



The Villager

Autumn 2015

Volume 55

Issue 3

Photos from 4th of July Parade

Photos courtesy of Laura Parkel



Announcements

Regularly Scheduled Committee Meetings

Deerhead Hammock Committee

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

Memory Garden Committee

1st Wednesday of each month, 9 a.m. (Memory Garden)

Erna Nixon Hammock Committee (work party)

Fourth Saturday of each month, 9 a.m.

Parks and Paths Committee

Work party every Friday from 8 to 10 a.m. See the bulletin board for location.

Building and Grounds Committee

4th Monday of each month, 7:30 p.m., Library

Recreation Committee

1st Monday of each month, 6:30 p.m., Committee Room

Budget and Finance Committee

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

Regularly Scheduled Events

Mah Jongg

1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, 6-9 p.m., Committee Room

Annual Budget Hearing

October 21, 7:30 p.m. Funded committees should submit CY 2015 budget requests to the AHF office no later than Monday September 14.

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

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

Board of Trustees Meeting Schedule

Thursday September 10, 7:30 p.m.

Committee Reports due Tuesday September 8

Thursday October 8, 7:30 p.m.

Committee Reports due Monday October 5

Thursday November 12, 7:30 p.m.

Committee Reports due Monday November 9

AHF Office Closures

Monday September 7 (Labor Day)

Wednesday November 11 (Veterans Day)

Thursday and Friday, November 26 & 27 (Thanksgiving)

New AHF Employee

The AHF welcomes Cliff Finch as our new maintenance technician. He began work on June 15.

29th Annual Ruth B. Hayes Melbourne Village Scholarship

There were no applicants for the scholarship this year.

Welcome to our new neighbors!!!

April 2015: Thomas and Jean Mertens, 6573 Sheridan Rd, Lot 49. Purchased from Douglas and Gina Lees.

May 2015:

Lorrie Muzzone, 545 Acacia Ave., Lot 324 and ½ of Lot 323. Purchased from Richard and Annette Crawford. Willow Martin, 755 Cajeput Circle, Lot 421. Bank-owned, former property of Kevin Nenstiel.

June 2015: J. Duncan and Carol Kniseley, 788 Acacia Ave., Lot 411N. Purchased from Ronnal Reichard.

July 2015:

James and Julie Turman, 6217 Savannah Dr., Lot 109. Purchased from Richard Levine. Gabriel Peretz, 772 Acacia Ave., Lot 419. Bank-owned, former property of Robert Bertucco.

Parks and Paths Committee

By Leslie Fay

Thanks to a FABULOUS and energetic crew of committee members and lots of “Friends”, our committee accomplished more than we thought possible during the last year! We have been on our “Summer Break” since mid-June, and will start up again Friday mornings in September. Here are some of last season’s highlights:

When walking past Tippie Lake, you will notice bubbles coming from four new aeration units. The bubbles are adding more oxygen to the water to aid in further restoring of the lakes’ health.

A huge effort - 6 weeks of committee time and help from the bordering homeowners - went into removing the invasive Red Passion Vines that were choking out sunlight and several oaks in an area of Griffith Park. Maintenance of this area will be ongoing, as the vines are trying to make a comeback and air potatoes are also starting up.

We continued reclamation of Nutting-Green by clearing back the edges and spent more time on enhancing the trail entrances along with regular trail mowing and maintenance.

With the release of the Air Potato Leaf Beetle, we now have assistance battling the invasive air potatoes. You will notice lacy leaves on the plants where they are working. They were released in several areas, but have migrated quickly throughout the neighborhood. We will still need to pull vines and pick up potatoes, but hope to see a marked decrease in the coming years.

See you in September! Please consider coming to help any Friday morning from 8-10 a.m, September to June. Weekly work party locations are posted on the Bulletin Board and the NextDoor website.

