Desoto Acres Association, Inc.
SARASOTA, FLORIDA
Country Estates In the Heart of Town
P.O. Box 556, Tallevast, Florida 34270
September 2015

Developer Activity along University Parkway & East Side of Lockwood Ridge Road

Developer interest in properties along University Parkway has picked up between Shade Avenue and Lockwood Ridge Road.

Autumn Leaves of Sarasota ALF

The proposed "Autumn Leaves of Sarasota" ALF was submitted for County review on July 28, 2015. Your DeSoto Acres (DSA) Association is happy to report the developer worked with the DSA Association and residents to enhance the south buffer adjacent to our low-density (one-house per two acres) residential area and has kept the project within the OPI Commercial zoned land. Refer to the DSA website www.desotoacres.org for more details.

DSA Association and residents welcome this project and look forward to a good neighbor relation with "Autumn Leaves of Sarasota." DSA Association thanks the developer for working with our residents to reach a mutually agreeable solution.

Next Step: Public Hearings in front of the Planning Commission and County Commission Hearings to be scheduled.

New University Parkway Office Building

The applicant is proposing an office park to be called the University/Traylor Office Plaza, containing a two (2) story office building totaling 19,750 sqft and all the required parking, stormwater and landscape buffers. A public Neighborhood Workshop was held on Wednesday, June 3, 2015 to discuss a proposed Rezone Petition on a 1.92 acre +/- parcel at the SE corner of Traylor and University Parkway. The rezone, submitted by the property owner, is consistent with the land-use designation of Light Office and the University Park Corridor Plan – West.

The developer has worked with the DeSoto Acres Association and adjacent residents to enhance the buffer requirements between the office parcel and the adjacent low-density residential parcel. The rezone application was amended to include:

- Use of a Permacast concrete wall to maximize preservation of existing large healthy vegetation within the ten foot required landscape buffer and the southern property line.
- To preserve to the maximum extent possible, any existing healthy trees within the ten-foot required landscape buffer and the southern property line.
- Increased the opacity to 70% from the top of the wall to 25' in height.
- Work with DSA Association and adjacent residents on plant selection at site development stage.
- Minimize light-fixture spill-over from 10pm to 6am.
- Dumpster moved out of 100′ rear setback area.

More details are available on the DeSoto Acres Website under Announcements. The DSA Association and residents thank the developer for working to achieve a mutually agreeable binding site plan and enhanced buffer requirements. The Planning and County Commission Hearing dates have yet to be scheduled.

ILF / ALF / Single-Family Residences

Rezoning is in the formal application stage for 28+ acres in the northeast section of DeSoto Rd and Lockwood Ridge Rd for a potential Independent Living Facility (ILF), Assisted Living Facility (AFL), and mixed Single-Family Residences. The main entry would be on DeSoto Rd. The developer's representatives held informal meetings with surrounding neighborhood associations for their input. Continued on Page 9

Message from President Bob Heere

We recently had a Sarasota County sponsored Community Sidewalk Workshop presented to the residents of Desoto Acres. Many attended the workshop, made our opinions known, and the County listened. We also had two private developers hold workshops to obtain resident input. Because of our residents' feedback, the developers agreed to enhancing the buffers that will help maintain the adjacent residential value and living quality.

This is truly how a great neighborhood thrives; through involved residents that take the time to stay informed and participate at project and community planning workshops. I sincerely thank you for your involvement, and in the same breath I ask for more. Your input on future developments and area projects shape our residential neighborhood's future living quality.

Keep in mind DeSoto Acres has properties near and adjacent to our border that are being reviewed for development, including commercial, light office or high-density residential. We, as residents of this neighborhood, must strive to identify the best use of these properties that enhances and doesn't adversely affect our residential neighborhood character and land values. Together, we will either support or not support these projects by attending the public workshops, writing letters and / or appearing at County Commission meetings. Your DSA Association helps coordinate these activities with you.

Always keep an open mind to a proposed project or development. Listen to its possibilities, then provide your input. Not everyone will agree all the time. However, when it comes to projects that benefit the whole of DeSoto Acres or do no harm to our zoning and neighborhood character, supporting its development has to be a consideration for DeSoto Acres' future.

