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

February **2018**

Property Owner - Right of Way Mowing is in Effect for all Sarasota County

OUR COMMUNITY IS LOOKING A BIT SHAGGY. MANY OF OUR RIGHT-OF-WAYS HAVE NOT BEEN MOWED OR TRIMMED.

You may not be aware of the new County Ordinance requiring all Sarasota County property owners to mow their right-of-way. The right-of-way (ROW) is the county-owned land which abuts the frontage of your property (and side if you live on a corner lot) adjacent the roadway to the edge of the roadway. For many residents ROWs include the drainage ditch. The ordinance was voted into effect by the County Commission on October 1, 2016.

Life did not change for many Sarasota County residents as they already mowed their right-of-ways. However, in DeSoto Acres (DSA) with our drainage ditches and lack of sidewalks this has not been the norm.

Since the ordinance was enacted, confusion, questions, and guessing whose ultimate responsibility for our "shaggy ditches and intersections" has been the general response to the new ROW Mowing Ordinance. Calls and discussion with the County clarified that properties adjacent to Lockwood Ridge Rd, DeSoto Rd, and Tuttle Ave (major arterials) will continue to be maintained / mowed by the County. In addition, Association Board Members met with County Operations Management Field Services last year to review our neighborhood's ROWs not adjacent to DSA Resident Properties. The results were:

- Traylor Ave between 61st and University Parkway - is County Responsibility to maintain. After the meeting, the County mowed and cleaned the area of debris.
- Shade Ave, west side between 51st and 47th is the Industrial Properties' Owners responsibility to maintain from their property line to the edge of Shade Avenue pavement.
- Middle Ave, west side between 61st St and 53rd Ave – The County owns 30 feet covering the road and a few feet on each side. CSX railroad owns the area west of the ROW and is responsible for its maintenance.

At our DSA Board's invitation, Commissioner Moran and Mr. Larry Mau attended our January annual meeting to provide background on why the Commissioners voted in the ordinance, how to apply for an exemption, what that exemption means, and enforcement. The gentlemen also took time answering ROW and other questions from residents in attendance at our annual meeting.

Mr. Moran reviewed how the county budgets are "formatted", prohibiting co-mingling of budgets that are well funded with budgets that are underfunded. ROW mowing funds are supplied from underfunded budgets including the General Fund and Gas Tax. The ordinance was voted in to save the county $500,000.

Mr. Larry Mau, Senior Manager Public Works, reviewed the ROW ordinance. The complete ordinance is provided on pages 4 & 5 of this newsletter.

Basically, the ROW adjacent to each property is the responsibility of each owner to mow / trim. Any ROW's adjacent to unimproved property are the responsibility of the owner to mow, *only* if they had been previously mowed. Prior to the 2016 ordinance, the County mowed all ROWs in our DeSoto Acres. Hence, as all the ROWs in DeSoto Acres have been mowed, all ROWs adjacent to unimproved lots are to be mowed by the owner.

The ordinance includes the option to submit for an exemption. The exemption is to request that the County mow the property owner's ROW. The exemption is based on multiple unusual conditions some of which include the following. (Refer to the Ordinance for the complete list.)

1. Presence of a major drainage pipe 30" of larger
2. Presence of a weir
3. Steep side slope in excess of 2 feet to 1 foot.
4. Hydrology of ditch (water standing for more multiple days after a rain)

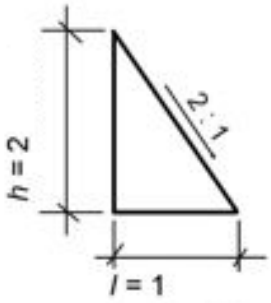

Illustration of 2:1 slope

The property owner is the only one that can apply for the ROW exemption. The application can be submitted a number of ways.

- On line at https://www.scgov.net/government/public-works click on the link "Mowing Exemption Email Request" and you can send in an exemption request.

(Continued on Page 3)

Message from President Bob Heere

It is human nature to be curious when we see new construction or modifications to a neighbor's home. We pass by looking at what they are building or changing, and we instantly make judgements. We all have opinions whether the change is something we would do or think it is esthetically pleasing. My taste is not the same as many of my neighbors.

However, I see our differences as a strength to our community rather than a weakness. People moving into the Acres are seeking a canvas to create upon their unique vision of home. We are not a cookie cutter community like so many in Sarasota County. Yet, DeSoto Acres residents must follow County Codes when seeking major change to their properties. We ask that any improvements or modifications go through proper County approval and follow County guidelines.

I encourage everyone to continue to improve and enjoy your property, but preemptively, be informed to prevent any issues.

