Issue 4 2020

DeSoto·Acres
ASSOCIATION, INC.

Country Estates in the Heart of Town

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

Message from the Prez

Good Day and Happy December.

The holidays are upon us. In the blink of an eye summer was over, Halloween was a blur and now Christmas decorations are appearing as if the elves are working overtime. This year, the Boudreau household is giving thanks for all that is positive in our lives, taking inventory of our skills and talents, and extending ourselves to those in need. I hope you will recognize your own gifts and talents, and then offer them, even in the smallest of ways, to our community.

While writing this message I noticed a common thread: the ongoing involvement of DSA board members, both past and present. We have lots of events coming up, which are great ways to meet your neighbors, have fun, and get involved. Look for details in this newsletter event calendar and save the date for the following:

Annual DSA members meeting: Please join us on Zoom and offer your input for our future.

First Friday Food Trucks: This is a great idea of Carissa Carbo's to meet and eat !

Annual DSA yard sale: Thanks to our past president, Bob Heere for organizing this

Annual DSA Clean-up: Founding member and past president Sam Miller has made this event a success for decades. Thanks, Sam!

Arbor Day: 100 trees are coming to us from Sarasota County! Get ready to plant!

Enjoy your holidays, be safe, and check on one another. I look forward to seeing you.

Cheers,

Alex

Spreading happiness in DeSoto Acres

Slice of the Acres - Tour Update

by Martha Hafner

Ah, the best laid plans! We had received feedback from six DeSoto Acres residents willing to open up part of their yards to a tour showcasing their skills and interests in areas such as gardening, agriculture, small animal farming, as well as a horse trainer. We are still looking for folks who might be an artist or craftsman, working in their home or outbuilding—perhaps a painter or potter. And since we are proud of our circus heritage, we're also looking for showfolks!

Although COVID has delayed us, eventually we will develop a committee to help orchestrate the event – coordinating docents, signage, maps, ticketing, parking, sponsorships, bathrooms, etc. Tour participants will most likely be self-guided from property to property. Stay tuned for more updates as we navigate these times. We will be back on track—soon I hope!

DeSoto Acres News & Events

January	March
1st - Food Truck Friday 21st - Annual DSA Members Meeting https://zoom.us Mtg ID 980 8228 6004 PW: DSA 2021	5th - Food Truck Friday 20th - DSA Yard Sale. Got stuff? Watch for emails as we get closer.
February	**April**
5th - Food Truck Friday *Tip: Clip the Save the Date on the back page for a quick at-a-glance!*	2nd - Food Truck Friday 10th - DSA Clean-up Help keep the neighborhood clean. Watch for emails.

Want to join the January meeting and need help with Zoom? Contact Lisa Moody at lisa@tinwoman.com to set up a time to walk thru Zoom on your computer, tablet, or phone

The DSA Board is very active, meeting once a month. There are a few seats open, if you'd like to serve. Join the next meeting when our annual vote takes place. Or, if you'd like to offer your time without being a board member, let us know. We can always use your help. Also, be sure to like us on Facebook - @DeSotoAcres

We have a new website developer! Andres Paz will be helping us update and maintain our site. Watch for upcoming changes at www.desoto.org

Thank You, DSA Members!

by Vickie Crooke, Treasurer

As 2020 comes to an end, I would like to wish everyone a very Happy Holiday and I hope the New Year brings joy and happiness.

I have some exciting news to share. Hopefully starting in January, residents will not only be able to pay cash or by check, but members will be able to pay online. More information will be available when we have our annual Desoto Acres "Zoom" meeting in January. We have 107 residences this year that paid their membership fee of $35.00, thank you for supporting our association.

