



THE VILLAGER

A Publication of the American Homesteading Foundation Inc.

It's The Most Wonderful Time Of The Year!

Village Potluck Thanksgiving

November 27

in the AHF Hall

RSVP Requested

Invitation on Page 6



Hanging of the Greens

Friday, Nov 28
through
Tuesday, Dec 2

Full Details on
Page 6



Holiday Dinner
Sunday, Dec 14
See Page 7 for
details on how to
get your tickets!

Melbourne Village HOLIDAY Golf Cart Parade



Sunday Dec 21
5:30 PM

DECORATE YOUR GOLF CART
MEET AT THE HALL PARKING LOT
BRING AN UNWRAPPED TOY
CONTACT DEE FOR INFO
(321) 258-9594

43rd Annual Holiday Bazaar

Saturday, December 6th 9:00 to 3:00 – 535 Hammock Road

MELBOURNE VILLAGE

MERCANTILE

SPONSORED BY THE AMERICAN HOMESTEADING FOUNDATION

Est. | 1947

EXCHANGE THIS COUPON FOR ONE FREE DRAWING ENTRY

AHF Office Contact Info

Phone: (321) 723-6042

Email: office@ahfmv.com

Website: ahfmv.com

Hours: Mon-Fri 9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Board of Trustees Meetings

All meetings are held in the AHF Hall and through Zoom on the 2nd Thursday of every month at 7:00 pm. Zoom info is posted on the front door of both the AHF Hall and the AHF Office the Wednesday before the meeting. If you would like to receive the monthly meeting agenda by email and/or the Zoom link, please call or email the AHF Office. The BOT information packet will be available to view in the AHF Office the day of meeting from 9 am – 12:30 pm as well as at the meeting.

Regular Committee Meetings and Work Parties

Budget and Finance - 3rd Wed of the month, 7:15 p.m.

Building and Grounds - meets as needed

Community Garden - every Saturday at 8 a.m.

Deerhead Hammock - 1st Saturday of the month, 8 a.m.

Erna Nixon Hammock, -1st Saturday of the month, 8 a.m.

Memory Garden, 2nd Tuesday of the month, 8:30 a.m.

Nutting-Wood Green - 1st Thursday of the month, 5 p.m.

and workday on last Monday at 8:30 a.m.

Parks & Paths - Fridays 8 a.m., see Dayton bulletin board for details

Recreation Committee - 4th Monday of the month, 5 p.m.

Swimming Pool - monthly assigned duties, meetings vary.



Please enter your name and phone number below to enter the drawing for a chance to win a basket of hand-crafted goodies at the annual Melbourne Village Mercantile!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

AHF Calendar Winter 2025

Nov	14	AHF Office closed
	27	Thanksgiving - AHF Office closed
	27	Thanksgiving Village Potluck 1 p.m.
	28	AHF Office closed
	28	Hanging of the Greens 11/28 - 12/2
Dec	6	Melbourne Village Mercantile 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.
	8	Committee Reports Due by 10 a.m.
	11	Board of Trustees Meeting 7 p.m.
	14	Holiday Dinner 5:30 p.m.
	21	Holiday Golf Cart Parade 5:30 p.m.
	24	Christmas Eve - AHF Office Closed
	25	Christmas Day - AHF Office Closed
Jan	26	AHF Office Closed
	1	New Year's Day - AHF Office closed
	1	Polar Bear Swim 12 p.m.
	5	Committee Reports Due by 10 a.m.
	8	Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm
	10	Adult Ed: Zen Wind Curtains 10:30 a.m.
	10	Recreation Committee Event
Feb	17	Community Garden Firefly Stroll 6 p.m.
	9	Committee Reports Due by 10 a.m.
	12	Board of Trustees Meeting 7:00 pm
	14	CardinalBucks After Dark 6:30 p.m.
	16	President's Day - AHF Office closed
	21	Adult Ed: Richard Crepeau 11 a.m.
	28	Recreation Committee Event
	26	Trustees Election

Save The Date

**CardinalBucks Holiday Schedule
December 3, 10, and 17!**

Reminders and Weekly Events

- Yoga with **Grayson Dix** - Wednesdays, 6-7 p.m.
Doors open at 5:30 p.m.
- Art Club - Fridays, 9:30 a.m. -12:00 p.m.
- Cardinalbucks Coffee - Every 4th Wed 8-10 a.m.
December 3rd, 10th, and 17th

New AHF Members

Sierra and Rodney Winfrey

570 Acacia

AHF Member Passings

Sandra Sterling, who lived on Crane Road as the caretaker for her mother Marlene Carman.