In This Issue

(The color newsletter is sent to your email address and available on line at www.DeSotoAcres.org)

Developer Activity 1
President's Message..... 2
A Stroll Down Memory Lane 3
DeSoto Acres Power Lines 4
County Staff Proposed Sidewalk Report 5
Real Estate Update 6
Assoc. Membership Benefits & Dues 8
Cops Corner 9
Energy Tips for Your Home 10
Committees & Board of Directors..... 10
Business Directory 11
County Phone Numbers & Calendar 11
Community Clean-up Day 11
Unexpected Summer Guests 12

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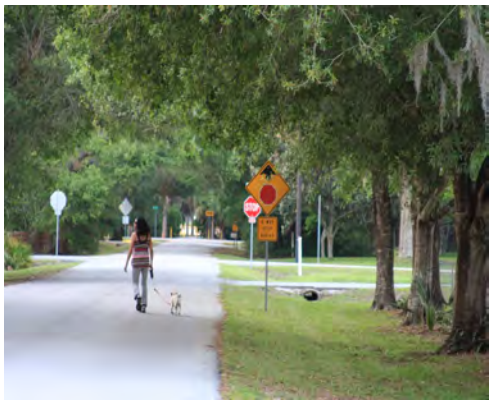
1866 University Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34243

AT THE SW CORNER OF UNIVERSITY PARKWAY AND U.S.301

A Stroll Down Memory Lane in Our DeSoto Acres - 57th Street



An actual stroll down 57th Street west of Shade Avenue finds only five homes which have been owned and occupied by the same families for 228 years combined. When asked to reflect on what attracted these long-time residents to DeSoto Acres, the appeal was quiet privacy, spacious properties, peaceful, beautiful wooded areas, and friendly rural life. Enjoy our neighbors' stroll down memory lane; west 57th Street.

John and Lorene built their home in 1956, 59 years ago. One grandchild currently living there grew up in the home. Another grandchild who grew up in the home and her children (John and Lorene's great-grandchildren) are frequent visitors. "The feeling of living in the country is still here, even though we are now close to everything instead of being in the middle of nowhere! Unlike many neighborhoods now, we aren't so close together and have much more privacy. It's been a great place to live and raise our family."

Dulcie and Gordon built their home in 1959, 56 years ago. Their son Scott now lives with his mother in the home he grew up in, remembers hosting neighborhood baseball games in their front yard. "All the kids would come over and we had a great time with lots of room to play!" Dulcie laments how it used to be much quieter with very little traffic.

Rick and Phyllis built their home in 1972, 43 years ago. Rick reminisced about the most significant change to the area – growth. "This was the boondocks when I moved here. The roads were all dirt, with the exception of DeSoto Rd., Lockwood Ridge Rd. and Tuttle Ave. (which didn't go all the way through to Fruitville Rd.) There wasn't even a stop sign or signal at DeSoto Rd. and 301, nor was there one at DeSoto and Lockwood Ridge Rd. County Line Road (now University Parkway) was a dirt road about 18 feet wide. You were more likely to run across a family on horseback than you were in a car – the isolation and dirt roads contributed to that. With the exception of Brownie's Junk Yard and a couple of houses, everything north of County Line Rd. was orange groves as far as the eye could see. I used to love the smell of orange blossoms from the groves. A big thrill was the day after the road grader came through; you could drive down the street without worrying that you were going to break your springs and shocks. Back in the 70's it was so quiet you could hear the announcer at the dog track make his famous call, "Here comes the bunny!" There were four flights a day in and out of SRQ – (two Eastern and two National) plus the occasional private plane. Once in a while you heard a train whistle as there were still two viable railroads coming into town. There was no convenient shopping for anything, with the nearest chain grocery being a Publix on 41 at Myrtle. The only close restaurant was the Imperial House, later the Crown House at DeSoto and 301."

Another favorite memory of Rick's was walking out to his mailbox, looking up at the street toward Shade Avenue and seeing millions of lightning bugs flashing on and off in the total darkness. "And there was always a symphony of frogs after a rain, which happened every summer day at exactly 4 p.m. and lasted for a few minutes to a half hour. You could practically set your watch by it. And then - to the chagrin of the lightning bugs and frogs – the mosquito control trucks would drive up and down the streets spewing their deadly smoke with kids riding their bikes right behind them (they all seem to have survived!) Our street, being a dead end, got a double dose as the truck had to turn around and go back rather than drive through to the next street. I was fortunate to have moved here when I did and to have experienced the DeSoto Acres of the 1970's."

Coke built her home in 1978, 37 years ago and wondered if the dust from County Line Road and the airplane noise would be bothersome. "It didn't take long before I wasn't aware of planes flying overhead, and the trees seemed to have blocked the dust." Her love of all animals – coyote, bunnies, squirrels, possums, raccoons, birds and bats (nature's pest control) was a contributing factor to settling in DeSoto Acres. "I love to watch my dogs romp and play on the spacious property, and have built an agility course for them. Unfortunately, it's become more difficult to walk, ride bikes and horses safely. I look forward to the evening chorus of cicada insects and frogs as they remind us that we are part of nature's paradise."

