



God Bless Our Troops.

Courtenay Notes

of the North Merritt Island Homeowners Association, Inc.



Issue No. 248

Serving the North Merritt Island Community since 1986

September 2007

Annual Picnic Sat., October 20

Plans are well underway for the annual North Merritt Island Homeowners Association Picnic, which will be held at KARS Park off of Hall Rd., on Saturday, October 20 from 11 to 4.

This family-oriented event will feature a BBQ lunch catered by King's Best BBQ. The menu: Boston butt pork, chicken, cole slaw, baked beans, roll and iced tea. Tickets, which must be purchased in advance of the picnic, are \$9 adult, and \$5 children 3-12. Tickets will be available at the Sept. 10 monthly meeting and from any board member listed on page 2.

Live music will be provided by Pickin' n Grinnin' and the Double AJs. Other activities are still being planned

Upcoming Events



Monday, Sept. 10, 6:30 p.m.

Speaker: Katrina Morrell, Education Coordinator for Brevard Parks & Rec. to hold a workshop on future Pine Island Management and Education Center Exhibits and Public Programming.

Saturday, Oct. 20, 11 to 4

NMIHOA Community Picnic, KARS Park. Tickets will be available from any board member.

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

including pony rides, childrens games, door prizes, tiki carving, and Sheriff's Dept. demonstrations.

Flames in the Sky

By Sandra LaRoche-Brannin Natowich
Merritt Island Historian

For many owners and restorers of local vintage homes, it is an important discovery when they find, under layers of paint or linoleum, beautiful Merritt Island mahogany. Of course, it isn't mahogany—but as it ages, the high resin content begins to harden in the wood, and it turns a beautiful color—ranging from a deep reddish brown to pale honey yellow. Heart pine as some call it, was harvested and milled on Merritt Island as far back as the 1870's when the Sams and LaRoche men ran their mill in Courtenay.

In later times the Fortenberry Lumber Mill was built and operated where the T. J. Maxx store is now located. It took up the whole area of the shopping center and had sawdust piles that were twenty feet tall. As a small child in the 1940's, those piles looked like small mountains to me. The morning whistle called everyone to work, the noon whistle was for lunch, and the five o'clock whistle was for quitting time—and all of the kids within hearing distance knew they should get home from wherever they were playing to get ready for supper.

Lumber milled on Merritt Island was used for most of the homes built there before the era of concrete block construction as were many of the mainland homes—even the Mediterranean Revival stucco homes had interior woodwork made from heart pine. But this fine and useful wood had a downside. It was and is highly flammable. Which could mean complete destruction for folks who had a house fire. Especially back in the days when a home didn't have running water. In fact, some homes were built with a detached kitchen building so that if there was a kitchen fire it could be better contained. Still, people often lost everything in a house fire.

Public Input Wanted for Exhibits and Programs at Historic Sams House

The Sam's House, Brevard County's oldest home, is located at the Pine Island Conservation Area on north Merritt Island. Plans are underway to restore and convert this historic home into the Pine Island Management and Education Center.

The Center will be managed by the Brevard County Environmentally Endangered Lands (EEL) Program and will feature educational exhibits and public programs for the local community.

In order to learn more about what people would like, the EEL staff will conduct a workshop preceding the monthly NMIHOA meeting on Monday, Sept. 10, beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the St. Luke's Meeting Hall, 5555 N. Tropical Trail. Citizen input is greatly desired.

Photo to right shows the two Sams House structures. The smaller one, Sams House 1 built in 1875 in Eau Gallie and moved via the Indian River to present location in 1878, and Sams House 2, built in the 1880s and connected through a kitchen in the 1950s.



EEL File Photo

(Continued on Page 3)

North Merritt Island Zoning Issues

The following two zoning items will be heard by the NMI Advisory board on Thurs., Sept. 20, 6 p.m., at the Merritt Island Service Complex 2575 N. Courtenay Pkwy., 2nd Floor Conf. Room and again by the Board of County Commissioners on Thurs., Oct. 4, at 5 p.m., Viera Government Center, Bldg. C.