AHF Board Of Trustees

2024-2025:

President – **Christine Kretz**

1st Vice President – **Dwight Davies**

2nd Vice President – **Carrie Cronkhite**

Treasurer – **Brenda Mathews**

Secretary – **Kevin Foster**

Assistant Secretary/Treasurer – **Dennis Foster**

Paula Bailey, Gary Ingram, Phil Hoffken



Uh, Shoo!

As we see more cases of COVID, flu, and other seasonal bugs, let's all do our part to keep each other well. If you're under the weather or recovering from illness, please wait until you're fully better before coming into the AHF office. Thank you for caring for our staff and community!



THE VILLAGER

is a quarterly newsletter published for members of the American Homesteading Foundation by the Information Committee. News items, stories, and comments may be addressed to the AHF office or ahfvillager@yahoo.com.

Information Committee Members are:

Bridget Foster, Chairperson/Layout

Christine Kretz, Secretary/Contributor

Carrie Cronkhite, Contributor

Gigi Atwell, Member

Deborah Altenhof, Member

From the Desk of the President

For all you pumpkin spice fans, your season is here! The holidays feel a little different when the temperature is in the 80s and there are palms in your yard, but the smell of cinnamon still tickles the sensation of winter celebrations, and the scent of peppermint may put you in the mood for a crisp winter day. There is no place that will wrap you in the warmth of holidays, the smell of seasonal spices, and the cheer of being among friends like the December festivities of the AHF.

High on the Fun and Festive list is the Holiday Craft Bazaar on December 6th. Our second annual "Melbourne Village Mercantile" will feature giftable homemade items, tasty local products including honey and jelly, and home baked goodies and treats. The café will be open, serving coffee, cinnamon buns, hot dogs, and wurst. Some of our younger members will be hosting lemonade and hot chocolate stands. Help is needed to set up as well as with donations of baked goods and other treats. Please join us to do a little shopping, a little meeting and greeting, a bit of eating, and a lot of enjoying the holiday spirit.

But wait! There's more! Hanging of the Greens kicks off the season and sets the stage for the month of cheer. There are *three* Cardinal Bucks breakfasts, all Wednesdays in December from 8 to 10am. The annual Holiday Dinner will be a lovely celebration as usual and don't forget the Holiday Golf Cart Parade! Check the calendar in this edition of the Villager, mark the dates, and join us for a warm and happy holiday season.

Christine Kretz
AHF President

**VISIT THE AHF
WEBSITE TO READ
THE VILLAGER
NEWSLETTER AND
SEE THE AHF
CALENDAR OF
EVENTS!**



Scan this QR
code with
your smart
phone!

Your Ad Here?

by Bridget Foster

The Information Committee is pleased to announce a new fundraising opportunity that directly supports the work we do to keep members informed and connected. Beginning in this issue, *The Villager* is offering space for advertisements and personal notices, allowing residents and local businesses to reach the community while helping to offset the costs associated with producing the newsletter and maintaining the committee's ongoing responsibilities.

Funds raised will help cover committee expenses, including printing and postage for *The Villager*, special edition printings, and to support the continued organization and preservation efforts of the History Room, which has been placed in the hands of the Information Committee. This ensures that the historical materials, and documents that tell our story remain well cared for and accessible to future generations.

Committee articles & photos, news from the AHF Office, AHF-sponsored events, and the occasional Town of Melbourne Village informational piece will not be charged for space. This option is for business owners, crafters, service providers, and residents who wish to place a personal notice, ad, or announcement unrelated to our regular communications.

Ad and personal notice space is available in five sizes: 1/16, 1/8, 1/4, one half or full page. Check out the various size examples on this page! So whether you'd like to place a birthday or anniversary greeting, advertise an upcoming event, promote your business or service, or share a message of appreciation with your neighbors, there's a size to suit your needs. And to make participation even more accessible, the Information Committee is offering discounted rates for members of the AHF as a benefit of your membership. Additional discounts are available for those who choose to reserve ad space for a full year in advance.