Mary and Dick lived in Desoto Acres for 33 years and loved the joys of good neighbors and friendships. They had the pleasure of "watching our kids riding horses on the unpaved streets and up and down County Line Rd. They enjoyed the freedoms of growing up in a rural area." A favorite memory of Mary's was standing in front of her mailbox one day "and experiencing the flapping of very large wings and the attempt of that bird to take from my hair what it wanted for its nest. I remember the pileated woodpeckers and the plethora of other birds, and the beauty of the vines growing up the oaks which would bend in the very high winds with the passing of a hurricane."

DeSoto Acres Power lines: Above or Below Ground.

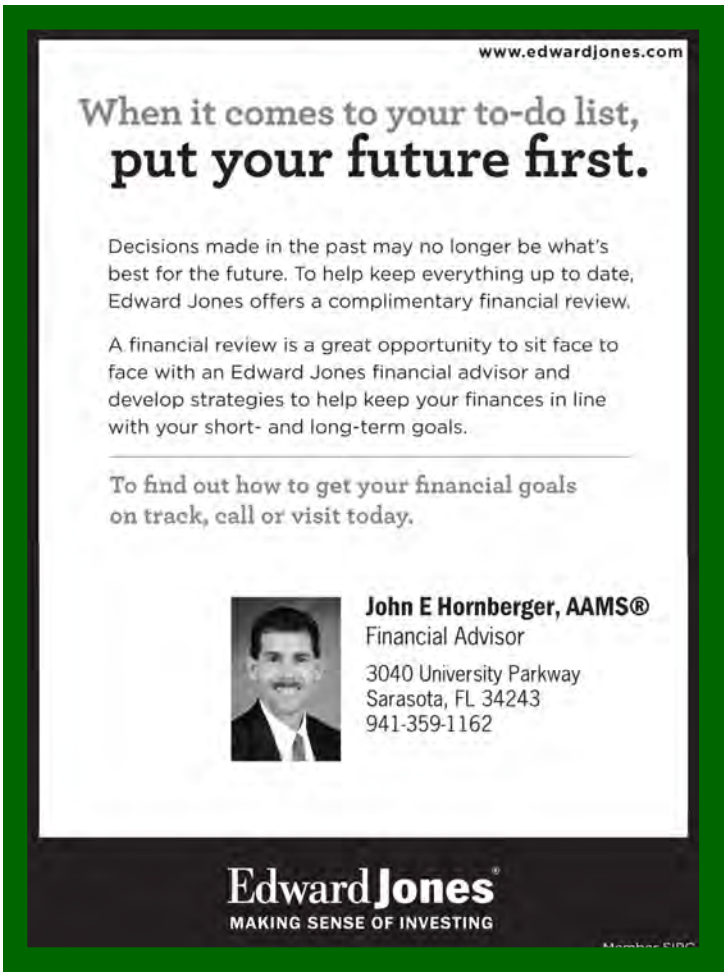
An often asked question in DeSoto Acres is "Why aren't the power lines below ground." Power lines were once a sign of progress and you see above ground lines in older areas of Sarasota, including DeSoto Acres.

According to a 2009 report by the Edison Electric Institute, "almost 70% of the nation's distribution system has been built with overhead power lines." Over the past 15 years or so, however, "approximately half the capital expenditures by U.S. investor-owned utilities for new transmission and distribution wires have been for underground wires." Underground power lines became the norm in new communities with the rise of master land planning and shared utility conduits that reduce installation costs. New communities around the U.S. share the cost of the underground utility installation between the customer, developer and utility in varying proportions. For older communities with Overhead power lines (OH) the conversion of a community to Underground power lines (UG) has its benefits and challenges.

Aesthetics is a primary factor in placing lines underground. Most customers today prefer a more natural looking landscape, one not framed by wires and poles. To convert your home service from OH to UG, FPL's website states, "Costs vary. If it is a standard residential service (100 amps - 320 amps) and the pole is located on your property, FPL charges $584.45. This charge is all inclusive in respect to services rendered by FPL. However, you will incur expenses associated with the work performed by the electrician, an electrical permit, and the burying of the FPL-issued conduit. (Note: Since this work may trigger building codes that require older home's wiring to be brought up to today's standards, it's important to check with the proper authorities before getting started.)" Refer to FPL.com for more information.

Cost is the major reason preventing wholesale conversion to UG. A 2005 Municipal Underground Utilities Consortium study shows the cost for new hardened OH lines is around 70% less than new UG costs. Even when taking into account reclaimed materials, reduced outage restoration, reduced revenue losses, Operating & Maintenance costs, the UG base conversion cost differential is still more expensive.

