



Courtenay Notes

of the North Merritt Island
Homeowners Association, Inc.

www.nmihoa.org



Issue No. 346

Serving the North Merritt Island Community since 1986

February 2016

Fifth Annual Merritt Island Pioneer Day, Saturday, February 13

St. Luke's Episcopal Church
5555 N. Tropical Trail



Sams House at Pine Island
6195 N. Tropical Trail

Parking available at both locations (suggested donation \$1). Shuttle service between two locations.

Events at St. Luke's (10 am to 4 pm)

- Self-guided Historic Chapel and Cemetery Tours
- Artifacts from the Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science
- 10:30 and 1:30 - Ais, Timucuan and Seminoles - Their Lives and Culture by Jim Sawgrass
- 12:00 Homemade soups (\$5)
- 12:00 Lessons from Windover: A Glimpse into Ancient Florida by Dr. Rachael Wentz, writer/archaeologist.
- 1:00 to 4:00 Cemetery tours by Molly Thomas, Historian
- 3:00 Windover: Past, Present and Future by Patrisha Meyers, Dir., Brevard Museum of History and Natural Science and The Florida Historical Society Archaeological Institute
- Fish Fry Dinner at 4:30 and 5:30 (advance tickets call 321-452-5260)

www.mipioneerday.com

Events at Sams House (10 am to 4 pm)

- History Demonstrations and Educational Exhibits include: Florida History Display, Florida Public Archeology Network, the Florida Historical Society Archaeology Institute, Merritt Island Wildlife Refuge, Tropical Fruit Display, and wool spinning.
- Historic House and Cabin Tours by guides in period clothing and Exhibits of Sams family artifacts.
- Photo ops with vintage tractors and cars.
- Crafts Fair and Farmer's Market including: Pappas Backyard Honey, Nature's Simple Remedies, Do TERRA Essential Oils, Adamson's Orchids, Mrs. Mango's, Coiled Vessels by Teresa Camarata, Cook's candles quilts dolls and handmade sandals, Sheila Bland's quilting, Sacred Space Arnica, Spade & Trowel Garden Club, Cape Canaveral Lighthouse Foundation, and Mendenhall Metal Sculptures.
- Florida Folk Music by: Chris Kahl, the Celery City String Band, and Scott Taylor and Laura Clark
- Children's Crafts and Games including: cow milking, rope tossing, making corn husk dolls, and much more...
- Food by Steve's Hot Dogs and Skinny's BBQ



New Website noportrail.com Recently Created



A new website noportrail.com was recently created by concerned citizens who oppose the Canaveral Port Authority's plan to build a cargo train route for environmental, economic and aesthetic reasons. Citizens can express their thoughts on the website.

The proposed sites for the cargo rail are 1. through North Merritt Island via KSC and the wildlife refuge, 2. parallel with SR-528, and 3. through the Cape Canaveral Air Force Station.

Next NMIHOA Meeting



Mon., Feb. 1, 7:00 p.m.
Monthly meeting. No speakers planned

Monthly Meetings at St. Luke's,
5555 N. Tropical Trail
All meetings are open.

This month's *Courtenay Notes* was mailed to all 3600+ addresses from the Barge Canal to KSC compliments of the NMIHOA. Please join us by completing the applicaton below. You will received a copy every month (by mail or email), show your support for the N.M.I. community, and stay informed about local issues.

Sams House February Activities

The Sams House at Pine Island, 6195 N. Tropical Trail, is open Tuesdays through Sunday, 9 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Programs are free. Call for reservations 321 449-4720. www.facebook.com/samshousepineisland

Sams House Guided Hikes -

Saturday, Feb. 6, and 27, 10:00 a.m. to noon. Wear protective clothing.

Who Goes There? Scats and Tracks

Animal Evidence - Sat., Feb. 20, 11:00 to noon. Patricipants learn to determine animal activities based on evidence left behind.

Sams House and Cabin Tours -

Thursdays and Saturdays at 3 p.m. Tour inside Brevard's oldest standing home and learn about the pioneering Sams family.

Memorial Bench Placed on Island Pioneer Trail

A park bench along the Island Pioneer Trail at Kings Park has recently been installed as a memorial to the late Robert Martin, a long-time resident of North Merritt Island. Martin, who passed away in March of 2015, requested that in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the NMIHOA, of which he was a member. Donations were used to fund this bench.