Bob Heere, President
Desoto Acres Association

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Shop: (941) 355-9759
After Hours Phone: (941) 374-0659

(continued from Page 1)

- Via phone use the application "Sarasota County SeeClickFix". Download the app from the PlayStore.
- The best way is via phone. Call the County's Call Center 941-861-5000 and ask for Public Works to submit your property for an exemption request. This way you can track your request.

In your submittal state the reason that you believe your ROW should be exempt such as your ditch is too steep and any other criteria you can identify for the exemption. The County evaluates each ROW exemption request by going out to the site, measuring the ditch slope, and noting other criteria present or not. The evaluation is based only on physical criteria of the ditch, no other criteria, such as property owner's economics, physical condition, or available equipment are considered in the evaluation.

Allow the County time to respond, about 30 days. Per Mr. Mau, the county has received about 300 applications of which 15% have been approved for exemption. Be patient, the department is still catching up from the big demand for review. In DeSoto Acres, 18 exemptions have been requested of which 2 were approved and 1, a corner lot, received a partial exemption for one side of the lot.

Should the County decline your application you have 30 days from the date of the final decision on the petition (date of the County letter) to submit an appeal. The appeal must be in writing "setting forth the factual and legal basis" for the appeal. The written appeal must be submitted to the County Administrator with a copy provided to County Public Works Director. Within 20 days of the filing of the appeal form, the County Public Works Director will provide the County Administrator with a written response to the appeal with a copy provided to the applicant. If the applicant still disagrees with this finding, they may reply to the County Administrator within 10 days for a final determination.

This picture is a visual example of an approved ROW exemption in DSA. The hydrology, the continual presence of water, was one the primary reasons for the exemption.

What the County exemption means is the ROW for the approved property owner will be mowed by the County three times a year. The exempted property owner is still required to pick up

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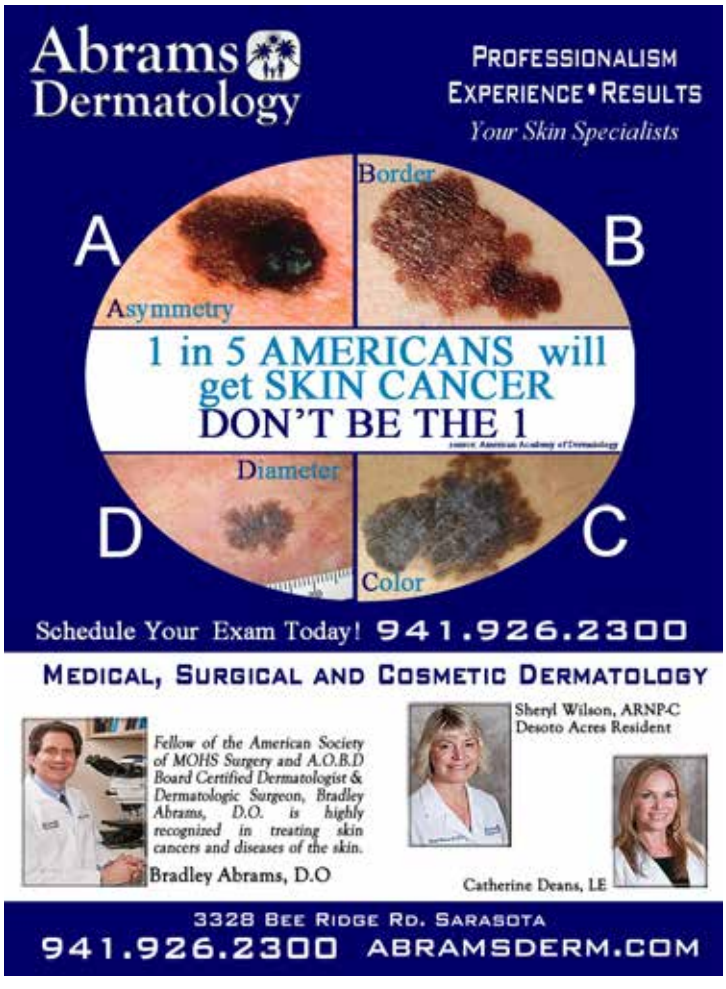

ARTICLE V. - ADJACENT RIGHT-OF-WAY MAINTENANCE CODE

Sec. 98-200. - Short title.

This Article may be referred to as the Adjacent Right-of-Way Maintenance Code.
(Ord. No. 2016-058, § 1, 8-24-2016)

Sec. 98-201. - Findings.

