Issue 3 2020

DeSoto·Acres

ASSOCIATION, INC.

Country Estates in the Heart of Town

Stay Current **Stay Informed** **Stay Connected**

Message from the Prez

"Hot as blazes" my mom says when describing our current heat wave. Hang in there friends, Chamber of Commerce weather is just around the corner. I've noticed that the heat has not deterred folks from getting outside and strolling, biking and helping to tidy up our neighborhood. As I go about my yard chores, I make it a point to say hello to those passing the Boudreau house, offer water, and yes, relieve them of the litter they have collected while walking our neighborhood; thank you. DeSoto Acres possesses the charm of shaded streets, low traffic and friendly neighbors that draws people in. What can we all do to preserve and expand this charm?

Three things come to mind:

1) Plant a tree or two. DSA is partnering with Sarasota County to participate in their Treejuvenation program and plant additional trees along our roads. In the meantime, for a heads up on a common palm disease, please see Terry's article on page 2.

2) It makes my day to see people outside and enjoying the out-of doors. While passing walkers and bikers please slow down, move over, and give them lots of room.

3) Smile and wave. It costs nothing, and I now have friends who share stories, exchange plants, and yes, drop off their litter. Get to know some of the amazing people in our community in our new feature, "Howdy, Neighbor."

DeSoto Acres will soon be turning 100; I must say we look great. Members of our association are brainstorming and working with Sarasota County Historical Society to celebrate this milestone. Watch for future articles on our centennial, along with opportunities to volunteer and get involved.

Have a great fall,

Alex

Bananas in DeSoto Acres

Who Lives in DeSoto Acres?

by Martha Hafner

Before I moved to DeSoto Acres, my only experience of the neighborhood was what I saw as I drove through on DeSoto or Tuttle. I often wondered about who lived in the interesting homes with lots of land around them. Now that I have lived here for five years, I see a rich heritage and interesting folks - circus performers, professional athletes, people who are farming and raising food sustainably, horse people, bee people, artists and more.

In 2021, the City of Sarasota will be celebrating its 100 Year Anniversary and so will DeSoto Acres. We will be participating in events that celebrate our history and are planning events right here in our neighborhood. Our DeSoto Acres Yard Tour will be a day-long event highlighting some of the properties and owners who are doing things here that would be of interest to others. If you have an activity or lifestyle that you'd like to share I'd like to talk to you. Please email Martha.Hafner@gmail.com and I will contact you.

Ganoderma - A Common Palm Disease

by Terry Lipman, ISA Certified Arborist

Ganoderma is a disease caused by the pathogen Ganoderma *zonatum*--a white rot fungus that causes palm tree death. The first sign you are likely to see when a palm has Ganoderma is a conk or basidiocarp that forms near the ground on a palm trunk. In it's early stages it appears as a soft, button like mass at the bottom of the trunk. Sadly, when you see this, it's already too late.

As the conk matures it grows into a shape that looks like a half-moon-shaped shelf and it turns a brown golden color. These conks produce spores that are believed to be the primary means of spreading this disease via wind and rain. If you see a conk be careful not to spread the spores. First remove the conk, put it into a plastic bag and dispose of it by placing it in a trash receptacle that will be incinerated or delivered to a landfill. If your palm has Ganoderma (conks), it should be removed with its root ball for safety reasons. If a conk is seen, then you can assume that the lower 4-5 feet is already rotted. These infected palms are especially dangerous during hurricane season. (See helpful links on our website: www.desotoacres.org)

If a palm is removed because of Ganoderma, it is recommend by the University of Florida **not** to replant a palm in the same hole as the pathogen is still present in the soil.

Thank You, DSA Members!

by Vickie Crooke, Treasurer

Since my last article in the newsletter, I am happy to report an update that several residents have paid their HOA fee of $35.00. We currently have 101 members. Remember it is NOT too late to submit your payment. We value our members. You help support our neighborhood *and* the association. Plus it carries benefits, such as voting rights. Check to see if you are up-to-date at www.desotoacres.org

"It's Why We Live Here!"

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_____

More Trees

by Alex Boudreau

"The ideal time to plant a tree is twenty years ago." A wonderful quote that I first heard while discussing ways to increase the local tree canopy with now retired County Forestry staff member. Jeff Wilkinson.

57th Street

Neighbors, we live in a unique neighborhood with large lots and plenty of room to plant trees, all kinds of trees. One long term strategy we should pursue in our ongoing efforts to preserve the uniqueness that is DeSoto Acres is to plant trees, native trees. Who knows, one day future generations may visit "DeSoto Acres Preserve: a unique community within the urban boundary"; imagine the protections provided under such a designation.