Recreation Committee

By Laura Parkel

The Fall Flea Market will be held on Sat, Sept. 19 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the AHF Hall at 535 Hammock Road.

If you would like to be a vendor and reserve a table, please contact Susan Stafford at 321-727-3179. Tables are \$8 each. We kindly ask that vendors commit to staying for the entire event.

Swimming Pool Committee

The AHF Swimming Pool Committee would like to express its appreciation to Paul Ishman for his 40 years of volunteer service. We wish him luck in his future endeavors and look forward to seeing him around town!

Erna Nixon Hammock Committee

By Sandi Dix

We haven’t gotten any good pictures of the Bobcat lately but lots of people, dogs, rabbits, opossums and raccoons. We do move the camera around the hammock, so we might have missed the Bobcat.

We are thrilled to see the air potato beetles doing so well in the park! These little bugs are going to town on the potato vines. We are NOT spraying so that they have plenty to eat. As I keep saying this is a long term project for the beetles. We will continue to pick up the potatoes on the ground so we don’t see new vines growing.

The committee members can now concentrate on removing other invasive plants like Brazilian pepper trees, Coral and Shoe button ardisias, and Java plum. We also continue removing some of the grape vines that are choking out the Saw Palmettos and small oak trees on the Live Oak path.

Upcoming projects are installing a bench in the parkland along Live Oak Road and replacing the plant ID tags that someone removed! I know we have been saying this for the past year, but hopefully we will get these projects done this fall!

We desperately need more help in the hammock! Maintaining the hammock and removing invasive plants takes a great deal of time. We all benefit from having all this green space, so should just a few people be responsible for its care? Be a good neighbor and say YES when the Nominating Committee calls asking for volunteers.

Our workdays are the 4th Saturday of the month starting at 9 a.m., and we can always use more help. For more information, please contact me, Sandi Dix, by phone 321-952-5618 or e-mail: mntlcrpl@yahoo.com.

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’s poop! Let’s be considerate of others. Happy Trails!

Nominating Committee

Every year in the fall, the Nominating Committee starts looking for people to volunteer on AHF committees for the following year. With 17 standing committees, there's sure to be one or more that suits your individual skills, talents, interests, and fits with your schedule. Participating in a committee is a great way to meet your neighbors, serve your community, and join in the fellowship that makes Melbourne Village such a unique place to live. For a list of AHF committees and the responsibilities of each, contact the AHF Office see the addendum included with this edition of The Villager, or visit the AHF website:

www.melbourne-village.com/ahfinfo/committees.html.

To join a committee, please contact the AHF Office.

Information Committee

By Rosa Bennett

The Information Committee would like to thank Hugh and Mary Nicolay for their many years of dedication and volunteer service. As you may know, Hugh and Mary Nicolay have listed their beautiful Melbourne Village home at 582 Acacia Ave. for sale, and they are planning to move to a retirement community in the near future.



Hugh Nicolay

Hugh has been the lifeblood of the Information Committee for many years. He served as a reporter, photographer, editor, and webmaster. He has contributed countless articles and photos for publication in The Villager. In several cases, he provided the bulk of the



Mary Nicolay

content of The Villager, and it's fair to say that without his contributions there would not have been enough material to publish those editions. Mary Nicolay also served on many committees, and she has been a great friend to the Information Committee and contributed many articles and photos.

As you may also know, Hugh was the first person in Melbourne Village to take an interest in NextDoor.com, and he is the Founding Member and Lead for the Melbourne Village branch of the website. Under Hugh's guidance, the Melbourne Village NextDoor site has grown to over 200 members and has become a wonderful neighborhood forum for all Villagers. The NextDoor process wasn't always smooth - there were a few bumps along the way - but Hugh showed great leadership and handled the challenges in a professional and respectful manner. I am deeply grateful to Hugh for setting up the Nextdoor.com website on our behalf. If you like the website too, please let him know. I'm sure he'd love to hear from you.

