Issue 2 2020

DeSoto·Acres
Association, Inc.

Country Estates in the Heart of Town

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Message from the Prez

Hello Residents,

I hope this issue finds you and your loved ones well. With the COVID-19 pandemic still upon us, I encourage you to listen to credible sources for the latest information and reach out to those less fortunate than yourselves. Ever the optimist, I note that both noise and traffic are down in our neighborhood, and although there is a new norm for "Social Distancing", people in my area are more socially engaged as they walk, bike, and work in their yards; six feet is an easily bridged gap with the smiles, waves and greetings I experience daily among neighbors.

Many of us received a recent email from Sarasota County Neighborhood Services Department regarding the DeSoto Acres Neighborhood Plan. Our neighborhood plan will now be presented for acceptance to the Board of County Commissioners. When the Plan presentation date is determined, Neighborhood Services will notify us so we may remain involved. Our DeSoto Acres Neighborhood Plan is the culmination of many hours of hard work by our Board (past and present), and you, our residents. I look forward to the Plan's adoption, and continued forward progress in our community.

If you have a DeSoto Acres article or story you would like to share, please let us know, and we will work with you to have it included in a future issue.

Best wishes,

Alex

DeSoto Acres Chickens

Adventures in Chicken Keeping

by Martha Hafner

April 3, 2020 was the day I got a call from the Sarasota Main Post Office telling me my birthday gift to myself had arrived. When I got there, I received a big smile from the Postal Clerk as she headed to the back to grab it. I could hear them peeping before she arrived back at the counter. My Mail-Order chicks had arrived! They were three days old and cute as could be. My adventure was beginning.

This isn't going to be a column about how to raise chickens. I am a chicken novice and there will be many people reading this who know far more than I do. A year ago I listened Podcasts from Community Chickens where I started to learn about chickens. When it came time to buy my chicks I was able to easily research online and figure out if I wanted my chickens for meat, eggs or both, which chickens would be best for our hot climate and what types of personalities I wanted. *(cont p 7)*

What is Reverse Osmosis?

by Aqua Plumbing & Air

Having fresh, clean water in your home is for the health and comfort of your family. Physicians advise that during times of illness, we all should be drinking more water. Unfortunately, finding bottled water at times is no easy task. A reverse osmosis system is designed to provide your home with the purest water available by removing unwanted contaminants.

You're unlikely to get purer water than an RO system provides outside of a lab. By utilizing two filters and membrane, almost all impurities should be removed from the water. This means you don't need to worry about harmful chemicals or contaminants affecting your family's health. Installing an RO system in your home or office not only gives you the convenience of pure water, but also delivers pure water to your refrigerator and ice maker as well.

Contact Aqua Plumbing & Air to learn more.

Why Should *You*?

by Vickie Crooke, Treasurer

When it comes to paying your DeSoto Acres HOA yearly dues, why should you pay $35 a year? What does your $35 actually pay for?

- Most importantly it allows you to belong to this community and be a part of this unique neighborhood.
- Annual Florida state documents = $70
- Liability Insurance (required) = $998.00
- DeSoto Acres PO Box = $148.00
- Funds to acquire a lawyer if needed to secure our existing zoning/protect our neighborhood
- The DSA Newsletter printing and postage = $500.00 to $600.00 per quarter
- Yearly Yard Sale requires advertisements and postcard reminder
- Supplies and refreshments for Neighborhood Clean-Up
- Annual Resident Meeting printing of announcement, financials and providing refreshments
- Our vision as a board moving forward is to organize neighborhood events like a Block party or 100-year celebration

It is clear your money is not wasted and it is truly put to good use. It is not too late make your check payable to DeSoto Acres and mail to our PO Box.

It will be the best $35 you will spend this year!

DeSoto Acres Executive Board

President Alex Boudreau • Vice President Terry Lipman • Secretary Martha Hafner • Treasurer Vickie Crooke

Best way to reach you? Phone? Email? Print or digital Newsletter? Tell us: director2@desotoacres.org

DeSoto Acres HOA Membership Dues are $35. If you are paid ahead, no amount change is necessary. To become a member please send $35 check payable to **DeSoto Acres HOA, PO Box 556, Tallevast, FL 34270**

DeSoto Acres Membership Dues - Mail-in Form

Name(s)_____

Property Address_____

Mailing Address_____

Phone_____ **Email**_____

Online Business Directory Listing (See our Business Directory at desotoacres.org)

Company Name_____ **Phone**_____

Company Tag Line_____

Memory Lane - Meet Me on Traylor

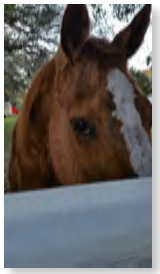
by Martha Hafler

When we purchased our home in DeSoto Acres 4 ½ years ago, it didn't take me long to discover the hidden gem of our neighborhood that goes by the name of Traylor Avenue. Disconnected for direct auto traffic from the bustle of University Parkway by the county several years ago, Traylor is a quiet road now, with mostly slow-moving local car traffic. It is a delightful section of roadway for a morning's dog walk or an evening bike ride for me and my family.

