



East Merritt Island Homeowners Association Since 1963

# THE HOMEOWNERS' NEWS

## EMIHOA BOARD

### PRESIDENT

Maurice Boudreau  
president@emihoa.org

### VICE PRESIDENT

Mike Lankes  
mlankes@cfl.rr.com

### SECRETARY VACANT

### TREASURER

Lisa Ruckman  
lisa.ruckman@yahoo.com

### MEMBER RETENTION

Deborah Smith  
deborah.atty@gmail.com

### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Aili Melton  
aili.melton2@gmail.com

### WEB SITE EDITORS

Aili Melton & Amy Simons

**NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Happy New Year everyone! We have an article about the Romelia Farms Wildlife Preserve in Merritt Island in this newsletter. For animal lovers this Farm is a unique opportunity to get closer to wildlife and domestic animals too. I highly encourage everyone to read more about them and I support their efforts to grow and thrive on our Island.*

*Since the start of the new year, it has become evident that our community is changing right before our eyes. The hospital is underway and will be built in the coming years. The Merritt Island mall is undergoing changes also. I'm told there are a number of development projects underway with more to come. The Port has come alive again, and the future is bright if we can keep our population healthy.*

*I've again been thinking of the future of EMIHOA. While we are still without an elected Secretary, and our Vice President has been missing in action so far this year, hopefully members are beginning to think if they wish to contribute their time. I have a sense that 2023 will bring a lot of changes to our future in Merritt Island. We have elected a new D2 Commissioner, Tom Goodson and our future can have some direction with his assistance. I will make it my goal to keep Merritt Island in his sights.*

*Thank you and looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting, January 24th.*

*Maurice J Boudreau, President EMIHOA*

## EMIHOA MEETING DATES:

Join us at our monthly (excluding June, July, August & December) meetings  
Meetings at: Lighthouse Church, 1250 N Banana Drive, MI

JANUARY 2023

VISIT [EMIHOA.ORG](http://EMIHOA.ORG)

# ROMELIA FARMS WILDLIFE PRESERVE

Romelia Farms Wildlife Preserve is located on a historic property on Merritt Island. The property itself dates back to the 1890's, when it operated as an orange grove & later went on to become one of Florida's first alligator ranches. When Jeremy & Lina Graves first inquired about the property in late 2020, it certainly wasn't because they had an interest in buying a zoo. In fact, the only thing they were interested in was leasing the barn as a wedding venue. However, when they found out about the prior owner's intention to sell the land & send the animals to auction, they decided they had to act quickly if they were going to save the lives of those animals.

On July 29th, 2021, the Graves family purchased the property and not only turned the organization into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, but turned it into a wildlife preserve that's dedicated to providing the utmost care for the 150+ animals who call it home. On day one they realized how neglected the animals & land had been, as a majority of the animals were underweight or in poor general health, lacking proper enclosures, and missing any kind of quality enrichment. Belle, the property fox, for example, was



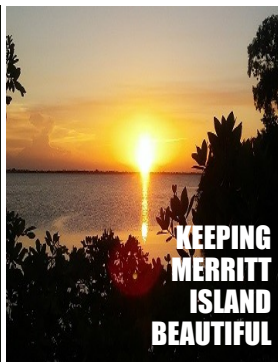
living in a cinder block pit that formerly housed alligators. Whenever it rained the pit would fill with water due to a lack of roof over the enclosure, resulting in her living in inches of water with no dry area or covering to escape the elements. Louie & Lola, the beloved property sloths, were hanging from a fence over a former alligator pit next door to Belle, affording them no cover from the elements & no way to get to the ground something that's imperative for sloths. Upon seeing this, The Graves immediately began implementing a variety of necessary & overdue changes including implementing species specific dietary programs, re-building & expanding enclosures, restoring pastureland, and improving the overall experience.

What started as a labor of love to save the animals has now evolved into a full fledged mission to build a haven for the needy farm & exotic animals of the Space Coast. Through community action, engagement, & education, the team at Romelia Farms is committed to creating a safe, loving environment for all farm and exotic animals, & to educating our community on the importance of proper animal care & management.