These are our residences that have PAID for 2020:

Abernathy	Alberti	Andres	Andrews	Bellamy	Berrier
Blomeley	Boudreau	Bournival	Byers	Callahan	Carbo
Colbert	Coorssen	Deveau	Dogancay	Eavis	Elwood
FeikemaFlorio	Forgard	Fox	Gabbert	Goodman	Goolsby
Gregg	Greenberg	Grimes	Handgen	Harvey	Hayes
Haynes	Heere	Hightower	Horst	Hultquist	Irwin
Jackson J	Johnson	Kluver	Kreye	Langston	Ledford
Lynch	Mainville	Malinsky	McElroy	McNaughton	Moody
Moser	Northminister	Nelson	Roberts	Robinson	Rochette
Rodriguez	Russo	Schlekeway	Shinn	Soc/Friendship	Short
Siem	Silvis	Slakans	Smith	Starkey	Taylor
Tapia	Teshima	Tucak	Utley	Wagstaff	Whites
Williams	Wilson	Wittman			

Many residents have paid for 2020 and PAID IN ADVANCE thru upcoming years:

Anderson ('24)	Baker ('24)	Baxter ('23)	Coty ('22)	Crooke ('21)
Curtis (21)	Dewald ('21)	Fenton ('21)	Garfinkel ('21)	Gimenez ('21)
Glanden ('21)	Gockley ('23)	Gore ('21)	Griffin ('23)	Grosvenor ('21)
Gruters ('22)	Hafner ('21)	Hasselbring ('22)	Jackson W ('21)	Kelln (2021)
Kohrs ('21)	Lipman ('23)	Lovesky ('24)	Martin ('21)	McNeil ('23)
Miller ('22)	Murray ('21)	Noel ('23)	Norwood ('22)	Olejnikow ('21)
Welch ('21)				

Brazilian Pepper Removal

by Alex Boudreau

We just finished removing the last of the Brazilian Pepper trees from our property! There is no time like the present to eradicate these trees, even if you do your eradication in stages; first killing the trees, then removing the dead trees at a future date. Below is a little information on the Brazilian pepper tree, and some removal tips. Good luck, and do not let them get the better of you.

Brazilian pepper was introduced in Florida as an ornamental accent. Unfortunately, the dense, tightly grown thicket that define the Brazilian pepper tree is also what makes it so destructive to the areas around it. The Brazilian pepper's trunk has multiple stems, each of which grows erratically into an arch, crossing the stems around it. The tangled mess of branches and leaves is harmful to already endangered or threatened wildlife, such as the gopher tortoise, which relies on ground burrows for shelter and survives on native low-hanging plants.

Brazilian pepper is one of the most aggressive and wide-spread invasive plants in the state of Florida. No area is protected from its growth. Brazilian pepper grows over wetlands, pastures, waterfronts, residential backyards, and even nature preserves. Once the tree takes root and invades an area, it is difficult to eradicate

Classified by the state of Florida as a 'noxious weed', Brazilian pepper is unlawful to introduce, possess, move or release in Florida. This classification also means Brazilian pepper is not protected by any local or state laws or ordinances and can be removed at any time without permits.

The best way to eradicate a Brazilian pepper tree is to remove the whole tree, including the root system. Because this is difficult to do to mature trees, they are often cut to the stump as close to the ground as possible and treated with an herbicide. Care must also be taken to appropriately dispose of the cut branches to ensure that berries and seeds are destroyed and do not spread.

For additional information on Brazilian pepper, eradication and other exotic plant removal, please visit the University of Florida Institute of Food and Agricultural Services (IFAS.UFL.edu) Master Gardener Program. Bonus: if you remove your Brazilian pepper trees, you can replace them for free with non-invasive species this spring. Stay tuned for more info in the next newsletter!

"Good luck, and do not let them get the better of you."

Food Truck First Fridays

By Carissa Carbo

The DeSoto Acres Homeowners Association has worked very hard this year to bring new and fun ideas and activities to our slice of paradise. While we have beautiful properties and wonderful people here, being spread out does pose challenges to meeting our neighbors—and so Food Truck Fridays was born! So far, the three events so far have been very successful—in fact the first one sold out within the first two hours—and all of the vendors have shown an interest in coming back! The intent is to make this monthly event a longstanding tradition for our community—to gather each month, connect with one another and build friendships right here at home.

