



**Tomorrow is the first blank page of a 365-page book. Write a good one!**

## **TWO ADDITIONAL BOOK HOUSES INSTALLED**

Two more MLA sponsored book houses were installed since our last newsletter. November 2020 saw book houses planted in Earleton, beside the post office and at the Melrose Bay Beach Park at 25500 Devonia St., Melrose. Don't forget our first book house at St. Johns Missionary Baptist Church on SR219. Thank you to Mike Lavane for his terrific carpentry on the book houses. Also, thank you to Natalie Briggs for her donation of the decals used on each book houses. Many thanks to Jim Smith for allowing us to install the Earleton Book House on his property. More thanks go out to Virginia Walkup (St John's Missionary Baptist Church), Maggie Blizzard (Melrose Beach Park) and Camilla Schneider (Earleton) for agreeing to be a



Melrose Beach Park: pictured above, left to right: Mike Lavane, Joe Rush, Pat Ward, William Chiappini, Mariella Chiappini



Earleton Book House: pictured above: Pat Ward, Keyna Ward, Andi Blount, Jean Geisel,



## **LIBRARY EXPANSION AND RENOVATION UPDATE**

The library expansion and renovation planning process continues to move forward in a positive manner. The Pre-Bid Meeting was held on October 9th ; Bid Proposal submissions were submitted October 21st; the County Intent to Award occurred on October 26th; and the Bid Award was accepted and approved by the Putnam County Board of County Commissioners on November 10th. Blackwater Construction was awarded the bid. Next steps are contract signing, supplemental information submission and the preconstruction meeting...then we break ground! We deeply appreciate the support of Putnam County and our community as this important project moves forward?

## AWARDS

Recently, an Angel from our area gave out awards to people in our community who have done good things for our collective Melrose Family. Below are the recipients of the 2020 awards.



### **The Edna Williams Library Lover's Award**

Presented to the Chiapinnis and Debbie and Gary Ellingham for their continued support of the Melrose Public Library through the donation of proceeds from the Chili Cook-Off each year. Pictured at far left, Mark and Robin Chiappini. And near left, Debbie Ellingham

### **The Father Yerkes Education Supporter Award**

Presented to Susan Cooperman and Keyna Ward for providing Education Opportunities to benefit the Children of Melrose. Ms. Cooperman works to supply books to the Pony Pack program at Melrose Elementary School. Ms. Ward chairs the committee working to install Book Houses around the Melrose Community. Pictured near right: Susan Cooperman and far right:



### **The Cornelius Clayton**

#### **Community Champion Award**

Presented to Joe Rush for providing opportunities and enrichment for the unnoticed and less fortunate members of the community. During the early days of the pandemic when schools were closed, Joe was instrumental in funding and providing children in our community with lunches. Pictured left: Joe Rush



## Melrose Elementary Pony Pack



As the 2021 school year began in August of 2020, the Melrose Library Association continued its support of our community by promoting the Pony Pack program, which provides backpacks, enjoyable books, and weekend meals for designated students. This year's program currently caters to 32 students in grades K through 6.

Pony Pack is successful due to the help of several local philanthropists. The Clay Electric Foundation, commonly referred to as Operation Round Up, awarded a grant of \$5000 to purchase books and materials for the students, and the children of Ann and Phil Payne awarded \$500 to the MLA to purchase backpacks for the children. Additionally, Trinity Episcopal Church provides the weekend meals through various donations. Individual members of the MLA made other donations of books and backpacks, which is further proof of the giving nature of the Melrose community.

Anyone wishing to help with any of these needs should contact Susan Cooperman at 561-906-1776.

### A NOTE OF THANKS

Thanks to the generosity of our members and library patrons, we were able to purchase an air purifier for part of the library. Right now, it is being used at the front desk to help keep our staff safe.



### CAMELLIA SALE & BREAKFAST POSTPONED

There have been inquiries as to whether or not we will host a Camellia Sale & Breakfast as we have in the past. This year, 2021, the MLA will not host a Melrose Library Association Camellia Sale and Breakfast. Due to Covid 19, we decided to postpone this year's event. But, don't worry! Plans are already in the works for 2022. Watch future newsletters to see when the sale will be planned. Thank you to everyone who supported this event in the past.



***It is time to renew your membership in the Melrose Library Association! Not a member? Consider becoming one and supporting your library and its programs!***

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

INDIVIDUAL (\$10) \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY (\$15) \_\_\_\_\_

Bring this form, along with your payment, to the library front desk or mail it to  
Melrose Library Association, PO Box 54, Melrose, FL 32666.

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### **DONATIONS TO THE MLA**

The Melrose Library Association continually works to improve our library and community. Unfortunately, Covid 19 forced us to cancel our 2020 fundraisers, after February. Our fundraisers supply income to our general and building funds. Therefore, your donations will help us to continue our positive activities in Melrose. Please consider making a donation to maintain the MLA general and building funds by sending any amount that you can afford, made payable to the Melrose Library Association, to P.O. Box 54, Melrose, FL 32666. We kindly thank you for your support.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

General Fund \_\_\_\_\_ Building fund \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_