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## **July-Sept 2013 Newsletter**

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### **South Merritt Estates Updates – Chuck Shaw, President, SMEA, Inc.**

Its hard to believe that almost a full year has passed since this Board was elected!! Its been a fun year however, and we think things have, in general, gone well for South Merritt Estates! Now its time for our Annual Meeting, which gives everyone a chance to see each other, exchange information and questions and suggestions in person with your Board members, and have a fun dinner put on by the Board!!

The date and time for the Annual Meeting is Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup>, and we are planning for everyone to gather at 6pm at the "Space Coast Association of Realtors" building in their 2<sup>nd</sup> floor Banquet room. Its at 105 McLeod St, here on Merritt Island (it's a block or so north of Wendys and Popeyes at the corner of McLeod and Myrtrice. We have used this facility before and it is really nice!

The plan is to have a very SHORT business meeting, followed by a delicious dinner at 6:45 with soft drinks/tea/water courtesy of the SMEA, and a special guest speaker from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission at dessert time (7:15?) to talk about the wonderful environment we live in here on Merritt Island! As always, for those paying their 2014 dues at the meeting, there will be a drawing where someone gets their check back and still gets credit for their 2014 dues!!! We are also going to have a "SMEA Trivia" test for everyone and will have some prizes for the winners!! So read up on SMEA history before then!!!

The Annual Meeting is also the time for Board member elections. However, since the entire Board was replaced last year, and the normal terms are 2 years, and none of the Board has resigned or have had anyone call for their replacement, we are not currently planning on an election this year (which will also help keep the business meeting short!!)

**There is more information on the Annual Meeting later in this newsletter, especially on RSVP'ing so we know how much food to get! We need those RSVPs in ASAP!!** (lotsa acronyms in that last sentence!???)

We are also planning a neighborhood wide Garage sale the next day, on October 12<sup>th</sup>. There is also info on that in this newsletter too!

It has been very gratifying to see SMEA members and their families over enjoying the Park, and in general everyone has been very responsible about closing and locking the gates afterwards and keeping the park

cleaned up afterwards. We are getting into the seasons now where coming over for sunrise or sunset is even more enjoyable, and I hope to see even more of you at the Park!

This new Board's goals remain to insure our community continues to be the great place it always has been to live in, to continue to foster and encourage the sense of community that South Merritt Estates has, and to be good stewards of the property entrusted to the South Merritt Estates Association, Inc..

We will continue to work hard to build on our "commonalities", like the Park and our love of the feeling of "Community". To me that means things like good people for neighbors that like to look out for each other, and long term relationships with people from a wide range of interests and backgrounds, and stability (we have turnover, but we also have a lot of wonderful residents that have been here a long long time!)

### **New South Merritt Estates e-mail address (again!!!)**

In order to help get information to you, we will use the e-mail addresses you have provided us. We will also send your newsletters as an attachment to an e-mail if you indicated you preferred to receive them via e-mail.

To help you be able to respond back to the SMEA, we set up an e-mail account for the SMEA. However, not long after the address was shared in June, everyone decided on a better e-mail address, so it is now (and hopefully will remain!!) [southmerrittestates@gmail.com](mailto:southmerrittestates@gmail.com) It is not case sensitive. Anything we send you will be scanned for viruses to make sure its OK (and anything you send us will also be scanned before we open it!!!)

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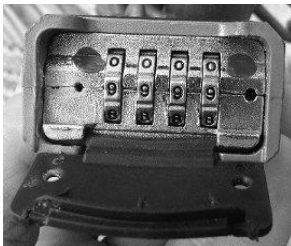
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## **COMBINATIONS TO WATERFRONT PARK GATES**

**Members that are current on their dues should already have the new combinations.**

**New and renewal members can call any Board Member to receive the combinations when dues are received**

**Please do not share the combination with others!**



**NOTE: The type lock has changed for the "people" gate.....**

**Line up the numbers with the index marks at the TOP (red dots remind you).**

**The picture shows 0000 where the index marks are.**

**They are NOT in the middle like you would expect them to be!!**

**You must have the combo dialed in to close the lock**

**The "Ramp" gate lock is the "Normal" type lock.**

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### **SMEA Website - Charles Fischer, Vice President**

We now have a "draft" of the updated website up and running!! It's a lot easier to envision what is useful and what we want to have on the website once we have "something" to take a look at. So, check it out at:

<http://SouthMerrittEstates.weebly.com>

The long term development plans are to use it to allow you easy access to information, like electronic copies of important documentation for the SMEA (Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Policies, Park Rules, etc.) and common documentation for owners and residents (like the County Deed restrictions, etc.). We also plan on

posting a community Calendar, the current and recent past issues of the newsletters and a list of useful phone numbers.