Every ad or notice placed represents an investment in the continued vitality of our shared story and communication network. To learn more about available sizes, rates, and design options, or to request a contract, please email the Information Committee at AHFVillager@yahoo.com for full details.

This article is 1/2 page

Say "Cheese," Celia!



Calling All Photogs!

Do you like to be behind the lens? Do you enjoy attending many of our AHF events? Do you have a knack for composed photos or a gift for nabbing candid shots? Please consider joining the Yearbook Committee! This is an unofficial committee under the direction of Information Committee as we attempt to chronicle and commemorate the AHF's 80th year. We need as many people as we can get taking pictures of just about everything. Email bridget4975@yahoo.com if interested.

This is a 1/4 page



Grab Your Hat!



... and then toss it into the ring to be on the slate of candidates for the 2026 AHF Board of Trustees. There are two open seats, so if you're passionate about all things AHF, contact the AHF Office and share your enthusiasm with the AHF Office staff (office@ahmmv.com), who will guide you through the process. But be sure to do it by December 31st, because this offer turns into a pumpkin at midnight!

This is 1/8 page

Did You Hear?

A villager was walking their dog in Deerhead Hammock last week when the dog was attacked by a raccoon. Please DO NOT leave food or water out for wild or domesticated animals. Report any interactions such as this to Brevard County Animal Services.

AHF Wish List

- Someone to repair a hole in the wall paneling of the History Room.
- Dry Erase Whiteboard for Committee Room.
- Baked goods donations for the Mercantile.

Contact the Office if you can help!

This is 1/16 page

This is 1/16 page

Erna Nixon Hammock

by Sandi Dix

We are moving along with our QR codes to identify the plants and information about the Erna Nixon Hammock. Erna, who the park is named after, was a prolific tour guide in the park when she was alive. We feel it's very important to keep that tradition going, so with the self-guided QR codes, we're following somewhat in her footsteps. The codes will link you back to the AHF website which will have a page for Erna Nixon Hammock with our plant list.

We have purchased a new weed whacker to keep the ferns at bay! Some of our paths are narrow and a mower can't access them. We also added some crushed concrete to the driveway at the entrance on N. Wildwood to fill in potholes. A special thank you to TMV's Public Works Department who assisted with this!

We continue to remove invasive and nonnative plants from the hammock. This is time consuming and hard work but must to be done. We are getting quotes to have the vines that are covering large areas on the S. Wildwood path commercially removed. The vines have gotten so bad that they pulled down a small oak tree due to all the rain we have had. Unfortunately, we don't have the manpower to tackle this project. We have six committee members and right now two of our members are on sick leave. As a reminder, our committee is self-funded through a special investment supported by donations, and we take no money from the AHF's annual budget.

To join the Erna Nixon Hammock Committee, please contact either the AHF office at (321) 723-6042 or myself, **Sandi Dix** at (321) 272-8973 or email: mntlcrpl@yahoo.com.

Please remember: NO SMOKING or littering in any parkland areas and please pick up after your dog. Stay on the paths and watch for ground hornet nests.



Invasive plants and vines in Erna Nixon Hammock. How many can you identify?



Erna Nixon

Erna Nixon, In Her Own Words

Excerpted from several articles
stored in the History Room

There is great wisdom in preserving some of the wilderness' beauty for future generations," says **Erna Nixon**, a public school Biology teacher from Chicago. This is why when Erna semi-retired and moved to Melbourne Village, she adhered to her program of prodding, promoting, and preserving the Melbourne Village Hammock Preserve (later named Erna Nixon Hammock).

Erna, even she is still awed by the hammock, even though she knows its trails and moods and character as well as any human can. "There is still a puzzle all around," she says, "there are still so many unanswered questions... so many mysteries."

Erna's world is certainly not a silent one, though no one talks out loud. Her eyes and fingers touch everything as she walks the trails that spread like a spider web across the woods, and the hammock touches her in return, telling her what has happened in her absence. This talking, "It's easy," says Erna, "you just have to know the language."