As part of his Information Committee duties, Hugh serves as webmaster for the AHF website, www.melbourne-village.com. In this role, he keeps the website current and posts the latest AHF forms, event notifications, policy changes, as well as the latest edition of The Villager. Personally, I find the website to be very well presented and organized. Thanks to Hugh, it's easy to find the AHF information you need on the website and to keep up with the latest AHF events and announcements. Hugh has also lovingly maintained the AHF's history by creating PDF versions of books about Melbourne Village, posting and preserving articles about Villagers, and archiving past editions of The Villager. Hugh and Mary, there ought to be pages and pages on the website about YOU!

Hugh and Mary are avid bird-watchers, and they enjoyed sharing their passion for the hobby by reporting the birds and critters they'd spotted around the Village. There is a Bird and Critter Sightings list on the Bulletin Board, and Hugh compiled this information into a spreadsheet and monthly report. His reports often provided comparisons with the same month in previous years, which he was able to do since his spreadsheet dates back to January 2013. Hugh posted his last Bird and Critter report on the Melbourne Village Nextdoor website in June 2015. I'm sad to say there was no report for the month of July and there won't be one for the month of August unless another fabulous Villager volunteers to keep up the list. If you are interested, please send a message to ahfvillager@cfl.rr.com.

Hugh and Mary, you have been wonderful neighbors and friends and also very active members of many committees over the years. On behalf of the Information Committee and Melbourne Village at large, we thank you for your service and many years of volunteering. We wish you much happiness in this next phase of your lives, and we will miss both of you very much!

Air Potato Leaf Beetle (*Lilioceris cheni*)

By Sandi Dix



As most of you know, the AHF released around 700 air potato beetles into some of the parks back in May. We are seeing the beetles in most parts of the village. That is why the AHF has stop distributing the free Round Up to residents as the beetle ONLY eats the potato vine. This is not a quick fix but will take several years for the beetles to do their job. I'm not even sure that we will ever eradicate all the potatoes in the village. But, if we can get it down so that the committees can manage the spread of the air potato then in my opinion the beetles have done their job. Homeowners can apply for beetles for their own property and some residents have already released some.

The Florida Dept. of Agriculture is very easy to work with when obtaining the beetles. I filled out the paperwork for the AHF last fall and got a reply back from them pretty quick. They were quick to answer all my questions. The beetles are on a first come, first serve basis with priority to conservation land.

Here's some background on the beetles. They are released in the spring when the vines begin to grow. Their life cycle begins when the female lays eggs on the underside of air potato leaves. The females lay an average of 1800 eggs but in some cases up to 4300. After four days, eggs hatch and larvae begin feeding. When fully grown, larvae descend to the soil where they produce an oral secretion that hardens into a foam-like cocoon. Adults emerge after 12 to 16 days, and can live for five months or longer. The life cycle from egg to adult takes 30 days at 77°F. Both adults and larvae feed on the air potato foliage.



The adult beetles are about 3/8 inch long and 3/16 inch wide. The wings are red, and the abdomen, thorax, head, and legs are black. The adults leave large holes in the leaves as they eat. When the larvae feed, you will see leaves that look like lace.

During the winter when the vines die down, the beetles drop down into the leafy material on the ground until spring. During this time they go without food. In the spring the females begin laying eggs and the cycle begins again.

For more information, see

<http://bcrc1.ifas.ufl.edu/airpotatobiologicalcontrol.shtml>



The AHF is excited with the results that we are seeing. We encourage homeowners NOT to spray the potato vines. You can pick up the bulbs and dispose of the potato in your kitchen waste garbage...not your yard trash.

We would like to know if you have seen any beetles in your yard. Thanks so much for your cooperation.

