



God Bless Our Troops.

# Courtenay Notes

of the North Merritt Island Homeowners Association, Inc.



Issue No. 220

Serving the North Merritt Island Community since 1986

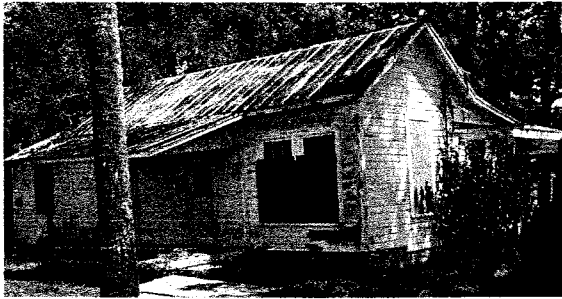
May 2005

## Association Seeks To Renovate Ellington House

On the southwest corner of the Mitchell Ellington Park site is a small house which was the original Ellington home.

At the suggestion of members of this Association, Mary Hillberg, President, is investigating the feasibility of renovating the home. She has contacted the Parks and Recreation Dept., Commissioner Pritchard, and the former owners, Dorothy and Mary Ellington, wife and daughter of

the late Mitchell Ellington. There are many obstacles to be overcome, and it may not be feasible, but Hillberg would like to pursue the possibility. She envisions using the home for an historical and cultural site within the Park. Residents have expressed interest in holding meetings in the facility and teaching art classes. If you are interested in helping in some way, call Mary Hillberg at 453-0220.



Left: Front of original Mitchell Ellington home facing North Tropical Trail. Right: Side view of home.

## Nominating Committee Formed

A nominating committee has been appointed by President Mary Hillberg to prepare a slate of candidates for the 2005-2006 Association board. The nine positions include: President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Sgt. at Arms, and four District Representatives.

To qualify, a candidate must be a member of this Association for at least six months before election.

Members interested in serving as a board member or serve on a committee, please call one of the following members of the nominating committee: Chris Cook, 453-7022, Darleen Hunt, 452-8433; Herb Vitt, 453-4067; Celia Williams, 453-5452; and Kevin Zari, 432-1959.

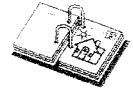
Candidates will be approved by the current board at the May 2 meeting, and an election held during the June 6 Association meeting.

## Commissioner Appoints Citizens Research Group To Study Small Area Plan

Commissioner Ron Pritchard has appointed a five member Citizens Research Group (CRG) to establish a Small Area Plan (SAP) for recommendations on future use and zonings. The CRG is made up of residents in the study area which begins at Porcher Road and extends north along North Tropical Trail to the point where the Trail makes a right angle turn.

Meetings will be public. Property owners within the study area will be notified by mail that their property is being reviewed by the CRG. Recommendations will be presented to the five County Commissioners for final decisions. Meetings will be held in the 2nd floor conference room at the Merritt Island County Service Complex, 2575 N. Courtenay Parkway. The first meeting has been scheduled for April 25 at 6 p.m.

## Next Two Meetings



**Monday, May 2, 7:00 p.m.**

**Tentative Speaker: Tom Granger,** Archeologist, currently working on Sams House area excavation and investigation of Environmentally Endangered Lands site, Pine Island Conservation Area. Check website for confirmation a few days before.

**Monday, June 6, 7:00 p.m.**

**Election of new Association board**  
**Speaker: Bob Allen,** State Representative, Dist. 32, to give district update.

St. Luke's Meeting Hall  
5555 N. Tropical Trail  
All meetings are open.

Members of this CRG are: Bud Crisafulli, Denise Christopher, Darleen Hunt, Simone Spiess, and Jerry Stewart.

Commissioner Pritchard announced at the April NMIHOA meeting that he plans to have three additional CRGs study other areas on North Merritt Island after this one is complete. Citizens interested in serving may call Rose Lyons, in the Commissioners office at 455-1334.

## Park Updates

Cathie Schantz, County Parks and Recreation Department, reports that Mitchell Ellington Park work is continuing with clearing land and burning. By the end of April grading should begin, a south boundary berm established, and onsite Reclinata Palms should be relocated.

Schantz reported that survey work has been going on at Manatee Cove Park.



