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

May 2017

Neighborhood Wildlife Sightings include Endangered Species

By Diana Harvey & Lance Lobo - DeSoto Acres Residents

DeSoto Acres' is a Natural Refuge for Many Species

While we Acres' residents zealously work to protect our zoning, we are concurrently protecting our neighborhood's wildlife and green space with our efforts. As Sarasota and Manatee counties continue to develop the once plentiful open space along the Parkway and 301, wildlife habitat is becoming reduced and fragmented. Encounters between Acres' residents and wildlife are now more common. For most people, observing wildlife is a thrilling experience, but when an animal causes damage or attempts to share your living space, that thrill can turn to irritation or fear. Arm yourself with knowledge and common sense so we residents and our pets can share our beautiful DeSoto Acres with the wildlife that would naturally call our Acres home.

DeSoto Acres' residents were very enthusiastic with their responses to our April email blast asking for recent sightings of wildlife on or adjacent their home lots. Thank you to everyone for your sightings and photos. Photos will be posted on DeSotoAcres.org in the coming weeks.

Florida Panther Sightings!

Several privileged residents have spotted the Florida panther in their yards. Two sightings reported to the newsletter occurred on 59th street between Shade and Tuttle in December 2016. Most recently, Nextdoor.com reported a Florida panther sighting the week of Easter 2017 in Palm Aire. The Florida panther is listed as an Endangered Species under the Endangered Species Act. There are approximately 120-230 adult panthers in the population, so our December sighting is very special and exciting. Florida panthers' home range sizes vary by sex and by the individual. Female home ranges are typically 60-75 square miles whereas males are typically 160-200 square miles. There is no record of a Florida panther attacking a human. Florida panthers are rarely seen. The biggest threat to the future of the Florida panther is habitat loss.

Nocturnal Wildlife

Neighbor Sam Miller has placed a nighttime camera aimed at his garden. At an outlay cost of approximately $80.00 he "captures" the typical array of indigenous

Sam's Night Cam - coyote captured

wildlife on his camera. Some of his photos are available online at desotoacres.org . Much of the wildlife captured via Sam's camera is also reported in all four corners of our Acres' community. They include: coyotes, bobcats, Florida long-leg raccoon, moles, grey squirrels, red fox, silver fox, armadillos, possums, black snakes, yellow rat snakes, pygmy rattlers, gopher tortoise, indigenous green anoles and the ubiquitous, invasive Cuban anoles. Also, soft-shelled turtles, alligator snapping turtles, box turtles, painted and wood ducks. Happy to hear still in our area is the river otter spotted south of DeSoto Rd. They were prevalent less than five years ago but the number of sightings has dropped significantly due to development and the loss of their wetland habitat.

Of the animals listed, the most amazing sighting for our Acres is the gopher tortoise. Years before University Parkways' incredible growth, several lots regularly reported gopher tortoise on site. Today, the gopher tortoise is listed as Threatened. Both the tortoise and its burrow are protected under state law. Gopher tortoises must be relocated before any land clearing or development takes place, and property owners must obtain permits from the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission before capturing and relocating tortoises.

Water for Wildlife During Drought

Diane S. on 59th Street left an interesting comment that during our drought, wildlife is (continued on page 3)

Message from President Bob Heere

We all have our independent ideas of how our property should appear and we take care of it in many ways; some keep it as wild as possible, others highly manicured. One of the things we should remember is that we share our own property with other inhabitants. What makes Desoto Acres unique is the diverse wildlife that can live close by in harmony with us.

Our homes, our green lawns, our pools and other structures are all things we enjoy having. Dedicating a small area of your yard to assist in preserving our balance with nature helps our neighborhood as a whole. And if you are fortunate enough to have a wetland on your property, we applaud your special commitment to keeping it intact.

Maintaining your DeSoto Acres natural space will enhance our community's reputation known as *country estates in the heart of town*.

Enjoy this issue dedicated to the wildlife found in our community as shared by our residents.

Bob Heere, President
Desoto Acres Association

In This Issue

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

Wildlife Sightings 1
President's Message..... 2
Wildlife Resources 2
Memory Lane 4
DeSoto Acres' Garden Corner 4
Calling All Gardeners 4
Wildlife on Parade 5
Real Estate Update 6
County Replies from Annual Meeting ... 8
Cops Corner 11
Members' Dues Status 12
Spring Clean-up Results 14
Committees & Board of Directors 14
Business Directory 15
County Phone Numbers 15
Fire on 57th Street 16

Wildlife Resources

Here are some of the many wildlife resources in our area for you to contact.

Conservation Foundation of the Gulf Coast
400 Palmetto Ave., Osprey, FL 34229 941.918.2100

Sarasota Audubon Society
999 Center Rd, Sarasota, FL 34240 941.312.6533

Sierra Club
2127 S. Tamiami Tr, Osprey, FL 34299 941.966.9508

Wildlife Center of Venice
3252 Border Rd, Venice, FL 34292 941.484.9657

Sam's Night Cam - fox captured

(continued from page 1) often in search of water. Suzanne on 61st Street reports wildlife drinking from her pool. Our newsletter repeatedly warns us not to leave containers about that can collect water which create mosquito hatcheries. However, purposely leaving maintained birdbaths and dishes of water out where you would not mind wildlife appearing for a quick drink can be considered an act of neighborly interspecies friendship.