Nothing is removed— and nothing is allowed to be brought into this world of Erna's. It would be a day of mourning if someone threw a beer can into it. The hammock is left just the way nature intended it to be— alone. If a tree falls across a trail, the trail is moved, certainly not the tree.

The only concession that Erna has made with her world is to share it. To give to the people a glimpse of her wooded shangri-la. "I want people to see how things are when they are left by themselves. There are no books that will answer the questions you find here. You have to get out and observe and feel and be part of it."

Erna feels that the world would be perfect if people would stop by occasionally to see her hammock, to watch things being born and growing and prospering and dying and being born again. "It grows on you, this world. It grows and becomes something new every day."

It has been a long day, this day, and Erna Nixon has shown many people her hammock. She is tired, but it is a good tired. She is asked if she is jealous of the time she must spend in the hammock. Her answer is quick, and has a touch of indignation about it. "For goodness sakes, no. My time is the hammock's time."

A hammock stand is based on calcium, magnesium, and water. Yet to those who are *not* scientists, a hammock is an island of peace in a bustling world of tensions and frustrations. Mrs. Nixon walks the paths of this last refuge of man in the hope of retaining a small part of a moving world as it was when man and the earth were both very young.



'Hanging of the Greens' A Village Tradition

by Sandi Dix

Well, it's that time of the season to start decorating the AHF Hall for the holiday events. It's been a tradition in the Village to have the AHF Hall decorated for the Holiday Bazaar & Mercantile and the Holiday Dinner. We will be collecting the greens for the garland & wreaths on Friday, Nov. 28th. We will be cutting Cedar, Red Bay, Podocarpus, Ligustrum, Magnolia, and anything else that looks like it will hold up for several weeks. The greens are cut and put in water for a day or two before we use them which makes them last longer. It takes a lot of green material, so if you have any of the above in your yard and would like to donate some, please call or text **Sandi Dix** at (321) 272-8973 or e-mail at mntlcrpl@yahoo.com.

We also need folks to come help make the wreaths and decorate the Hall. After we finish up decorating, any leftover greenery can be taken home to make your own wreath for the holidays!

The schedule for cutting the greens and making the garland and wreaths is as follows:

Fri, Nov 28: start collecting greens

Sat, Nov 29: finish cutting & soaking greens

Making the wreaths, hanging the garland, and decorating the Hall begins:

Sun, Nov 30: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. one session only)

Mon, Dec 1: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Tue, Dec 2: 10 a.m.-12 p.m. & 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Hopefully we will be finished at this point, and if not, then we will finish up after CardinalBucks on Wednesday, Dec 3. Hope to see everyone there!

So please come on out and help! It's a fun time & really gets you to into the Holiday spirit! For more information call/text **Sandi Dix** (321) 272-8973 or email mntlcrpl@yahoo.com.

Please join us for a
**Village Thanksgiving
Potluck Dinner**
Thursday, Nov 27th at 1pm
in the AHF Hall
BYOB & a dish to share
RSVP Requested
(321) 626-7554
Hosted by Sue Ditty & Leslie Fay

POTLUCK BREAKFAST

Holiday

Schedule

DECEMBER 3rd, 10th, 17th

Recreation Committee Fun!

by Betty Jo Yorio

Ahoy Mateys! If you missed our first-ever Escape Room in August, you missed a swashbuckling good time! The energy was high, the costumes were creative, and everyone had a blast. Congratulations to the **Millers**, who navigated the tricky challenges to become the first team to escape. A special thank you to all the participants who made this inaugural event a huge success. The Annual Flea Market in September was a full house with all available spaces filled up and bargains to be had by all. Be sure to reserve your spot early next year!

Spooktacular Fun was had at the Halloween Carnival! The night began with the newly added spider web tunnel entrance and the return of the haunted room and graveyard. The kids created eerie suncatchers and played carnival games, while everyone enjoyed hot dogs and hamburgers with mini cupcakes. The highlight of the evening was seeing nearly 40 of the AHF's children and grandchildren parading around in their incredible costumes, showing off their creativity and spooky spirit. Three lucky costume contest winners received gift cards to Five Below, and all kids went home with a goodie bag filled with treats.