The Board of County Commissioners hereby finds:

1. The presence of Excessive Growth within the public right-of-way adjacent to private property is hereby declared a public nuisance because that area: (a) may reasonably become infested with pests; (b) may create a fire or other safety hazard; (c) tend to decrease the value of neighboring properties; and (d) otherwise has an adverse impact on the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Sarasota County; and
2. The majority of property owners and/or occupants of property adjacent to the public right-of-way within the Urban Service Area maintain the vegetation growing between their property line boundary and the edge of pavement within the public right-of-way; and
3. The owners and/or occupants of property adjacent to the public right-of-way within the Urban Service Area are in the best position to observe and monitor the condition of the vegetation growing between their property line boundary and the edge of pavement within the public right-of-way; and
4. The owners and/or occupants of property are already required to maintain vegetation on their property; and
5. It is reasonable to require the owners and/or occupants of property adjacent to public right-of-way within the Urban Service Area to maintain the vegetation growing between their property line boundary and the edge of pavement within the public right-of-way.

(Ord. No. 2016-058, § 1, 8-24-2016)

Sec. 98-202. - Definitions.

For purposes of this Article, the following terms shall have the stated meanings unless another meaning is clearly intended:

1. *Excessive Growth* shall mean the uncontrolled growth of to decrease the value of neighboring propertiesvegetation that:
   a. Is not cultivated or regularly tended;
   b. Has reached a height in excess of 12 inches;
   c. Is or may reasonably become infested by pests;
   d. May create a fire or safety hazard; and/or
   e. May tend .

   Excessive Growth does not include the following provided they do not constitute a fire, safety, or health hazard:
   a. Shrubs, trees, palms or bushes (natural or cultivated) that are used for landscape purposes or are not otherwise subject to conventional mowing.
2. *Local Road* shall mean those streets that generally provide access to abutting properties and possess relatively low traffic volumes, low operating speeds, short trip lengths, and minimal through traffic movements and includes those roads that are not classified as a Freeway/Expressway, Arterial, or Collector roadway under the Sarasota County Functional Classifications in the County's comprehensive plan.
3. *Unusual condition* shall mean the presence of an atypical physical condition or configuration within the adjacent right-of-way. In determining whether particular circumstances constitute an Unusual Condition, the Director shall use his/her best professional judgment. When exercising best professional judgment, the Director shall consider factors such as, but not limited to, the following: (1) the presence of major drainage outfalls; (2) the presence of significant drainage structures such as pipes in excess of 30 inches in diameter; (3) the presence of major weirs or other stormwater structures; (4) slope; (5) depth of roadside ditch or swale bottom compared to adjacent road elevation; (6) hydrology of roadside ditch, swale, wetland, or other water body; (7) soils; or (8) other manmade structures such as crosswalks, bus stops, benches, signs, or utility structures.
4. *Urban Service Area* shall mean the area identified as the urban service area on the Future Land Use Map contained within the County's comprehensive plan.

(Ord. No. 2016-058, § 1, 8-24-2016)

Sec. 98-203. - Responsibility for the maintenance of adjacent right-of-way.

It shall be unlawful for any owner and/or occupant of any land abutting any public right-of-way classified as a Local Road within the Urban Service Area of the unincorporated area of Sarasota County to allow Excessive Growth of vegetation to exist between the paved or graded surface of the adjacent public street intended or designated for vehicular travel and the property line of the abutting land.
(Ord. No. 2016-058, § 1, 8-24-2016)

Sec. 98-204. - Maintenance standards.

Owners or occupants shall be responsible for maintenance of adjacent local road public right-of-way within the Urban Service Area including:

1. Properly mowing the grassed or vegetated area.
2. Trimming around all vertical objects.
3. Where present, sidewalks adjoining the property shall be maintained to control the growth of grass and weeds, both between the sidewalk joints and alongside both sides of the sidewalk and edge of pavement.
4. Where present, vegetation around curbs, gutters, culverts and catch basins shall be maintained to control the growth of grass and weeds, alongside of and between the curb, gutter, culvert and catch basin joints.
5. Clean-up of cut vegetation from road, sidewalk, curb, gutter, culvert and catch basin surfaces in accordance with the Section 54-1031 of the County Code.
6. Removing and properly disposing of trash, debris, and

litter from the right-of-way area.
(Ord. No. 2016-058, § 1, 8-24-2016)

Sec. 98-205. - Exceptions.

This Article shall not be construed to apply to the maintenance of:

1. Any median within an abutting roadway.
2. Right-of-way adjacent to any lot or parcel which is in a natural state of vegetation and which has not been cut or mowed within the past five years.
3. Repair or replacement of non-specially benefitting structures within the right-of-way such as public sidewalks, guardrails, handrails, and catch basins.
4. Segments of right-of-way that the County Public Works Director has declared an Unusual Condition as defined in Section 98-202. In order to be declared an Unusual Condition, the property owner or occupant must file a written petition request to the County Public Works Director to exempt the area from the provisions of this Article. This written request must explain why the maintenance of the adjacent public right-of-way by the owner and/or occupant is unreasonable based on the Unusual Condition of the adjacent public right-of-way. The County Public Works Director, or designee, shall conduct an on-site inspection of the adjacent right-of-way and evaluate the physical condition and circumstances of the adjacent right-of-way regarding the elements listed in the definition of Unusual Condition in Section 98-202. The County Public Works Director will then make the determination as to whether an Unusual Condition exists and whether the adjacent property owners can reasonably maintain the area. The public works director will respond to the property owner's request in writing with either: (1) a justification for denial to maintain; or (2) agreement to maintain including a maintenance schedule. Any property owner or occupant whose petition under this section is denied may appeal that determination to the County Administrator in accordance with Section 98-206.