VI.B.11. (NMI70901) MICHAEL & SANDRA CHESTER – request a change from AU to RR-1, on 1.0 acre. Located on the east side of Carew Pl., approx. 250 ft. south of N. Courtenay Pkwy.

VI.B.12. (NMI70902) MAGRUDER-SMITH FARMS, INC. - (Bruce Moia, MBV Engineering) – requests a CUP for Land Alteration in an AU zoning classification, on 19.88 acres. Located on the south side of McGruder Rd., approx. 250 ft. west of Simons Ave.

The Dubinski zoning request below, which was scheduled to be heard by the Board of County Commissioners in September, has been withdrawn at the request of the applicant.

NMI70401) – Andre K. Dubinski – requests a change from AU to RR-1 pn 19.68 acres. Located on the east side of Judson Road, approx. 0.34 mile north of Chase Hammock Road.

The Fraternal Order of Eagles (FOE), Merritt Island is considering buying a piece of property located at 5030 N. Courtenay Pkwy. (corner of Chase Hammock and N. Courtenay Pkwy.) They will need a CUP to bring their liquor license to this location. Kenneth Buback, President of FOE wrote: "We are a non-profit organizatin and a Private Club with membership of 300 who donate our profits to charity and our community. We will be at your next meeting on Sept.10 to introduce ourselves and meet with the community."

Annual Financial Report

North Merritt Island Homeowners Association, Inc.

CHECKING ACCOUNT

Balance 6/30/06	5,496.29
Income	9,593.10
Expenditures	(10,049.60)
Balance 6/30/07	5,039.79

SUMMARY OF INCOME:

Dues	4,190.00
Ads in Courtenay Notes/Web	2,940.00
Picnic	2,438.10
Misc. Donations	25.00
Total Income to Checking	9,593.10

SUMMARY OF EXPENSES (checking):

Printing	2,466.17
Postage	3,800.00
Picnic	2,764.56
State Annual Report Fee:	61.25
Candidate Forum	290.99
Zoning Seminar	385.00
Signage (median)	281.63
Total Expenditures from Checking	10,049.60

SAVINGS ACCOUNT:

Balance 6/30/06	13,692.71
Interest	206.92
Balance 6/30/07	3,899.63

<u>CERTIFICATE OF DEPOSIT</u>	10,000.00
<u>POSTAL ACCOUNT BALANCE:</u>	251.83

Submitted by Carol Bragg, Treasurer 06/07

North Merritt Island Homeowners Assn., Inc.

2007-2008 Board Members

Officers

President, Jack Ratterman, 452-9989
 Vice President, Chris Cook, 453-7022
 Co-Secretaries, Connie Cole, 459-2178
 and Donna Feller, 453-1214

Treasurer, Carol Bragg, 459-2731
 Sgt. at Arms, Ron Penn, 452-5592

District Representatives

Dist. 1, Julian Lindenauer, 459-3765 (Barge Canal on both sides of Courtenay to Hall Rd.)

Dist. 2, John Rovira, 454-7726 (W. Hall Rd. to and including W. Crisafulli Rd. and W. side of Courtenay)

Dist. 3, Dick Finn, 454-9181, and Sandy Pesce, 455-6378 (E. Hall Rd. to and including E. Crisafulli and E. side of Courtenay)

Dist. 4, Dan Lynch, 453-1336 (N. of Crisafulli to KSC)

At Large Board Members

Publicity: Darleen Hunt, 452-8433

Zoning: vacant

Committee Chairs:

Hike and Bike Trails: Jack Ratterman, 452-9989

Newsletter mailings: Debra Dannels, 453-5341,

and Simone Spiess, 453-6662

Membership: Carol Bragg, 459-2731 and Simone

Spiess, 453-6662

Webmaster: Mary Hillberg, 453-0220

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

Wildlife Sightings for North Merritt Island

Lock Doors

The Sheriff's Department has been dealing with a high number of burglaries all over the County and including North Merritt Island. They urge residents to LOCK DOORS of vehicles and homes to protect your property. Unlocked places offer opportunities for crimes to take place.

