



# The Villager

Winter 2014

Volume 54

Issue 4



## Annual Craft Bazaar and AHF Holiday Dinner

The Recreation Committee cordially invites you to attend the upcoming Annual Holiday Craft Bazaar and the Annual Holiday Dinner!

The Annual Holiday Craft Bazaar will be held in the AHF Hall on **Saturday, December 6<sup>th</sup>** from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The Craft Bazaar is for handmade items only. No flea market items, please! Contact Linda Wilson for table reservations, 321-223-6844. Table rent is \$8.00 for an 8 ft. table or \$5.00 for a card table.

The Holiday Dinner will be held in the AHF Hall on **Sunday, December 14<sup>th</sup>** from 5:30 - 8:00 pm. Doors open at 5:15 p.m. This year's theme is "Holiday Magic" and we will have a Magician on hand to entertain and astound us!

The menu this year will be traditional Turkey and Ham with lots of trimmings, with Villagers providing the yummy desserts. Coffee, Iced Tea and Lemonade will be provided, but you're also welcome to bring a beverage of your choosing.

We will have door prizes and gifts from Santa for children ages 1 – 12. Please purchase your tickets early, as the Holiday Dinner sells out every year. Tickets go on sale **December 1<sup>st</sup>** at the AHF Office. (open Monday through Friday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Ticket prices are \$6.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children over 5. **Please bring a dessert to share!**



### Welcome to our new Executive Secretary!!!

Please stop by the AHF office and welcome our new Executive Secretary, Barbara Carta. Barbara is a resident of Rockledge, FL. She was hired on October 21 to replace Pat Zine who is retiring after 13 years as our Executive Secretary. Pat's last day is November 28. We wish Pat a very happy retirement. She will certainly be missed!

# Announcements

## Regularly Scheduled Committee Meetings

**Deerhead Hammock Committee**  
1st Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.

**Memory Garden Committee**  
Last Friday of each month, 3 p.m.

**Erna Nixon Hammock Committee (work party)**  
Fourth Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.

**Parks and Paths Committee**  
Saturdays from 8 to 10 a.m. See the bulletin board for location.

**Building and Grounds Committee**  
4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Library

**Recreation Committee**  
1st or 2nd Monday of each month, 6:00 p.m., Committee Room

**Budget and Finance Committee**  
4th Wednesday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Library

## Regularly Scheduled Events

**Mah Jongg**  
1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month, 6-9 p.m., Committee Room

## Board of Trustees Election

To be held in February. Date to be announced. See the Bulletin Board for details.

## AHF Office Closures

- December 25 (Christmas)
- January 1 (New Year's Day)
- January 19 (Martin Luther King Jr. Day)
- February 16 (President's Day)

## 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>

## Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule

- Thursday, December 11, 7:30 p.m.  
Committee Reports due Tuesday, December 9
- Thursday, January 8, 7:30 p.m.  
Committee Reports due Tuesday, January 6
- Thursday, February 12, 7:30 p.m.  
Committee Reports due Tuesday, February 10

### Welcome to our new AHF Members!!!

August 2014

Leslie Q. and Pamela J. Somers, 630 W. Pine Road, Lot 214 (bank owned)

Sharon Robertson, 651 W. Hammock Road., Lot 253 (bank owned)

September 2014

Cheryl Mariner, 6890 Ward Parkway, Lot 524 (from Lorraine)

October 2014

Heather Carelli, 5625 Live Oak Drive, Lot 353 & 352 (from Marshall)



## 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).

### Parks and Paths

by Leslie Fay

We are back in full swing to clear the tremendous growth brought on by the summer rains. With 40 acres to maintain, our small committee works hard to keep up, and we always welcome “friends” to join in the work, occasionally or regularly. It’s a great way to have fun, catch up with neighbors, and exercise without paying for a gym membership.

If you are a path walker or just like working outside, there are many ways in which you can help:

1. Be a “Friend” of the committee. Join our weekly work-party any Friday morning from 8-10 a.m. Work party location notices are posted on the Dayton Rd. Bulletin Board and the Melbourne Village Nextdoor web site. During work sessions, we post a sign at the path entrance where we are working to make us easy to find. The Parks and Paths Trailer with our equipment is also parked nearby.
2. Air Potatoes are ripe for picking – Please carry a collection bag as you walk or place potatoes near the trailheads for pickup. Air potatoes should be treated as trash, never treated as plant waste. We filled a dumpster with more than 4000 lbs at the Founders’ Day collection, and now is the time to begin gathering the spuds so they don’t become next years’ rampant vines. (Remember, air potatoes are worth 10 cents/lb and a chance to win a pool membership for a year.)
3. Consider maintaining a trail near your section of the village by spending a little time on it periodically, removing fallen branches, palm fronds and invasives, or picking potatoes. This can be done anytime that is convenient for you.
4. If you have any ideas or questions about how you can help, please call Mike Smith at 725-0597.