To make sure the website is as useful as it can be for the membership, we need to get YOUR inputs for what YOU would like to see on it!! You can call or write (hard copy via the USPS or via e-mail) to a board member directly, or now you can actually send an e-mail directly to the South Merritt Estates Association's new e-mail address at [southmerrittestates@gmail.com](mailto:southmerrittestates@gmail.com)

Our e-mail policy will prevent us from ever compromising your e-mail address or sharing it with others....

### **Sunshine 811 – Cheryl Ritter Sunshine 811 Damage Prevention Manager**

If you are planning on digging in your yard, there is a free call to 811 you can make to keep your family and neighborhood safe! Why? because many utility services run under ground – often through yards.



Please visit <http://www.sunshine811.com> for more information!! Your Landscapers need to know about this information also!!

### **NEW Trash and Recycling Bins**

By now everyone should have their new trash and recycling bins, and they start being used on Sept 30th. Remember, if you think you need more (or less) capacity than just one of the 65 Gallon cans, you can call 321-633-2042 to request a different sized cart. There is no charge within the 1<sup>st</sup> 60 days from the start of service on Sept 30<sup>th</sup> to switch out to a bigger 96 gallon cart, or down to a smaller 36 gallon cart. Call before Nov 1<sup>st</sup> to change.

You may keep your old recycle bins, or simply put them into the new recycle cart to have them picked up. If you want to discard your old garbage cans, please put a note on it that you want it picked up. All 40 gallon (or less) gallon containers may be still used for yard waste.

## **SMEA Neighborhood Wide Garage/Yard Sale October 12<sup>th</sup> – Peggy Boekhout**

Would you like to be a part of a neighborhood garage sale on **Saturday, October 12, 2013**? Here's what I

propose: begin at the earliest at 8:00 am. Allow NO early-bird buyers from outside of the neighborhood. Sell until 2:00 or 3:00 pm. At 4:00 pm my husband Tom and I will drive around and ask you if you have any goods that you would like to donate. We will put items into Tom's pick-up truck and into my Nissan. On Monday morning we will take them to the Sharing Center in Cocoa, the Merritt Island Presbyterian Church, and the A+ Thrift store on Plumosa St.

Refreshments – perhaps some of our younger neighbors can sell lemonade or bottles of water or other refreshments?

**Friday, the day before:** If you want to neighbors to stop by your house between 10 am and 2:00 pm on Friday, October 11 for first dibs, tape a red ribbon on top of your mailbox. Neighbors will then know that if they see the red ribbon, they can stop by. (I will give you a ribbon if you ask)

The South Merritt Estates **annual meeting** is Friday evening, October 11 eve from 6-8:30pm; therefore we can't red ribbon Friday evening.

**RSVP .....**

Will you please reply to me YES or NO for the Garage Sale by email ([starboek@cfl.rr.com](mailto:starboek@cfl.rr.com)) or by telephone 321 453 8027 or 321 258 2678? This will help me to organize how we can arrange ourselves in groups to help each other.

Do you have any garage sale signs already made up? I will make some for the main entrances if you will put yours up around your house or at the beginning of your street.

This is new to me. However I have the desire to interact within the neighborhood and this has the potential to be fun!

I look forward to hearing from you!!

Peggy Boekhout 2320 Pineapple Place <http://tlc.howstuffworks.com/family/how-to-organize-yard-sale1.htm>

## Invitation to a South Merritt Estates party in YOUR honor

Dear Neighbors,

You are cordially invited to attend the  
**Annual Meeting of the South Merritt Estates Association, Inc.**

**Friday, October 11**

**Space Coast Association of Realtors building, second floor  
105 Mc Leod St., Merritt Island, FL 32953  
6:00 pm until 8:30**

We will have a short SMEA Meeting lead by SMEA President Chuck Shaw and Board members, a delicious dinner with soft drinks courtesy of the SMEA and a special guest speaker from the FL Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

**YES...**

Have dinner with your neighbors  
Meet and learn about new families who have moved into South Merritt Estates  
Meet the SMEA Board members  
Find out what the SMEA Board has been up to this past year  
Hear about the plans for this next year  
Learn more about our Merritt Island ecosystem from an expert biologist  
Renew your commitment to the SMEA  
Play SMEA Trivia  
Have fun!

