



# The Villager

Spring 2013 Volume 53 Issue 1



**American Homesteading Foundation, Inc.**

## Sixty-Seventh Annual Meeting

Saturday, March 16

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.

Call to order at 9:00 a.m.

Donuts from Love Bug's Bakery

Coffee and juice served

(Quorum Required)

## Annual Dinner

Sunday, March 17, 5:00 p.m.

Social Time begins at 5:00 p.m.

Dinner served around 5:30/6:00 p.m.

Tickets: \$5.00 for adults and children  
plus a side dish or dessert

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## AHF Annual Dinner

The AHF Annual Meeting Committee invites you to our Annual Dinner on Sunday, March 17. The theme of our dinner is "Rock Around the Clock", and we will have D.J. Greg Bennett playing tunes for us from 6 – 9 p.m. The dance floor will be ready, so come on out in your best sock hop attire!

The doors will open at 5:00 p.m. for "social time". Dinner will be served around 5:30/6:00 p.m. Since our dinner falls on St. Patrick's Day, we are bringing in Irish Stew and Vegetarian Pot Pie from Harbor City Diner. Beverages will be provided, but you can bring your own adult beverages too, if you like.

Tickets for the Annual Dinner are only \$5.00 per person plus a side dish or dessert to share, but seating is limited so please reserve early. Tickets are available starting March 4 at the AHF Office (hours M-F, 9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.).

## 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Ruth B. Hayes Melbourne Village Scholarship

The annual Ruth B. Hayes Scholarship in the amount of \$1,130 is awarded in July. The scholarship is made available through the American Homesteading Foundation, Inc. to a graduating high school senior residing in Melbourne Village. Applications will be available in early May. Contact the AHF Office for additional information.

## A Message from the President

The AHF annual meeting is scheduled for Saturday March 16. Please plan to attend. We need a quorum to complete the meeting. It is an excellent opportunity to get an update on AHF activities and plans and to meet with fellow villagers.

Mike Smith led the Parks and Paths Committee in a major project to remove invasive pepper trees that have grown around the bank of Tippie Lake. The committee is also working to eradicate the cattails that have taken over part of the lake. The appearance of the lake has been greatly improved.

Sandi Dix led an effort to design and install permanent sign frames so the signs announcing AHF events can be easily put up and taken down. This will provide a cleaner, more professional look to the signs, in addition to making them easier to put up and take down. See 'New Sign Structures' on page 7 for details.

These are just two of activities of our many volunteers that make Melbourne Village such a unique and desirable place to live. We thank them all for their efforts.



## Announcements

### Regularly Scheduled Committee Meetings

#### Deerhead Hammock Committee

1st Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.

#### Memory Garden Committee

Last Friday of the month, 9 a.m.

#### Erna Nixon Hammock Committee (work party)

Fourth Saturday of the month, 9 a.m.

#### Parks and Paths Committee

Saturday from 8 to 10 a.m. See the bulletin board for location.

#### Building and Grounds Committee

1st Thursday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Library

#### Recreation Committee

2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of the month, 6:30 p.m., Committee Room

#### Budget and Finance Committee

4th Wednesday of the month, 7:30 p.m., Library

### Regularly Scheduled Events

#### Mah Jongg

1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month, 6-9 p.m., Committee Room

#### Bridge Club

Every Tuesday, 1-4 p.m., AHF Hall

### Board of Trustee Meeting Schedule

Thursday, March 14, 7:30 p.m.

Committee Reports due Mon., March 11.

Thursday, April 11, 7:30 p.m.

Committee Reports due Mon., April 8.

Thursday, May 9, 7:30 p.m.

Committee Reports due Mon., May 6.

### AHF Board of Trustees Election

#### Balloting closes on Feb 28 at 6 p.m.

2013 candidates are Sandra Dix, Leslie Fay, L. Scott McCoy, Michael Smith, and Robert Murphy.

