



God Bless Our Troops.

# Courtenay Notes

of the North Merritt Island Homeowners Association, Inc.



Issue No. 219

Serving the North Merritt Island Community since 1986

April 2005

## Sams House Restoration and Archaeological Study

Thanks to Brevard County's Environmentally Endangered Lands Program, a significant part of the history of North Merritt Island is being preserved. Located on the 879-acre Pine Island Conservation Area (PICA) on North Merritt Island is a residence built by John H. Sams in 1875. Sams was one of the pioneer families of Merritt Island. This is considered to be the oldest house in Brevard County.

The house is actually two structures; Sam House 1 built in 1875 in Eau Gallie by Sams and moved via the Indian River to its present location in 1878, and, Sams House 2 built in the 1880s and connected through a kitchen in the 1950s.

The restoration project is currently funded by the EEL Program and a grant from the Florida Dept. of State, Div. of Historical Resources. Dr. Scott Taylor, Central Regional Land Manager, EEL Program which includes the PICA, oversees the project.

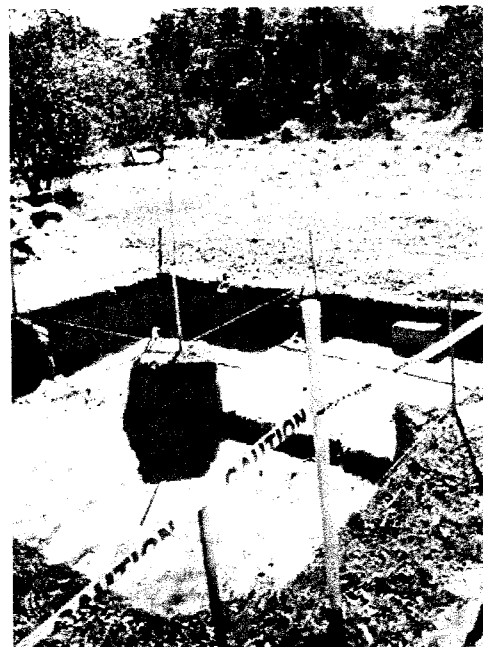
When Sams House 1 is restored to its "original" condition, it is to be used as a reception area and interpretive center for historical and environmental displays. Sams House 2, the main home, will be largely restored to original condition and then used as a field office for the EEL program Land Manager and as housing for AmeriCorps volunteers.

The Brevard County Historical Commission requested the Indian River Anthropological Society (IRAS) to conduct a preliminary survey of the area. The IRAS and Thomas Penders Associates, Titusville, conducted the study from Oct. 2003 through April 2004. In addition to the two historic Sams House



Sams House on Pine Island Conservation Area. Structure to right shows part of Sams House 1.

Photos above and below by: Mary Hillberg



Archaeological excavation project on Pine Island Conservation Area.

structures, a prehistoric native American village site and a fossil site were identified. Tom Penders, primary archeologist investigator, makes meticulous reports of the excavations to the Bureau of Archaeological Research, Florida Division of Historical Resources, who

(Continued on Page 2)

## Next Meeting



Monday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.

Speakers:

Aaron Watkins, Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) to discuss "Permitting and Evaluation of Mangroves"

Bobby Bowen, Director, Brevard Code Enforcement to discuss the proposed changes to Ordinance 62-2117 concerning parking commercial vehicles in residential areas.

St. Luke's Meeting Hall,  
5555 N. Tropical Trail.

All meetings are open.

## Commercial Vehicle Ordinance to be Discussed April 4

The County Commission is considering a change to Ordinance 62-2117 which will affect all residential property owners. The Ordinance regulates commercial vehicles parking in residential areas. A special County Commission meeting has been scheduled for April 28, 5:30 p.m. at the Viera Government Complex about this Ordinance.

This Association's board was contacted by concerned residents and has arranged to have the Bobby Bowen, Director of County Code Enforcement, discuss the proposed Ordinance at the regular monthly meeting, Monday, April 4, 7:00 p.m.

Members of the North Courtenay Parkway Citizen Resource Group will hold a meeting on March 24, 6:30 p.m. M.I. Service Complex to discuss their final report on landscaping, signage, land use, access management, pedestrian paths, and lighting. The final report will be presented to the County Commissioners for their consideration.

