recognize that we each offer a unique and valuable perspective on the issues and believe everyone in this community's opinion carries weight. I believe in positive change-- by and for the people. Florida's future begins with us.

I look forward to a two-way relationship with the community knowing that we all have the same goal of a beautiful, successful city centered on family values.

Best,
Prebble



Prebble Q Ramswell
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Councilmember—Destin City Council
pramswell@cityofdestin.com
City Hall: 850-837-4242
Home: 850-837-8406
www.PrebbleRamswell.com

I always welcome your feedback and input. However, please be sure to direct any correspondence related to city business to my city email address pramswell@cityofdestin.com. All such correspondence shall be considered a public record pursuant to Florida's open records laws.

Any views or opinions expressed in this newsletter are my own and do not necessarily reflect the official position of the Destin City Council or the views or opinions of any other Councilmember. This newsletter is not an official record nor a transcript of the matters presented to, or the decisions made by, the City Council and should not be interpreted as such.

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