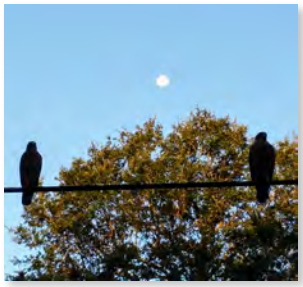
Most days, Florida Brown Dog – Shasta, and I take a turn around the block heading one way or another on Traylor. It was where we first met our more immediate neighbors.

First, there's Sam. Seems almost everyone knows Sam. He's the Chair of the neighborhood clean-ups. Sam is often seen riding his bicycle, sporting a day-glo green vest for safety. Sam is good for a tidbit of neighborhood information and has gifted us with many interesting plant starts.

Then there is Connie, who was walking 3 old rescued doggers when I first met her. She's down to one old dogger now, and he's moving pretty slow, but so is Shasta.



Next is Dottie. I met Dottie over a fence one day, as she was walking her very old horse in his pasture that borders Traylor. Over the years we have kept up with the sort of details that friends share – our minutia of life, like work, kids, our animals and our own health. She always has a wise word in her kind heart.



Putting humans aside, I find the most delight from the animals I've observed. On the stretch of Traylor from 61st to 47th Streets there are 4 homes that visibly house chickens. One yard also has turkeys and a goose. There are currently 2 ponies and 1 horse on that stretch and many cats and dogs to be observed in yards. And that is just the domesticated animals. On most mornings I can hear almost an uninterrupted soundtrack of bird songs. And bird sightings over the years include numerous red shouldered hawks, a pair of swallow-tailed kites who seem stop over in Desoto Acres on their migration each spring, a bald eagle, a few whistling ducks, and the numerous wild parrots, cardinals, bluejays and small warblers that I have yet to learn to identify. No bird sighting compares to the thrill I had a few weeks ago to have a bright red adult fox walking right down the middle of Traylor coming within 50 feet of me before ducking into the nearby brush cover.

As the Covid-19 shut down has slowed our lives. The neighborhood is quieter, the loudness of traffic on the nearby roadways is less and there is a stillness in the air. One can walk and contemplate life and find some peace in the tree-lined roadway. I definitely walk on Traylor more these days. I've observed more walkers, bicyclists, strollers, and golf carts as people get out and move in the neighborhood. Everyone is friendly with a wave and a nod, a wish of "Stay Safe". It has a real feeling of community. I invite you to try it, take a walk and Meet me on Traylor.

" First, there's Sam. Seems almost everyone knows Sam."

A Short Course in Pine Beetles

By Terry Lipman, ISA Certified Arborist

Pine beetles inhabit dying Slash Pine, a Native Pine Tree in our area. Please note, I said "inhabit **dying** Slash Pine" as the Pine Beetles are **not** responsible for initially killing the tree.

STRESS IS KILLING YOUR TREE!

Was there recent construction? Did you add or remove soil near the tree? Was there a grade or site level change? Were there any root disturbances or mower damage to the trunk? Have you been in an extended drought? Were herbicides applied under the canopy? Are there any signs of disease? Are you over watering or has there been recent natural occurrences such as, flooding, high winds or lightning? Any of these conditions can invite Ips beetle infestations to your Slash Pines.

According to Caldwell (2018), Bark Beetle, Ips calligraphus, is more than likely the beetle infesting your STRESSED pines. Adult beetles are small, about 3/16-inch-long and are dark brown to black in color. The Black Turpentine Beetle, also Dendroctonus terebrans, is a little larger and may be present at the base and root flares of Pine Trees. The Black Turpentine Beetle can attack healthy Slash Pines and an insecticidal spray may be warranted. Both beetles have several generations per year.

The Canopy of Pine Trees naturally change color throughout their life time. When your trees are infested with Bark Beetles the canopy color changes rapidly from green to yellow to red to brown. The beetles leave 1/16" to 1/8" round holes in the outer bark. When the beetles are active, they leave small, reddish-orange or white masses of resin sometimes called pitch. Sawdust called frass might also be seen in cracks and crevices or at the base of the tree.

The beetle larvae create tunnels called galleries under the bark which inhibit the flow of the phloem, essentially girdling the tree, cutting off nutrient flow to the roots. In addition, the adults transmit a blue stain fungus into the tree. This fungus eventually plugs the xylem, cutting off the water flow and the tree dies.