The future of OH to UG conversion will hinge on the ability of customers, utilities and utility regulators to work together to find viable funding approaches that meet customer expectations and compensate utilities for the cost of placing electrical facilities underground.



County Staff Completes DeSoto Area Sidewalk Project Report

Sarasota County Public Works Staff has finalized their report and recommendation for Desoto Acres Sidewalks. The report covers areas East and West of Lockwood Ridge Rd. The report is available on the DSA Association website, DeSotoAcres.org, click on "Announcements" and then "Sidewalks" or email vicepresident@desotoacres.org for a copy.

Page 3 of the report focuses on the DeSoto Acres area. County Public Works' Staff lists six next steps clearly linked to our residents' input. The top two next steps are: 1) Put the design on hold for the sidewalks along the streets west of the Lockwood Ridge Road and 2) Coordinate with Planning and Development Services on Lockwood Ridge Corridor and DeSoto Acres neighborhood plan, a Potential Critical Area Plan, as described in the Planning Department's Critical Area Plan work program. Also, continue to coordinate with the representatives of DeSoto Acres Association.

The DeSoto Acres (DSA) Association recommended and supports putting the project on hold to coordinate with the upcoming North Lockwood Corridor Study and our own Community Planning. The Board's letter to the County staff is also available on the Association website or you can email the Vice President.

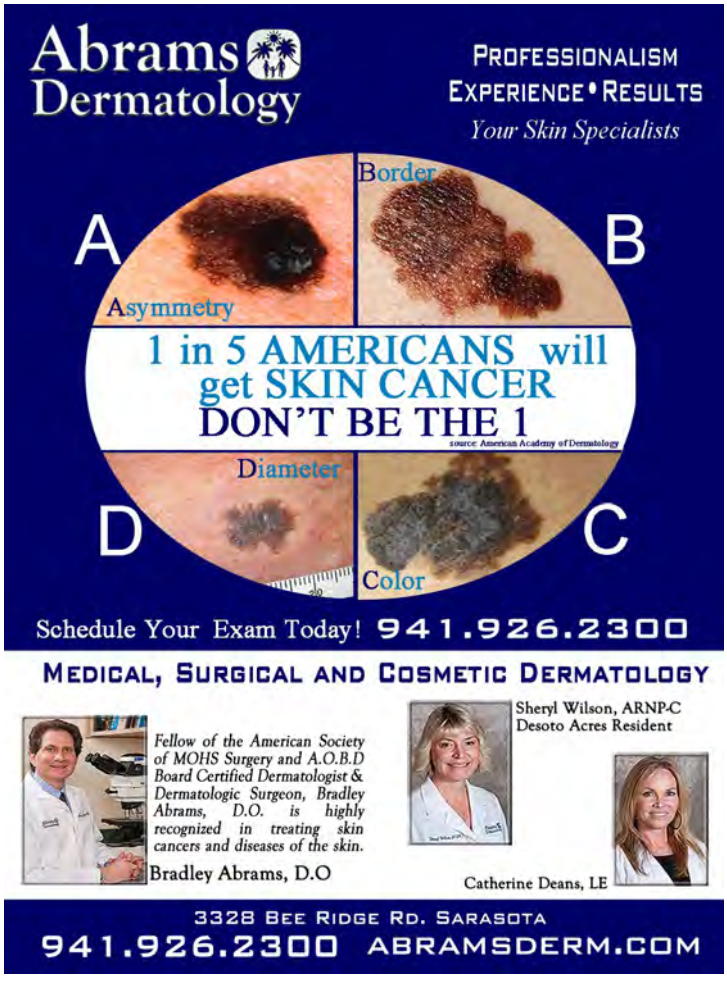
The sidewalk project is an active County Capital Improvement in the Design Phase and under evaluation. Funding for execution of this project has yet to be allocated. The Staff report was sent to the Sarasota County Board of County Commission (BOCC) on July 22, 2015. Your DSA Association Board is in the process of determining if the County Commissioners will discuss the Staff's report and any public works funding, during a regular County Commission meeting.

Background: The public workshop was held on Jan. 27, 2015. There was good resident turnout with many providing recommendations, concerns and comments to the County Staff. Thank you, to all our residents, for your valuable input on the proposed sidewalks.

The location of the proposed sidewalks in the DSA subdivision are:

- Tuttle Avenue (from 61st St to Myrtle St) – East side of the street.
- DeSoto Road (from 301 to Lockwood Ridge Rd) – South side of the street.
- 47th Street (from Shade Ave to Lockwood Ridge Rd) – South side of the street.
- Shade Avenue (from DeSoto Road South to 47th St) – West side of the street.