# Sams House... (Continued from page 1)

permitted the work. Pender's professional volunteer team is made up of experts from as far away as Deland, Tampa and Vero Beach. The project is expected to continue through 2006. Penders is also currently writing a book about the *History of North Merritt Island*.

The site is not open to the public at this time. A sheriff's Department Deputy resides in a mobile home on the property. For additional information contact Dr. Scott Taylor at 321 255-4466.



Photo by: Mary Hillberg

Photo above shows Jim Escoffier, professional volunteer, carefully sifting soil in search of artifacts at PICA site.

**North Merritt Island Homeowners Assn., Inc.**  
**2004-2005 Board Members**

**Officers**  
 President, Mary Hillberg, 453-0220  
 Vice President, Jack Ratterman, 452-9989  
 Secretary, Rose Plummer, 455-6635  
 Treasurer, Laurie Bonasera, 453-4304  
 Sgt. at Arms, Ron Penn, 452-5592

**District Representatives**  
 Dist. 1, Celia Williams, 453-5452 (Barge Canal on both sides of Courtenay to Hall Rd.)  
 Dist. 2, Barry & Jeanne Hoy, 449-9519 (W. Hall Rd. to and including W. Crisafulli Rd. and W. side of Courtenay)  
 Dist. 3, Kathy Bryant, 454-2375, and Mark Page, 455-9800 (E. Hall Rd. to and including E. Crisafulli and E. side of Courtenay)  
 Dist. 4, Chris Cook, 453-7022 (N. of Crisafulli to KSC)

**Committee Chairs:**  
 Beautification: Mary Hillberg, 453-0220  
 Hike and Bike Trails: Jack Ratterman, 452-9989  
 Publicity: Darleen Hunt, 452-8433  
 Newsletter mailings: Debra Dannels, 453-5341, and Simone Spiess, 453-6662  
 Membership: Laurie Bonasera, 453-4304  
 Zoning: Celia Williams, 453-5452

**Courtenay Notes:**  
 Editor, Darleen Hunt, 452-8433, DHunt125@aol.com.  
 Published monthly for residents of North Merritt Island from the Barge Canal to the Kennedy Space Center. Deadline for input is first Monday of the month during the Association monthly meeting. Past editions can be viewed at the Merritt Island Library, Reference Department.  
**Web Site:** www.nmihoa.org

There are no zoning issues affecting North Merritt Island scheduled for April 2005.

## Welcome New Members



The North Merritt Island Homeowners Association extends a warm welcome to the following new members: Steven Phillips and Barbara Richards.



### Savannahs Yard Sale

The annual yard sale (which includes an estate sale this year) at the Savannahs off of Hall Road, will take place on Saturday, April 9, beginning at 8 a.m.

### East Hall Road Petition

Residents along East Hall Road and the Savannahs are circulating a petition to request road repairs for East Hall Road. For information contact: Laurie Bonasera, 453-4304.

### Fruit Tree Sale

The annual fruit tree sale sponsored by the Brevard Rare Fruit Council (BRFC) will be held on Sat., April 23, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Melbourne Auditorium, 625 E. Hibiscus Blvd.

Edible landscaping for sale will include avocados, bananas, carambolas, figs, grapes, guavas, loquats, lychees, mangos, papayas, persimmons, coconuts, passion fruit, pineapples, pomegranates, grapefruit, lemons & limes, nectarines, oranges, tangerines, mulberries, lemon grass and much more.

Several members of the BRFC reside on North Merritt Island.

### Last Supper Presentation

Living "Last Supper" presentation by the N.M.I. United Methodist Church, Thurs., Mar. 24, 6:45 p.m., 6533 N. Courtenay Pkwy., Free. 452-7180.

### Sunset Lakes Elects Board

Residents from the 469 homes in Sunset Lakes, the largest community on North Merritt Island, have elected a new board to manage the business of their development. Following the election of the board by the residents, offices were selected among board members.

Officers who will serve a one year term are: Pat Kerr, President; Sonia Richards, Vice President; Marcia Johns, Secretary; Matt Ryan, Treasurer; and David York, Director at large.

Members joining after Mar. 1 will be credited through June 30, 2006.