(Ord. No. 2016-058, § 1, 8-24-2016)

Sec. 98-206. - Administrative appeal.

Any property owner or occupant may appeal the Public Works Director's Unusual Condition determination to the County Administrator under the following process:

1. The appeal shall be made in writing setting forth the factual and legal basis for the appeal. The written appeal must be submitted to the County Administrator with a copy provided to County Public Works Director within 30 days of the final decision on the petition.
2. Within 20 days of the filing of the appeal form, the County Public Works Director shall provide the County Administrator with a written response to the appeal with a copy provided to the appellant.
3. The appellant will then have ten days to provide a written reply to the County Administrator. This reply is optional and limited in scope to only addressing the issues addressed in the written response by the Public Works Director
4. The County Administrator shall rule on the administrative appeal, in writing, within 15 days of either the receipt of the appellant's reply or the expiration of the time for filing a reply, whichever comes later. In considering whether to affirm, reverse, or modify the decision of the Public Works Director, the County Administrator shall consider the following factors:
   a. the findings made by the Board in Section 98-201 of this Code;
   b. the maintenance standards imposed by this Article;
   c. the size of the adjacent right-of-way;
   d. slope of the terrain of the adjacent right-of-way;
   e. presence of major drainage outfalls in the adjacent right-of-way;
   f. the presence of significant drainage structures such as pipes in excess of 30 inches in diameter in the adjacent right-of-way;
   g. the presence of major weirs or other stormwater structures in the adjacent right-of-way;
   h. depth of roadside ditch or swale bottom in the adjacent right-of-way compared to adjacent road elevation;
   i. hydrology of any roadside ditch, swale, wetland, or other water body impacting the in the maintenance of adjacent right-of-way;
   j. soils within the adjacent right-of-way; and/or
   k. the presence of any other manmade structures such as crosswalks, bus stops, benches, signs, or utility structures within the adjacent right-of-way.

(Ord. No. 2016-058, § 1, 8-24-2016)

Sec. 98-207. - Enforcement.

1. A violation of any provision of this Article shall be processed according to Chapter 2, Article VIII of the Code of Ordinances of Sarasota County, Florida, and per provisions of Chapter 162, Florida Statutes. Each day of any such violation shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.
2. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this Article for enforcement or penalties, the County may enforce this Article by actions at law or in equity, for damages and injunctive relief, respectively. In the event the County prevails in any such action, it shall be entitled to an award of its costs and attorneys' fees.

(Ord. No. 2016-058, § 1, 8-24-2016)

Sec. 98-208. - Liberal construction.

The provisions of this Article shall be liberally construed to carry out effectively its purposes in the interest of public health, safety, welfare and convenience.
(Ord. No. 2016-058, § 1, 8-24-2016)

Sec. 98-209. - Severability.

Should any sentence, clause, part or provision of this Article be declared by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the same shall not affect the validity of this article as a whole, or any part thereof other than the part declared to be invalid.
(Ord. No. 2016-058, § 1, 8-24-2016)

Source: www.municode.com,

DeSoto Acres Real Estate Update

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

The Sarasota real estate market remained strong in 2017. In contrast to 2016, the total number of single family homes sold was up by about 1%, the median sale price was up by 7.6%, inventory was down by 8.4% and distressed sales accounted for only 3.8% of the sales in 2017. Official market data for the beginning of 2018 has not yet been released, however, inventory is still tight and demand appears to be constant which should slightly push pricing upward, though houses are spending a bit more time on the market.

In The Acres, there is currently just 1 home on the market with a list price of $450,000 and 63 days on market. There are 2 homes under contract both traditional, retail sales. One home has sold so far this year, a short sale. The last time The Acres had an inventory of "1" was in December of 2015.