Your DSA Association Board will continue to stay on top of the sidewalk project and our community planning for the upcoming North Lockwood Ridge Corridor Study.



DeSoto Acres Real Estate Update

Article By: Lee Brewer, Broker/Realtor CDPE, Equator Platimun Certified with REMAX Alliance Group

2015 is proving to be a strong year for single-family home sales in Sarasota and DeSoto Acres is no exception. Sales for the last six consecutive months have exceeded those reported for the same months in 2014 for the county. If this trend continues, 2015 will exceed sales reported in 2014.

Sales in DeSoto Acres tend to drop off a bit in the summer months but this year there were four sales in June and July with an average sale price of $201,000, for an average 1,844sq.ft. Of all the sales in the last quarter just one was a distressed sale. As of the date of this writing, August looks like it will be a busy month.

DeSoto Acres Sales April 2015 - July 2015

DeSoto Acres Single Family	April		May		June		July	
	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Homes for Sale*	5	6	5	4	5	6	6	5
Homes Sold*	0	1	0	4	0	2	1	2
Pending Sales*	0	6	0	5	0	4	2	3
Average Days on Market*	No Sales	286.0	No Sales	No Sales	No Sales	5	No Data	72
Median Sale Price (000)*	No Sales	330.0	No Sales	No Sales	No Sales	195	450	307
Sold Price vs Orig. List Price*	No Sales	95.7	No Sales	No Sales	No Sales	.89	No Data	.93

DeSoto Acres Home Sales	Living Sq Ft*	Beds/ Baths*	Sale Price (000)
2522 53rd St.	1,642	3/2	$86,000
5708 N Tuttle Ave	1,518	2/1	$185,000
University Parkway	Vacant lot	NA	$225,000
6160 N Shade Ave	1,904	3/3	$235,000
4725 N Tuttle Ave	1,696	3/2	$275,000
3011 61st St	3,105	4/3	$300,000
2726 DeSoto Rd.	4,522	4/4	$307,000
2575 51st St.	2,118	4/3	$330,000
2230 DeSoto Rd.	2,372	4/2	$333,300

As a Sarasota native and real estate professional, I have seen the changes over the years and have a vast array of knowledge and contacts in the area – all to help you have the best real estate experience possible.

My in-depth local knowledge can provide you with the information you need on home buying, home selling, financing and owning real estate in Sarasota, FL. Re/Max Alliance Group provides a wide range of real estate services and utilizes the most current technology, processes and systems to assist you with all of your home buying and home selling needs. Whether you are new to the market or an experienced investor, I have the expertise, proven track record, and resources to help you achieve your real-estate goals for a "win-win" situations.

Lee Brewer
Your Sarasota Real Estate Specialist

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There are three active listings with an average list price of $613,100 and one sale pending which is a short sale. Not reported in the prior newsletter was a bank foreclosure on two vacant lots between 53rd St and 51st St west of Shade Avenue. One of the lots, fronting 53rd Street, turned over to a private owner in August. One house was foreclosed in August, so expect to see a bank -owned home come on the market in the next few weeks. There are three homes currently in pre-foreclosure proceedings. Foreclosures in our area continue to negatively impact our home values.

Countywide the July median single-family home sale price was up 9% versus year ago or $19,000. The gap between sold price versus list price is closing, improving 3% versus year ago and 1% versus April. The inventory of homes on the market continues to decline with only three to four months of inventory, a decline of almost 25%. Six months of inventory is thought to create a "balanced market". Less than six months indicates a seller's market.

If you are considering making a move it remains a very good time to sell. If you'll be staying in the area, keep in mind that while you were able to sell your existing home at a premium, you may have to pay a little more than you expected for your next home. This makes it increasingly important to have a great agent to negotiate for you. Going it alone or with an inexperienced agent can cost you many thousands of dollars.

