



Courtenay Notes

of the North Merritt Island Homeowners Association
Serving the entire North Merritt Island Community Since 1986



North Merritt Island Homeowners Association, Inc.
 www.nmihoa.org

33RD ANNUAL COMMUNITY PICNIC

(Sams House Nature Center, 6195 N. Tropical Trail)

Saturday, November 8
 11:00 to 3:00 p.m.
 (food served 12 to 2)

Menu: Pulled Pork, Pulled Chicken, Veggie Burgers, Baked Beans, Cole Slaw, Mac & Cheese, Buns (Food by SONNY'S BBQ)

Tickets: \$12.00 Adults, \$8.00 children (3 to 12)
 (Tickets purchased in advance \$11 and \$7)

Drinks: Free Tea (sodas, beer & wine - \$1.00 to \$3.00)

Activities:

- Live Music by "Canaan"
- Children's games
- Sheriff's Dept. canine demonstration
- Community exhibits
- Door prizes
- 50/50 Drawing, raffles
- Hay rides
- Historic House tours and more!!!

For information or tickets call Sandy Pesce at 321 693-4271 or
 Phil Bennardo 321 266-5135

Tickets may be purchased from NMIHOA Board Members, at Shell Station or Kings Duck or Inmon Automotive.

What's the Buzz on Mosquito Control in Brevard County

Joseph Faella, Director of Mosquito Control in Brevard County, spoke at last month's NMIHOA meeting.

With more than 40 species of mosquitos in Brevard, the County uses a variety of methods to control the mosquito population. Source reduction concentrates on reducing areas where water can pool, creating a breeding area. Discarded tires are a frequent hiding area for mosquitoes. Certain types of fish eat mosquitoes and the Department can provide these fish to residents for their ornamental ponds. Larvicides are used for controlling the larval stage of mosquito growth.

For more information call 321-264-5032 or check out www.brevardfl.gov/mosquitocontrol. **Photo by Phil Bennardo**



Nov. NMIHOA Meeting

The next meeting of the North Merritt Island Homeowners Association will be on **Mon., Nov. 3 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church**. We will be finishing up last minute planning for our annual community picnic on Nov. 8. No guest speaker is planned. This meeting is open to the public.

Upcoming Road Closures Scheduled for NMI

There will be intermittent lane closures from Wed., Oct 22 through Fri., Jan 30 on certain streets of North Merritt Island: **Duval Street, Biscayne Drive, Gator Drive, Shuttle Court, Dundee Drive, and Hall Road**. This is in order for AT&T to perform utility work.

The hours of operation will be between 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. Traffic control signs will be installed to assist the motoring public. If additional information is required, contact Brevard Public Works Engineering Program Office at 321-637-5437, option #4.

President's Message

Fellow NMIHOA Members,

The busy Fall season is upon us and in no time the weather will be cooler and the snowbirds will start arriving.

Planning is underway for the NMIHOA Picnic on Sat., Nov. 8 at Sams House. We will have something for everyone: raffles, kids' games, local vendor booths, live music, and of course great BBQ and drinks. You may purchase discounted tickets at the NMI Shell Station, Kings Duck, or at Inmon Automotive.

In these times of political division, let us come together as a community and meet your neighbors. Abraham Lincoln said, "If you want to change a man's opinion, you must first convince him you are a sincere friend." It may also be that Lincoln was the only president certified as a bartender!

Chris Cook



NMI Homeowners Assn., 2025-2026 Board Members

Officers

President: Chris Cook, 321-453-7022
Vice President: Phil Bennardo, 321-266-5135
Secretary: Sue Rogers, 321-536-7751
Treasurer: Lainie Kral, 661-754-3269
Sgt. at Arms: Darleen Hunt 321-452- 8433

District Representatives

Dist. 1 Co-Reps: Bill Hodge, 321-480-4037 and Fred Wyman 321-614-1195 (Barge Canal on both sides of Courtenay to Hall Rd.)

Dist. 2 Co-Reps: Ben Zoller, 914-224-8060 and Jeannie Severns 321-271-5725 (W. Hall Rd. to and including W. Crisafulli Rd.)