For new residents of The Acres, don't forget that the deadline to file for your homestead tax exemption is March 1. Here is the web address to file online: https://beta.sc-pa.com/DR501/ApplyOnline/WebForm1.aspx . If you've moved from a home in Florida with a homestead tax exemption to your new home in DeSoto Acres, don't forget your exemption under the Save Our Homes Cap may be portable. You can find more detailed information about homestead portability here:

https://beta.sc-pa.com/DR501/ApplyOnline/WebForm1.aspx

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	2017 Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	2017 Dec
Homes for Sale*	3254	3318	3302	3070	2982	2841	2714	2515	2420	2540	2692	2693
Homes Sold*	474	518	784	793	822	785	683	725	529	611	549	639
Pending Sales*	731	1218	880	823	753	741	703	714	452	811	831	741
Average Days on Market*	41	49	53	45	46	51	55	50	43	47	52	40
Median Sale Price (000)*	250	258	263	272	260	275	260	258	269.9	279	285	275
Sold Price vs Orig. List Price*	95.2	95.0	95.0	95.2	95	95	95.2	94.7	95.7	95.4	95.3	95.5
DeSoto Acres Single Family	**2017 Jan**	**Feb**	**Mar**	**Apr**	**May**	**June**	**Jul**	**Aug**	**Sep**	**Oct**	**Nov**	**2017 Dec**
Homes for Sale*	3	1	4	3	2	2	3	3	7	4	3	3
Homes Sold*	1	0	3	1	2	2	0	1	0	2	0	0
Pending Sales*	1	2	4	3	2	3	3	2	2	1	1	2
Average Days on Market*	7	No Sale	215	5	21*	59*	No Sales	13	No Sales	13*	No Sales	No Sales
Median Sale Price (000)*	293	No Sale	370	340	583*	445	No Sales	240	No Sales	465*	No Sales	No Sales
Sold Price vs Orig. List Price*	90.15	No Sale	92.7	97.7	93.5*	95*	No Sales	100	No Sales	102*	No Sales	No Sales

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" situation.**

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

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Lee Brewer CDPE

Your DeSoto Acres Real Estate Specialist

Call Lee Brewer Today!

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

A Stroll Down Memory Lane introduces the Friedman Family

One of the interesting things about neighborhoods is how some houses get names that stick, long after the reason for the name no longer exists— like the "Teddy Bear house" or the "Christmas light house". Houses get torn down and replaced. Fences, too, come and go. The neighborhood changes so slowly that you don't even notice, until one day it doesn't look at all like it used to, even though it feels the same.

When we moved to Desoto Acres in 1998 we had four children and a large, beautiful dog. Today we have six children. That precious dog is long gone, but others have come, along with rabbits and cats. Our children learned to swim and ride bikes here. They got their first jobs within walking distance. I don't think I could count the number of birthday parties we've had.

Some of the kids have grown and moved out, returned, and moved out again. We've had one wedding and too many funerals in our home. One day all the children will be gone, and if we're lucky, their noise and laughter and sticky hand prints will be replaced by our grandchildren's. Some of our neighbors will move on and new families will take their place. And 59th Street will remain our home.

We have been so fortunate to have raised our family in Sarasota's best neighborhood. DeSoto Acres is not just the place we live; it is a member of our family.

Interested in contributing to Desoto Acres Memory Lane?

We are looking for residents to share their memories and / or DeSoto Acres news articles.

Please contact Diana@DeSotoAcres.org.

Thank you.

Spring Clean-up Day

Saturday, March 17th
8:00am to noon

Keep DeSoto Acres BEAUTIFUL

It's Time for the Neighborhood's Spring Clean-up.

Where To Meet

Gather at Mr. Sam Miller's home on 2927 59th St. for coffee, donuts, and street assignments. Meet your neighbors and have a bit of fun sprucing up our wonderful community in preparation for the Community Yard Sales. All residents are encouraged to join in the morning activities and if you have one, feel free to bring your golf cart.

Contact your Committee Chair, Sam Miller, if you plan to assist on Saturday and if you have any questions, please email: CommunityClean-up@DeSotoAcres.org or call at: 941-587-7589.

Picking up Ahead of Time - Let Us know

Often some residents prefer to clean their own and neighbors' lot fronts or local road right-of-ways ahead of time. Please call or email Sam to report your finished clean-up location and/or road. For example, if you picked up both sides of the right-of-way on 59th St or DeSoto Rd between Lockwood Ridge and Tuttle, let Sam know as he documents our clean-up efforts with the County. Any assistance along DeSoto Rd helps with our Adopted Road program.

THANK YOU to all past and current participants in this community event. We look forward to seeing you on March 17th.

RESOLUTIONS AND REMINDERS!