### AHF Office Closures

Monday, May 27 (Memorial Day)

### Welcome to our New AHF Members!

January 2013:

Daniel Ryan Gish, 642 Hammock Road, Lot 229 (from Shirley Cox)

### Contacting the AHF

The AHF office is located at 535 Hammock Road.  
Office hours are 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., Mon. to Fri.

Phone: 321-723-6042

Email: [AHFMV@cfl.rr.com](mailto:AHFMV@cfl.rr.com)

Web: <http://www.melbourne-village.com>



## AHF Committee News

The AHF Committees are a large part of what makes Melbourne Village work. We are always looking for more volunteers to help out. With 17 standing committees you can certainly find something to suit your individual skills, talents, interests, and fit with your schedule. Call the AHF office if you would like to find out more, or visit the AHF website: [www.melbourne-village.com](http://www.melbourne-village.com).

### Erna Nixon Hammock Committee

*by Sandi Dix*

Wow, I can't believe that it is already 2013! Where has the time gone? Erna Nixon Hammock committee continues removing invasive plants such as Brazilian peppers, Air potato vines, Coral ardisia and the Java plum just to name a few. We are very proud of the work we are doing in the hammock! It is hard work but the benefits are great. We are seeing more and more of our native plants coming back.

This past fall and winter we have tidied up the parkland on the corner of Acacia and Live Oak. We still plan on putting in a park bench so keep a watch out for this. Our next project is removing some of the grape vines that are choking out the plants on the Live Oak path. There must be a balance in nature. We are trying to mimic nature by taking out lower growing vines which would naturally be removed by fire.

If you would like to help out in the park, our workdays are usually the 4th Saturday of the month starting at 9 a.m. We can always use more help! You can contact me, Sandi Dix, either by phone 952-5618 or e-mail: [mntlcrpl@yahoo.com](mailto:mntlcrpl@yahoo.com) for more information.

Please remember: NO SMOKING or littering in any of your parkland and please pick up after your dog. There is nothing worse than enjoying a nice stroll in our parks and stepping in someone's dog poop! Let's be considerate of others. Happy Trails!

### Building and Grounds Committee, *by Kathryn Merry*

As spring approaches and the days become longer, the newly planted plants along Hammock Road in the AHF parking lot will start to grow and fill in to create an appealing natural screen. Plants will also contribute to food for birds and nectar for insects. Enjoy! The Committee has also replaced the wooden serving cart with a stainless steel cart and replaced the chair glides on all orange chairs in the AHF Hall.

### Deerhead Hammock Committee, *by Kathryn Merry*

We meet the 1st Saturday of the month in the Hammock usually around 9 a.m. – come out and join us! Bring gloves, snippers, and anything else you think might be useful for collecting debris and cleaning up the public areas.

Are you collecting air potatoes for the Founder's Day contest? Check out the swale along the north perimeter of Deerhead Hammock. For each 3-gallon container of air potatoes, the Deerhead Hammock Committee will 'pay' you one 3-gallon container of air potatoes, which will add 10 to 15 pounds to your total collection. See Kathryn Merry for details.

Please plan on attending the March 31st Easter Service in the Deerhead Hammock followed by a Continental Breakfast (bring a breakfast dish to share). Check the Bulletin Board for more details later.

## FREE Herbicide available to help fight Air Potato scourge

To help fight this noxious vine, FREE pre-mixed herbicide is available to residents through the AHF Office. Contact David Volckmann or Mike Smith:

AHF Office 723-6042 Mike Smith, Parks and Paths Chairman 723-6042



## Nominating Committee

*by Heidi Salmon*

The AHF Nominating Committee needs volunteers to serve on committees for the upcoming year. The Education Committee in particular needs more members in order to provide the Summer Children's Program in June and award the annual Ruth B. Hayes scholarship. Anyone willing to help on this committee is welcome. Please contact Heidi Salmon at 733-5833 or heidiheidiann@gmail.com as soon as possible. Thank you very much.