Bird Sanctuary

DeSoto Acres is designated as a Bird Sanctuary (a topic for an upcoming issue). You can discover the rich beauty of our local birds and how to identify them by visiting the Audubon link or joining the society and creating your own personal bird list; which can begin with a big head start from our own neighborhood sightings. As evidence, neighbors Daryl and Linda on DeSoto Road listed twenty-three birds sighted in or near their property this calendar year including blue heron, white ibis, and ruby-crowned kinglets! Annette on 59th loves seeing her quail. Patrick on Traylor enjoys listening to the Owls hooting in the evening.

Three types of woodpecker are routinely found in DeSoto Acres. The Pileated Woodpecker is the size of a crow, and is the largest member of the woodpecker family seen in North America. It pecks characteristically rectangular holes in trees to find ants. The sound as it pecks is quite distinct! The Red-bellied Woodpeckers are medium-sized and have a bright red head atop a mostly black body. It pecks at the bark surface more often than drilling into it. The third type that can often be found, but was not locally reported from our eblast is the Downy Woodpecker. He is very small compared to our other two local woodpeckers. The contrasting black and white plumage gives it a formal tuxedo like appearance. The adult male has a red patch on the back of his head. All three woodpeckers have a characteristic undulating flight pattern; quite remarkable to watch.

Hummingbirds are not often seen in Florida, but our local butterfly gardener/Acres' residents have had sightings, particularly when growing red cup-like flowers intended to attract butterflies. Red Penta, the firecracker bush, the firespike - all things red are your best bet attracting the stunning hummingbird.

Eagles, kites, ospreys, vultures, owls, kestrels, and hawks are all birds of prey reported recently seen in our Acres. A family on 59th street can attest to the behavior of nesting birds of prey. The family had to resort to umbrellas and pith helmets to avoid head wounds from territorial nesting parent hawks. The nest was in a tall oak standing between the family house and mailbox. This involved a painful learning curve for the humans, but all agree, we love seeing and hearing the magnificent hawks and other birds of prey sharing our Acres.

All birds are territorial, so if you discover damage to your car mirrors or the glazing on your home windows, it is probably male birds attacking their reflection during mating or nesting season. Tying a plastic grocery bag over your side mirrors will often discourage attacks and can easily be placed on and off. To protect the windows on your home, the Home Depot carries an opaque screen material that can severely limit any reflection coming from your windows, even obscuring the very reflective solar film. It can provide much peace with an end to early morning pecking from confused male birds. And there are products that can repel birds (continued on page 14)

GatewayBank
PRIVATE | WEALTH
Serving Your Banking and Investment Needs

Michael G. Feduccia, CFP®
Vice President, Gateway Bank
Registered Principal/Branch Manager, RJFS
6204 N. Lockwood Ridge Road
Sarasota, FL 34243
941.306.0132 • mfeduccia@gatewaybankswfl.com
www.raymondjames.com/gatewayprivatewealth
Let me help you with...
- Asset Management
- Financial Planning
- Retirement Planning
- Business Retirement Plans
- Long Term Care
- College Savings Plans
- Tax Planning
RAYMOND JAMES®
Securities offered through Raymond James Financial Services, Inc., Member FINRA/SIPC, an independent broker/dealer, and are not deposits or obligations of the bank, are not guaranteed by the bank and are subject to risks, including the possible loss of principal. Gateway Bank, Gateway Private Wealth and its affiliates are independent of Raymond James Financial Services, Inc.

A Stroll Down Memory Lane

After purchasing their lot for $14,000, Neighbor Verna G and her husband Charlie built their new home and moved into DeSoto Acres in 1978. Still raising two teenagers at the time, the entire family enjoyed *living in the country*, while still close to their jobs, school and church.

Besides owning and operating Swift Auto and Verna's 50 years as an RN, the couple was most readily known for Charlie's passion for growing things. In addition to several hanging, gigantic staghorn ferns, their yard heralds spring each year with a spectacular display of azaleas. The Sarasota Herald Tribune featured their azaleas in the newspaper in 2015. Neighbors and folks from around town have been known to take photos of Charlie's work, and often have family photos taken with the gorgeous pink background. "Brides, antique cars, kids, families, all kinds of photos have been taken in our yard. Once a lady brought her pet duck dressed in a hat with 3 different outfits for him to change into. He sat on the table she brought and had his picture taken," reminisced Verna. Charlie started the azalea plantings in the early 80s. When asked how the azaleas grew so well, Verna shared what Charlie felt was the secret. "Azaleas love potassium, so he would feed them once a year. He'd cut them back occasionally, but the location, planted around the pine trees made the difference as they needed the pine trees." Slash Pine needles ensure the proper pH.

Charlie passed away 2005. Later, Verna reconnected with an old family friend through their church singles group, and married Dwight H in 2008. Both Dwight and Verna enjoy travel, particularly with their well-behaved travelling companion, Lucy a chihuahua.

See the glorious Azalea color pictures on line at DeSotoAcres.org/May 2017 Newsletter.

Calling All Gardeners and Wannabes!