**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

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_ PLEASE PRINT  
 Residential Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address if different from residence: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_  
 E-Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

New member     Renewal  
 I own a residence and reside on Merritt Island north of the Barge Canal.  
 Associate member.    Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Feedback:** Please feel free to give us your comments. If you would like to serve on a committee, or have some talent to offer, we would really like to know about it.

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Mary Hillberg

## Letter From the President

*Hello Friends & Neighbors,*

*I am so excited to announce that our website has been redesigned and updated and will be used as another communication tool to keep North Merritt Island residents informed. The address is [nmihoa.org](http://nmihoa.org).*

*Please check it out and let us know what you think.*

*We tried to have the new website reflect the natural beauty of our north island home through the beautiful watercolors of artist Darleen Hunt, our current Courtenay Notes editor, past officer and charter member of the NMIHOA. Merritt Island Web Designs developed the layout and provided technical expertise. We are delighted with the elegant results.*

*Association member Barbara McCaslin has graciously volunteered to be our Webmaster and is already updating the site. Our logo and a bulletin board for announcements or local events are suggested ideas for new additions. This is another positive step in our progress as a great homeowner association with a lot to offer our members.*

*A sincere thanks to all of our Board Members, volunteers, members and residents who have contributed in so many ways to improve our unique Association and community.*

*Sincerely,  
Mary E. Hillberg  
President, NMIHOA*

## Mitchell Ellington Park Update

Last month this newsletter reported on the status of Mitchell Ellington Park. Cathie Schanz, Parks & Recreation Department provided another update which follows. She also said that land clearing is continuing.

6 soccer fields, 2 lighted - being built as planned  
2 football fields, 1 lighted - not part of original referendum\*, being built as planned  
2 baseball fields, 1 lighted - second field to be lighted as funding is available

4 softball fields, 2 lighted - other two fields to be lighted as funding is available

2 tennis courts, 2 lighted - being built as planned

Playground - being built as planned

Dog Park - not part of the referendum - being built as funding is available

Parking - original referendum was for parking for 300 cars - a portion (200+) will be paved now with the rest being paved as funding is available

Maintenance area - being built as planned

Pedestrian Trails - original referendum was for 5280' of paved pedestrian trail which will be built as planned - the additional boardwalk on the East end of the park will be built as funding is available

\*The football element and funding for it was part of the Kelly Park referendum - the elements and funding was transferred to the Mitchell Ellington Project.

## Recycling Tip



Electronic equipment:

TVs, CPUs, cell phones, printers, scanners, computer monitors, desktop fax/copiers, mouse & keyboards can be recycled. Cathode ray tubes in TV and computer monitors are the biggest problem due to their lead content. These items may be dropped off at the County Household Electronic Recycling Center, 2250 Adamson Rd., Cocoa. Info: 633-1888.

## Sightings on N.M.I. Continue to Show Variety of Wildlife

Sandhill cranes, Cedar wax wings and Canadian geese are not usual sightings on North Merritt Island, but these were reported by residents last month. Thanks for the reports.

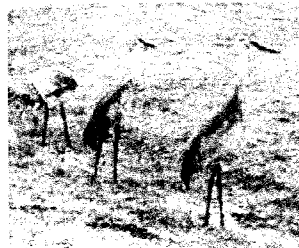


Photo by: Sharon Burrige

RIGHT: Red-shouldered hawk sunning in yard on Starlight Ave. Barbara Wright said "I've also seen this fine fellow perched on a neighbor's roof and another neighbor's palm tree."



Photo by: Barbara Wright

ABOVE: Sandhill cranes visit Patti Drive drainage ditch on rainy day in February.

**This issue of Courtenay Notes has been mailed to members only. Feel free to share information with your neighbors and encourage them to join. Much is happening on North Merritt Island and it is important to be informed.**

Date	Time	Species & description	Location	Observer(s)
1/23/05	3:20 p.m.	Red shouldered hawk	3745 Starlight Ave., on fence	Barbara Wright
2/27/05	12:00 noon	Sandhill cranes, 3	Patti Dr. in ditch on rainy day	Sharon Burrige
2/27/05	10:00 a.m.	Cedar wax wings, 7 or 8	4505 Monica Court	Darrell Hunt
3/1/05		Canadian goose	4536 Wood Stork Dr.	Elaine Levey
3/18/05	4:30 p.m.	Painted buntings, 8	Bird feeder, 125 W. Crisafulli	Jerry Hunt