- Resolve to be a courteous pet owner and clean up after your pets' droppings. Some homeowners truly appreciate a clean, uneventful walk to their mailbox.
- The beautiful weather brings out bikes and walkers at all times of the morning and evening. Resolve to remember that our speed limit is a leisurely 25 mph on most of our streets.
- Supporting candidates is an honored American tradition, still, resolve to keep candidate signs on your own property and not cluttering the right of ways interfering with traffic visibility.
- On your walks in the Acres, resolve to take a trash bag with you and pick-up litter along your path.
- Resolve to plant a garden in 2018. Whether it is a vegetable garden or a lovely bed of flowers, enjoy your large property.
- Remember to mark your calendars so as to set your clocks to spring ahead one hour, March 11@ 2am.

Spring has Sprung
Get Planning & Planting!

For good planting advice, please refer to our October 2017 newsletter. If you do not have your hard copy handy, go to DesotoAcres.org and find several past issues, including October. Several planting "tips" we'd like to add to our October issue are: When prepping your garden, mow close to the ground before applying visqueen to kill the grass. When the time comes to till, remember you can rent a tiller and save your back. Our gardening expert encourages all newbies to start small to **keep the experience fun**.

Excellent information can also be found on the internet at sites such as Sarasota county extension which is partnered with the University of Florida. Also, merely "googling" *Florida planting* will present you with a library full of useful planting and gardening information.

We are looking for residents willing to share their gardening experiences in print, or eager to talk with neighbors and help them share their gardening stories and photos. Interested residents with gardening stories / photos are welcome to submit for publication review. Some neighbors have expressed interest in having a loosely knit group to occasionally gather and visit each other's gardens and exchange plantings, seeds and ideas. If you are interested, email Diana at Diana@DeSotoAcres.org and let's get planning and planting!

Yard Clean-Up?
But not Open Burning

The Burning of Yard Waste, household or commercial trash is not permitted in Sarasota County at any time.

Yard Waste is vegetative matter resulting from landscaping, yard maintenance and other property or land clean-up activities. It includes materials such as leaves, shrub trimmings, grass clippings, palm fronds, tree cutting debris and brush.

Household trash is the trash you throw away in your home such as, but not limited to, food waste and their containers, paper, diapers, plastics, glass and metals, Burning household trash is harmful to you and your family, as well as your neighbors and it has been shown to increase the risk of many health problems.

Commercial trash is all trash and waste that is a result of commercial or business use.

Please dispose all yard waste during the regular weekly roadside pick-up. Bundle all yard waste or put in yard waste containers, no more than 40lbs and 4 foot lengths. All household and commercial trash is put in your regular trash containers for pick-up. Take all chemicals to County Recycling at the east end of Bee Ridge Rd for proper disposal. Thank you.

As your read on Page 16, DeSoto Acres Community Yard Sale is now three days on Friday, April 6th, Saturday, April 7th and Sunday, April 8th.

When planning for your yard sale, here are some suggestions you might consider.

- Put yard sale signs out by your driveway and at your closest intersection. The yard sale map helps drive buyers to your yard sales as do your signs.
- First impressions count. People driving by will judge your sale by how organized, tidy and clean it is. Make sure your customers are presented with a welcoming and organized entrance from the street.
- Line your big items along your driveway or in the front yard, especially if you plan to display all your items in your garage. This "softens" the barrier between your garage and the public to help enter your "space."
- It helps to have two people working a yard sale. One person to handle the money, the other to answer questions and watch the shoppers.
- Displaying items; use benches & tables, use bulletin boards to tack up jewelry, and many more ideas are listed at this website www.bestgaragesaletips.com.
- Price everything you can with small stickers the night before. This makes the purchasing process easier on you. Items are picked up and moved from "batch" price places and many times become mixed up.
- Think "value pricing" when you set a price on an item. Rule of thumb is maximum of 30% of original price. Decrease price from that point for condition of item .
- Place additional signs and / or balloons around your home and on your mailbox to "flag" your yard sale.
- Have everything out in your yard or garage by 7:00 am. Many "professional" yard sale goers start early.
- If you have a front facing garage, consider setting up in your garage the night before and all you have to do is open the door and move a table or two out onto the driveway.
- Keep the doors to your home locked for your safety. Do not allow shoppers to enter your home unless you personally know them.

Look for DeSoto Acres Community Yard Sale Signs posted prior to April 6th, ads in local papers and Craig's List.

We look forward to seeing you out having a successful yard sale or treasurer hunting.

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Large Selection of Retail Items
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(Corner of 301 & University) • antiquebuyers.net

COP'S CORNER

As Reported by Sarasota County Sheriff's Department
Oct 1, 2017 to Jan 31, 2018

Date	Crime Type	Location
10/10/2017	Assault	2600's Johnson Lane
10/19/2017	Theft / Larceny	3000's 61st St.
10/30/2017	Burglary	2700's Johnson Lane
11/05/2017	Burglary	2100's DeSoto Rd.
11/22/2017	Grand Larceny	3000's 49th St.
11/23/2017	Theft	2600's 53rd St.
12/02/2017	Burglary	2100's 53rd St.
12/04/2017	Burglary	4900's Tuttle Ave.
12/22/2017	Grand Larceny	2600's 57th St.
01/04/2018	Grand Larceny	2800's DeSoto Rd.
01/05/2018	Theft	4800's Traylor Ave.
01/29/2018	Grand Larceny	2700's 49th St.
01/29/2018	Theft	2500's 49th St.