Reprinted from <http://www.filmingsflorida.com/daily-species/air-potato-leaf-beetle/>

The Air Potato Leaf Beetle is an exotic species from China (red form) or Nepal (brown form) that has been introduced into Florida to help control the spread of the highly invasive [Air Yam or Air Potato](#). It was first released in 2011 and it has thus far proven to be successful in reducing the height of the vines, decreased potato production, and the increase of competing native plants. Furthermore, it does not feed on other species in the genus, including the two native species in Florida. Adults lay eggs on the leaves and the larvae feed on the leaves and growing tips of the plants after hatching, reducing the ability of the plant to grow and expand quickly.

Pine Trees

By Marge Derrick

I am becoming increasingly concerned about the condition of Melbourne Village’s slash pine trees. About six months ago, I became aware of a large number of sick looking pines. Now I am seeing a lot of dead ones and a lot more sick ones. As long as I have lived here, I have never seen anything like it (I have lived here more than forty years). I think we have a real epidemic. Lyle Zody had said we have a problem with pine bark beetles here. Recently, my sister in California said she learned of an epidemic of pine bark beetles spanning the continent and had seen a picture on TV which showed an entire forest of pines in Yosemite National Park which were totally dead.

I would strongly recommend checking the pine trees in your yard. Look for thin clumps of pine needles and limbs with dead needles or none at all. A normal tree should look well filled out with lots of green pine needles mainly on the end of its limbs, especially where it gets a lot of sun (in deep shade, lower limbs tend to lose needles just because they don’t get the sun to maintain them).

If you think you might have a problem, I would urge you to call the Brevard County Agricultural Extension Service and ask them to put you in contact with a tree expert who can help you. I have heard that an arborist would charge a rather hefty price for a checkup, but that if you can get hold of a biologist, it would be free. How true any of this is, I do not know. Whatever it takes, I would implore you to do it. Our town has a major problem that needs addressing. To have a lot of dead pines like we now do can make people think twice about living here, especially since preservation of our woodlands is what has made Melbourne Village so special. There is a spray that can help get rid of pine bark beetles, and yes, it is expensive, but our trees are so very worth it.

Revised Bulletin Board Policy

The Bulletin Board policy was revised in June 2105. The new policy is posted on the AHF website: www.melbourne-village.com/images/Rules-Bulletin-Board.pdf. Here’s some changes to note in the revised policy:

- All Bulletin Board items shall be posted only by an Information Committee designated person or a member of the Board of Trustees (revised policy).
- No more than two pages from posting related to AHF members shall be permitted for any single group (new policy).

✂ ----- *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.

August	Sat. 8/22, Movie Night. Details TBA.
	Sat. 8/29, Game Night. 7:00 p.m. AHF Hall.
September	Sat. 9/19, Fall Flea Market. 7:00 p.m. AHF Hall.
	Sat. 9/26, Game Night. 7:00 p.m. AHF Hall.
October	Sat. 10/24, Halloween Carnival. Details TBA.
November	Sat. 11/21, Movie Night. Details TBA.
	Sat. 11/28, Game Night. 7:00 p.m. AHF Hall.
December	Sat. 12/5, Holiday Craft Bazaar.
	Sun. 12/13, Holiday Dinner. 5:30 p.m. AHF Hall.
	Sat. 12/26, Game Night. 7:00 p.m. AHF Hall.

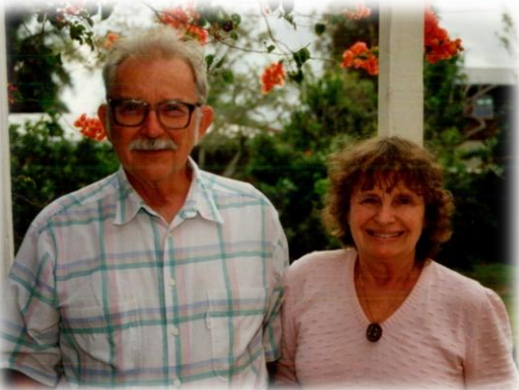
Volunteers are always needed for every event!