Over the past year, my family and I have planted several fruit trees and two mahogany trees in addition to the seven pine trees necessary to replace those lost to borer beetles. On a positive note, we have had luck saving our remaining pine trees with a product called Bonide Annual Tree and Shrub Insect Control recommended by Farm and Garden on Beneva Road. These folks have been an invaluable resource when it comes to saving and selecting trees, as has our own neighbor, Terry Lipman.

As we continue planning and future tree plantings, I've relearned some great information about trees. Most importantly, ***trees are assets***!

- Trees improve air quality by removing particulates and air pollution.
- The shade they cast on buildings can lower summer temperatures and reduce energy costs.
- Trees increase property values.
- They can help reduce pollution and flooding by taking up water with their roots—water that would otherwise have flowed off the landscape and created stormwater runoff into our canals and bays.
- Well-chosen and maintained trees can also help protect your home from hurricane-force winds.
- Trees also encourage wildlife, perhaps a future article for our newsletter.

I encourage everyone to take a few minutes and get outside in our beautiful weather. Set aside a moment to take in our unique environment and plant a tree. Remember, the ideal time to plant a tree is twenty years ago...Thank you, Mr. Wilkinson.

For links to valuable tree info, visit our website: www.desotoacres.org

"The ideal time to plant a tree is twenty years ago."

Recycle Wisely

By Celeste Welch

Since the start of 2020, Sarasota County Solid Waste has been picking up our recyclables in the recently delivered big blue, single stream, recycling carts. We can all help do our part in diverting waste from the landfill by adhering to some basic instructions

- **No plastic bags!** Do not place any recyclable items in plastic bags and do not place any plastic bags in the bins. Bags can clog the sorter machines and shut them down. Also, no disposable gloves, masks, etc. and no aerosol cans in recycle carts. All of these items should go into the trash. To schedule a one-time courtesy pickup for moving boxes, contact Waste Management at 941-493-4100.

- **Recyclable items need to be clean.** Rinse out all jars, lids, bottles, and containers, and only place clean cardboard into the cart.

- **All items must fit inside the cart.** Since transitioning to automated collection, only recyclable materials placed in the carts will be picked up. Items left outside the cart will not be picked up.

- **Carts out by 6am on collection day.** Carts may be placed at the curb no earlier than 5 p.m. the day before collection and should be curbside by 6 a.m. on collection day. Empty containers should be brought in from the curb by 10 a.m. on the day following collection.

- **Properly place carts on collection day.** Carts need to be placed on the roadside - lid opening towards the road - with a 3' spacing on all sides. Cart needs to be 3' alway from all items including other cans, fences, driveway markers, mailboxes. This is to ensure that automated collection by the truck arm can pick up the cart and safely place it back on the ground. The postal service has also sent some notices out to those who put any trash cans, yard waste, or recycle carts too close to the path of their mail trucks. Be sure your items do not block the path of our mail carriers.

I contacted the county late last year and found out that most plastic is not recycled in the USA at this time. We can all do our part to minimize waste by trying to reduce the amount of plastic we are using. There are some great videos at storyofstuff.org including a video about where recycled plastic ends up. (See more info on our website: www.desotoacres.org)

Real Estate Corner

DeSoto Acres Sales Trends - 8/19 - 8/20

By Carissa Carbo, REALTOR®, Beach House Companies

Focusing on the For Sale and Sold data for DeSoto Acres over the last twelve months, we can draw that the number of homes available in DeSoto Acres have steadily been trending down over the last year, with a marked decrease in inventory beginning with the effects of COVID-19 hitting the economy in March. Interestingly, the average number of sales per month in our community has not decreased due to the pandemic. This paradigm is being seen in markets all over the nation—sellers have pulled their houses off the market, or postponed selling, resulting in lower inventory. All the while there are still buyers who need to move, so homes are still selling despite the pandemic. With this decrease in supply, but rather fixed demand, prices are driven up. In the September article *Housing Affordability Drops Modestly in July 2020 as Median Family Prices Reach All Time High*, the National Association of REALTORS® said, "Lower levels of housing inventory are still having an impact on the rise of home price growth." While our neighborhood is above the median price range in Sarasota, it is evident that DeSoto Acres home values and sales prices are clearly on the rise.