By Lance Lobo and Terry Lipman DeSoto Acres Residents

Like many Acres Residents, one of the things I love most about caring for a property in Desoto Acres is the opportunity to garden. I enjoy the option of walking into the yard and picking some basil for a sauce or gathering some arugula for a salad. I also love growing useful things that I can share with friends and family. This past week I gave a few cranberry hibiscus plants to some friends, a pint of cherry tomatoes to a neighbor and my wife took bags of kale, chard and herbs to the office for the staff.

While these are some of the few things I really enjoy about gardening, I also love the learning process. What works and doesn't work. **I invite residents** from Desoto Acres to share tips, ideas, lessons (successes and failures), and maybe some photos for the newsletter and website. I'll begin our new gardening column by offering something I have recently learned and I thought would be fun to share.

I grow a few different kinds of radishes in a couple of raised beds. I rotate them and usually pick them and share them or chop them up and mulch the ones that get too large. This year, I have been travelling a fair amount and chose not to pick them all and left them to bolt unattended. They not only bolted, but they thrived in a different way than I anticipated. They created a giant cascade of flowers that spilled out of the planter. Not only were there flowers everywhere, but there were honey bees, a beautiful mass of honey bees feasting which our local honey bee tenders appreciated.

In the future I may let a few other plants stay a little longer to see if they are useful or productive in other unanticipated ways.

Attention all Gardeners & Wannabes

Do you presently have a garden? Would you be interested in sharing your fruit and vegetable gardening experiences with other Desoto Acres residents with the same interests?

Perhaps we can organize and meet at your garden, or that future garden you'd like to have, for a short tour to discuss possibilities.

Or would you be willing to share you gardening experience in an upcoming issue?

If interested in a home garden tour or sharing , please email Terry at Rightplantguy@aol.com. Or contact Diana Harvey for the newsletter at Diana@DeSotoAcres.org.

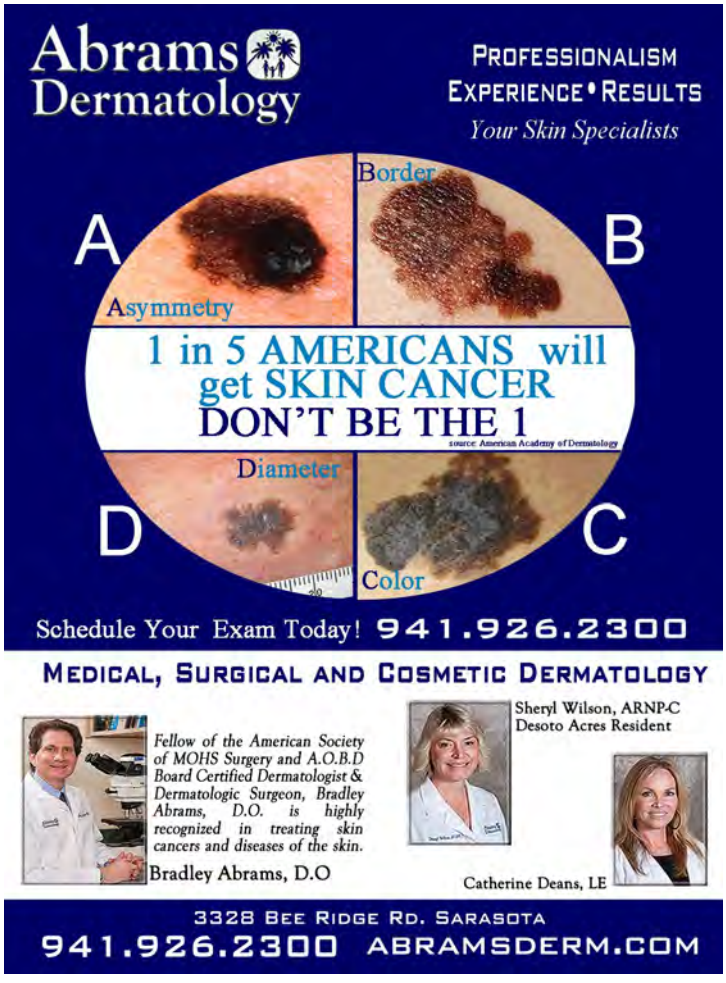
Wildlife on Parade

By John Murray DeSoto Acres Resident

Two years now, reveling while toiling, tilling in my sharehold of our Desoto's hundred Acres; and the resident critters just keep parading by! Yesterday's recon began with a nice...slithery -- more silvery than leathery -- snakeskin left on front lawn; a 'Blackie' encountered only about once-weekly, probably because we have hawk encounters hereabouts most every day -- ever perching overhead and a'hunting. Monday morning saw our son Joey wanting to adopt as pet -- a petite possum that had flopped into the recycle bin; It proceeded to slip under a goobers box and sleep off the day; long gone by next morn... Possum-bly retrieved by mom who is also a regular? We used to have nightly acrobatics above our front lawn by little bats herding gnats and such; the lasting drought seems to have moved our bats to seek such prey elsewhere. We still have our resident feral bees; look forward to hosting a hive of honeybees as well. Raccoons out groom possums; Squirrels outfox us at catching the mangos upon first-ripening. A nice milk snake hangs around and never-yet underfoot; and we have yet to have an encounter with a dreaded moccasin or rattler; are there any such we might expect to be passing through? -- Don't let on to our Alma M. Gardener!! Rarely do we hear an owl to hoot; guess we're just...too pooped. Hope there's still den for a fox, or a wild turkey, or even a grouse. I never tire of the bright yellow butterflies, the blue jays, cardinals and swifty-swallows. Yep as to herons, not yet to bald eagle; but had a fish-hawk/osprey? fly over Desoto Rd with a fish afoot! Mia and Horst, next-door to our west, get the best of some turtles; but their pond's now barely a puddle, a habitat at risk. We love the nightly, predawn birdsong; not so much the frog cacophony...that awaits the August monsoon? And will that be 'it' for our xeriscape flora -- Enough for the year? How do they Bear/bare? it! And how deep do our oaks, pines...have to go, rooting down to quench their thirst; how long between drinks, or even the dews?