Passings

John 'Jack' Van Atta

John 'Jack' Van Atta, of 398 Dayton Blvd., passed away on Wednesday, May 13, 2015 at the age of 96. At the time of his passing, he was the oldest resident of Melbourne Village.

Jack and his wife of 59 ½ years, Marian Van Atta, moved to Melbourne Village in 1952. They were very active Village residents, and they were very influential in getting others to move to the Village.



Jack and Marian Van Atta (circa 1993)

Jack built two houses in Melbourne Village, one on Dayton Blvd. and one on Acacia Ave. He was a WW2 Navy veteran serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific the entire duration of the war. He was a gunnery control officer aboard a destroyer during the Normandy Invasion. His job was to direct the guns to knock out the German bunkers on the beach head.

The Van Attas raised five children in the Village. His daughter, Kathy, lived on Carissa Dr.

Jack was preceded in death by his wife Marian in 2012 and daughter Patricia in 2013. He is survived by his son, William Van Atta, and Daughter-In-Law, Karen Van Atta, of Dayton Blvd.

Simone Jeanine Whitlock

Simone Jeanine Whitlock, of 6663 Norman Drive., passed away on Friday, July 10, 2015 at the age of 88.

Born on August 17, 1926 in Ville De Reims, France, she was the daughter of the late Marcel Jules and Marcelle Lucile Lambotin Brioux.

Simone was the wife of the late Dr. James A. Whitlock, founder of The New Canaan Veterinary Hospital where Simone was the office manager. She and her husband James were longtime residents of New Canaan, CT. Simone met her husband, James A. Whitlock, during World War II in 1945 in Normandy, where he found her sunbathing when he was fishing. He was amazed by a woman who could find a way to sun herself during a war. It also helped that she told him where to catch fish. She was the catch of his life. James and Simone retired to Melbourne Village in 1988.

Simone was an avid sportswoman who enjoyed archery, golf, tennis, and cycling. Her passion was art. Her paintings will live on, bringing joy and happiness to her family and friends.

Simone is survived by her children, James A. Whitlock, of Milledgeville, GA, Michelle S. Williamson of Stuart, FL, and Gary D. Whitlock of Melbourne, FL. She is also survived by eight grandchildren, Simone, Dorothea, Elizabeth, Nicole, Jacob, Kristen, Kayla, and Noel, and seven great grandchildren, Liam, Esme, Ava, Max, Joseph, Aubrey, and Elsa.

Robert P. Conlogue

Robert 'Bob' Conlogue, former Melbourne Village resident and Town Superintendent, passed away on Saturday, July 11 2015 at the age of 84. Bob is survived by his wife, former Village resident and safety committee member, Tommy Conlogue.

The Villager

The Villager is published four times each year by and for the members of The American Homesteading Foundation, Inc.

Information Committee Members:

Kathryn Merry, Co-chair

Kim Lauer, Co-chair

Gail Griswold, Editor and Reporter

Rosa Bennett, Reporter and Layout

Vance Johnson, Bulletin Board

Hugh Nicolay, Webmaster, Photographer

Reporter, and Editor (retired from

Committee July 2015)

To submit comments, news articles, or stories, please send an email to ahfvillager@cfl.rr.com or drop off your information at the AHF Office.



The Villager

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✂ ----- *Survey. Please Return to AHF Office* ----- ✂

The Information Committee would like to determine how many Villagers enjoy receiving ‘The Villager’ and actually read it! We’d also like to find out if Villagers prefer to receive ‘The Villager’ in electronic format (NextDoor, email, AHF website, etc.) instead of receiving a printed copy by mail. Could you please take a few minutes to fill out the following survey? Please return the survey to **AHF Office, 535 Hammock Rd., Melbourne Village, FL 32904**.