More information is available at the Sheriff's website, www.sarasotasheriff.org. under Program & Services / Crime Prevention for the Crime Map, Safety Information, and much more.

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

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

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). See the lists on the right to check your status.

Dues payments are recorded for the year in which received. If you have paid the current year, your dues will be applied to upcoming years.

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.

Thank you for your support!

Calendar Year 2018 Dues are Due

If you received a return envelope to the Association in this newsletter, **your 2018 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 2018:

Alberti/LaChaunce; Andres/Freeman; Andrews/Walker; Baker; Baxter/Beer; Berrier; Berthold; Byers; Colbert; Crooke; Dowd; Fasold; Feikema; Fernandez; Forgard; Fox; Gockley,V; Goodman; Gregg; Grimes; Gutierrez,A; Hafner; Hamm; Handgen; Harvey; Hasselbring; Hayes; Heere; Hudspeth/Wilson; Hunger; Irwin; Jackson,W; Janis; Johnson,G&C; Johnson,M; Kelln; Kluver; Kocur; Kohrs; Latimer; Lima; Lipman; Lobo; Lovesky A; Malinsky; Martin; McNeil/Unus; Merril; Miller; Moody/Fortsch; Moser; Murray; Nelson; Noël/Paquette; Norwood/Torok; Podgis; Raskin; Roberts,C&D; Starkeky/Lay; Teshima; Torshkoev; Walker; White; Wilson; Wittman, Zuknick.

These members have prepaid 2019 or later (see year):

Andrews/Walker(2020); Baker;(2020); Baxter/Beer; Berthold: Dowd; Fasold; Fox (2020); Gregg; Handgen (2020); Harvey; Hudspeth/Wilson; Hunger; Johnson,G&C; Kluver; Kocur; Lipman(2023); Lobo; Lovesky,A; McNeil/Unus; Nelson(2020); Noel/Paquette; Walker; 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.

Dues applied to current year received or : _____

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.

(Continued from Page 3)
and dispose of trash in the ROW.

As of this publication, the ROW ordinance enforcement is being phased in. Mr. Mau indicated County Public Works has hired personnel to begin the code enforcement process. Reminder notices are being given to non-complying owners via a door hanger. Enforcement action will be stepped up if owners do not comply.

One of the most noticeable problem areas, because of the long unbroken ROW, is the area on West Shade between 51st and 47th St. A few of the businesses are mowing their area of responsibility, most are not. The Association has asked the County to contact the businesses in the industrial area in the next month.

In summary, for the majority of DSA property owners, we are responsible for mowing / trimming the ROW adjacent to our properties.

If you cannot perform this activity yourself, it is often possible to reach out to a friendly neighbor. Also, our newsletter's business directory has a number of landscape businesses listed which you can contact for a quote. Other sources are found on line or through referrals from family and friends.

This begins a new norm for DeSoto Acres. Maintaining your ROW is appreciate by the whole community.

DESOTO ACRES COMMITTEES

Association Website
Lance Lobo - Chair

Community Clean-up
Sam Miller - Co-Chair

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

Association Yard Sale
Alberto Gutierrez - Chair

Association Advertising
Jane Paquette

Association Newsletter
Jane Paquette - Chair
Diana Harvey

Community Signs
Lance Lobo - Chair

DESOTOACRES ASSOCIATION, INC 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

Robert Heere (2019)
President 941-374-0772
President@DeSotoAcres.org

Jane A. Paquette (2019)
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 (2020)
Director8@DeSotoAcres.org

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

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

Lance Lobo (2020)
941-284-7300
Director7@DeSotoAcres.org

Lisa Moody (2020)
727-488-6332
Director1@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.

Upcoming Events

DeSoto Acres Association

Spring Clean-up
March 17th - Sat. 8:00am
Volunteers contact Sam Miller CommunityClean-up@DeSoto Acres.org or call Sam at 941-587-7589.

Community Yard Sale
April 6th Friday, April 7th Saturday, April 8th Sunday
8:00am to 4:00pm—Rain or Shine
Contact Alberto Gutierrez at DeSotoAcresYardSale@gmail.com or call Alberto at 941-504-8939

Shade Ave Between 51st &47th "No Parking" Signs Update

Residents living next to and near Shade Ave between 51st & 47th Streets approached DeSoto Acres Association in 2016 about unnecessary and constant parking along the west side of Shade by industrial park workers.