A final hurrah for those tidy-white ibises who flock onto our parched lawnscape -- seeming to find beasts for feasting, just beneath!

Just Once -- something way bigger than a coon or a possum, that cantered across driveway and hedged unto Tuttle, after dusk one night; Florida Panther, I'd like just to think; but gone Way 'off reservation'; not likely to come again -- Ever, absolutely EVER, Alma Dear; Trust me -- 'cept for the Florida red ants -- We're Safe Here!



DeSoto Acres Real Estate Update

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

Sarasota county sales for the first quarter of 2017 did not disappoint. Inventory was slightly higher compared with last year with the number of homes sold almost equal to 2016. One noticeable difference is the number of pending sales, which are sharply higher this year than last. It will be interesting to see the sales numbers for the 2nd quarter resulting from these contracts. The median sale price is also up compared to the first quarter of last year.

In The Acres, there are currently 3 homes on the market with list prices ranging from $449,999 to $689,000 with an average of 224 cumulative days on market at the time of this writing. There are 2 homes under contract, both appear to be traditional, retail sales. Five homes sold in the first quarter of 2017 ranging in price from $340,000 to $375,000. This is infinitely better than the first quarter of 2016.

The overall market appears to be stable, pricing is slightly higher as are the average days to get a contract. I would expect the market to remain steady for the remainder of the year.

As you know, I generally give a few helpful hints about selling your home faster - judging by the 1st quarter results in The Acres, it seems you have put them to good use. So, for today day I will just remind all of the new and happy homeowners to file for the homestead tax exemption as soon as you can - don't wait until next year. If you sold a home in Florida and had a "cap" amount on your assessed value, remember to file the necessary document to bring it to the new residence as it is portable to some extent.

Your homestead tax exemption request should be filed with the Sarasota County Property Appraiser, 2001 Adams Lane, Sarasota, FL 34234, 941-861-8200.

As always, feel free to call me with any real estate related questions you may have. ***I continue to work with buyers who are looking for just the right house in The Acres. If you're thinking of selling, please give me a call.***

Lee Brewer
941-724-3448
Lee@LeeBrewer.com

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

** Average instead of median

Sarasota County Single Family	2016 Jan	2017 Jan	2016 Feb	2017 Feb	2016 Mar	2017 Mar
Homes for Sale*	2,921	3,254	3,160	3,318	3,208	3,302
Homes Sold*	520	474	506	518	765	784
Pending Sales*	493	731	558	1218	590	880
Average Days on Market*	47	41	40	49	32	53
Median Sale Price (000)*	230	250	252	258	244	263
Sold Price vs Orig. List Price*	93.9	95.2	95.4	95.0	95.4	95.0

DeSoto Acres Single Family	2016 Jan	2017 Jan	2016 Feb	2017 Feb	2016 Mar	2017 Mar
Homes for Sale*	3	3	5	5	5	4
Homes Sold*	0	0	0	0	0	3
Pending Sales*	0	1	0	3	2	4
Average Days on Market*	No Sales	No Sales	No Sale	No Sale	No Sales	22**
Median Sale Price (000)*	No Sales	No Sales	No Sale	No Sale	No Sales	41.2**
Sold Price vs Orig. List Price*	No Sales	No Sales	No Sales	No Sale	No Sales	109**

The Latest in Home Design Trends from Lee Brewer

Whether you're a prospective seller or a longtime homeowner, revamping your space may be on your to-do list. Before you begin, preview these design trends and learn how to make them your own.

Trendy Upgrades:

- Enrich your entryway. You have only one chance to make a first impression. For a small investment, you can transform your home's entrance with an artisan-crafted credenza or an oversized mirror that amplifies the natural light.
- Update your countertops. Laminate options fashioned from recycled granite or glass are easy on the wallet and the environment. Want to go all out? Lighter shades in quartz, marble and wood are popular upgrades in today's kitchens.
- Establish a shedquarters. Whether you work from home, want a relaxing retreat or host houseguests regularly, a separate on-site structure aptly dubbed a "shedquarters" may be a worthy addition.

A Sarasota native and real estate professional, I 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.**

Visit my facebook page for testimonials and open house information. www.facebook.com/RealtorLeeBrewer/

RE/MAX Alliance Group

Lee Brewer CDPE

Your DeSoto Acres Real Estate Specialist

Call Lee Brewer Today!