Please check all that apply:

- Yes, I read ‘The Villager’.
- No, I do not read ‘The Villager’.
- I prefer to receive ‘The Villager’ in electronic format.
- I prefer to receive a printed copy of ‘The Villager’ by mail.
- I’m not interested in receiving ‘The Villager’. Please remove me from your mailing list.

Name and Address: _____

Email Address (optional): _____

Melbourne Village Real Estate Report

By Debbie Seiler

Here is what's happening in Melbourne Village real estate as of July 31, 2015:

SOLD

6573 Sheridan Road. Built in 1995, 2082 SF, 4/2 pool home on .60 acres. Sold on April 28 after 32 days on the market. Listed at \$289,999 and closed at \$250,000 or 87% of asking price. (Salt Water Realty). Lees to Mertens.

545 Acacia Ave. Built in 1958, 1889 SF, 3/3 with attached apartment on .52 acres. Sold on May 11 after 223 days on the market. Listed at \$199,000 and closed at \$175,000 or 88% of asking price. (RE/MAX Olympic). Crawford to Muzzone.

755 Cajeput Cir. Built in 1960, 1676 SF, 4/1.5 pool home on .86 acres. Sold on May 29 after 21 days on the market. Listed at \$123,500 and closed at \$122,000 or 99% of asking price. (Tropic Coast Realty). Bank-owned (formerly Nensteil) to Martin.

788 Acacia Ave. Built in 1977, 2793 SF, 4/3 on .93 acres. Sold on June 29 after 478 days on the market. Originally listed at \$350,000 and closed at \$275,000 or 79% of asking price. (RE/MAX Olympic). Reichard to Kniseley.

6217 Savannah Dr. Built in 1954, 1476 SF, 2/1 on .50 acres. Sold on July 10 after 120 days on the market. Listed at \$125,000 and closed at \$108,500 or 87% of asking price. (FSBO For Sale By Owner). Levine to Turman.

772 Acacia Ave. Built in 1957, 1449 SF, 2/2 pool home on 1.15 acres. Sold on July 31 after 71 days on the market. Listed at \$120,000 and closed at \$120,000 or 100% of asking price. (Kehoe Real Estate). Bank-owned (formerly Bertucco) to Peretz.

FOR SALE



6663 Norman Dr. Listed August 18. Built in 1950. 2618 SF, 3/2.2 on .56 acres. Asking \$199,000. (Bridget Sentz/Carolyn Smith, RE/MAX Elite).



6824 Ward Pkwy \$219,900

6824 Ward Pkwy. Listed July 22. Built in 1988. 1725 SF, 3/2 on .38 acres. Asking \$219,900. (Debbie Seiler, ITG Realty).



582 Acacia Ave \$299,000

582 Acacia Ave. Listed July 17. Built 1985. 1865 SF, 3/2 on .34 acres. Asking \$299,000. (FSBO Nicolay).



665 Sabal Road \$395,000

665 Sabal Road. Listed July 9. Built 1977, 3295 SF, 4/2.5 plus 1/1 detached cottage on .98 acres. Asking \$395,000. (Debbie Seiler, ITG Realty).



6619 Flamingo Rd \$429,000

6619 Flamingo Rd. Listed April 13. Built in 1958. 3/3, 3426 SF pool home on 1.2 acres has an attached 1/1 apartment. Asking \$429,000 (Shari Abbott, Prudential Sterling).



6815 Sheridan Rd \$275,000

6815 Sheridan Rd. Listed October 13, 2014. Built in 1958. 2461 SF, 4/2 on .58 acres. Asking \$275,000. (Jeannine Mosher, RE/MAX Olympic).

RENTALS



For Rent: 2/1 at 528 Acacia \$1200

6815 Acacia Ave. Built in 1950s. 3/1.1, \$1200/month, minimum 1 year lease. No pets. (Showcase Property Management). Call/text Debbie for an appointment 321-412-4784.

If you have a room, apartment, or house that you rent out long or short term, please provide details of property, price, and date available to Debbie Seiler call/text 321-412-4784, or email debbies@itgrealty.com.