Dist. 3 Rose Plummer, 321-455-6635 (E Hall Rd. to and including E. Crisafulli and E. side of Courtenay)

Dist. 4 JP Snead 321-522-9132 (N. of Crisafulli to KSC)

Committees:

Zoning: Rose Plummer 321-455-6635 & Chris Minerva, 321-449-4004

Membership: Nancy Minerva, 321-449-4004 NMIHOA@gmail.com; and Sandy Pesce, 321-455-6378
Wildlife Sightings: Gina Lindhorst, 321-720-7783 ginalindhorst.77@gmail.com

Courtenay Notes Team:

Beth Matsoukis, courtenaynoteseditor@gmail.com, 321-307-8227; Darleen Hunt, dhunt125@aol.com, 321-452- 8433

Newsletter USPS mailings: Sandy Pesce, 321-455-6378
Webmaster: Chris Minerva 321-449-4004

Past President: Phil Bennardo, 321-266-5135

Published monthly for residents of North Merritt Island from the Barge Canal to the Kennedy Space Center. Deadline for input is 1st Monday during the Association monthly meeting. Download past editions at: <http://bit.ly/1rrotAD>

Website: www.NMIHOA.org



Follow us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/NMIHOA. Stay informed on upcoming NMIHOA events and meetings.



Sandhill Cranes by Gina Lindhorst

Sams House Activities

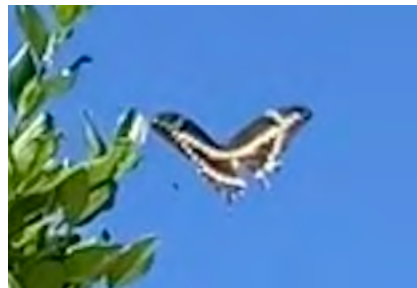
Sams House at Pine Island, 6195 N. Tropical Trail. Open Tues.-Sun. 9 am - 5 pm. Call 321-449-4720 to register for events.

Sams Touch Table - Every First Sat. and Sun. of the month, 11 am - 3 pm. Stop by Sams house to explore the natural world. Touch, observe, and learn about a variety of natural items.

Pioneer Games - Sat., Nov. 15, 1 - 3 pm.

Saturday Bird Walks at Sams House - Every Sat. 9 - 10 am.

Yoga - Every Sat. and Sun. at 9 am.



Eastern Giant Swallowtail by Gina Lindhorst

Record Rainfall Hits MI in Oct.

Brevard County experienced record-breaking rainfall early last month.

As reported by Fox 35, while rain flooded much of the county, the jackpot rain total for Merritt Island was 11 inches. This is not just a record, it's also 3.6x the average October monthly rain, which fell in just over 24 hours.

The 11 inches of rain in Merritt Island is also rare for these parts. The flooding there is now a 1:50 year flood event, meaning it is a flood that has a 2 percent chance of occurring in any year.

This rain came from a developing storm between Miami and the Bahamas,

Moose Lodge Spotlight

All November - Toy Drive (for *I Love My Island Thrift Store* sponsored Christmas party at Woody Simpson Community Center)

11/1 - **Car Show**, 10 am - 1 pm

11/14 - **Casino Night**, 6 pm

11/15 - **True Rumours** Fleetwood Mac Tribute Band 7:30 pm

Bingo: 11/7, 11/16 Purse Bingo

Call for details 321- 452-8383

Membership Year - July 1 through June 30

Mail \$10 per individual to: North Merritt Island Homeowners, Assn., Inc., P.O.Box 542372, Merritt Island, FL 32954-2372

PLEASE PRINT:

Name(s): _____

Residential Address: _____

Address if different from residence: _____

Phone: (home) _____ (work/cell) _____

E-Mail: _____

New member Renewal Associate member (non-resident)

Check Renewal for: 1 year 2 years 5 years other ___ years

I own a residence and live on Merritt Island North of the Barge Canal.

Amount enclosed: _____ Ck # _____ or Cash or Zelle*

Signed: _____ Date: _____

*If paying by Zelle, send to treasurer.nmihoa@gmail.com

*Please include in memo your 1)name, 2)address 3)email 4)best phone #

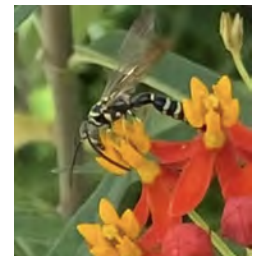
Added donation for color newsletter. \$ _____

Comments: _____

I prefer to receive the newsletter by

Email or U.S.Postal Service.