Look for our new Parks & Paths Trailer. It is enclosed, complete with Parks and Paths Logo and loaded with everything needed for trail maintenance except for volunteers, of course. Our new Bush Hog for mowing trails fits neatly inside. The new addition is much more efficient and already has friends giving it a go - Thank you, Francis Golub for volunteering to mow on some of your daily walks in the woods!



The bridge in Azalea Park near Crane Rd. has been replaced! A huge “Thank You” to Logan Bolick for his Eagle Scout project. Logan, Scout Troop #314 and many scout parents worked tirelessly in October to provide us with a sturdy bridge that will last many years to come.

Tippie Lake is still in the process of restoration. Last spring, the Committee built a retention wall on the East side to make the trail passable during the wet season. We’ve stocked the lake with 150 small Blue Tilapia that will grow and help to eat away the algae in the lake. Laura Parkel, our local pond expert, continues to provide regular treatments of muck-away and help manage the vegetation.

Many large Brazilian Pepper trees have been removed from the Wildflower Meadow Trail and work is ongoing to restore the wildflower area. Also, the Australian pine section of the trail now bears the name of “Ogre Woods”. Check it out on your next walk!



## Building and Grounds

by Kathryn Merry

We have been busy maintaining the AHF building and surrounding grounds. A special thanks to Rand Carroll and Leslie Fay for helping with removing of the vines on the azalea bushes.

Other items done include replacing the bench in front of the AHF Hall and the gutter system overhead. An observation by Steve Simpson as to the status of the American flag and pole being overshadowed by the live oaks was addressed. The trees have been pruned and the flag will be replaced. Thanks to Steve for bringing this issue to the Board of Trustees and Committee's attention.

## Recreation Committee - Melbourne Village Fall Flea Market

The Melbourne Village Fall Flea Market was a great success again this year! Here's some photos from the event (copied from Nextdoor.com).



## Volunteers Needed!

The Recreation Committee is looking for volunteers for 2015. Our very own Linda Wilson is moving out of town and other committee members are not planning to return to the committee next year. If you can help, please contact Linda at 321-223-6844.

Also, we need FOUR volunteers to run for the AHF Board of Directors, to serve a three-year term. Please consider filling these important positions. If you are interested in running, please contact Heidi Salmon at 321-733-5833 by December 15, 2014.

## Encourage Natural Play

By Carrie Cronkhite

I love Melbourne Village! Our family has lived here for three years now, and it is a perfect fit for us. I grew up playing outside. I remember catching a duck at a public park when I was 7 or 8, and walking two blocks home with it to beg my parents to let me keep it. I can still picture the trees I hung out in and remember the excitement of trying to build a fort better than the boys. I caught snakes, identified them, played with them and let them go. I was always playing outdoors. It was endless fun, excitement, danger and mystery to be in the great wild world all alone. I learned what it meant to be FREE!

There is a divide between children today and the natural world. The physical, emotional, spiritual and intellectual implications threaten our children. There is a necessary contact with nature for healthy development, yet our society has changed drastically over the last century, and even over the last thirty years in the way people interact with nature. Farm population has dwindled from 40% of households in 1900 to just 1.9% in 1990. Children are spending less time playing outdoors or in any unstructured way. From 1997 to 2003, there was a decline of 50% in the proportion of children 9-12 who spent time in such outside activities as hiking, walking, fishing, beach play and gardening. Even visits to the national parks have plummeted by as much as 50% since 1987. Children's free play and discretionary time in a typical week has declined a total of 9 hours over a 25 year period. 71 percent of today's mothers said they recalled playing outdoors every day as children, but only 26 percent of them said their kids play outdoors daily. For a whole generation of kids, direct experiences in the backyard, in the tool shed, in the fields and woods, has been replaced by indirect learning, through machines and screens.

Legal fears have infected our culture. Countless communities have virtually outlawed unstructured outdoor nature play, often because of the threat of lawsuits, concern about camps of transients, or outbreaks of fire, but also because of a growing obsession with order. Communities are controlled by strict covenants that discourage or ban the kind of outdoor play many of us enjoyed as children. Official squads of adults regularly tear down forts and tree houses built by kids in the woods. They frown at children for running around in the woods with sticks or for climbing in trees. The consequence is the discouragement of natural play. Our society is teaching young people to avoid direct experience in nature. Nature begins to be associated with

doom, while disassociating the outdoors from joy and solitude. Let's not be that kind of community!