AHF Committees

ANNUAL MEETING COMMITTEE is responsible for the preparation and programming of the Annual Meeting and any special meetings of the membership, including the Agenda, Mailing, Meeting Arrangements, Resolutions and Annual Dinner. The Annual Dinner is a catered affair held the day after the Annual Meeting. The themed dinner also includes entertainment.

BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE meets monthly and reviews the financial statements prepared by the bookkeeper. It insures that all expenditures comply with the by-laws and the budget. It prepares a budget which, after public review, is submitted to the Board of Trustees for adoption. It names the annual auditing committee.

BUILDING & GROUNDS COMMITTEE is responsible for the care, maintenance and beautification of the AHF village hall and surrounding property. The committee makes minor repairs and contracts for pest control. It also contracts for major repairs, such as air conditioning and roof, with the approval of the Board of Trustees. The committee works with the AHF Maintenance Technician for routine upkeep and cleaning. The parking lot and landscaping surrounding the building are the responsibility of the committee.

HOUSE COMMITTEE is charged with the interior of the AHF village hall in respect to supplies and kitchen readiness for the next event or hall rental.

CODIFICATION COMMITTEE is a committee of one which works with the executive secretary to ensure that all policy motions and directives of the Board of Trustees and membership meetings are properly indexed to form the continuing policy of the organization.

CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE determines the eligibility of those voting at membership meetings and mail ballots.

TELLERS COMMITTEE is responsible for the tally of any voting ballots.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE puts on a weeklong half-day summer camp for village youngsters. It also makes a recommendation to the Trustees for the Ruth B. Hayes scholarship award. The committee is empowered to sponsor other educational programs for the membership.

SWIMMING POOL COMMITTEE is responsible for the safe operation, maintenance, rules, and repairs of the pool and associated facilities. The committee is assisted during the week by the AHF Maintenance Technician.

INFORMATION COMMITTEE is charged with keeping the members informed about the events and news of the AHF. This is accomplished by the quarterly publication of a newsletter, The Villager, which is mailed to all members. The committee maintains the outdoor bulletin board on Dayton Blvd for current announcements, and it also maintains the AHF website.

DEERHEAD HAMMOCK COMMITTEE is entrusted with the care and preservation of the area first known as the 'little hammock.' It is the site for the Easter sunrise service and from time to time other gatherings such as weddings and memorial services. The committee meets monthly to pick up debris, remove invasive plants, and maintain the signage.

ERNA NIXON HAMMOCK COMMITTEE is entrusted with the care and preservation of the portion of the Erna Nixon Hammock in Melbourne Village. The committee meets monthly to keep the trails open, remove invasive plants, looks after the signage, and generally addresses the needs of the park.

MEMORY GARDEN COMMITTEE meets monthly to water, weed, mulch and tend the quasi-formal garden located near the Village Hall. The committee accepts monetary memorials which are used to add new plantings and enhance the appearance of the garden.

PARKS AND PATHS COMMITTEE meets weekly to maintain all the AHF park lands not covered by other committees. Tasks include clearing and trimming the paths and trails, removing invasive plants, selective mowing, and maintaining bridges and signs. A sub-committee, Friends of the AHF Garden, was officially added at the AHF Board of Trustees meeting on 8/14/2015.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE reviews new membership applications and interviews the prospective new members. In reality, its function is to welcome new members and introduce them to village life and their new neighbors.

RECREATION COMMITTEE is a busy group that plans and carries out events and activities for all age groups. Some recent events included an Easter egg hunt, Fourth of July parade, game nights, movie nights, Halloween party, Christmas dinner with Santa visit, flea market and holiday craft fair.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE has the responsibility of getting volunteers for each of the standing committees. These are submitted to the membership for acceptance at the annual meeting. The committee also nominates five members to fill the three Board of Trustee positions which come up for election each year.