941-308-3877 Office
941-724-3448 Cell

County Replies to Resident Questions at Annual Meeting

Plus Subsequent County Intersection Improvements in DeSoto Acres

At the January 2017 Annual Resident meeting our guest speaker, Mr. Mike Moran was asked a number of questions. Here is the County follow-up to those questions. Also from January through April there were a number of significant accidents at 47th St. and Tuttle Ave and near collisions at most of the intersections with Tuttle Ave. This is Part 1 of a 2 part article. Part 2 will appear in the September 2017 issue.

Meeting Comment 1: *Tuttle Avenue swales and drainage. A request was made to review the drainage along Tuttle Avenue from 61st St to 47th St due to flooding during the rainy season. The road run off accumulates in residents' yards.*

Response 1: County staff has reviewed and provided maintenance for the existing public systems in the area and the systems are clear and flowing, but may be flowing slowly due to the relatively flat topography in the area. This area has historically had slow drainage and a high groundwater table. The citizen was also advised that while staff may be able to improve the drainage of the public system, it is the property owner's responsibility to convey runoff from their property to the public system.

Subsequent correspondence from April 2017: a) The area experienced significant rainfall in May, Sept and Oct 2016. b) County maintenance crews performed maintenance on the system to optimize the performance of the existing system.

c) Stormwater Engineering has determined that part of the system was altered with the Desoto / Tuttle intersection improvements which contributed to the significant standing water experienced in the area during the Summer 2016. d) Stormwater crews will be re-establishing the drainage patterns that existed before the Desoto / Tuttle intersection improvements. E) Stormwater Engineering is also evaluating the infrastructure at the intersections of 53rd/Tuttle, 49th/Tuttle and 47th/Tuttle to determine if the infrastructure is adequate.

Meeting Comment 2: *Right-of-Way Mowing (ROW) in DeSoto Acres. A request was made for a blanket review, not a parcel by parcel review, of all DeSoto Acres ROWs to establish definitive criteria and then evaluation to determine if the swale(s) slope, depth, etc. is prohibitive for residents to mow using typical residential lawn equipment. If I may provide an additional note, the hand lawnmower is the typical piece of equipment utilized by our residents and should be the basis of evaluation* (continued on next page)

for mowing the swale. The overall review would be coordinated with the DeSoto Acres Association.

- *Currently the minor arterials of Tuttle Ave. and DeSoto Rd plus sections of 47th St. are maintained by the County.*
- *Note, along Middle Ave from 53rd to 61st the west side borders CSX property. Who is responsible for maintaining the ROW?*

Response 2: Public Works staff worked with the Board of County Commissioners during the past year to define a new paradigm for mowing of roadsides adjacent to residential lots. This program is very similar to ordinances of the City of Sarasota, Venice and North Port. In short, Ordinance 2016-058, was adopted on August 24, 2016, and requires that home owners maintain the vegetation between their property lines and the edge of pavement or curb within the County right-of-way.

The ordinance has provisions in Sections 98-202 (3) and 98-205(4) whereby a citizen can apply to the County for exemption to the mowing requirement where an unusual condition exists adjacent to their property that precludes a reasonable person from maintaining the area. This condition must meet certain criteria such as an extremely deep ditch, steep slopes, continuous standing water, etc. When a citizen sends a request for exemption to the County, Public Works staff investigates these sites and makes a determination to grant the exemption or deny it. When denied, the citizen is advised of their right to appeal.

The ordinance is designed for individual property owners or occupants to request exceptions. As of late March, we have received about 14 exception/exemption requests in Desoto Acres; we have approved 2 (both on west end of 57th Street), we have denied 5, and we have 7 pending review. The ordinance does not currently allow the granting of an exemption for a whole community primarily due to the variations of drainage terrain along streets.

Meeting Comment 3: *47th and Tuttle Ave is a major Traffic incident intersection. The resident living at the corner of 47th and Tuttle noted this is the "DeSoto Acres Rectangle" similar to the "Bermuda Triangle" numerous incidents including major accidents happen at this intersection. The resident asked for the County to put in a stop sign at this intersection. I'd suggest a 4-way stop sign.*

Response 3: Staff has undertaken a review of the intersection to determine the best improvements or enhancements available. Tuttle Avenue is classified as a minor arterial, hence the local road multi-way stop warrants do not apply at this intersection. However, improvements to the intersection have been identified to enhance the existing intersection traffic control:

- Stop bars were added to both approaches of 47th Street to Tuttle Avenue.
- A new "STOP" pavement marking was added on the pavement to both approaches of 47th street.
- Advanced "Stop Ahead" warning signs will also be to further enhance the notice for drivers of a stop ahead.

(continued on page 14)

Ernie's Truck & Auto Repair Service

Quality Truck & Auto Service Since 1985

Complete Auto Repair • Superior Customer Service!

FREE Pick-up and Delivery Service for DeSoto Acres Residents

Ernie's Truck & Auto Repair Service is a complete truck and automotive repair center for all of your engine needs.