## Letter From the President



Mary Hillberg

*Hello Friends and Neighbors,*

*At our April 4 meeting we enjoyed two speakers, Aaron Watkins, Permitting Specialist from the Department of Environmental Protection, and Bobby Bowen, the Brevard County Director of Code Enforcement.*

*Mr. Watkins discussed the importance of the mangrove in preventing soil erosion in salt marsh areas, such as the Indian River Lagoon. He brought samples of red, white and black mangrove plants and explained the stringent rules (and heavy fines) Florida has in place regarding improperly trimming mangroves. If anyone has a doubt about what type of plants they have at the water's edge they are considering trimming, be sure to check with the DEP before cutting. Several Cedar Creek residents (on Hall Road) who have been waiting for permission to cut mangroves in their area attended the meeting.*

*Mr. Bowen related the proposed revisions to the Commercial Vehicle Ordinance that is being considered by our County Commissioners on April 28, 2005. He discussed the issues with the current ordinance and presented a handout to explain the eight changes that are proposed to clarify the ordinance for the Brevard community. If anyone wishes to hear more about these proposed changes, please attend the Commission meeting. The more we participate in our community, the better it will be.*

*Both of these excellent speakers answered many questions posed by members, and were applauded for their presentations. We appreciate leaders in the community who take the time to attend our meetings and share their expertise.*

*Sincerely,  
Mary E. Hillberg  
President, NMIHOA*

## Plan For Annual Picnic on October 15

Picnic plans are being worked for the annual North Merritt Island Homeowners picnic. KARS Park is reserved for Saturday, October 15, and Bill Walters, Manager of Merritt Island Outback has agreed to provide the food.

More information will be forthcoming

in future *Courtenay Notes*. Now then, go ahead and fill in the calendar for 12 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, October 15, before something else gets written there. ☺



## Wildlife Sightings for North Merritt Island

*Residents continue to share information about their wildlife sightings with all of us through this monthly newsletter. We appreciate their taking the time to note the date, time and details of the sighting and especially enjoy photos which we also print here. Give your information to any board member listed on page 2 or call Sharon at 452-5278.*

This issue of *Courtenay Notes* has been mailed to all 3342 residential and business addresses on North Merritt Island from the Barge Canal to KSC. The last time this was done was in February 2005. To receive your copy monthly, please fill out form on page 2. It is an efficient way of keeping informed of important issues affecting your locale.

Date	Time	Species & description	Location	Observer(s)
2/26		Otter	Crossed road at 235 E. Crisafulli Rd., went in pond and crossed road again	Randy Smith
3/23/05		Northern Perula (Warbler)	Feeding on insects on orange blossoms, Patti Dr.	Jean & Bob Wright
4/1/05	6:05 a.m.	Red shouldered hawks, 2	Diving at raccoon climbing tree about 5700 N.Tropical Tr.	Darleen Hunt
4/1/05	3 p.m.	Red Tailed Hawks, 2	Dove to ground , caught mouse in grove off W. Crisafulli Rd.	Jerry Hunt
4/2/05	7 a.m.	Bobcat, brindle color	Crossing E. Crisafulli near Z bend.	Mike Jandreau
4/9/05		Blue Grosbeaks, 21	In backyard at 6182 N.Tropical Tr.	Debbie Dannels

## By Laws Reviewed

The NMIHOA was formed in August 1986, and registered as a Florida corporation governed by By Laws.

Responsible organizations review their By Laws from time to time to be sure they reflect the purpose and practices of the organization.

President Mary Hillberg appointed a By Laws review committee who carefully reviewed the document and made recommendations to the Board at the April 4 monthly meeting. The proposals were accepted by the Board and next will be brought before the Association general membership at the May 2 meeting. Those serving on the review committee were: Ron Penn, Rose Plummer and Darleen Hunt.

## Phone Book Recycling Tip



Phone books weigh about 5 pounds, and are very bulky. Do not place them in curbside recycle bins. They can be recycled on Merritt Island at the County Government Complex parking lot (next to Mr. Ni's) or at Wal-Mart.

Magazines and corrugated cardboard can also be recycled at the M.I. County Government Complex.

For more recycling information visit [www.brevardcounty.us/swr](http://www.brevardcounty.us/swr).