Romelia Farms Wildlife Preserve  
 165 Gator Dr. Merritt Island, FL 32953 (321) 848-2486  
 Hours of Operation Wed. Thru Sat. plus  
 Mon 9:00am to 4:00pm Sun 10:00am – 3:00pm Tue Closed  
 Tickets: <https://www.romelifarms.org/>



**A+ Thrift Shop**  
 A non-profit organization benefitting local schools  
 Open:  
 Tuesday-Friday 9am to 4pm  
 Saturday 10am to 4pm  
 Closed Sunday and Monday  
**321-453-4338**  
 95 S. Plumosa St. Merritt Island, FL 32952



**GREAT Design & Print Prices**

*In-Design Studio*

Graphic Design • Ads • Brochures  
 Custom Logos • Retouching • Photography  
 Printing • Banners • Fine Art

Call (Smiley) Aili Melton at 954.290.3437  
 or email [aيلي.melton2@gmail.com](mailto:aيلي.melton2@gmail.com) for quote

# BREVARD IRL LAGOON COALITION HOSTS SEWERS & SEPTIC TANKS

29 Indian River Lagoon organizations are hosting a "Straight Talk" about sewers & septic systems around the Lagoon.

**Questions covered:**

- How septic systems impact the health of the Lagoon.
- How you can get your standard septic tank upgraded.
- What has been done & what needs to be done to the public sewage infrastructure.
- Projects completed by the County

**The presentations given will be:**

- Sewage Pollution as a Driver of Algal Blooms & the Decline of Seagrass in the IRL - Brian LaPointe, PhD, FAU Harbor Branch
- Restoration of IRL Water Quality Under Changing Climate Conditions  
Randall W. Parkinson, PhD, Assoc. Professor, FIU
- Communities & Their Wastewater:

Past, Present & Future

- Todd Swingle, PE, Exec Dir, Toho Water Authority
- Status of Save Our Indian River Lagoon Projects in Northern Brevard County - Terry Breeden, Environmental Supervisor, Brevard County Natural Resources Dept.

**Click here for FREE Tickets:**

<https://helphelagoon.org/the-coalition/straight-talk-titusville/>

**January 19  
2023**

**Lagoon  
STRAIGHT  
TALK**

**Sewers & Septic Systems  
and the Health of the Lagoon**

**6:00-8:00pm**  
Exhibits open at 5:30pm

**Titusville High School  
Performing Arts Center**

**Free Admission!**

**East Merritt Island HOA residents  
Show this ad & SAVE \$10 OFF  
Your week day tee time before noon.**

*The Savannahs*  
Merritt Island

3915 Savannahs Trail, MI • savannahsgolf.com • 321.848.0582  
Not valid with any other offer. Price does not include tax

**Hobbs Pharmacy**  
**321-452-0010**

Free Delivery in Merritt Island

**133 N Banana Drive**  
Serving Merritt Island Since 1964

**MEETING  
JANUARY  
24TH  
AT 7PM**

**Black's**  
LAWN CARE AND PEST CONTROL  
SERVING BREVARD COUNTY SINCE 1952

**Carlos S. Boyer**  
PRESIDENT/OWNER  
Certified Pest Control Operator

3625 N Courtenay Parkway  
Merritt Island, FL 32953

**321-452-4911**  
Fax 321-452-0570

**Healthy Clean**  
CARPET • UPHOLSTERY • TILE  
& MORE

**Dan Helm**  
President/Technician

**321.417.3052**

www.healthyclean.info  
healthycleanbrevard@gmail.com  
680 S. Banana River Dr. • Merritt Island, FL 32952

# Spine Center OF BREVARD



Back Pain • Shoulder Pain • Sciatica  
Joint Pain/Numbness • Carpal Tunnel  
Headaches/Migraines • Disc Herniation  
Degenerative arthritis • Injuries  
Spinal Disc Decompression • X-Rays on site  
Spinal Rehabilitation & Physical Therapy

Josh Flinn, DC • 321.453.2545  
flspinecenter.com • 230 Fortenberry Rd, MI

Call me for a free market analysis of your home.



**RE/MAX**  
AEROSPACE



www.homegirlsbrevard.com  
laura@homegirlsbrevard.com

Laura Hanson 321.682.0061



**454-9060**

- A/C Diagnostics & Repair
- Suspension & Alignments
- Complete Brake Service
- Computer Diagnostics
- General Repairs & Maint.

Your Complete Car Care Company

56 East Merritt Island Causeway  
Mon-Fri. 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

See \_\_\_\_\_



Approved  
Auto Repair

**TO INFORM, TO EDUCATE & TO PROTECT**

## Time to Renew or Join Annual Membership \$15/family

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel: \_\_\_\_\_

Bring this to the Meeting or Mail with your check to:

EMIHOA, P O Box 540511,  
Merritt Island, FL 32954-0511

**Steven G. Kennedy**  
Owner



**THE GUN SITE  
RANGE, INC.**

HANDGUN & MACHINEGUN RENTALS

125 S. Banana River Dr.  
Merritt Island, FL 32953 (321) 453-2071



We do what we say. Every day.  
321-632-2222

**JANUARY MEETING  
TUESDAY THE 24th AT 7PM  
KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE & HEALTHY.**

JANUARY 2023

VISIT EMIHOA.ORG