The SMEA will have dinner and soft drinks for every single person who RSVPs to tell us that he or she is coming to the annual meeting on October 11. If you want to come to the meeting, but do not want dinner, that's OK. No RSVP is required unless you want dinner.

Would you like to bring a dessert to share? If yes, let us know. YUM!

**RSVP by Tuesday, October 1<sup>st</sup> if at all possible**

**We need a head count to be able to order the food, so please tell us that you'll come** - call or write to

Treasurer Barb Caylor [babs cay@cfl.rr.com](mailto:babs cay@cfl.rr.com) 321 453 5600 or  
Secretary Peggy Boekhout [starboek@cfl.rr.com](mailto:starboek@cfl.rr.com) 321 453 8027 (321 258 2678)

Cheers to a great get-together

## **SMEA, Inc. Membership**

The South Merritt Estates Association (SMEA), Inc., is a not-for-profit Florida Corporation that holds the deed to the Park Property. It was incorporated in 1965. Any South Merritt Estates lot owner is eligible to become a member of the corporation, and as a dues paying member be able to use the Corporation's park facilities. Any resident in South Merritt Estates, even if not a lot owner, can pay dues, and be granted permission to use the Park facilities, but only lot owner members of the Corporation can vote or hold office.

While being eligible to be an SMEA, Inc. member and then actually use the park facilities is very desirable for many people, simply having it as part of the South Merritt Estates "Package" enhances the desirability of living here for all of us (and thus the marketability of the South Merritt Estates properties if/when the time might come to have to move.) So, we have a membership drive started to help make everyone aware of the benefits of membership in the South Merritt Estates Association Corporation, and encourage as many residents as possible to join! Your dues are how the costs of maintaining our common property, utilities, communications, and insurance are covered. The dues are only \$70 per year. That translates to only slightly over 19 cents per day!

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### **South Merritt Estates Association (SMEA), Inc. Membership Application/Renewal 2014**

2014 dues: \$70

Make Check out to: South Merritt Estates Association, Inc.

#### **Information for the Directory:**

Member Name \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

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

Occupations (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number(s) to post in Directory (optional) \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address(s) (Optional): \_\_\_\_\_

#### Check all that apply:

OK to post e-mail address in Directory???

Do not post in Directory, but OK for Board to use to contact me (address NOT to be shared!)

I prefer to receive the Newsletter by E-Mail

I prefer to receive Newsletter in hard copy (hand delivered or via USPS)

Names of Children/additional people living at the same address (Optional) \_\_\_\_\_

Comments/Questions/Suggestions/areas you would like to help with??

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**Please turn in at Annual Meeting Oct 11<sup>th</sup>, or mail this form and your dues to:**

South Merritt Estates Association, Inc.

P.O. Box 540176

Merritt Island, FL 32954-0176

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**Tear this last page out and keep it handy for a quick reference:**

- **All EMERGENCY RESPONSES: 911**
- **Brevard County Sherriff's Office**
  - **Non Emergency Dispatch: (321) 633-7162 (press 4)**
  - Office: (321) 454-6652
- City of Cocoa Utilities/Customer Service (water) 321-433-8400
- Florida Power & Light Cust. Service: (321) 723-7795
  - To report Power outage: 1-800-468-8243
- Animal Control: (321) 633-2024
- Central Brevard Humane Society: (321) 636-3343
- Animal Specialty & Emergency Hospital: (321) 752-7600
- Watering Restrictions Hotline: 1-800-848-0499
- Brevard County Code Enforcement: (321) 633-2086

- 2013 SMEA BOARD MEMBERS**
- |                           |              |              |
|---------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Chuck Shaw                | 456-5544     | President    |
| Charles Fischer           | 302-5909     | Vice-Pres    |
| Barb Caylor               | 453-5600     | Treasurer    |
| Peggy Boekhout            | 453-8027     | Secretary    |
| Madelyn Brabbs (unlisted) |              | Mbr-at-Large |
| Jennifer Carmichael       | 321-600-0692 | Mbr-at-Large |
| Barbara Richards          | 453-7377     | Mbr-at-Large |
| Dennis Theoret            | 407-467-2243 | Mbr-at-Large |

SMEA E-Mail: [southmerritestates@gmail.com](mailto:southmerritestates@gmail.com)  
 Website: <http://SouthMerrittEstates.weebly.com>

**COMBINATIONS TO WATERFRONT PARK GATES CHANGED IN FEBRUARY!**

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**Area Representatives / Lot numbers**