For more info about bark beetles:
www.freshfromflorida.com/Division-Offices/Florida-Forest-Service-Our-Forests/Forest-Health/Forest-Insects/Pine-Bark-Beetles

Real Estate Corner

Preparing Your Home to Sell

By Carissa Carbo, REALTOR®

If you are selling your home there are a few surefire ways to make your house shine. While major improvements or upgrades are not usually recommended prior to selling, many small improvements make a good first impression to potential buyers. Here are a few to get you started:

Declutter & Clean – Though we may love our personal photos and trinkets from our travels on shelves, they will not hold the same meaning or appeal during an open house. By putting away personal belongings and clearing away the clutter, you allow buyers to see the home through their own eyes, rather than through yours. People don't always notice when things are clean, but they do notice when things are dirty, so also make sure to clean all the nooks and crannies and make the house a shiny penny before any showings.

Paint Refresh – As we all know, most homes in DeSoto Acres have withstood the test of time. Now is a great time to freshen up the areas that may be a little worse for wear with a clean coat of paint around the house. Painting with light and bright neutral colors are a good choice, as they will open up a room and make it appear larger.

Curb Appeal – On the exterior, it's amazing what a good pressure wash can do! Spraying down windows, exterior walls, garage doors, driveways, and sidewalks will make a huge difference.

After you've got all the dirt off, consider sprucing up the landscaping. Plant some flowers around the porch and mailbox, mulch around your trees and planters, and remove any excess foliage such as dead tree limbs, palm fronds, or vines growing on the fence line.

A little work can truly go a long way when it comes to getting your desired price on the sale of your home. As a DeSoto Acres resident and Board Member, I see the value in our community and would love to be of service to my neighbors! If you are interested to hear more tips and tricks to getting your home ready to sell, or are ready to put it on the market call or text me at 305-632-8411.

Cop's Corner

One way COVID-19 has been our friend… crime is way down in DSA! Only two incidents reported between 2/1/20 - 5/1/20:

4/1 - 53rd and Shade - grand theft/larceny
4/23 - DeSoto Rd and Tuttle - motor vehicle theft

DeSoto Acres Neighborhood Plan Update

By Tim Lynch

A Community Meeting was held on March 9th, hosted Sarasota County Neighborhood Services and included a presentation of the Revised DeSoto Acres/Lockwood Ridge Corridor Study & Analysis by Sarasota County Transportation staff.

This presentation was a follow up to the initial presentation from Sarasota County Transportation Planning Manager Paula Wiggins on December 11th 2019. A copy of the Analysis can be found at https://files.constantcontact.com/ed40f1db301/99265dac-f568-465a-940f-a309073ac999.pdf.

Some items covered were as follows:

Sidewalks
8' wide sidewalks are proposed for the South side of DeSoto Road from US 301 to Lockwood Ridge, and for the East side of Tuttle Avenue from Myrtle Street to University Parkway.
The current schedule calls for design in 2021, with construction anticipated in 2023.

DeSoto Road & Shade Avenue Intersection
Staff recommends that incremental improvements be considered at the DeSoto Road and Shade Avenue intersection prior to implementation of multi-way stop control. Improvements at this intersection may include the addition of Cross Traffic Does Not Stop plaques, flashing stop signs, rumble strips, improved roadway surface marking, a flashing yellow/red signal light, or installation of a roundabout

Tuttle Avenue widening
Tuttle Avenue will be widened to 4 lanes, but it is not currently in the 5-year Capital Improvement Program.

Lower Speed Limits
The County needs to address the issue of speeding within the DeSoto Acres community; however, solely lowering the posted speed limit is not the solution to the speeding problem.

Conclusion
Neighborhood Services will finalize the DeSoto Acres Neighborhood Plan based upon the community conversations/public meetings hosted for residents of DeSoto Acres over the past year. A summary of the Neighborhood Plan process and recommendations will be mailed to all residents of DeSoto Acres.
Due to the current situation, the Plan will no longer be presented to the Planning Commission. It will be presented for acceptance to the Board of County Commissioners at a currently unknown date.

(Chickens, cont from p 1)

I was able to read reviews on Yelp of different mail order hatcheries and found one, Chickens for Backyards, offering a nice deal on a mystery mix of Brown Egg Layers. As of this writing, I still do not know the actual breeds of my chicks. That will eventually be revealed. My job gives me access to lots of corrugated cardboard so I set about to build a large brooder box with my husband's industrial glue gun. It resides safely in our critter proof and dry barn.

At the time of this writing, they have all figured out that this old lady is the source of food. They no longer run to the other side of the box at my arrival, but instead cock their heads, look quizzically and fly up to the edge to greet me when I open the lid. I sit with my morning coffee or evening malt beverage and talk to them and they chirp back. Life is good, and just a little bit sweeter in those moments.

Desoto Acres Association, Inc.
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DeSoto Acres Association Community Newsletter Issue 2 2020

DeSoto Acres Needs You!

Neighborhood Events

Coming Soon!

Keep an eye out…

Volunteer your talents and skills!

★ Help with DSA events

★ Manage our website

Email Carissa at:
director2@desotoacres.org

Follow us on our new FB page! Look for DeSoto Acres Community

@DesotoAcres

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