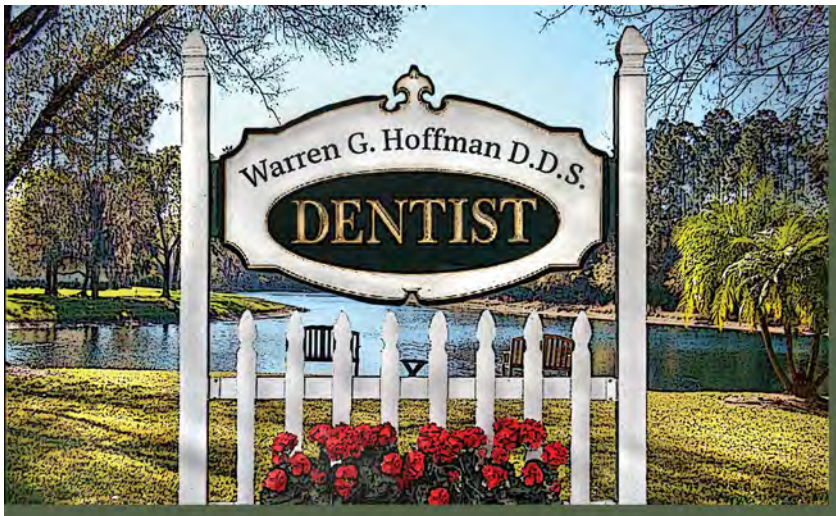
Should you have any real estate related questions or would like to buy or sell your home, I am happy to make time to help you.

Please call Lee Brewer, direct: 941.308.3877, cell:941.724.3448, or on line at www. leebrewer.com.

Sarasota County Sales April 2015 - July 2015

Sarasota County	April		May		June		July	
Single Family	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015	2014	2015
Homes for Sale*	3,297	2,838	3,109	2,576	2,927	2,366	2,765	2,327
Homes Sold*	759	791	747	783	727	831	643	868
Pending Sales*	715	755	738	682	627	657	593	607
Median Days on Market*	58	36	58	48	66	45	88	45
Median Sale Price (000)*	196.0	222.0	191.5	230.0	195.0	230.0	201.0	219.5
Sold Price vs Orig. List Price*	92.1	94.3	92.0	94.1	91.9	94.5	92.2	95.3

* Data sources: Multiple Listing Service, Sarasota Association of Realtors, Facts and Trends, Sarasota County Property Appraiser and Zillow.com which are solely responsible for their accuracy.



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JOIN THE DESOTO ACRES ASSOCIATION TO ENJOY MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS. Dues are **$25.00 per year** (no matter how many lots you own). If you wish to prepay dues for future years, mark your check accordingly. Please complete the form below. See the lists on the right to check your status.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

Included in Community Yard Sale Map

Membership grants free participation in DSA Association's Community Annual Yard Sale Location Map.

Free Business Listing in Newsletter & on Association Website

Free Business listing with your membership. Use the form below to send in your company information.

Access to DSA Email Blast Service

As a member, when you need to reach your neighbors to find lost pets or notify of a found pet, you have access to the Association's email "blast" service.

Association Annual Meeting & Voting

Have a say in your Association's annual priorities and elections. With your membership, you vote on many important events and issues that shape the future of DeSoto Acres including your Board of Directors.

Reduced DeSoto Acres Advertising Cost

Reduced newsletter ad space cost for members. Contact vicepresident@desotoacres.org for ad sizes and pricing.

JOIN TODAY!

Calendar Year 2015 Dues are Due

Please use the enclosed envelope, fill out the form below and mail with your check to DeSoto Acres Assoc.

Check your membership dues status below

These members have paid 2015:

Abernathy; Alexander; Anderson; Andres; Andrews; Arvay; Avison; Baker; Batista; Baxter/Beer; Bellamy; Berrier; Berthold,C; Bournival; Brand; Byers: Callahan; Carlisle; Chiusano; Colbert; Coller; Cristiani; Crooke; Curtis; Dewald; Dogancay; Dygert; Eavis: Elliott; Elwood; Fasold; Feagans; Feikema; Fenton; Fernandez; Forgard; Fowler; Fox,M; Fox,R; Franklin; Freeman; Gabbert; Garfinkel; Gibellina; Gimenez; Glanden; Gockley,J&N; Gockley,V; Goodman; Goolsby; Greenberg; Gregg; Greiner; Grimes; Grosvenor; Gutierrez,A; Hafner; Handgen; Harvey; Hasselbring; Hayes; Haynes; Heere; Hightower; Honackie; Horst; Irwin; Jackson,W; Janis; Jiderda; Johnson,M; Johnson,G&C; Jones; Jung; Jungmann; Kelln; Kluver; Kneifel; Kocur; Kohrs; Langston; Latimer; Lenox; Lima; Lipman; Lobo; Lonicker; Lovesky,A; Mainville; Malinsky; Martin; Mayer; McNaughton,M; McNeil/Unus; Menke; Miller; Neal; Noël/Paquette; Norwood/Johnson; Norwood/Torok; O'Connor,Walter; Oberg; Olejnikow; Pace; Pinson; Pittion-Rossillon; Podgis; Raskin; Robben; Roberts,C; Roberts,J; Rochette; Sarasota Monthly Meeting; Schindler; Seyfried; Shinn; Short; Silvis; Slakans; Snyder; Society of the Cath. Apostolate; Sparling; Starkey; Stenglein; Stokes; Taylor; Teshima; Utley; VandeMheen; Wake; Waldron; Warren; Welch; Williams,A; Williams,J; Wilson; Wittman; Workman.