As soon as grass has been installed around the bench, a date for a dedication ceremony will be announced. We hope you will stop to rest or reflect the next time you visit the Park.



Bench inscribed "In memory of Robert 'Bob' Martin NMI resident and friend."

Committee To Review NMIHOA By Laws

A committee, comprised of Jeff Vayda, Nancy Minerva, and Mary Trettel, has been appointed to review the North Merritt Island Homeowners Association (NMIHOA) By Laws for possible changes and/or additions. Upon the completion of their review, recommendations will be presented to the board members for approval prior to presentation to the general membership for final acceptance.

A copy of current By Laws can be viewed on www.nmihoa.org

Welcome New Member



The North Merritt Island Homeowners Association is pleased to welcome the following new member who recently joined: Nancy Todd.

North Merritt Island Homeowners Assn., Inc. 2015-2016 Board Members

Officers

President, Chris Cook, 453-7022
 Vice President, Jeff Vayda, 459-3199
 Secretary, David Bobbitt, 453-6009
 Treasurer, Tanya Knappman, 795-3771
 Sgt. at Arms, Ted Balke, (908) 917-6769
 Past President, Fr. Peter Roberts, 452-5260

District Representatives

Dist. 1, Jim Wolff, 480-0752 (Barge Canal on both sides of Courtenay to Hall Rd.)
 Dist. 2, Jack Ratterman, 452-9989 (W. Hall Rd. to and including W. Crisafulli Rd. and W. side of Courtenay)
 Dist. 3, Sandy Pesce, 455-6378, and Cathy Testa (718) 309-9880 (E. Hall Rd. to and including E. Crisafulli and E. side of Courtenay)
 Dist. 4, John Schantzen, 394-6685 (N. of Crisafulli to KSC)

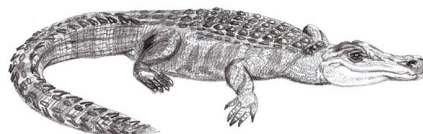
Committees:

Zoning: Kim Smith, 453-3323, & Chris Minerva, 449-4004
 Membership: Nancy Minerva, 449-4004 NMIHOA@gmail.com; and Sandy Pesce, 455-6378
 Beautification: Ted Balke, (908) 917-6769

Courtenay Notes:

Editorial Team: Jim Wolff, wolffjw@cfl.rr.com, 480-0752; Jan Salmon, newfishmail@gmail.com, 890-7040; Darleen Hunt, dhunt125@aol.com, 452-8433.
 Newsletter USPS mailings: Sandy Pesce, 455-6378; E-Mailings: Nancy Minerva, NMIHOA@gmail.com
 Published monthly for residents of North Merritt Island from the Barge Canal to the Kennedy Space Center. Deadline for input is first Monday during the Association monthly meeting. Past editions can be viewed at the Merritt Island Library, Reference Department.
 Webmaster: Chris Cook, 453-7022
 Website: www.nmihoa.org

Gators Poached at PICA



Two poached alligators, 6' and 8' long, were reported by John Schantzen, Vice President, Pine Island Preservation Society, who regularly looks in on activities at the Pine Island Conservation Area (PICA) off of Pine Island Road. The Florida Wildlife Conservation service is investigating the killings.

The gators were left in place for the buzzard patrol. The remaining skull and bones will be used as educational tools at the Sams House nature center.

Membership Year - July 1 through June 30

Mail \$10 per individual to: North Merritt Island Homeowners, Assn., Inc., P.O.Box 542372, Merritt Island, FL 32954-2372

PLEASE PRINT:

Name(s): _____

Residential Address: _____

Address if different from residence: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (work/cell) _____

E-Mail: _____

New member 1 year Renewal \$10

I own a residence and live on Merritt Island North of the Barge Canal.

Associate member.

Amount enclosed: _____ Check # _____

Signed: _____ Date: _____

Expiration: _____
 Comments: _____

I prefer to receive the newsletter by Email, rather than U.S.Postal Service.

Please check here if you would also like to receive Emails about topics of interest to NMI residents.