The goal of my sharing with you is that you will encourage the Melbourne Village children to enjoy a lifestyle of playing outdoors. Winter break will soon be here. When you see children outside; running, building, climbing, stop and smile. Share a story of when you were a kid and the adventures you enjoyed. Help them to fall in love with our beautiful village. Ultimately, it will be the children of the Village who will be responsible for preserving what we now know and love. Please, encourage natural play.

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## The Hanging of the Greens

*(Portions of this article excerpted from "Christmas Traditions Rooted in Ancient Culture" by Susan Garland, <http://www.lifeway.com/Article/Christmas-traditions-rooted-in-ancient-culture>.)*

The Melbourne Village Annual Hanging of the Greens will take place on **November 30, December 1 and December 2**. Volunteers are needed for the Hanging of the Greens event. If you can help, please call Sandi Dix at 321-952-5618.

Have you ever wondered how the hanging of the greens tradition originated? According to an internet article, the practice originated in ancient cultures and civilizations such as the Druids, Celts, Norse, and Romans, who celebrated the winter solstice around December 21. Because the color green represented eternal life, plants that remained green throughout the year played an important role in these celebrations.

The Romans celebrated the solstice with a mid-winter holiday called the Saturnalia, honoring the Roman god Saturn. They lit candles in their homes, spent time with friends and family, decorated their homes with wreaths and garlands, exchanged gifts, and feasted.

As pagan cultures converted to Christianity, they continued many of their traditional winter solstice activities. Because the use of greenery had pagan origins, early church leaders often objected to its use. However, the traditions were so deeply ingrained that the customs continued - but from a Christian frame of reference.

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## Melbourne Village Real Estate News

by Debbie Seiler

Congratulations Villagers! For a community where the majority of homes are smaller, older, and have fewer bedrooms and bathrooms than the average Brevard County home - ours sell quicker than average, with sold prices close to average, even though we have no high-end waterfront property to boost our values. One can only deduce that there are others besides us that place a value on things such as tight-knit neighbors, nature as a priority, volunteerism, and community involvement...not exactly searchable fields in the MLS.

Of the 15 homes sold in Melbourne Village in the past 18 months:

- 80% were built in the 1950's - county wide only 7.6%.
- Average sold price was \$140K - county average \$144K.
- Average 61 days from listing to contract - county average 97 days! (this calculation excludes one sale on the market for 3 years due to estate issues, but it does include some distressed properties that sat on the market for 4-7 months)

Current listings and recent sold properties are a bright forecast for Melbourne Village real estate as evidenced below.

- As of July 24 there are 7 properties for sale in Melbourne Village at average listing price of \$269,000.
- New construction at 6519 Flamingo
- Improvements by new owners of 740 Cajeput, 6545 Flamingo, 6629 Flamingo, 6737 Sheridan.
- Distressed property at 6890 Ward just sold - look for improvements there!
- Distressed property at 651 Hammock is under contract.

The MV real estate market is definitely shifting in the right direction. As the Beatles said, "You've got to admit it's getting better, getting better all the time!"

*(Data from Brevard MLS, Property Appraiser, and U.S. Census Bureau)*

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## Passings

### Robert Henry Daubert (Bob)



Robert Daubert passed away on July 19, 2014 at age 65. He and his wife Jeanne resided at 6587 Canal Rd from 2000 to 2009. Bob and Jeanne were keenly interested in crafts and owned a basket-weaving label, Houses for Little Things. Bob was also an avid woodworker.

Bob graduated from Rice University in 1971 with a degree in chemical engineering, and later moved to State College, Pennsylvania where he earned a graduate degree in environmental engineering. He also obtained formal training in computer science and developed applications for several firms, including Abitibi-Price Inc., Qualcomm Inc., and Forward Air Inc.

Bob was a loving father and explored a variety of avocations that he shared with his family, such as beekeeping, fishing, running, bicycling, and sailing. Bob had an evergreen zest for life; his passion was for finding out and respecting how each thing worked, from crawdads to internal combustion engines to white blood cells. He delighted in discovering a common thread with everyone he met. Bob is survived by his wife Jeanne; daughters Catherine and Elizabeth, his three grandsons, his mother Dorothea, three sisters Marilyn, Karen and Carol and many other close friends and relatives. Bob is preceded in death by his father, Henry Daubert.

## Christmas Carole Quiz

These are the names of well-known Christmas songs, rewritten in PC (pretty convoluted). If you like puzzles, try to decipher them. If not, just get a chuckle from matching up the translations!