The August 2019 – August 2020 data can be referenced on our website ***www.desotoacres.org*****.** This time period shows the Average List Price in DeSoto Acres trending up, with average increases beginning at the start of the pandemic in February. The second half of 2019 showed Average List Prices in the mid $500k range; in 2020, these averages have skyrocketed to the high $600k to low $800k range. For those thinking of listing at a higher price point, bear in mind that the data reflects that sales over the past twelve months have averaged a Sold Price of only 88% of their Original List Price. This is an indicator that DeSoto Acres sellers may be weighing too heavily on high market values and not enough on the condition of their own home. Overpriced homes have a direct correlation to slower sales, evidenced by DSA's last twelve months of data, which shows an average of 133 days on market in our community—or a whopping 4+ months! With such low inventory, and in such a desirable location, DeSoto Acres homes have the potential to sell in mere weeks if priced correctly.

If you are thinking of selling your home, or have questions about this data, feel free to contact me at 305-632-8411 for a complimentary one-to-one chat on how you can get the most money for your home and sell in the shortest amount of time. Signed—Your neighbor, DSA Association Director, and local industry expert.

Cop's Corner

With COVID-19 still upon us, crime continues to be down in DSA! Only two incidents reported since the last newsletter:

6/5 - DeSoto Road - Assault: Simple
7/17 - DeSoto Road - Petty theft

Set up your own crime alert at www.crimemapping.com

Howdy, Neighbor!

By Lisa Moody

Her name is Colleen Handgen, but you all know her as “Coke". She’s the type that feels far more comfortable on her John Deere than shopping at UTC. This spring, amidst the pandemic, she quietly turned eighty one years young, and for those of you who know her, you understand what I mean. Coke has the energy of a twenty year old, and that’s not an exaggeration.

Raised in the heart of the midwest in Indiana, after Coke finished college she taught high school math before packing up and moving to Anna Maria Island to be closer to her extended family. She was employed at Sarasota High School as a guidance counselor, eventually transferring to Pineview where she remained a guidance counselor until her retirement.

Coke desired more space and fell in love with DeSoto Acres. She purchased a parcel at the end of 57th Street and was known to camp there in her VW Vanagon at times until she built her home in 1978. She sketched out her dream house, and her draftsman brother drew up the plans. More than forty years later, she still lives in the home she designed. High energy apparently runs in the family because when Coke’s mom was in her eighties, together, she and Coke built the fence that still surrounds the property today.

Coke has always loved horses, and tells of her childhood when she would hop the fence and jump on her neighbors horse, riding bareback to her hearts content. While she never kept horses in DeSoto Acres, she did have dogs...many dogs over the years, and is an adept agility trainer. In fact, if you drive by her house, you’ll see the agility course still intact in her yard.

Today, Coke’s favorite pastime is mowing her lawn. So if you pass by and you see her on her Cub Cadet, be sure to wave and shout out, Howdy, neighbor!

DeSoto Acres Neighborhood Plan Update

Rolling Green Golf Course: Technically outside of our neighborhood boundary, DSA raised concerns (development density, traffic congestion, noise, and stormwater runoff) with both the Sarasota County Planning Commission and the Board of County Commission, who despite our concerns, voted unanimously (4/24/20) to approve the project. Frustrating, yes, but we, DSA, along with your individual input and support will continue to voice concerns regarding neighborhood issues. See the article, Take Ownership, or Someone Else Will on our website at www.desotoacres.org and get involved!

DeSoto Acres Editorial

By Alex Boudreau, President, DSA

Take Ownership, or Someone Else Will

About 20 years ago, I was involved with in the Bayou Oaks Neighborhood Association. While working with the Sarasota Police Department to implement Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) practices, one of the officers stated "If you don't take ownership, someone else will". In this instance the officer was referencing public spaces, graffiti and drug dealing. While graffiti and street level drug dealing are not issues in our neighborhood, the above quote is readily applied to the ongoing pressure our neighborhood is experiencing from developers wanting to chip away at our boundaries and diminish our quality of life. If we neighbors, you and I, are not involved, someone else will "take ownership". As we go about our daily lives, a new project is being proposed on the south-east corner of University Parkway and Tuttle Avenue. This development will impact our neighborhood association, and set negative precedence for future development along the University corridor. It is time to "Take Ownership or someone else will".

Benderson Development, South-East corner of University and Tuttle Avenue: A Rezoning Petition (RZ19-22) was filed with Sarasota County and a virtual Planning Commission meeting was held on August 20st. Visit "Access Sarasota" on the SCGOV.net website to review the Planning Commission meeting.

Please note that the site plan submitted is NOT COMPLIANT WITH THE UNIVERSITY PARKWAY CORRIDOR PLAN, and that the DANA objects strongly to and recommends rejection of Rezone petition 19-22.

