



# THE RAMSWELL REVIEW

A monthly newsletter from Destin City Councilmember Prebble Q Ramswell

## One Day at a Time

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“Go” for  
2021**

### Embayment Openings Debated



One of the big issues faced by the council is the DEP directive for the city council to open the embayments on the pass side of Norriego point. These were intended to be roped off and kept as a safe area for swimming. After some back and forth communications with the DEP, a council workshop, and then a council meeting discussion, the council voted 6-1 to open the top embayment to boats, preferably non-motorized vessels.

I was the dissenting vote, and I adamantly oppose this move for multiple reasons:

- a) potential damage and impact to the \$10M plus stabilized point,
- b) who will pay for repairs/damages and maintain the area
- c) the entire harbor side of the point is already designated for boat traffic,

d) boat traffic in the embayments was not what was presented to the council or public, e) we were told this move to open embayments was done at the request of a local developer who was a big donor to the governor's campaign, and e) safety: boats and swimmers do not mix. Though I concur that non-motorized vessels would be preferable to motorized vessels, I also fear many of these folks on SUPs, in kayaks or canoes, would attempt to cross the channel to get to Crab Island. Obviously, as locals, we know the strength of the currents and that many people do not abide by the no-wake zone designation. I see this option as inviting disaster. I implore everyone to be careful and cautious in this

### COVID-19 Cases at the City



We are all very aware of the rise in COVID cases around Florida. The past week saw our first cases among City staff. We have four positive cases, but also several negative. Many staff members who were not feeling well were tested out of abundance of caution and are still awaiting results. As a result, you will see that we have closed and/or minimized hours at our various facilities. If you have city business, please double-check the status and hours of the department you intend to visit. Above all, please continue to take health safety precautions and wish everyone who is sick a speed and full recovery.

### CEMEX Plant Concerns

Concerns have been raised by citizens that the location of a new city park may have some underlying environmental concerns. Specifically, many people who are familiar with the site on Beach Drive recall buried tanks and the presence of fly ash at the site. Prior environmental testing reports at the site in city records do not reveal these issues but are being called into questions. Rest assured, we will require additional research and testing



### 98 at City Market Woes



You may have noticed that the construction on 98 eastbound by City Market has resulted in the eastbound lanes being raised. Though this may not seem to be a big deal to drivers, it is a huge problem for businesses on the south side.

The elevation has led to the closure of access from the median as well as any access from those travelling west. In fact, heading west, you must u-turn much further west, at Gulf Starr, to access these businesses. Visibility is also an issue. Going west, businesses on the south side cannot be seen due to the elevated road. Going east, requested signage from the business owners was placed, but they are so close together, a moving vehicle cannot read them. It is also unclear where you can enter the side road to even access the businesses.

The good news is that the elevated side is only temporary. The bad news- these businesses are already suffering from the impacts of COVID and by the time the elevation is reduced, the 100 days of summer will be over. Please help spread the word that these businesses are open and want your business!

### New Signal in Place



After many years of shifting blame between owners, the much needed traffic signal at Commons and Henderson has been installed. The light was to be installed following the construction of the Alexan. However, a change in ownership occurred and the new owner was not liable for the installation. Subsequently, a new development was built and the intersection became even busier. At the consistent prodding of the city, the county ultimately found it in the best interest of all concerned to install the signal themselves. The new sidewalk lighting will be paid by the City of Destin. The light is currently flashing in anticipation of going live in the coming weeks.



Though Destin High School had to delay its opening a year, things are moving forward nicely. The final three candidates for principal will have interviews the last week of July and an offer has been made on the new property: Grace Lutheran Church. Project managers, architects, contractors, and the like have been offering input and estimates as the site and needed renovations are determined. Everything is on track for the opening in August 2021.

Hello Friends and Neighbors!

Thank you for subscribing to my 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



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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](mailto: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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