

The Melrose Business and Community Association, Inc.

The Melrose Alert

M B C A

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February 2010

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www.afn.org/~mbca

Mission: *To promote and support the Melrose Business Community
and improve the quality of life for all area residents.*



February 11, 2010

MONTHLY MEETING

6:30 pm

BUSINESS MEETING

Visitors Always Welcome!

**Melrose Elementary School Cafeteria
Bellamy Avenue (SR 26)**

Melrose, Florida

President's Corner . . .

Wow, 40 people at a lunch time meeting - we're off to a roaring start! Let's keep up the momentum. We're looking at several areas to concentrate our efforts for this year. Now, we only have a small share of the Melrose residents active with the MBCA. We want to substantially increase Community involvement. Many new members will bring many new ideas, etc. Additionally, we're looking to replace the time-worn fence at Melrose Bay Park with a more substantial and attractive one. And, it's been suggested, we seek to establish a 21st century "Melrose Inn" for guests to be able to stay in our area rather than go elsewhere for lodging. Let's all roll up our sleeves and get busy, "for the benefit of Melrose."

Tom

At The Meeting . . .

Note: Here, we'll cover the highlights of the meeting. For a complete copy of the Minutes, download them at: <http://melrosefl.com/mbca/1-10min.pdf>. Copies will be at the meeting, too.

What an action packed event. We had 40 members and guests present to enjoy a lunch from Melrose's newest eating establishment, Subway, with dessert from Lake Area Bakery Delights.

Numerous guests were present: Tom Prah, who has a local handyman service; Melanie Grogan,

sponsoring a gourmet dinner and concert by David Mallett on Jan.20th; Richard Yaun has a computer repair business; Kerry Rowell of Mercantile Bank, Palatka; plus Diane Clark and Bill Moran who run a summer camp in upstate New York and others. Let's not forget, Melrose's own songwriter and performer, David Beede. David brought his guitar and introduced his new song, *Melrose*. He has truly captured the essence of Melrose – history, natural beauty, local people - all in one song. A big thank you to David!

Leo Lowe, Alachua County Deputy Sheriff, reported an increase in car thefts and burglaries in the Melrose area. He said use your common sense with regards to security. He will do security checks on homes and businesses in the Melrose area for free. However, check with your home county to see if they will provide this service for you before contacting him.

The Melrose Elementary School is passing the torch for the Merry Melrose Festival. Ed Sherwood said he had great response for the festival with 36 registered vendors. Of these, 65 to 75 percent of the vendors felt that it was worth attending. Ed is starting to plan for the 2010 festival. All this was accomplished in a few short weeks. What could be achieved with more time to plan?

Ed also reminded us the Melrose Community Farmers Market has started back after the Holidays,

every Friday, from 3pm till dark. Come get fresh vegetables, bread, shrimp, smoked mullet, needlework and a wide variety of other items plus the opportunity to visit with friends and neighbors. A real happening!

Jill McGuire, President of Santa Fe Lake Dwellers, announced an important meeting regarding the Northeast Fla. Water Supply Plan at 6:30 pm, January 28th at the Alachua County Health Dept., 224 SE 24th Street, Gainesville. It is being sponsored by St. John's and Suwannee River Water Management Districts. A similar meeting will be held in February – time and location to be announced.

Additional tidbits:

We are forming a new Planning Committee to help steer Melrose and the MBCA into the future.

Evening MBCA meetings to be held: February 11th, May 13th, and August 12th.

Santa Fe Lakefest: Saturday, March 28th from 11:00 am until 3:00 pm – Melrose Bay Park

Sturgeon Farm – Claire Muirhead had nothing new to report, maybe later in the month.

Our guest Speaker, Rick Drummond, Assistant County Manager for Alachua County, said Alachua County has fared better than some others in the economic downturn due to its philosophy of growth for finding a balance between the environment, economic development and social justice.

At The Meeting . . . (continued)

He advised that the new County Fairgrounds will be on a 150-acre tract of land north of the airport. The fairgrounds will occupy 100 acres with the remaining 50 acres being used for an industrial park.

He also had several suggestions for the MBCA planning committee: Develop a common theme for Melrose. Then, get all four Melrose area counties together to see how they can work to bring about the Community's vision for Melrose.

Recent Happenings . . .