Coming Soon: "Flannel, Films, & Feast." Cooler weather has finally arrived, so why not "don your plaid apparel" and join us for the Annual Holiday Dinner on December 14? We will reminisce about all the great holiday films and enjoy a traditional holiday meal of ham and turkey prepared by our very own chefs **Mike Calenda** and **Marilyn Johnson** along with sides prepared by the committee. Tickets are \$5 and must be purchased by December 5th to secure your spot! Want to help? We're looking for volunteers to help with setup and teardown. Please contact the AHF Office or any Recreation Committee member to let us know if you are available.

Get ready to shake off the post-holiday blues! Game Nights are returning after the new year for another season of friendly competition and fun with neighbors. Keep an eye out for more details and sign-up information. And don't forget to welcome new members to join in!



Holiday Dinner
Flannel, Films, & Feast
Sunday, December 14
in the AHF Hall
RSVP Required
Tickets \$5
Contact the AHF Office



Building & Grounds

by Will McIlvaine

The Committee Room that has done double-duty as a temporary History Room and Haunted House has been deep-cleaned, had its table and chairs returned, and is now ready to host meetings once again. To schedule your committee's time slot and pick up the key, see **Rebecca** in the AHF Office. On the AHF's Wish List is a Whiteboard or Dry Erase board for use in this room. If you have one, please let the office staff know.

The History Room is nearly complete. Ken has cleaned the ceiling light panels, installed new ceiling tiles, and the dehumidifier and new air conditioner are in place and functioning well. The documents and file cabinets that were being temporarily stored in the Committee Room have been relocated back to the History Room where they rest on wheeled dollies to ease in the cleaning and organizing of the space. If you can help install a new sheet of wall paneling, please email **Will McIlvaine** at wilmcilmvaine@mac.com. Once that's done and the security locks are changed, the History Room will be truly complete.

The Sound Room contained some unused or obsolete items that were sold at the annual AHF Flea Market to raise funds for special projects of the AHF. After the auction, the remaining items were donated to the Salvation Army.

The new eight-foot cabinet with counter top and integral backsplash for the AHF Hall's kitchen are under construction. With soft-close drawers and doors the added storage and increased work space will make this area of the kitchen much more functional.

Swimming Pool Update & Polar Bear Swim

by Tally Hoodes

Summer has come and gone, and Fall is fading fast! We wrapped up the season with our End of Summer Pool Party—this year serving burgers instead of the traditional hot dogs, and they were a hit! A big thank-you to everyone who attended and to all the Pool Committee members who helped make it happen. Be sure to join us next year for more food and fun!

Pool renovations are well underway, and while we don't have a firm end date, we can't wait to see the finished result. Keep an eye on the Dayton bulletin board for pool updates.

Thanks for another great season and we will see you poolside for the Second Annual Polar Bear Swim, hosted by **Celia Byrnes** and planned for January 1, 2026 at 12 noon. Cannon ball optional!



The Community Garden Celebrates 10 Years!

By Brenda Matthews

Some of the AHF committees have been around for a long time, celebrating decades of members coming together together to practice creative living, care for community park lands, and participate in AHF-sponsored activities. But the Community Garden is the newest committee, celebrating its 10th anniversary this growing season. The picture below is from the photo archives on our Facebook page, where the caption reads, “Friends of the Community Garden in Melbourne Village braved a soggy field, fire ants, heat (even at 8 a.m.!), and 100% humidity to set blocks and spread mulch. No better crew on the planet!”



Over the years, small but mighty crews of volunteers have shared their love of gardening, growing healthy food, learning from each other, and building friendships with some of the best neighbors on the planet. Lots of mulch, lots of planning, lots of watering, lots of sweat, and lots of dirt under the fingernails. And did I mention the veggies?



Brenda Matthews' father, Lewis.

Check out this guy (bottom left), who joined fellow gardeners for planting day on October 27, 2015, ready to transplant seedlings he had grown from seed at home. For those of you who don't know him, this is my father, **Lewis**, who joined the Community Garden in its first season. Lewis grew up on a farm in rural North Carolina and was always growing a garden wherever he lived. He loved meeting with his Village friends each week to play in the dirt. My love of gardening comes from him!