- Diesel & Gas engine oil changes, air conditioning, exhaust or complete engine overhaul repairs.
- We are a Ford Powerstroke Diesel Specialist, ASE Certified

SERVICE SPECIALS

Diesel Engine Repair, Automotive Repair & Service
Free A/C Check
Brakes & Custom Exhaust
Oil Changes
Free Computer Scan & Code Check

Ernie's Truck & Auto Repair Service
1815 61 St Street, Sarasota, FL 34243
Shop: (941) 355-9759
After Hours Phone: (941) 374-0659

New Plant Health Care Division

TERRY'S TREE SERVICE

- Tree Health Evaluations
- Pruning & Pre-serving
- All Phases of Tree Care

10%OFF Your 1st fertilizer application Exp. 8/31/17

10%OFF Any job over $500 Exp. 8/31/17

FREE ESTIMATES
(941) 748-4484

Serving Sarasota & Manatee Since 1984

FULLY INSURED
www.Terrys-TreeService.com

COP'S CORNER

As Reported by Sarasota County Sheriff's Department
Jan. 1, 2017 to Apr. 30, 2017

Date	Crime Type	Location
01/18/2017	Assault-Simple	2500's 57th St.
02/07/2017	Theft	2100's 53rd St.
02/06/2017	Larceny	2500's 53rd St.
03/12/2017	Theft	2600's 53rd St.
04/21/2017	Drug Poss/Sell	2700's 51st. St.
02/172017	Larceny	2800's DeSoto Rd.
04/27/2017	Larceny	3000's 49th St.
04/04/2017	Burglary	3000's 47th St.

Protect Your Home: If you have a security system to monitor your home, register the system for free with the Sheriff's Office, as required by county ordinance. If you don't have an alarm system, you can register your residence with the Sheriff's Office to allow authorities to access your emergency contact information if it is needed in your absence (source: SRQ Sheriff's website).

More information is available at the Sheriff's website, www.sarasotasheriff.org. under Crime Prevention, Safety Information, Protect Your Home.

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

Join DeSoto Acres Association and take advantage of Benefits!

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 Locator 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.

Note: Dues payments between Jan. and Nov. 2017 are recorded as 2017 dues unless otherwise noted.

Thank you for your support!

Calendar Year 2017 Dues are Due

If you received a return envelope to the Association in this newsletter, your 2017 Dues have not been received. Please use this enclosed envelope, fill out the form below, and mail with your check to DeSoto Acres Association, P.O. Box 556, Tallevast, FL 34270.

Check your membership dues status below.

These members have paid 2017:

Abernathy; Anderson; Andres/Freeman; Andrews; Arvey; Baker; Batista; Baxter/Beer; Berrier; Berthold; Bournival; Byers: Callahan; Cattin; Chambers; Colbert; Coorssen; Crooke; Curtis; Dewald; Dogancay; Dowd; Duong; Dygert; Eavis; Elwood; Fasold; Feikema; Fenton; Fernandez; Forgard; Fox; Friedman; Gabbert; Garfinkel; Giacoia; Glanden; Gockley,N&J; Gockley,V; Goodman; Goolsby; Gore; Gregg; Greiner; Grimes; Grosvenor; Gutierrez,A; Gutierrez,K&J; Hafner; Handgen; Harvey; Hasselbring; Hayes; Haynes; Heere; Hightower; Horst; Hudspeth/Wilson; Hultquist; Hunger; Jackson,W; Janis; Johnson,G&C; Johnson,M; Jung; Kelln; Kluver; Kneifel; Kocur; Kohrs; Latimer; Lima; Lipman; Lobo; Lonicker: Lovesky A; Mainville, Malinsky; Marrocco; Martin; Mayer; McElroy, McNaughton,M&A; McNeil/Unus; Miller; Morris; Murphy; Murray; Neal; Noël/Paquette; O'Connor; Pace; Pinson; Podgis; Powell; Raskin; Roberts,C&D; Roberts/Kreye; Rochette; Society of Friends; Seyfried; Shinn; Short; Siem; Silvis; Slakans; Snyder; Sparling; Starkey/Lay; Stenglein; Stokes; Taylor/Oppenheimer; Teshima; Utley; Wake; Walker; Washer; Welch; White; Willliams A; Williams,J; Wilson; Wittman.

These members have prepaid 2018 or later (see year):

Andrews(2020); Baker;(2020) Baxter/Beer; Berthold(2019): Colbert; Crooke; Dygert; Fasold(2019); Fernandez; Fox (2020); Gockley,V; Gregg(2019); Grimes; Handgen(2020); Hasselbring; Hayes; Hunger(2019); Jackson; Janis; Johnson,G&C(2019); Johnson,M; Kocur(2019); Kohrs; Latimer(2019); Lima; Lipman(2023); Lobo(2019); Lovesky,A(2019); Malinsky; Martin; Raskin; Roberts,C&D; Teshima; Walker(2019); White; Wilson; Wittman.

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

Mail this form & your due's payment 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: _____

Cell: _____

Fax: _____

Work: _____

Email(s): _____

Email(s): _____

Business Directory Listing:

_____
Company Name

_____
Company phone number

_____
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.

SOLAR

Now is the Time to Become Energy Efficient!

MIRASOL *FAFCO* SOLAR

Soon to install Solar Electric Systems at 2 DeSoto Acres Residences

FREE ESTIMATE

Call 866-99-SOLAR (866-997-6527)

"Ask for Scott"

Federal Tax Credits Available

SPECIAL OFFER FOR YOU!