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## Memory Garden Committee

*by Sandi Dix*

We meet once a month (last Friday of the month) for workdays where we weed, trim shrubs if needed and do a general clean up of the garden. We also mow and water as needed.

All of our wildflowers are doing great as well as the weeds! Where do all the weeds come from! Seems like the more we pull them out the more there are of them. Just like ants...always around.

This spring we will do a major clean up of the garden. Re mulch the flower beds, cut back shrubs, clean out the drainage ditch behind the garden and anything else that needs to be done. We can always use more help, so if you are interested give us a call.

In addition to our monthly work parties, committee members are responsible for the maintenance of the garden each month. Our workday is the last Friday of the month starting at 9 a.m. We can always use more help, so if you have an extra hour or so please contact me, Sandi Dix, either by phone at 952-5618 or e-mail: mntlcrpl@yahoo.com.

As always, we hope that you enjoy the garden and if you have any suggestions, please let us know. Happy Gardening!

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## Recreation Committee

*By Linda Wilson, Chair*

The Village Holiday Dinner was held on December 9th, and was once again sold out! From the feedback the committee heard, the food was delicious! Villagers feasted on a traditional meal of Turkey and Ham with all the trimmings and oh, those wonderful desserts made by the Villagers, too! Santa Marty, and Amber the Elf delighted the children with presents, and some lucky adults won door prizes. The committee wishes to thank all of the Villagers who attended the event, and especially those who brought side dishes and desserts – they were especially yummy this year!

The Holiday Dinner is the largest and the most labor intensive event that the Recreation Committee holds during the year. Our deepest gratitude is offered to those who helped plan, decorate, cook, and clean up. Thank you all so very much!

The Recreation Committee would like to add some additional events to the 2013 calendar; a Spring Flea Market and the return of Village Movie Nights throughout the year. These additional events must be requested and approved by the AHF Board before they can be added to the calendar and announced to you. If approved, details for these events will be announced right away.

### Passings

We are saddened to hear of the passing of our neighbors:

**Doris W. Greene**, age 78, Passed 12/28/2012, AHF member since 1972

**Tynne A. Hokkanen**, age 83, Passed 1/13/2013, AHF member since 1983, and wife of Bob Hokkanen

**Frank DeSua**, Age 91, Passed 1/16/2013, Former AHF member (1975-1999), retired Mathematics Professor.

## Board of Trustees Establishes By-Laws Review Committee

by Hugh Nicolay

The Board has established an ad hoc committee of board members and other interested AHF members for the purpose of reviewing the by-laws and proposing possible changes. The goal is to submit changes to the membership as part of the 2014 Trustee election process.

The committee will review a number of issues which have come to light during recent years. One has to do with the definition of members and the role they can play in the work of the organization. Currently the definition is very restrictive as to who is actually a member, and who can participate in activities and serve on committees. There is interest to broaden and simplify the membership definitions to encourage more Village residents to participate in committee work.

The board has been challenged in recent months regarding the provision in the by-laws that limits member property ownership to no more than two adjacent lots. The board enforcement tool is the 'right of first refusal' incorporated in a covenant on the deed for almost all residential lots in the AHF part of Melbourne Village. Each time a normal property sale is to take place, the AHF has the legal ability within a limited timeframe, to buy the property at the contracted price. In the situation where a property passes from one owner to another as the result of an inheritance or divorce settlement, the AHF has no role other than to ask the new owners to apply for AHF membership, if they are not already members.

In a recent case, a respected member in good standing entered into a contract to purchase a lot and home which was not adjacent to his own. The board discussed the case at three separate special meetings. The board has a limited timeframe to respond to a pending sale. More often than not, this takes place between regularly scheduled monthly board meetings. In this case, by a unanimous vote of the seven members in attendance, the board exercised its right of first refusal and became the purchaser of the property. The board saw no way for the sale to move forward without the board members placing themselves and the AHF in legal jeopardy.

The AHF has put the property back on the market at the original asking price, and it hopes to break even taking into consideration closing costs and a new member fee.