Please check here if you would also like to receive Emails about "Topics of interest" to NMI residents.



Four Banded Stink Bug Wasp by Gina Lindhorst

This month's Courtenay Notes was mailed to more than 4,000 addresses from the Barge Canal to KSC compliments of the NMIHOA. Please join us by completing the application on this page.

NMI Wildlife Sightings

Thank you to our readers for sharing their wildlife sightings and photos. Send your photos to Gina Lindhorst at ginalindhorst77@gmail.com or text 321-720-7783.

DATE	TIME	SPECIES	LOCATION	OBSERVER
09/11/25	2:30 pm	Four. Banded Stink Bug Wasp (introduced for biological control of white grubs)	On milkweed, Royal Paddock Way	Gina Lindhorst.
10/09/25	8 am	Seven Sandhill Cranes together	All in one yard, Royal Paddock Way	Gina Lindhorst
10/13/25.	12:45 pm	Eastern Giant Swallowtail	Laying eggs, Royal Paddock Way	Gina Lindhorst

In Memory of Ron DiMenna

Ron DiMenna, longtime NMI resident, passed away on Sept. 6 at the age of 88.

Founder of the iconic Ron Jon Surf Shop, Ron is credited with lifting surfing to the popularity it is today. He was a very private person who lived with his wife Lynne on their property (dubbed “Rubber Ranch”) off of N. Tropical Trail here on North Merritt Island.



Ron would take daily pre-dawn runs and walks along N. Tropical Trail and side roads. He would take his beloved Dingo dogs, which he brought back from Australia, on his early morning walks. He had a love for animals and nature and his Rubber Ranch included exotic species like a bison, emus, peacocks, and capybaras. Ron and Lynne enjoyed adventures traveling across the United States in their elaborate motor home.

Ron lived an exciting life filled with love, entrepreneurship, travels, adventures, and philanthropy. Now he is at rest.

Photo of Ron DiMenna provided by Lynne DiMenna

Save the Date: NMI Holiday Golf Cart Parade to be Held Dec. 21

The 18th Annual NMI Holiday Golf Cart parade will be held Sun., Dec. 21. The parade starts at Sams House and then heads South on N. Tropical Trail driving through the various neighborhoods. The theme for the parade is “Santa’s White Christmas” and after judging, there will be prizes given out for the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners. If you want to be considered for the contest, please be at Sams House and in the parade line before 5 pm. Contact Tina Kennedy at 407-310-4513 for more details.

Divine Mercy to Hold Craft Fair

Divine Mercy Catholic Church will be holding a craft fair Nov. 8 and 9 from 9 am to 4 pm. 1940 N. Courtenay Pkwy. There will be unique artisan booths for your holiday shopping. Enjoy raffles, snacks, and refreshments. Call 321-452-5955 for more information.

Update on NMI Activities

Things have been busy here on NMI. Here’s a recap of some of the latest news.

Dollar General: Located on N. Courtenay Pkwy and N. Tropical Trail corner. Lot was cleared and prepared for construction, but was halted. Permit is expired. and insurance cancelled. No information on future plans.

Jack Ratterman “In Memory” Bench: will be funded by the NMIHOA and placed by the County at the south end of Pioneer Trail at Kings Park with the inscription “In Memory of Jack Ratterman, NMI Resident, Advocate, and Friend.”

New Fire Station: A formal ground breaking ceremony by local officials took place in Aug. for a new fire station, which is currently under construction on N. Courtenay Pkwy. Completion is expected by April 2026. This station will replace the one at 6400 N. Tropical Trail built in 1965

Mosquito Control Drones: Drones are being used to distribute Altosid XR-G granular mosquito regulator along shoreline to prevent larvae from reaching adult stage.

Kings Duck Bar & Grill Open: The former Kings Duck Inn (KDI) has reopened with new owners and new name.

Equestrian Trail Open: A new equestrian trail was opened for public use at Kings Park. Parking for the trail is located at the Island Pioneer Trailhead at Hall Rd.



A recent aerial view of the Amphitheater construction site. This site is located behind the mall and next to the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center (BVMC).

Photo by BVMC/ Richard Scruggs

18 Sep Aerial Photo of BVMC Park Amphitheater and Concessions Building Construction.



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Holy Eucharist Sundays at 9:30 a.m.

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