These members have prepaid 2016 or later (see year):

Andrews (2017); Baxter/Beer (2018); Berthold, C; Carlisle; Chiusano; Colbert; Elwood; Fasold (2017) Feagans: Fowler; Fox,M; Garfinkel (2017); Gibellina; Gockley (2018); Goolsby; Gregg; Grimes; Grosvenor; Handgen; Hasselbring (2018); Heere; Hightower; Jackson,W; Janis; Kluver; Latimer; Lima (2018); Malinsky; Martin (2018); McNeil/Unus; Raskin (2018); Roberts,C; Schindler; Snyder (2017); Society of the Cath. Apostolate; Welch (2018); Wilson.

Please call 941-650-1600 if your records disagree. Thank you for supporting your neighborhood.

DeSoto Acres Association Membership Dues, Business Listing and T-shirt Form

Mail this form & your due's payment in an envelope to: DeSoto Acres Association, Inc., P.O.Box 556, Tallevast, FL 34270.
Checks payable to: DeSoto Acres Association, Inc.

Apply Dues to year(s): _____

Name: _____

Name: _____

Property Address: _____

Mail Address: _____

City: _____

State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

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Fax: _____

Work: _____

Email(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Business Directory Listing:

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Company Tag Line (48 characters / spaces maximum length)

T-Shirt: I want to purchase _____XL _____XXL

T-Shirt at $5.00 each. Payment of $_____ enclosed.

COP'S CORNER

As Reported by
Sarasota County
Sheriff's Department

May 1, 2015 to Aug. 31, 2015

Date	Crime Type	Location
05/08/2015	Theft	2600's 49th Street
05/13/2015	Assault	2500's 51st Street
05/18/2015	Assault	6100's Lockwd Ridge
06/20/2015	Drugs/Alcohol	4700's Tuttle Avenue
06/20/2015	DUI	4700's Tuttle Avenue
06/24/2015	Drugs/Alcohol	2400's 49th Street
08/14/2015	Robbery/Assault	2200's 59th Street
07/12/2015	Assault	2600's 61st Street
07/30/2015	Theft/Larceny	2600's 57th Street
08/11/2015	Burglary	3900's 47th Street
08/17/2015	Theft/Larceny	4900's Lockwd Ridge
08/23/2015	DUI	5100's Tuttle Avenue
08/27/2015	Vandalism	2700's 59th Street
08/27/2015	Assault	2800's Tuttle Avenue

Please report suspicious individuals or vehicles right away to the Sheriff's Department by calling 911!

Continued from Page 1 - **Developer Activity**

Initial feedback is quite favorable

A formal neighborhood workshop was held Thursday, Sept. 10, 2015 to discuss the residential density increase to RSF-3 and change to Office Professional and Institutional / Planned Development zoning, all in line with the Comprehensive Plan land designations. The developer is proposing up to 69 residential single-family attached and detached units and up to 123 Assisted Living and Independent Living units. The concept plan can be viewed on the Sarasota County Website. (www. scgov. net) Planning Services Workshops. Click on "Lockwood Ridge Property."

Attendees at Thursday's workshop were from DeSoto Acres including the DSA Association Board, Cedar Creek, and Ravenswood. The developer Living Care Services and engineers Kimley Horn presented a proposed site plan with the single-family residences on the north side within the proposed RSF-3 rezone of 15 acres and the ILF / ALF buildings within the southern OPI-PD 13+ acres. The land along DeSoto Rd from the main entrance east to Conservatory Drive would remain as a natural buffer without buildings.

The developer is working with adjacent neighbors on enhanced buffers. The DSA Association supports the project in line with the adjacent Associations. The developer is submitting the proposed plan to the County in the next couple weeks.

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After Hours Phone: (941) 374-0659

Energy Saving Tips For Your Home

In case you missed it, the electricity price index hit an all-time high last year. With the cost of electricity to continue to climb, energy efficiency is even more important but few actually are proactive.

If you leave sunny Florida in May and return in January do you know that installing a programmable thermostat to run for just two hours each morning before sunrise at 72°F then run at 88°F will help prevent mold by removing moisture from the air during the cooler hours, when relative humidity is highest and your air condition is running most efficiently.