There was much discussion of the merits, or lack thereof, of the present by-law restriction on multiple property ownership at recent board meetings. This discussion will continue as part of the by-law review committee. A summary of various points of view, pro and con, will be included in future Villager issues. If you are interested in participating in the by-law review process, contact the office at [AHFMV@cfl.rr.com](mailto:AHFMV@cfl.rr.com).

A copy of the current by-laws can be found on the AHF website: [www.Melbourne-Village.com](http://www.Melbourne-Village.com).

### The Villager

The Villager is published 4 times each year by and for the members of The American Homesteading Foundation, Inc. News items, stories, and comments can be addressed to the AHF Office.

#### Information Committee Members:

Kathryn Merry, Chair	Rosa Bennett, Layout
Gail Griswold, Editor and Reporter	Perry Foster, Webmaster
Gerda Murphy, Reporter	Vance Johnson, Bulletin Board
Dennis Foster, Reporter	Hugh Nicolay, Secretary, Photographer, and eVillager Editor

If you'd like to subscribe to the monthly eVillager email events calendar and announcements, send an email to [eVillager-subscribe@YahooGroups.com](mailto:eVillager-subscribe@YahooGroups.com).

## TMV Beautification Committee, *by Kathryn Merry*

The Beautification Committee meets the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at 10 a.m. in the AHF Committee Room. Help Keep Melbourne Village Beautiful by participating in a TMV Workday. Dates and locations are:

**Mar 11<sup>th</sup>** – 8 - 10 a.m. Work Party at the 2011 and 2012 La Florida Grant sites.

**Apr 8<sup>th</sup>** – 8 -10 a.m. Canal Road (Treed areas north of roadway).

Two workshops are planned which will assist you in maintaining your Florida Yards. They are:

**Mar 21** – 7 p.m. AHF Hall - Invasive Plants workshop with Scott Taylor presenting.

**Mar. 23** - 10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. - AHF Hall - Rain Barrel Workshop - Cost \$45 and you take home a ready to use rain barrel.

## Wildflower Garden at the Margaret Hames Triangle

*by Steve Pepper*

Early last October, the TMV Beautification Committee established a wildflower garden in the traffic island at the intersection of Norman Drive and West Pine Road.

This garden is at the site of a tree planted in memory of Margaret Hames, and was made possible by a grant from the Florida Wildflower Foundation, contributions from the Town of Melbourne Village, and many hours of labor by volunteers.

Ms Hames was a village resident widely known for advocating environmental causes, and she was a co-founder of the local chapter of the Florida Native Plant Society. This is the second year in a row that the Town has received a grant from the Wildflower Foundation. A small sign in the garden acknowledges the contribution from the Wildflower Foundation and identifies the six different types of plants that were added.



## Notice to Residents

*by Dave Bennett*

Over the course of the last 2 years there have been a few daytime burglaries that occurred within Melbourne Village. In each instance, the Melbourne Village Police Department quickly apprehended the perpetrators, which were believed to be part of a south Florida criminal organization that targets communities which are in close proximity to I-95.

All residents should take heed and increase their security consciousness concerning their homes.

Lock doors and windows. If available, use alarms even when home. Practice situational awareness by noting strange cars or persons in the community, and reporting any instances to the Melbourne Village Police Department. Residents who observe suspicious activity should not hesitate to call 911.

Our local Police Department is a great benefit to our community, but they rely on the vigilance and communication of the residents to provide the best possible security.

## Florida's Arbor Day

by Kathryn Merry

In recognition of Florida's Arbor Day, Friday, January 18th, the TMV Beautification Committee planted a longleaf pine in the island on the south end of Hammock Road. Mayor Rob Downey officiated and 11 Villagers attended.