Non-Compliant Issues:

1. **Reduced the 50 foot building setbacks/ buffers between adjacent residences**. The Binding Development Concept Plan dated May 13, 2020 as submitted proposes only a 32' rear building setback

2) **Driveway access on Tuttle Avenue.** Residents have voiced legitimate concern that the planned ingress/egress slated for Tuttle Avenue will not work with current traffic congestion along Tuttle from University Parkway to DeSoto Rd, during morning and afternoon rush hour. Residents asked Benderson to NOT access Tuttle Avenue for ingress/egress, but rather connect with the required on-site frontage road along University Parkway. *(Con't page 9, Ownership)*

"There is never a good time to sit idle"

(Ownership, con't)

Please voice your view point at the virtual Board of County Commissioner's Hearing scheduled for October 7, 2020 at 9:00 am OR send in a letter to the Board of County Commissioner's documenting your input before October 1st.

We cannot support this rezone as proposed; doing so will set a negative precedent for future University Parkway developments and will negatively impact our property values. It is important for DANA to show "in force" our opposition to this noncompliant rezone.

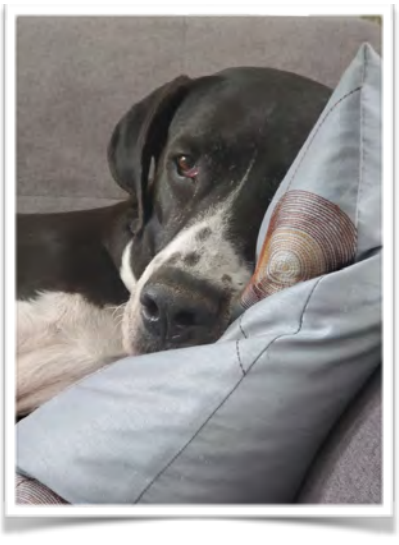
Visit the DeSotoAcres.org website under the "Community Information" tab for the "History of the University Parkway Corridor Planning and OPI/PD" for more information and links to Ordinance 096-076 University Parkway Corridor West.

Ever positive, let me point out that not all "ownership" issues have the potential to negatively impact our neighborhood. Recently, the DeSoto Acres Neighborhood Plan was presented to the Board of County Commissioners. This document was a labor of love by the DANA and the Sarasota County Planning and Development Services Department, and offers insight and solutions to concerns raised by us during the process. Like all good plans, it is a working document that will need to be implemented and updated as we move forward. I also see neighbors asserting ownership throughout the neighborhood by picking-up trash, improving their properties, and working with Sarasota county (941-861-5000) to report problems/concerns that need addressing.

Thank you for taking ownership.

"Working together, we can keep DeSoto Acres a great place to live."

Dogs of DeSoto



Mildred

Animals in the Acres

Teen Chickens

As Desoto Acres approaches its 100th birthday, we have partnered with the Sarasota County Centennial Celebration, and while we were planning to take place in their event day in January, coronavirus has forced them to announce the postponing of that day. They recently asked if they could feature us in their newsletter, and we provided them some historical written in our own newsletter in 2014 . Below is the article they published in their Centennial Journal September/October newsletter.

HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT
DESOTO ACRES TURNS 100 on FEBRUARY 3, 2021!

Unique in Sarasota County, DeSoto Acres is the oldest sub-division established outside of Sarasota city limits. It was founded by William Van Dame, a Chicago businessman who moved here in 1923. During the Florida land boom, he bought large tracts of land in North County including the solid block of land from the Seaboard Air Line Railway to Lockwood Ridge Road and County Line Road (now University Parkway) to 27th Street. In 1928, he gave Sarasota County the right-of-way connection from 27th Street to the County line. DeSoto Acres started with Van Dames vision for what he called "Van Dame Estates." It was an unusual vision for the time. A 1928 ad stated: "Ideal for suburban homes – poultry ranches & small farms." Van Dame Estates was legally established on FEB. 3, 1921 per the deed execution.

The estates slowly grew from inception through the 1940's.When Sarasota County replatted the area on March 4, 1945, Van Dame Estates changed its name to DeSoto Acres. The majority of existing homes were built in the 1950's & 60's followed by homes built in the 70's. The earliest home dates from 1925. The home most recently built was in 2014.

Current zoning no longer allows farm animals. Horses have been a constant in DeSoto Acres as they are not considered farm animals.The most defining character of DeSoto Acres is its large lots. Sarasota County's historical zoning maps (1960-75) shows all of the Desoto Acres area zoned E for Estate...one house for one acre. The Sarasota County zoning code updated in the 70's ...designated the DeSoto Acres area RE-1, Residential Estate meaning one house for two acres. This was codified Nov. 11, 1975 in the County Zoning Code.