On Saturday, January 17, 2026, the Community Garden will celebrate its 10th anniversary by hosting our second Firefly Stroll “open house” from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. in the garden. Bring a lantern and stroll through the meadow to join us for drinks and nibbles with your friends and neighbors. Bring your questions and let's talk veggies. See you in the garden! (Invite on back cover with details!)



Dani shows **Gwen** how to plant seed tapes as the Kids in the Garden project kicks off!

Zen Wind Curtains

by Ondine Constable

We all know the heartache of finding a beautiful bird lying underneath a window, dead or stunned. Or hearing that telltale thud and seeing the evidence of feathers. Even if the bird flies away, its internal injuries are often fatal. In fact, window strikes are the leading cause of bird mortality. There's an elegant solution: Zen Wind Curtains, a.k.a. BirdsSavers.

A bird's brain and eyes function differently than a human's. The reflection on a window confuses them so they think they're flying into an opening. BirdSavers are a simple exterior "curtain" of cords spaced at specific widths to break up the reflection. Not only are the curtains effective, they look really cool as they gently sway in the breeze, hence the name "Zen Wind Curtains."

Using the DIY instructions on the BirdSavers website, my husband **Kent Constable** and I made several beautiful wind curtains for our house on Blue Jay Lane. On Saturday January 10 at 10:30am in the AHF Hall, we will show you how to make Zen Wind Curtains for your own home.

To get the most out of the workshop, you'll need to purchase supplies and prepare them in advance. Stop in or call Rebecca in the AHF Office or email ahfmvadmin@ahfmv.com to RSVP and get the supply list and prep info. (If you don't have the supplies at the time of the workshop, you can still attend and get some tips. Bring the dimensions of the glass on the windows you want to target and we can help you calculate the supplies you'll need.)

See www.birdsavers.com for more information and photos. If you don't want to make your own Zen Wind Curtains, you can order them on their website.

Preserving the Past

by Christine Kretz

I wish I'd taken a "before" photo of the History Room the first time I opened the door. Boxes were stacked to the ceiling, papers were sliding off of every surface onto the floor, and there was no room to step inside. Over the years, the items stored had outgrown the space and it was truly bulging at the seams.

Across a span of more than two years, a small company of AHF members calling themselves "The History Club" rolled up their sleeves and went to work. Items were sorted, some discarded, and few things were recently sold at the AHF Flea Market. Any files containing personal information such as social security numbers and all financial information older than seven years were shredded. What remains is a collection of files ranging from Annual Meeting minutes to correspondence as well as an array of photos, often undated and unlabeled, yet still holding historic value. This is all organized and stored by committee or category.

In the future, financial and business records will be kept digitally in the AHF Office. Regular day-to-day documents, committee reports, warranties, legal contracts, etc. will continue to be filed in the main office, as they are being actively managed. Items that might be of interest to future generations may be added to the archives by submitting proposed additions to the Information Committee for consideration.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to the everyone who helped sort and organize the History Room. Thanks to **Bridget Foster** for initiating the project and together with **Gretchen Tüten** and **Mary Murphy**, completing the major first round of sorting and organizing. Their work cleared out nearly 50 boxes of paper and over 25 large bags of garbage from the space. They then categorized what remained and began to sort it by date. Additional thanks go to **Kevin Foster**, **Norton Muzzzone**, **Paul Crumley**, **Will McIvaine**, **Ken Muck**, **Leslie Fay**, **Rebecca Carter**, and **Virginia Fraser** for their work relocating materials to a holding room, repairing and cleaning the space, and returning items to the AHF archives.

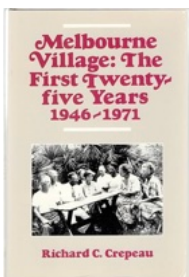
The Information Committee manages the flow and preservation of community information via the Villager newsletter, the AHF website, and the AHF side of the Dayton bulletin board, all of which are forms of historical record-keeping in progress. Now, responsibility for and supervision of the History Room & Archives has been assigned to the Information Committee. This change provides a dedicated funding source, a clear point of contact, and accountability for all information and archive-related matters. It also establishes a process that will ensure continuity and stability over time and transitions. We believe this integration will support the ongoing care and preservation of our community's treasured past.

Save the Date!