No Payments or Interest for 12 months OR

Free Solar Attic Fan *with purchse of Solar Pool Heater or Solar Electric*

MIRASOL *FAFCO* SOLAR

POOL HEATING • WATER HEATING • SOLAR ELECTRIC

SERVICE & REPAIRS

Est. 1976, Over 11,000 Satisfied Customers, Family Owned & Operated

(continued from page 9) We also asked the County Forestry Maintenance staff to trim back the vegetation at the NE corner and on the NW corner to improve sight distance. Note that the root of the vegetation on the NW corner is inside the fence on private property so the County will trim the area within the right of way and will request the owner to remove that vegetation. DeSoto Acres Association worked with the Owner to remove the obstructing vegetation.

Additionally, an overall area review was completed and further improvements have been identified which include the addition of stop bars on both eastbound and westbound, to the following intersections: 61st Street & Tuttle Avenue (westbound approach only; 61st Street west of Tuttle is private), 59th Street & Tuttle Avenue, 57th Street & Tuttle Avenue, 53rd Street & Tuttle Avenue, 51st Street & Tuttle Avenue, 49th Street & Tuttle Avenue

The combination of signage and pavement markings will emphasize the existing traffic control devices at area intersections, and enhance the operation at the intersections.

In Part 2, in the September newsletter, is the County reply to subsequent residents' questions about sewer connections and sidewalks.

DESOTO ACRES COMMITTEES

Association Website
Lance Lobo - Chair

Community Clean-up
Paul Luzardo - Chair
Sam Miller - Co-Chair

Land Planning
Jane Paquette - Chair
Laura Andrews, Pam Bournival
Jim Gregg, Lance Lobo,
Sam Miller

Association Yard Sale
Bob Heere - Chair

Association Advertising
Jane Paquette

Association Newsletter
Jane Paquette - Chair
Diana Harvey

Community Signs
Lance Lobo - Chair

DESOTOACRES ASSOCIATION, INC 2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Robert Heere (2016)
President 941-374-0772
President@DeSotoAcres.org

Jane A. Paquette (2016)
Vice President
941-355-7070
VicePresident@DeSotoAcres.org

Laura Andrews (2018)
Treasurer
Treasurer@DeSotoAcres.org

Jennifer Lay (2018)
Secretary 941-351-3230
Secretary@DeSotoAcres.org

Directors

Vickie Crooke (2018)
Director9@DeSotoAcres.org

Jim Gregg (2018)
941-745-0289
Director3@DeSotoAcres.org

Alberto Gutierrez (2017)
Director8@DeSotoAcres.org

Dale H. Hasselbring (2016)
941-650-6721
Director5@DeSotoAcres.org

Michael Hickmott (2019)
941-580-4852
Director9@DeSotoAcres.org

Terry Lipman (2018)
941-504-4386
Director6@DeSotoAcres.org

Lance Lobo (2017)
941-284-7300
Director7@DeSotoAcres.org

John Murray (2019)
Director4@DeSotoAcres.org
941-706-0430

Celeste Welch (2019)
Director5@DeSotoAcres.org

Board members are elected by the Association Resident Members.

(continued from page 3) from pecking holes into homes. Several options can be found online and hopefully will provide peace between bird and homeowner.

Injured animals and birds provide the conundrum: to intervene or not? Experts that can help you resolve this issue are Save Our Seabirds (formerly the Pelican Man) and Venice Wildlife Rescue. Call to report an injured bird at 941-388-3010, or you can take the bird to SOS, located next to Mote Marine Aquarium, 1708 Ken Thompson Parkway. Venice Wildlife Rescue can be reached at 941 484-9657 during the day and their emergency number is 941 416-4967. Volunteers will make arrangements to retrieve injured wildlife on your property at no cost, but donations are gladly accepted for the rescue foundation that nurses and feeds the wildlife until they can be released. With spring now upon us, the best advice to avoid pesky animals is to tightly secure your garbage cans, don't let pet food linger outdoors, and always house your pets inside at night. This proactive human behavior allows our DeSoto Acres' wildlife the *wild life* necessary to live, breed and successfully raise their young. Ideally, we should all assume a sense of duty to preserve our greenspace when we purchase our DeSoto Acres homes. Our large lots provide an oasis to animals living along the University Parkway and 301 raceways. It is possible with a bit of hard work and common sense, to attain and maintain peace with the wild animals sharing our DeSoto Acres' Eden.

Spring Clean-up Results

By Paul Luzardo, Chair

Our Neighborhood Clean-up was a great success this year! Record turnout, every street cleaned, and we got the neighborhood looking great for the Community Garage Sale two weeks later. I extend a big thanks to our wonderful residents and our DeSoto Acres Association. This is a picture I took on Sam Miller's lawn of just some of the trash we collected. Some volunteers took their gathered trash home and put it in with their own garbage to be picked up, but just from this picture you can get a good idea of how much we collected. Let's also acknowledge the "self-cleaning" residents that clean their home fronts and often adjacent neighbors' lots as their contribution to our spring cleaning weekend. Everyone did such a wonderful job; I hope we can repeat our success in the fall.

BUSINESS DIRECTORY

HOME PRODUCTS

Good Earth Pure Soap *941.400.8607*
Handmade Natural & Nourishing Soaps

Decorating Madness, Inc. 941.266.6303
Custom window treatments & bedding

Yellow Barn 941.355.1656
Exclusive handmade items made with personality!

