



East Merritt Island  
Homeowners Association Since 1963  
*This year marks our 60th anniversary!*

# THE HOMEOWNERS' NEWS

**February 20th speaker:**

Our speaker this month is Zach Marchetti, the East Coast Zoological Society of Florida, ECZS, of the Brevard zoo returning to talk about the future Aquarium being developed in Port Canaveral



{Rendering of what the aquarium may look like}

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## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Good Day Everyone,

I'm writing another article this month that speaks to community involvement. I was reminded of an event that goes on monthly by Seb Perin. While this event has been going on for quite a while, it's more than just a monthly event. I'll go into it more in-depth in the article.

We are continuing to bring informative speakers to our meetings, but we hope our members can suggest more newsworthy subjects. This month we will have another speaker from the Brevard Zoo to talk about the future Aquarium. We'll also bring an update on the property at 2020 N Banana Dr. This is the property that was brought up last month that is going to be an issue for the next months ahead and may ultimately be problematic for the community and especially so with the neighbors abutting the property.

My hope is we can continue to grow and provide more of an incentive to stay involved and get involved in our community efforts to stay relevant. Feel free to bring a guest to this month's meeting. Please keep in mind that this will be my last year as President and we need new people to step up and help out.

Thank you and looking forward to seeing you at the next meeting,  
**February 20th.**

*Maurice J Boudreau, President*

Join us at our monthly meetings (excluding June, July, August & December)

**MEETING TUESDAY, FEB 20th** at the Lighthouse Church, 1250 N Banana River Dr

FEBRUARY, 2024

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

## YOU CAN RESTORE OUR SHORES

Many of us strive to make our properties safer for our priceless Lagoon & restore our little piece of paradise. This last month we had Zach Marchetti as our speaker & he told us about the many things that the Brevard Zoo has been doing. The Zoo's science based "programs aimed at balancing the Indian River Lagoon (IRL) ecosystem" has become an important resource to our community over the years as it has increased hands on Actions and research for our Lagoon. He showed us many photos of rescued animals that had been treated & restored so that they could be returned to their homes.

Zach also showed photos of some of the "thousands of volunteers from the community working steadily on living shoreline solutions that restore populations of native, filter-feeding oysters to the lagoon, grow protective mangroves, seed restorative clam beds, replace nutri-

ent-rich seagrasses, restore & build new reefs, and create buffer zones to stem pollution and algae blooms."

Talk to your neighbors about what they are doing to protect our quality of life & our economy. They'll be happy to show you their oyster nurseries, their beautiful waterfront buffer-zone landscaping and their oyster gardens. There are also neighbors with mangrove nurseries that protect the mangroves until they are large enough to withstand the waves growing in new areas. If you have a dock, there are a number of ways that you can make that a special habitat for our Lagoon neighbors.

For more volunteer information for one of the Brevard Zoo's many programs, go to <https://>

[restoreourshores.org/](https://restoreourshores.org/)

Let's continue to work together with businesses, government and people in collaboration as we heal the Lagoon. Progress takes time but we ARE seeing improvement!

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## NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

North Banana River Drive bridges were recently reviewed and had some repairs done. You'll remember if you drove through when one of the lanes was closed. We've reached out to County Roads and Bridges and are still waiting to get the reports back on what was done and what still needs to be done.

If you've driven past 2020 N Banana River Drive just south of Sandpiper Street then you've seen them filling in the lot all the way up to the height of the road at the bridge. This lot construction was discussed at our last meeting and complaints have been made to the County & Florida DEP. Inspections have found violations and they are expected to make corrections. If you have any more concerns about violations, you can make calls to County Permitting 321-633-2069 and the Florida DEP 407-897-4100.

## WHAT CONSTITUTES A COMMUNITY?

These are my thoughts about what I believe to be a community.

To me a community of people takes care of each other. They participate in activities that benefit the community. They step up when a vacuum exists. They protect each other by speaking up when there is a problem in the community. They work as a group to improve the lives of the community & always ensure that they act as a group & not as a mob.

I was reminded of a monthly event that happens in Cape Canaveral. I was at one of these events

and it was truly pleasant to see a community come together & have some fun. I thought to myself this is what a community looks like. Here is a description of this event:

Activities will include a variety of food vendors, an assortment of novelty/craft vendors

- Beer and wine for purchase

- Live music

For everyone's enjoyment & safety, observe the following guidelines while visiting Friday Fest.

- Children must be accompanied

by an adult

- Only leashed animals allowed

- Only alcohol purchased

at event allowed

- No commercial activity except for registered vendors

I thought as was suggested by Seb Perin, why can't we start an effort to create an event similar to this in Merritt Island? One of the issues is where can we hold an event like this? Seb suggested the mall has a lot of empty space many evenings. Unfortunately, it's on private property. So, I would welcome any ideas how we could start a community event like this. I appreciate your response & ideas.

*By Maurice J Boudreau*

Steven G. Kennedy  
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## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

The kids have long returned to school, & we have resumed **The Schedule** that follows the holidays. Why not plan a relaxing movie night in the backyard? Gather movie supplies – popcorn, snacks, adult & children's beverages, mosquito repellent, & lawn chairs or pool floats.

Personally, I have wanted to do this with my grandkids for some time, but I have only just found the time to research outdoor projectors with or without screens included. My prerequisites were: positive personal recommendations and reviews, You Tube videos to assure me I could actually use the projector, clear pictures, and low cost. So, I, of course, went to the ultimate source, Amazon where I found a cute little projector with its own screen.

It has the connective technology of MHI, USB, HDMI and VGA and is compatible with PC, laptop, smart phone, and TV Stick.

Despite it's size, it has the capacity to clearly project LCD images! When I bought it in the summer, it was only \$59.95, It is now listed for \$99.99! So it goes.

The **folded screen**, resembling a thick sheet, is nothing special, but if the only sheets you own are colored or floral, the screen is handy. It does come with some sticky stuff to put it up with. However, I favor clothes pins, & after the show, they become chip bag clips!

Other options are now available with similar positive features & similar prices. (continued on page 4)



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## FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

(continued from page 3)

**Another option** for cool night entertainment, that doesn't involve technology, is to hang a sheet outside from a tree or something tall & wide, shine a spotlight behind the sheet, and watch the silhouettes of bugs from the viewing side. You can make up stories using the critters seen on the screen.

**OR** just let the kids make shadow figures on the screen/sheet.

Whatever you choose, have a wonderful time relaxing as respite from your hectic schedule!

*By Laurie Crooks*

### Annual Membership Form \$15/family

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

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

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Bring app with check to the Meeting or Mail with check to EMIHOA  
at the above address

FEBRUARY 2024

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