Wildlife Sightings on North Merritt Island

Thanks to all those who regularly share their wildlife sightings with us. They are always a welcome addition to our *Courtenay Notes*.

Date	Time	Species	Location/Activity	Observer(s)
12/28/15	noon	Red shouldered hawk	E. Crisafulli Rd.	Ted Balke
12/28/15	4:00 p.m.	Sandhill cranes	E. Crisafulli Rd.	Ted Balke
1/2/16	6:00 p.m.	Bobcats, 2, large	Church Rd. near hammock	Bob Pack
1/5/16	5:00 p.m.	Coyote, dark colored	W. Crisafulli Rd. back porch	David Trout
1/11/16	4:30 a.m.	Coyotes, 4	N. Tropical Tr.	Bob Pack
1/12/16	noon	Painted Buntings, 2 male, 2 female	W. Crisafulli Rd., feeders	Jerry Hunt
1/13/16	11:00 a.m.	Painted Buntings, 4 male, 3 female	Crystal Ln, feeder	Arnie Dingman
1/13/16	11:00 a.m.	Bald Eagle	dead pine tree off N. Trop Tr.	Arnie Dingman
1/13/16	1:00 p.m.	Sandhill Cranes	E. Crisafulli Rd.	Ted Balke



Photos of Red shouldered hawk and Sandhill cranes by Ted Balke.

Please send wildlife sightings to Jim Wolff at wolffw@cfl.rr.com



Manatees May Be Reclassified

Living on North Merritt Island one has the opportunity to be in contact with manatees on a regular basis.

Federal wildlife officials announced recently that they have published a proposal in the Federal Registry to reclassify manatees from “endangered” to the less serious status of “threatened.” “Endangered” means the species is at risk of becoming extinct, while “threatened” means that they are no longer in imminent risk of extinction, but could become so in the foreseeable future. The sea cow has held the “endangered” status since 1967, when the original endangered species list was created.

The proposal, which was published on Jan. 8, 2016, marks the beginning of a 90 day public comment period. Interested citizens are invited to submit scientific or technical information concerning the reclassification until April 7, 2016. Additional information is available at Federal eRulemaking Portal: www.regulations.gov/. Enter Docket Number FWS-R4-ES-2015-0178 in the Keyword Search. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service expects to publish the final rule to reclassify within a year.

With winter upon us the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission also reminds us that if you see a manatee in distress, you should call their Wildlife Alert Toll-Free Number: 1-888-404-FWCC (1-888-404-3922) Cellular phone customers: *FWC or #FWC. You should be prepared to answer these questions:

- What is the exact location of the animal?
- Is the manatee dead or alive?
- How long have you been observing the animal?
- What is the approximate size of manatee?
- What is the nearest public boat ramp to the manatee?
- What is your contact number if we need further information?

4-H Horse Show at Manatee Cove

A 4-H Western Horse Show took place at the updated Multi-Functional Arena located at Manatee Cove Park on North Tropical Trail on Sunday, January 10. All Brevard County 4-H clubs were represented as 18 riders competed. Thanks to Brevard Parks and Recreation for maintaining this valuable public facility.



NMI Small Area Study Back On Track

A year ago, Commissioner Barfield appointed a five-person committee to conduct a Small Area Study (SAS) of North Merritt Island. The purpose of the study was to make recommendations pertaining to the Comprehensive Plan, and the Plan's Future Land Use Map (FLUM) to the Board of County Commissioners.

The SAS Committee and a County Planner facilitator held open meetings from February through June, 2015, receiving input about parks and recreation, fire service, law enforcement, public wastewater, transportation, stormwater, ecological and environmental factors, land-use, and community input. Recommendations were made by the committee.

At the point where draft recommendations were to be compiled into a document, the County planner assigned to the SAS committee resigned. The study process has been on hold for several months. A new planner, Erin Sterk, has been assigned to this process and a review meeting with the SAS Committee is currently planned for March 1, 5:00 p.m., 2nd floor conference room at the M.I. Service Complex. Members of the SAS, who are all NMI residents, are: Darleen Hunt, Chair; John Schantzen, Vice Chair; Ted Balke; Jack Rattman; and Susan Smith.



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Representative Steve Crisafulli

District 51

Speaker of the House

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