We're getting comments and suggestions on the Melrose Blog – thanks, folks. If you haven't been there, that's where we release announcements, etc. It's at: <http://merosefl.com/blog>

Reminder - We have a place for ideas for the Senior Center on our web-site at: <http://melrosefl.com/seniorcenter/ideas.html>. Let us hear from you.

Future Happenings . . .

The second MBCA Meeting of 2010 will be on Thursday, February 11th starting at 6:30 pm at the Melrose Elementary School Cafeteria. Our guest speaker will be Yvonne Parrish, Chair of the 2010 Census Complete Count Committee of Putnam County.

She will discuss the Census and the importance of our participating in the Census to help our areas benefit from increased revenues based on the population growth. They are still needing workers to assist with the Census process. Recruiters and information will be available.

The Melrose Community Farmers Market will be held this Friday and each subsequent Friday at Melrose Heritage Park, starting at 3:00 pm, weather permitting. BE THERE!

Always check the Melrose Grapevine at <http://melrosefl.com/blog> and the Community Calendar, either here in the newsletter and/or on-line at <http://melrosefl.com/calendar.html>.

Editorial Comments . . .

We're requesting feedback from all interested citizens. What have we been doing right or perhaps wrong?

Tell us what you would like to see the MBCA consider for this year. We seriously want to know what you all are thinking about the continuing development of Melrose. It ain't going to stand still. We're either going to progress or regress. And, it's no fun to go backwards.

Today's Humor . . .

Work is for people who don't know how to fish.

Thought for the day

“We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit.”

Aristotle

Businesses of the Month

Flying Squirrel Antiques
Fryer's Restaurant
Gainesville Eye Physicians
Greathouse Butterfly Farms
[Idyldale Farms](#)

Reminder

2010 Dues are now due.
Application available on-line at:
[http://melrosefl.com/mbca/mbrapp.p
df](http://melrosefl.com/mbca/mbrapp.pdf)

Welcome, New Members!

Lake Area Bakery Delights
Sally Steele

Board of Directors – 2010

President	Tom Lucas
Vice-President	Jo Harben
Corresponding Secretary	“Doc” Harris
Recording Secretary	Susan Lucas
Treasurer	Sharon Love
Director at Large	Chrin Carson
Director at Large	William Chiappini
Director at Large	Jeff Knee
Director at Large	Fabrizio Passalacqua

Committee Chairpersons

Alert Editor	Tom Lucas
Christmas Parade	Steve Thrift
Melrose Bay Park	Sunny Corr
	William Chiappini
Membership	“Doc” Harris
Photographer	Cornelius Clayton
Planning	
Publicity	Felicity Trueblood
Spiritual Director	Jeanne Hill
Web Page	Tom Lucas

Calendar

Every Wednesday	COFFEETALK – ShakeRag Artists Collective, Bellamy Ave. (SR26) 10:00 am to 12:00 pm
Every Friday	Melrose Community Farmers' Market , 3:00 pm, Melrose Heritage Park
January 28, 2010	NE Fla Water Supply Plan Meeting - 6:30 pm, Alachua Cty Health Dept., 224 SE 24th St, Gainesville
January 28, 2010	Hidden Rivers of FL, Melrose Library 7 pm
January 30, 2010	Poe Ballantine – Author, Bellamy Road, Reception & Talk - 6:30 pm
February 6, 2010	3rd Annual Chilli Cook-off at Chiappini's , For details, see http://melrosfl.com/blog
February 11, 2010	MBCA Meeting -- 6:30 pm, Melrose Elementary School Cafeteria
February 14, 2010	Happy Valentines Day
February 14, 2010	Chair Show, ShakeRag Gallery - 1 pm
February 22, 2010	NE Fla Water Supply Plan Meeting – 6:30 pm, Keystone Heights High School
February 25-28, 2010	Al Burt Literary Festival: Melrose Library, for specifics see the Library
February 28, 2010	Al Burt Literary Festival: 2:00 pm, Melrose Library, readings from Al's works and more
March 10, 2010	MBCA Meeting -- 11:30 am, Melrose Methodist Church Fellowship Hall
March 20, 2010	Open Air Arts Festival Wrap-up – all 3 galleries
March 27, 2010	Santa Fe Lake Festival, Melrose Bay Park

MBCA
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