Photo by Grayson Dix

From left to right, Steve Peffer, Mayor Rob Downey, Steve Peffer, Sandi Dix, and Barbara Simpson



From left to right, Paul Merry, Mayor Rob Downey, Steve Peffer, Kathryn Merry, Mike Gent, Sandi Dix, and Barbara Simpson

National Arbor Day is Friday, April 26<sup>th</sup>. If you have a suggestion for an event to commemorate the day, contact Kathryn Merry at 321-724-2698.

## Community Garden

Calling all AHF members! If you are interested in establishing a community garden in the Village, please contact Tom Kjerulff, 5747 Cajepet Circle, at 321 412 0568 or email at [tkjerulff@cfl.rr.com](mailto:tkjerulff@cfl.rr.com)

## New Sign Structures

by Sandi Dix

Have you seen the new sign structures on Daytona Blvd, South Dr., West Pine and in front of the town hall parking lot? These structures will hold signs for AHF and Town events (finally!).

As you know, in the past, the committee that hosts an event puts up signs at least one week before the event. Sometimes the wind would blow down the signs, or the person would have to beat the posts into the sandy soil - what a nightmare! Small pieces of PVC pipe were installed to make sign installation easier, but the pipe would fill with sand.

Well, now we have brand new permanent structures to hang the signs!!! I would like to thank the TMV for allowing the AHF to put these structures on the town's right of way. Also a huge THANK YOU goes out to Bill Moon for constructing the structures and helping to install them. We could not have done it without him! Many thanks also to Mike Gent, Gray Dix, and Duane Walker for helping with the installation of the structures, and to the AHF Board for approving and funding the structures. For each event in the future, we will also have new standard signs!

## Calling all Artists and Art Lovers

Village resident, Lorraine Fouquet, is offering art classes in Melbourne Village for adults over 18. Cost is \$20 per lesson, once a week for 2 hrs. Classes are in oil or acrylic painting, and also drawing. Lorraine been an art instructor for over 20 years, and she presently teaches at The Vero Beach Museum of Art. For details, contact Lorraine at 321-749-5288. Also, see her website at [www.fouquetgallery.com](http://www.fouquetgallery.com).

Lorraine is also looking for other artists in Melbourne Village who would like to start an art association. If you are interested, please call Lorraine at the above phone number.



# The Villager

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*American Homesteading Foundation, Inc.  
 535 Hammock Road  
 Melbourne Village, FL 32904*

**CHANGE SERVICE  
 REQUESTED**

✂ ----- *Upcoming Events: Cut and Save* ----- ✂

<b>February</b>	<b>Thurs. 2/28</b> , February Game Night, 7 to 9 p.m., AHF Hall.
<b>March</b>	<b>Sat. 3/16</b> , 67 <sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. Registration at 8:30 a.m., Call to order at 9:00 a.m., AHF Hall.
	<b>Sun. 3/17</b> , 5:00 p.m. Annual Dinner, AHF Hall.
	<b>Sat. 3/30</b> , Easter Egg Hunt. 9 a.m., AHF Hall. Volunteers are always needed to stuff and hide eggs. For further information, contact Linda Wilson (984-2539).
	<b>Sun. 3/31</b> , Easter Sunrise Service. Deerhead Hammock. For further information, contact Chairman Ann Adkins (724-5766).
	<b>Sun. 3/31</b> , March Game Night, 7 to 9 p.m., AHF Hall.
<b>April</b>	Committee Orientation Meeting, April (date and time TBD). See the bulletin board for details.
	<b>Sat. 4/20</b> , Old Fashioned Ice Cream Social.
	Annual Historic Walk (Founder's Day weekend), date and time TBD. Sponsored by TMV Historic Preservation Commission. See the bulletin board for details.
	<b>Sun. 4/21</b> , Annual Founder's Day (sponsored by TMV). See the bulletin board for details.
	<b>Tues. 4/30</b> , April Game Night, 7 to 9 p.m., AHF Hall.
<b>May</b>	<b>Friday. 5/31</b> , May Game Night, 7 to 9 p.m., AHF Hall.

**Volunteers are always needed for every event!**