This issue of Courtenay Notes has been mailed to all 3548 mailing addresses north of the Barge Canal to KSC compliments of the North Merritt Island Homeowners Association. To receive your copy monthly, fill out application on back page. Stay informed.

Welcome New Members



We are pleased to welcome the following new members who recently joined the NMIHOA: Ruth Kaplet; Don Miller; and Kathryn Miller.

New Advertisers in This Issue

Please look over the ads on the back page of this issue. Many of our previous advertisers have renewed and several new businesses have donated for ads. The money is used for postage and printing of this newsletter. As you do business with our advertisers, please let them know that you noticed their ad in the *Courtenay Notes*.

Ads run for one year and there is still a bit more space available. Call 452-8433 for information.

Flames In The Sky...(continued from page 1)

In early times the population on the north part of Island was sparse and homes were fairly far apart. No one had a telephone so it was hard to get enough help together to save a building. Add to that the pine forest fires that raged for days with nothing to stop them and you can see what a struggle it was to live there. The wildlife, the mosquitoes, droughts and lightning strikes also severely challenged those who settled this area.

In the late 40's and early 50's, when the pines burned, they created their own wind and the sparks could travel for miles, starting even more fires—and homeowners prayed they would be spared. I remember the whole sky glowing red at night. The flames could be seen from a distance, even from the Mainland. When the fires happened someone would call our house to tell my dad that everyone was gathering at a certain spot to go fight the fire—and my mother, grandmother, aunts and other ladies in Courtenay would make food and coffee and take it along with water to the men who were fighting these terrible fires. Sometimes the cattle that were being raised by Mr. Roberts and others were in danger, sometimes it was someone's grove, or a house—but these brave men of all ages would go out to beat the fire back—with no real equipment but shovels, hoes, wet gunny sacks, no protective gear, and no water trucks. And then go to work the next day.

Eventually, the Barge Canal was finished, State Road 3 was built and the area north of the Barge Canal began to be more developed. This made it imperative that some sort of organized way was needed to deal with the fires that were so prevalent in this area. The Merritt Island Volunteer Fire Department was at such a distance that it was difficult for them to get to some fires in time.



Photo by: D. Hunt

Courtenay Volunteer Fire Department on N. Tropical Trail across from Colony Park.

In recognition of this need, my dad, Bob Brannin, and my granddad, Lit LaRoche banded together with other resident volunteers in the area and formed the Courtenay Volunteer Fire Department. One of its earliest members was Joey Crisafulli, who began as a teenager with the CVFD and rose to the position of Fire Chief has spent the greater part of his life working in firefighting.

Though NASA had taken over most of the land where the pine stands were, the Courtenay Volunteer Fire Department still served a necessary purpose in protecting residents from brush fires, helped save homes and was able to finally get the equipment needed for these tasks. According to John Gore, Volunteer Coordinator, the fire department merged with the Merritt Island Volunteer Fire Department in the 70's and now not only services the immediate area but also supports other areas that need help on the Island.

Mr. Gore also remarked that there are about 14 active volunteers with a few additional who are completing their courses. Today's fire department is quite different than when it was founded. The volunteers must complete 160 hours of class work that includes CPR training, hazardous material and blood born pathogens awareness and gives them first responder status which permits them to give basic medical treatment. Also

at the Courtenay fire station, there are three paramedics and 5 to 6 EMTs, plus some career staff.

Quite a difference from the late 50's to now, but one age old problem still exists. The need for more and better equipment and the expense that accompanies those improvements. Mr. Gore reports that the Courtenay branch is in need of donations—it seems that the more things change, the more things stay the same. So, help them help you and be as generous as you can be. Call John Gore at 633-2056, or John.gore@brevardcounty.us.

County Dredging NMI Canals

A dredging project for Indian Bay and Meadow Lark residents is currently underway. The spoil site for the project is located off N. Tropical Trail just north of Treasure Lagoon, approximately where Porcher Rd. intersects. The project is expected to take 5 months. Gil Ramirez, Interim Traffic Engineer Division, Brevard County, is in charge of the project. His phone number is 617-7340.



Photo by: D. Hunt

Dredging material spoil site is being excavated west of N. Tropical Trail.