The most proactive solution is to review your roof to see how you can reflect more sunlight. A cool roof with a solar reflectivity of at least 0.70 and infrared emissivity of at least 0.75 can be 50° cooler on the surface and can cool the interiors of the building by several degrees.

Other ideas are:

1. Cool your home at 78°F or warmer with the thermostat fan switched to auto. For additional savings, raise your thermostat to 82°F or warmer when you're away.
2. Reduce your water heater temperature from 140°F to 120°F, which is the recommended temperature setting according to the U.S. Department of Energy, to save about $7 a month.
3. Clean or replace your air conditioner's filter regularly to help your unit run more efficiently and trim cooling costs.
4. Turn off your ceiling fan when you leave the room. A fan that runs all the time costs up to $7 a month.
5. Limit the time you run your pool pump: During hot months run six hours a day. During the cool months run the pump fours a day.
6. Use the auto sensor function on your dryer to conserve energy by not over-drying your clothes.

Other saving ideas can be found at www.fpl.com.

Continued from Page 12 - **Unexpected Guests**

Manage Waste Wisely Racoons, rats, cats, dogs love to dig through outside trash containers. Bugs love to live in trash. Washing trash cans will remove food sources that attract pests. Keep lids on, monitor frequently and keep away from the home.

Reduce standing water on Your Property Mosquitos are a continuing control challenge in Florida. Minimize or eliminate standing water on your property to control mosquitos.

When these preventative measure don't work, there a many safe treatments available including pest management experts. Choose a state licensed pest-control company.

Article by Mario Ramirez, an environmental engineer and owner of Forsyth Exterminating in Cumming, GA. The article appeared in Common Ground July August 2015 issue.

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Advertising Deadline for the Jan/Feb 2016 issue is Friday, January 22, 2015

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Sarasota Friends Meeting 941.358.5759
57th & Lockwood Ridge Rd.

SARASOTA COUNTY (North County)

Animal Services.....941.861.9500
Building Permits.....941.861.6678
Code Enforcement 941.861.5000
FPL (street light out).....800.226.3545
Fire Hazards.....941.861.2290
Garbage and Recycling.....941.861.6731
General number / Call Center.....941.861.5000
Sheriff Dept. Non-Emergency Number....941.861.5800
Sheriff Dept. Emergency Number.....911
Waste Management.....941.493.4100

MANATEE COUNTY

Sheriff Dept. Non-Emergency Number.....941.747.3011

DeSoto Acres Association Community Clean-up Day

Saturday November 7, 2015
8am to Noon

Coffee, Water and Donuts Provided

Meet at Sam Miller's, 2927 59th Street. While you have your coffee, water and donuts get your street assignments. Middle school, high school students welcome as we generously award community service hours.

Golf carts particularly welcome. We provide the bags, bring gloves.

If you want to work your street early, call Diana Harvey, 941-351-5713, and let her know what's been cleaned.

www.DeSotoAcres.org DeSoto Acres Association Website

Stay Informed and Check
The DeSoto Acres Association Website
for updates

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DeSoto Acres Association Community Newsletter September 2015

Unexpected Summer Guests?

With all the recent rains and typical warm Florida summer we often encounter unexpected guests in our homes. Insects and small animals are looking to escape the wet for our cozy dry homes.

Some simple, proactive measures can keep unwanted pests away, protect residents from pest borne illnesses and prevent costly damage. Controlling their access to food, water and shelter goes a long way to controlling their presence.

Clean and Maintain Gutters. Leaf debris in gutters creates a dark, damp environment for insects to nest. Gutters heavy with leaves also will begin to sag and pull away from the roof, damaging the wood, creating an entry for insects.

Divert Water away from the Building Study your property's drainage patterns. Areas with high levels of moisture are much more attractive to insects. Divert downspout water away from your home with lawn bubblers into a rain garden, yard pond or to the street drainage swale.

Reduce Nearby Vegetation Keep trees and bushes at least one foot away from each structure. This reduces moisture at the base of the building, discourages nesting and eliminates ways for insects to gain entry. Mulch and Pine straw should be no more than two inches deep since pests are attracted to thick ground cover.

Reduce the Food Supply Bird seed and pet food are highly attractive to roof rats. To discourage them, keep bird feeders at least 100 feet from the home and store pet food in sealed containers.

Keep up the Maintenance Regular repairs and maintenance help keep a structure free of pests. Pay special attention to small cracks and crevices and seal them with caulking.

Keep wood away from the ground Siding should be at least 6 inches above the ground to prevent termite infestation. Firewood should be stored off the ground.

Continued on Page 10