The Sheriff's Department was consulted regarding the nuisance and continual parking situation. Per the Sheriff's Department, the industrial workers were not obstructing traffic and as there were no signs indicating they could not park along the Right-of-Way, there was no traffic violation. A Sheriff's Deputy talked with the industrial workers, but parking continued along Shade Ave.

Spearheaded by a local Acres resident, a Sarasota County Traffic Advisory County Item request form / petition for the installation of "no parking" signs along the west Side of Shade between 51st & 47th St was circulated, completed and submitted to the Traffic Advisory Council for review.

The Traffic Advisory Council Hearing was held on Dec 11th, 2017. This public hearing was open to speakers. DeSoto Acres residents and Association Board members attended and spoke. At the Hearing, the County Planning Department voted to decline the request as there was no traffic obstruction caused by the industrial workers parking. However, the Traffic Advisory Council, which included a representative of the Sheriff's Department, unanimously voted FOR the installation of "no parking" signs along the west side of Shade from 51st St to 47th St. Their reasons supported DeSoto Acres residents' rationale for pedestrian safety plus they noted the increased traffic along Shade, increasing the potential for accidents.

The next step is the Sarasota County Commission hearing, expected in March 2018, for the final decision. It is still to be determined if the hearing will be open for speakers or "fast tracked".

Please stay tuned for the Commission Hearing date and time to be announced by email.

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

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

Green Pastures Lawn 941.323-1989
Maintenance, Landscaping, Trimming, ROW Services

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

SOl Design Studio llc *See ad, pg 3*.....941.355-7070
Architecture, Interior Design – New & Renovation

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

Veteran's Air.*See ad, pg 9* 941.751.6180
100% Satisfaction Guaranteed! SuperBusinessAward

MEDICAL SERVICES

Abrams Dermatology *See ad, pg 3*.....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 10* 941.232.1177
Seeking Quality Art & Antiques

Area Office Machines 941.365.3343
We Service & Sell Office Machines

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

CenterState Bank *See ad, pg 8* 941.355.5749
Your locally owned neighborhood bank

Ernie's Truck&Auto Repair *Ad, pg 2*.....941.355.9759
Complete automotive repair service - ASE Certified

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

WWW.DESOTOACRES.ORG
DESOTO ACRES ASSOCIATION WEBSITE
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THE DESOTO ACRES ASSOCIATION WEBSITE
FOR ANNOUNCEMENTS & UPDATES

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Call Lee Brewer today! Your local real estate expert

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Branded Video Content & Video Production

Wayne Eastep Photography 941.355.9605
Fine Art Photography & Custom Commissions

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

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

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Tallevast, FL 34270
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

DeSoto Acres Association Community Newsletter February 2018

DeSoto Acres Community Yard Sale
Friday, Saturday & Sunday April 6th, 7th & 8th

Participate or Find Some Great Buys
At this Annual Event.

The 2018 DeSoto Acres Association (DSA) sponsored Community Wide-Yard Sale is coming up fast. Mark your calendar for Friday, April 6th, Saturday, April 7th and Sunday, April 8th, 8am to 4pm rain or shine for treasure hunting or your own large / small yard sale.

Each year this DSA-supported event brings in over a thousand treasure hunters to our community. These buyers search our neighborhood streets to find their perfect item.

Announcement of the, now three-day, Community-Wide Yard Sale is provided by the Association through ads in the Sarasota-Herald Tribune, Observer, Craig's List plus street signs at highly visible locations for all residents. With this advertising, you are assured of a great turn out, rain or shine.

Our yard sale locator map continues to be a great success. We've had very positive comments from yard-sale participants and buyers. DSA provides copies of the yard-sale map to each Member to distribute to buyers at their yard sale. The map shows where your yard sale is located, categories of items for sale, and the days/times of your yard sale.

For your yard and garage sales planning see page 10 for lots of ideas.

To Participate in the yard sale map, by April 2nd, **become a member** of DSA. Members and new members, contact Chair Alberto Gutierrez at DeSotoAcresYardSale@gmail.com or 941-504-8939. Please let him know, first thing, you're calling or emailing about participating in the DeSoto Acres Yard Sale & on the Map. This will help your email or voice message stand out from all other he receives.

Fill out the form on page 13 enclose your form with your dues payment in an envelope, and mail to DSA, P.O. Box 556, Tallevast, FL 34270. Should you have items left over from your yard sale that you do not want, please donate to your favorite charity, for example Mother's Helping Mothers on North Washington Blvd. Help recycle, reuse. This is your Association working to make DeSoto Acres Community Yard Sale the preferred North County Community Yard Sale.

We hope you have a successful yard sale or hunt!