



East Merritt Island  
Homeowners Association Since 1963

# THE HOMEOWNERS' NEWS

**NEXT MEETING TUESDAY, MARCH 21ST, 2023**

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

*Good Day Everyone,*

*I am invigorated this month because we have installed our new Secretary, Laurie Crooks and our new Vice President, Bob Wise. They will join our Board of Directors for EMIHOA. Both of them are a welcome addition. Bob Wise has offered to stay on top of zoning issues in Merritt Island. I also have Seb Perin who has agreed to stay on top of the Septic to Sewer project along with Lisa Ruckman who has been working on this & other lagoon issues.*

*Laurie Crooks is working on a number of other issues and will be writing articles for this Newsletter including this one. One of her projects involves the new Aquarium sponsored by the Brevard Zoo. On that note, we have our Speaker this month from the Brevard Zoo. His name is Zach Marchetti & he is the Community Engagement & Outreach Officer on this project for the Brevard Zoo.*

*In future meetings, I would like to bring in Tom Goodson & more informative speakers to our organization. One of the questions I asked at the last meeting is what do the members want from us. How can we enrich our members? One of the answers was to provide information about what's going on in our neighborhood. We will do that and more!*

*Thank you & looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting, March 21st.*

*Maurice J Boudreau, President*

## EMIHOA MEETING DATES:

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

MARCH 2023

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**When will these projects be started?**

These sewer projects are a couple of years out from construction. Design & engineering for the notified areas will continue through Fall of this year. After design & permitting is complete, each project will be prepared for bidding and construction:

- Sykes Creek Zones M / T / C / F: Potential sewer availability: Late-2025;
- Sykes Creek Zone N: Finishing up design & engineering in preparation for bidding & contracting. Potential sewer availability: Early 2025.

Septic pollution is one of several major sources of nitrogen pollution entering the lagoon. The 53,000 septic tanks in the Indian River Lagoon watershed contribute about 20% of the nitrogen pollution annually. A traditional septic tank only removes 10-40% of the nitrogen from the sewage passing through it. The Save Our Indian River Lagoon Plan has identified areas contributing the most septic pollution to the lagoon and is working to convert them to sewer connections.

Sylvan Estates Septic to Sewer Project is complete and reduces 1,073 pounds of nitrogen annually from the Indian River Lagoon. These septic-to-sewer conversion projects are just one of many efforts funded by Brevard County's Save Our Indian River Lagoon Project to protect and improve the health, productivity, aesthetic appeal, and economic value of the Indian River Lagoon. Visit our website to find out more about all the projects working towards a healthier Indian River Lagoon.

[www.brevardfl.gov/SaveOurLagoon/](http://www.brevardfl.gov/SaveOurLagoon/)

**Sewer Project Areas 2022**

- In Progress
- Funded
- Complete

**Estimated Nitrogen Loading**

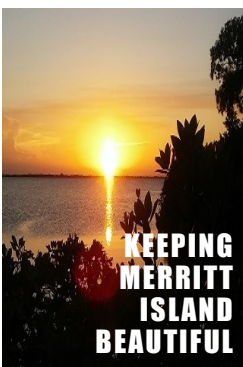
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## SPRING IS HERE?

The calendar says early March, but the thermometer is saying Spring or Summer. Whichever, it's time to revisit your yard & plant a year-round garden. If you already have one, it's time to clean it out.

The nurseries are calling, but we have to be careful to buy plants that are acclimated to our Central Florida soil and sun.

### Things to consider & do before buying & planting:

- ◆ We have three kinds of pollinators in Brevard County: bees (6 kinds!), bats, and birds
- ◆ Buy native plants because they: thrive with little water, multiply naturally, are acclimated to our warm, humid weather, require little to no fertilizer, do not need pesticides, will make our yards little ecosystems.
- ◆ Keep dead trees, stumps, branches as snags or wattles for raptors to rest & eat, beetles to improve the soil, & nests for songbirds.
- ◆ Are the plants salt tolerant?
- ◆ Do they require full sun, part sun, or total shade?
- ◆ Purchase plants in threes or fives for more interest in your garden.
- ◆ Do your homework before venturing into the nurseries. Use sources listed below to identify which plants are good for which pollinators.
- ◆ Remember that what we as homeowners do in our own yards directly affects the inhabitants of natural & wild places.
- ◆ DO NOT USE PESTICIDES SUCH AS ROUNDUP. Roundup kills useful insects, other wildlife, and harms humans. It should not be sold or used. It remains in the soil forever.
- ◆ Plan to pick nasty bugs off plants by hand. For example, aphids must go. Use a paper towel & scrape them off the plant.
- ◆ There is most likely no need for fertilizer, but if you have to add it, don't use it from May to October. We do not need to add more nitrogen or phosphorus into our water.
- ◆ Plant for wildlife with annuals & perennials for

blooms & color all year.

- ◆ For birds, plant shrubs with berries & seeds. An easy choice is any of the Florida native hollies that will be beautiful all year.
- ◆ Consider starting a butterfly pollinator garden:
- ◆ Use 4"-6" pots to start since you will probably have more success than using seeds.
- ◆ Plant host plants for egg laying & nectar plants for adults together. For monarch butterflies, plant milkweed since it is the only place they lay their eggs & the plants have pretty blooms for nectar. Other pollinators like it too.
- ◆ Use an upside-down flat container and fill with rock(s) for butterflies to light on as they drink the water in this water source.

### To plant:

- ◆ Amend the soil
- ◆ Fill the hole with water & let it sink in,
- ◆ Do not use landscape fabric.
- ◆ Instead use 6 layers of newspaper
- ◆ Wet it down & cover with 4"-6" of mulch

### Sources for Appropriate Plant Choices:

[www.fnps.org/](http://www.fnps.org/) - just type in your zip code to find best choices  
[www.gardenia.net/guides/regions/north-america/united-states/south/coastal-south-floridanativewildflowers.com/](http://www.gardenia.net/guides/regions/north-america/united-states/south/coastal-south-floridanativewildflowers.com/)  
[www.flawildflowers.org/category/pollinator-profile/](http://www.flawildflowers.org/category/pollinator-profile/)

### UF/IFAS Publications:

Native Plants • Native Plants: An Overview  
<https://gardeningsolutions.ifas.ufl.edu/plants/ornamentals/native-plants.html>  
 Perfect Plants for Pollinators – UF/IFAS Gardening Solutions  
<https://rockledgegardens.com/your-florida-yard-where-the-wild-things-are>  
 P.S. Rockledge Gardens is hosting a Make & Take Pollinator Garden on March 18, 1:00. Sign-up online in advance on their website. Cost is \$44.52 for all the plants & container.

**MEETING  
MARCH 21  
AT 7PM**

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MARCH 2023

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

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**MARCH MEETING**

**TUESDAY THE 21ST AT 7PM**

**KEEP YOUR FAMILY SAFE & HEALTHY.**

**MARCH 2023**

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