Example: Heavenly beings at extreme altitudes from which my associates and I perceived auditory stimulus.

Translation: "Angels we have heard on high"

1. Sir Lancelot with severe laryngitis.
2. Boulder of the tinkling metal spheres.
3. Vehicular homicide was committed on Dad's mom by a precipitous darling.
4. Wanted in late December: top forward incisors.
5. The apartment of two psychiatrists.
6. The lad is a diminutive percussionist.
7. I exclaim, a member of the round table with missing areas.
8. Decorate the entryways.
9. Cup-shaped instruments fashioned of a whitish metallic element.
10. Oh small Israel urban center.
11. Far off in a hay bin.
12. Kong, Lear, and Nat Cole ...that's us!
13. Duodecimal enumeration of the passage of the Yuletide season.
14. Leave and broadcast from an elevation.
15. Our fervent hope is that you thoroughly enjoy your Yuletide season.
16. Listen, the winged heavenly messengers are proclaiming tunefully.
17. As the guardians of the woolly animals protected their charges in the dark hours.
18. I beheld a trio of nautical vessels moving in this direction.
19. Jubilation to the entire terrestrial globe.
20. Do you perceive the same vibrations which stimulate my auditory sense organ?
21. A joyful song of reverence relative to hollow metallic vessels which vibrate and bring forth a ringing sound when struck
22. Parent was observed osculating a red-coated unshaven teamster.
23. May the Deity bestow an absence of fatigue to mild male humans.

Answers:  
 1. Silent Night (Knight). 2. Jingle Bell Rock. 3. Grandma Got Run Over by a Reindeer. 4. All I Want for Christmas is my Two Front Teeth. 5. Nutcracker Suite. 6. The Little Drummer Boy. 7. Oh, Holy Night. 8. Deck the Halls. 9. Silver Bells. 10. O Little Town of Bethlehem. 11. Away in a Manger. 12. We Three Kings. 13. 12 Days of Christmas. 14. Go Tell It On the Mountain. 15. We Wish You A Merry Christmas. 16. Hark the Herald Angels Sing. 17. While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks By Night. 18. I Saw Three Ships on Christmas Day. 19. Joy to the World. 20. Do You Hear What I Hear (movie) (lyrics). 21. Carol of the Bells. 22. I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus. 23. God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen.



# The Villager

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

For additional event details, please see the Bulletin Board or the Melbourne Village Nextdoor Neighborhood web site, [www.MelbourneVillage.Nextdoor.com](http://www.MelbourneVillage.Nextdoor.com).

<b>December</b>	<b>Mon. 12/1</b> , Annual Holiday Dinner tickets go on sale in the AHF office. See page 1 for details.
	<b>Fri. 12/5</b> , Vendor table set up for Annual Holiday Craft Bazaar, 5:30 to 7:30 p.m., AHF Hall. For table reservations, contact Linda Wilson at 321-223-6844.
	<b>Sat. 12/6</b> , <b>Annual Holiday Craft Bazaar</b> . 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., AHF Hall.
	<b>Fri. 12/12</b> , Decorate the AHF Hall for the Annual Holiday Dinner. 9:00 a.m.
	<b>Sat. 12/13</b> , Decorate the AHF Hall for the Annual Holiday Dinner. 9:00 a.m.
	<b>Sun. 12/14</b> , <b>Annual Holiday Dinner</b> . 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., AHF Hall. <b>Please bring desserts!</b>
	<b>Sat. 12/27</b> , <b>Village Game Night</b> . 7:00 p.m. AHF Hall..
<b>January</b>	<b>Sat. 1/31</b> , <b>Village Game Night</b> . 7:00 p.m. AHF Hall.
<b>February</b>	<b>Sat. 2/21</b> , <b>Village Movie Night</b> . 6:30 p.m. Movie TBA. See the bulletin board for details.
	<b>Sat. 2/28</b> , <b>Village Game Night</b> . 7:00 p.m. AHF Hall.
<b>March</b>	<b>Sat. 3/21</b> , <b>Village Movie Night</b> . 6:30 p.m. Movie TBA. See the bulletin board for details.
	<b>Sat. 3/28</b> , <b>Village Game Night</b> . 7:00 p.m. AHF Hall.
<b>April</b>	<b>Sat. 4/4</b> , <b>Village Easter Egg Hunt</b> . 9:00 a.m. See the bulletin board for details.
	<b>Sat. 4/25</b> , <b>Village Game Night</b> . 7:00 p.m. AHF Hall.

*Volunteers are always needed. If you can help, please contact Linda Wilson at 321-223-6844.*