

THE RAMSWELL REVIEW

A monthly newsletter from Destin City Councilmember Prebble Q Ramswell

May 7, 2018

Never Say Never

Thank You!

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE CITIZENS OF DESTIN

The City of Destin will hold an election on March 13th. The election will be the most important one in many years as the Council has almost concluded the two-year long process of responsibly lowering the building heights and densities in parts of the city. The election of certain candidates will determine whether those much-needed changes are approved. The lines have been clearly drawn and it is up to us to decide what the future of our town will be.

Like many of you, we've been alarmed by the unprecedented amount of money contributed and spent on behalf of several candidates. For the first time in our history, a PAC has been created to send a flood of contentious material attacking current council members and Destin's mayor. The PAC is being funded by local developers who are focused on building to greater heights and densities. By the end of this election, developers will have injected more money into this election than all the previous elections, combined. The contributors to all candidates can be found on-line through public records.

This is just a small city election, but we're being inundated on social and traditional media with a blasphemous smear campaign that has, regrettably, grown common in state and federal elections, but not here. It's shameful, it's undignified, and it exposes the depths some will go to, to protect their financial interests. This is not Destin.

Many of the problems in Destin are due to over development without proper planning for infrastructure capacity. It has led to a decreased quality of life for all of us. We have been digging a hole for a long time. It's time to stop digging.

We look at this election differently than those who are trying to purchase it. Your neighbors serving on the Council are true public servants. They don't get paid. They don't serve in return for financial incentives of any kind. Make no mistake – these people are not career politicians. In our beautiful town – The World's Luckiest Fishing Village – these people shouldn't be treated this way. Not in Destin.

It's now time for something different. It's time to make Destin a great place to live. We need a town that celebrates tourism but doesn't surrender to it. We need a town that doesn't require us to abandon the life style that drew us to these beautiful shores in the first place.

If you're looking for local leaders who have their heart in what's best for our town – who will exercise good sense going forward and who will try to solve the problems that we face instead of compounding them – we have candidates for you.

Do not allow this election to be bought by the highest and loudest bidder. Let's move forward and grow with common sense and with a common purpose.

We support **Rodney Braden** and **Prebble Ramswell** for Destin City Council and **Scott Fischer** for Mayor.

Sincerely, your Concerned Fellow Citizens,

Dewey E. Destin
George Coburn
Lloyd Taylor
Scott Fischer
Michael Buckingham
Bert Begley
Brant Kelly
Charles Morgan III
Chris Wilson

The ugliest and most expensive local election in Panhandle history has come and gone. Thanks to you, your faith in me, and your willingness to see beyond the twisting of truth and outright lies, I was successful in my reelection bid. A special thanks to the seven community leaders who took it upon themselves to create and mail a letter to every Destin citizen in support of my campaign and that of Rodney Braden and Scott Fischer: Bert Begley, Michael Buckingham, Dewey E. Destin, Brant Kelly, Charles Morgan III, Lloyd Taylor, and Chris Wilson. I believe this letter of support is what turned the tide.

Thank you to everyone who donated their time, provided their yard or business for my signs, gave donations, wore my t-shirts, held signs, or marked a ballot for me. This truly was a team effort and I needed each and every one of you for the win. This unity in the face of such ugliness was heartwarming and a welcome source of strength. Thank you, thank you, thank you. Now, because of your efforts, you're stuck with me for at least a few more years!



Norriego Point: growing bigger and better than ever

Work continues on Norriego Point and the results are absolutely stunning! As these photos from the City of Destin, Henry Boening (who credits the Harborwalk Village Live Cam) and Paul Bernier prove, the Point project is on target to be amazing success. Phase I, which is the stabilization and lengthening of the point, should be complete within a matter of weeks. Phase II, the recreation component, will begin and complete in 2019.



Old Pier → New Pier. Could We? Maybe? Possibly?

Old Pier has always fascinated me. The old pilings jutting out of the water first caught my attention my first summer here. I was lifeguarding on a stormy, red-flag day when a call came in for a swimmer in distress. I immediately responded as did another guard and was preparing to paddle out to the bobbing head in the distance. Just a minute. rookie, the oddly calm veteran told me chuckling, suggesting I watch for a minute longer. Lo and behold, the bobbing head was none other than a distant Old Pier piling. It didn't take me long to realize the bobbing head mistake was one made by most newbies and a multitude of tourists every year.

Old Pier is now a landmark and memento of days past, but could it spark something new, something that just might serve to create new memories? Destin bills itself as a world class, family-friendly, fishing resort (the word "resort" bothers me, but I digress). However, we have no public marina nor a public fishing pier. Shouldn't we? Would you like to see one or both? People were overwhelmingly in favor when I posted this query on my facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/councilwomanramswell/>). The primary concerns were location and parking.

My thoughts: though I would love to rebuild Old Pier in Crystal Beach, I do not think it is logistically the best location; but what about a partnership with Henderson Beach/the state? Or, as Councilman Morgan mused, what about the old Holiday Inn site? Such a project would certainly be a draw for locals and tourists alike, and qualify for grants and funding such as BP money and TDC funds.

What do you think? I'd love your perspective before the City Council heads into our visioning session on June 15th. Email me at pramswell@cityofdestin.com or post your thoughts on my facebook page.

News

PREBBLE RAMSWELL
FOR DESTIN CITY COUNCIL
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!
I look forward to a few more years of serving the people of Destin and providing a voice for your concerns.
Paid for and Approved by Prebble Q Ramswell for Destin City Council

- May 5th, 2018, was the official last day of work for longtime Library Director Jurate Burns. Jurate has served the City of Destin for 19 years, starting her tenure as Director in April 1999. She will be sorely missed by staff and patrons alike. We wish her all the best in her retirement!
- Thank you to the Anglican Church on Indian Bayou Trail. They gathered a group of volunteers to stain a fence on the backside of the City's maintenance yard. The City provided the materials and the church provided the manpower.
- The Calhoun Avenue Drainage Project continues on schedule, the contractor is waiting for overhead utilities to be relocated.
- City staff met with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection in Pensacola to discuss possible improvements to two stormwater outfalls into Marler Bayou. We are investigating installing a hydrodynamic separator at each location to remove pollutants from stormwater runoff.
- The Destin Community Center will be hosting a community yard sale at Dewey "Buck" Destin Park, 724 Legion Drive on Saturday, May 19, 2018 from 8:00am-12:00pm.

Hello Friends and Neighbors!

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.

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.

Prebble



Prebble Q Ramswell
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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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