HOME SERVICES

Ace Electric Inc......*941.362.4508*
Leaders in the Service Industry

Andrew's Tree Service *941.351.8195*
Tree Service, Stump Removal & Grinding

Gulf & Bay Constructors Inc. 941.351.4268
Constructing with Experience

Elite Quality Lawn & Tree *941.539.5091*
Expert Tree Trimming / Removal & Landscaping

Gulf & Bay Constructors Inc. 941.351.4268
Constructing with Experience

Mirasol Fafco Solar See ad, pg 13 .....866.997.6527
Lower Your Energy Cost

Professional Plumbing *See ad, pg 11* 941.355.5400
Check out Our "On-time or Free" guarantee

SOl Design Studio llc *See ad, pg 2*.....941.355-7070
Architecture, Interior Design – New & Renovation

Terry Lipman ***The Right Plant Guy***.....941.504.4386
ISA Certified Arborist & Agronomist

Terry's Tree Service..*See ad, pg 10*.....941.748.4484
Arboriculture with a Difference!

MEDICAL SERVICES

Abrams Dermatology *See ad, pg 5*.....941.926.2300
Your Dermatology Specialists - 3328 Bee Ridge Rd.

Parkway Ridge Dental *See ad, pg 11*.....941.358.8830
The Fine Art of Gentle Quality Dentistry

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Antique Buyers *See ad, pg 8* 941.232.1177
Seeking Quality Art & Antiques

Barry's Trailers 941.953.3468
Utility, Cargo, & Boat Trailers-Sales-Service-Parts

Gateway Private Investing *See ad, pg 3* ...941.306.0132
Common Sense Investment Advice

Ernie's Truck&Auto Repair *Ad, pg 9*.....941.355.9759
Complete automotive repair service - ASE Certified

www.DeSotoAcres.org
DeSoto Acres Association Website
Stay Informed and Check
The DeSoto Acres Association Website
for Announcements & updates

Gateway Bank *See ad, pg 2* 941.355.5749
Your locally owned neighborhood bank

Healing From the Heart 941.358.0807
Family Business Consulting, Kathleen Raskin MBA CCH

Keels & Wheels Magazine 941.351.2411
Advertising New & Used boat / car sales in SW FL

Print my T's 941.706.0561
Custom Screen Printing and Embroidery

REMAX Alliance Group *See ad, pg 7* 941-724-3448
Call Lee Brewer today! Your local real estate expert

Wayne's World Tennis 248.705.2262
Private Tennis Lessons in DeSoto Acres

RESTAURANTS / HOSPITALITY

Jo-To Japanese Steak House 941.351.4677
Tableside Cooking and Sushi

Spacco Italian Grill *See ad, pg 5*..... 941.358.5759
Fabulous Italian Cooking Close to DeSoto Acres

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS

Sarasota Friends Meeting 941.358.5759
57th & Lockwood Ridge Rd.

SARASOTA COUNTY (North County)

County Main Number / Call Center 941.861.5000
211 Referral Line.....211
Agriculture Extension.....941.861.9900
American Red Cross 941.379.9300
Animal Services.....941.861.9500
Building Permits.....941.861.6678
Catholic Charities 941.355.5965
Code Enforcement 941.861.5000
County Commissioners.....941.861.5344
Evacuation Information 941.861.5000
FPL (street light out)..... 800.226.3545
FPL (general number) 800.468.8243
Fire prevention 941.861.2290
Fire Hazards.....941.861.2290
Garbage and Recycling.....941.861.6731
Highway Patrol 941.492.5850
Salvation Army..... 941.954.4673
Sheriff Dept. Non-Emergency Number. 941.861.5800
Sheriff Dept. Emergency Number..... 911
Suncoast Communities Blood Banks.....866.972.5663
United Way.....941.366.2686
Waste Management.....941.493.4100

Desoto Acres Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 556
Tallevast, FL 34270
Country Estates in the Heart of Town

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Manasota, FL
Permit No. 1270

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DeSoto Acres Association Community Newsletter May 2017

Fast Moving Brush Fire on 57th St.

At 1:15pm on Thursday, May 11, 2017, the County Fire Department received a report of a fire on a 57th St. vacant lot between Tuttle and Shade Ave. As reported by SNN News, the man who called 911 reported the fire started in a ditch on the side of the road. When crews arrived on scene the brush fire covered 3/4 of an acre.

Due to few fire hydrants nearby, fire fighters set-up a 3,000 gallon holding pond in additional to the water on the trucks. 15 fire fighters and 8 fire units were on the scene fighting the blaze that was 100% contained. No one was injured and the cause is unknown at this time.

Due to the fire, electricity to Residents along 57th St. was shut off until 7:15pm.

County wide burn ban is still in effect.

Battalion Chief Glenn Snyder reminded all of us, "it is so dry we're asking everybody: no outside fires, no lit cigarettes thrown out the window. We are asking for your help."

The only exception to the ban is cooking fires using outdoor grills. Residents are reminded to never leave a grill unattended while cooking and to ensure that the grill is in a safe location. It is also important to ensure that coals are completely cooled prior to disposing of them.

To reduce potential damage to structures during a wildfire, the Sarasota County Fire Department recommends homeowners create a clear and clean 30 foot buffer around all structures.

For more information, call the Sarasota County Contact Center at 941-861-5000.