DeSoto Acres residents have quite a diverse domestic and native animal population. Residents have horses, dogs, cats & peacocks. Native & migrating animals include bald eagles, ospreys, sandhill cranes, hawks, herons, fox, coyotes & every so often a bobcat.

Architecture was never part of the original deed restrictions as testified by the variety of styles seen in DeSoto Acres. This variety has appealed to those who made DeSoto Acres their home. The one thing residents have in common is their choice to live in DeSoto Acres on large naturally landscaped lots, with native animals in the heart of an urban environment. Today as development encroaches all around DeSoto Acres perimeter, its residents are united in the goal of preserving the uniqueness of this community.

Blast from the Past

by Lisa Moody

While on the topic of history, check out this gem from our newsletter archives, thanks to Jane Paquette. Rewind 46 years and this is what was on our minds. Look at "second on the agenda" and it won't take long to realize that some things just don't change! Enjoy this look back-

10-74

Desoto Acres Association

P.O.BOX3325 SARASOTA, FLORIDA 33578 11 October 1974

DeSoto Acres Association News Letter

On June 14, 1974 the Annual Meeting of the Association was held at the Bradenton-Sarasota Airport with approximately 50 persons in attendance. At this meeting a new board of directors was selected.

On June 19, 1974 the directors met for the purpose of electing officers. Following is the composition of the new board.

Jim Westbrook	President	355-3784	Phil Ruben	Member	355-6778
Bill Montogomery	Vice President	355-4953	Pete Brown	Member	355-5530
Jim Boyette	Treasurer	355-6066	Marty Newby	Member	355-7332
John Peterson	Secretary	355-6180			

On September 26, 1974 a business meeting was held with 5 members present. In attendance were Mr. Walter Powers, a resident of DeSoto Acres and Mr. Sabistian D'Alli, the County Engineer.

First on the agenda was a discussion of paving. Mr. Powers representing a majority of the residents residing east of Tuttle Avenue advocated the paving of our roads. Mr. D'Alli stated that there are some monies available for paving roads in our area. There would not be enough money to pave all roads this year. His people are setting up priorities on a county-wide basis. If our residents in a majority wanted no paving, the county would exempt our area from the present schedule. If the majority wanted paving, we would influence their priorities within our boundaries. However, on any east to west streets the county will probably give priority to those open from Lockwood Ridge to Shade. Definition of paving as it effects us. It would consist of 6" of marl, followed by a thin layer of asphalt, next a layer of stone, then a layer of oil and finally a layer of stone. Final consistency would be similar to that on 51 St. as opposed to the asphalt topping on Tuttle or the oil topping on County Line. Ditch and drain workwould be done simultaneously with the road work. All paving would run into existing drives, to eliminate humps between existing drives and the new road bed. All work would be done at county expense. Attached is a pole form which we would like each resident to complete and return prior to November 1. We will meet with Mr. D'Alli the beginning of November and would like to represent a majority feeling on this matter.

Second on the agenda. We are working on elimination of truck traffic on DeSoto from 301 to Lockwood Ridge and on Tuttle from 27th to County Line. Also, we are attempting to get a lowered speed limit on both roads. We hope to have more news on this in November.

Third, It was discussed that the new county zoning for our area will allow one homesite for 2 acres. Also to the possibility of vacating 51st street from Shade to 301.

Fourth, Mrs. Bannan has volunteered to set up a welcoming commttee. If those of us in business could help with small momentos of some sort, this would help. A major function of this committee would be to acquaint the newcomer with our Association, it's functions and goals.

Fifth, Mr. Daugh White, has some ideas on enterance signs. More on this in November.

Sixth, Block Captains. It has been suggested that we might be more effective with more manpower and that a block captain system could be the route to take. We would like your comments on this, also, would look kindly on volunteers.

Seventh, an exception to zoning on 59th street for the purpose of establishing a cooking school was withdrawn. We were on top of this. It will probably be resubmitted for another location. We will stay on top of it.

Eighth. The past treasurer left $658.79 in our coffers. To date we have received dues from 45 persons for 1974.

If you have not paid your dues, now is the time.

Jim Westbrook

Desoto Acres Association, Inc.
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DeSoto Acres Association Community Newsletter Issue 3 2020

DeSoto Acres Needs You!

Neighborhood Event

Food Truck Friday!

Oct 2 - Location TBD

Watch for signs!!

Volunteer your talents and skills!

★ Help with DSA events

★ Manage our website

Email Carissa at:
director2@desotoacres.org

LIKE us on our FB page!
Look for current
community updates!

@DesotoAcres

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