The Adult Education Committee presents:

Professor Richard Crepeau, historian and author of "Melbourne Village: The First Twenty Five Years 1946 - 1971."

Saturday Feb 21, at 11am
in the AHF Hall.



Got an idea for an article you'd like to see in *The Villager*? Email the Information Committee at bridget4975@yahoo.com to let us know what you'd like to read or write about.

Parks & Paths Committee Update

by Leslie Fay

The Parks and Paths Committee has been back in full swing since late September with weekly work parties. Our goal is to spend a week or two on each trail, cleaning up the entrances, mowing, and making the paths pedestrian-friendly before moving to another section.

We will meet weekly on Friday mornings from 8-10 am until next June. Work party locations are posted on the Dayton Blvd. bulletin board each week, and anyone is welcome to join us. If you can't help regularly, there are other ways to assist:

- **Be a "Friend" of the committee.** Join us any Friday morning, no commitment necessary. Just bring a pair of gloves and a bottle of water.
- **Consider maintaining a section of trail near your home** by spending a little time on it periodically, removing vines, fallen branches, palm fronds, and invasive plants. This can be done anytime that is convenient for you.

To report fallen trees or major obstructions, please call the AHF Office at (321) 723-6042.

Coming Clean

From the AHF Office

Our office team has been busy keeping the Hall in great shape—clean, functional, and true to its character. Working alongside the Building and Grounds Committee, **Ken** helped clear out the Committee Room, which is once again ready for meetings and gatherings. It's wonderful to see this space being used again for the collaboration it was meant for.

Recent improvements include power washing the building and trim, cleaning the outdoor rugs, and refreshing vents and ceiling screens with a fresh coat of paint. We've also been taking inventory of maintenance needs and planning ahead for seasonal projects to keep everything running smoothly. As we maintain and restore the space, we're careful to honor its history—leaving just enough of its age and charm to remind us of all the years it has served our community. We hope you appreciate the Hall's "perfectly imperfect" details as much as we do.

For maintenance needs, you can now submit a work order form directly through our website. And if it's after hours, don't forget—the office door drop box is always available for your convenience.

MELBOURNE VILLAGE REAL ESTATE NEWS

Courtesy of Debbie Seiler REALTOR®, celebrating 11 years as an area expert with 87 properties sold in Melbourne Village since 2014.

COMING SOON



6910 Sheridan Rd

Built 1952, 1532 Sqft, 3/2 on 1 acre. Asking \$549,900 or \$359/SF.
Listed by Progressive R.E. Inc.

FOR SALE



5730 Crane Rd

Built 1957, 1756 Sqft 2/2 + 1/1 apt on .55 acre. Asking \$410,000 or \$233/SF.
Listed by ITG Realty

FOR SALE



544 S Wildwood Ln

Built 1958, 2303 Sqft, 4/3 on .37 acre. Asking \$456,000 or \$198/SF.
Listed by Turkey Oak Realty

UNDER CONTRACT



5755 Crane Rd

Built 1964, 2260 Sqft, 3/3 on .72 acre.
Listed By Owner; Sold by ITG Realty

SOLD OCT 31



6257 Savannah Dr

Built 1952, 1400 Sqft, 3/1 on .50 acre. Sold for \$340,000 or \$243/SF.
Listed by ITG Realty; Sold by Manage Street LLC

Real estate data current as of November 4, 2025



The Melbourne Village Real Estate Team

Debbie Seiler, Laura Burns, Rusty & Kelly Melle
Call/Text (321) 412-4784 LiveInMelbourneVillage.com
ITG Realty LLC - 1455 S Wickham Rd. West Melbourne FL 32904





**AMERICAN HOMESTEADING
FOUNDATION INC. (AHF)**
535 HAMMOCK RD
MELBOURNE VILLAGE, FL 32904

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MELBOURNE, FL
PERMIT NO 641

Stay Toasty, Stay Safe

As the weather cools and we start dreaming of hot chocolate and toasted marshmallows by a cozy fire, let's keep safety in mind, too. To protect our beautiful trees, parks, homes, and one another, the Town Code (Chapter 7) requires that any fires be kept inside an enclosed structure—like a fire pit with a screen or a chiminea. This way, we can all enjoy the warmth and glow of the season safely and responsibly.

Your community thanks you!