Food Truck Fridays is held on the first Friday of each month from 5pm to 8pm. We bounced around the Acres for our first couple food truck nights while we were working out the details of our new event, but with the kindness of Northminster Presbyterian Church, as of December our new permanent location is the lot across from the church, at the corner of Lockwood Ridge and 61st Street. Feel free to park either on the lawn near the food trucks or at the church parking lot and walk over.

Our vision is for this event to grow each month and to add in fun activities such as cornhole, live music, or a movie night on the lawn. We encourage neighbors to bring games to play or instruments for a jam session. If you have an idea to share or would like to get involved in growing this event, please contact Carissa at 305-632-8411 or email me at info@beachhousecompanies.com. This new and exciting event is a great way to meet your neighbors and stay involved. So, mark your calendars for the first Friday of every month, invite your friends and plan get to know your neighbors. Everyone is welcome. Please wear a mask, bring a chair and stay a while!

Howdy, Neighbor!

By Lisa Moody

This is a different version of Howdy, Neighbor, but as this tumultuous year comes to a close, I felt the need to approach this article a bit differently. 2020 has brought out the very best and the very worst in people, and as we enter a new year, I wanted to share what I've seen as the core essence of our neighborhood: kindness.

Sadly this year, we lost a longtime resident at the age of 96. You may have seen Wilmer Sauder and his dog, Humphrey, standing sentinel at the corner of 57th and Shade, waving at passersby. Humphrey and Wilmer were quite the pair, with a bond that was obviously strong, as Humphrey let anyone who came too close know that he was there to protect his owner. After Mr. Sauder passed away, Humphrey was left with nowhere to go. Mr. Sauder's grandson tried to include Humphrey as part of his family, but it wasn't a good fit. That's when Wilmer's neighbors stepped in, and I wanted to thank everyone who showed concern and interest in Humphrey's well-being, as we all worked with the grandson to find Humphrey a new forever home.

In May 2019, former students of mine, Andres and Meybis Paz, were married at a beautiful outdoor lawn ceremony at our DeSoto Acres home, and are thrilled to be expecting a baby daughter this coming March. In a desperate moment, they agreed to foster Humphrey, and I have to say, it was instant and reciprocal love. After a week, Andres and May were over the moon with Humphrey and it appeared that the feeling was mutual. They asked if they could keep him permanently and they . Today, he lays his head across Mey's belly, listens to the baby's heartbeat, and falls asleep contentedly. Or, he sits on Andres' lap as he works on the computer. It's a good fit. I think Wilmer would approve.

Thanks again to all who helped find a home for Humphrey. In these crazy times, let's remember that life is fragile and everyone—even a pup left behind—needs an dose of kindness. Howdy, Neighbor. May the new year bring us all peace.

Sarasota Centennial Update

As most of you know, like Sarasota, DeSoto Acres is turning 100 years old in 2021. We partnered with the County to be a part of their celebration, which has basically been put on hold due to COVID-19. Stay tuned for events that will still take place but will be held virtually, at www.sarasotacountycentennial.com. As far as DeSoto Acres, we will certainly keep you posted regarding celebration events involving our neighborhood. DeSoto Acres was the first platted neighborhood in Sarasota County and we continue 100 years strong. That is worth celebrating!

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM YOUR BOARD!

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_____

Blast from the Past

By DeSoto Acres Association Board

As a friendly reminder, it was requested to reprint this article from our February 2015 Newsletter.

Living in DeSoto Acres is unique in Sarasota County. Just 2.6 miles from Main Street, DeSoto Acres is a residential oasis of over 850 acres of natural indigenous plants and animals. The overwhelming reason our residents moved to DeSoto Acres is for our large lots, natural setting and living West of I-75 so remarkably close to everything.

Maximizing your residential investment involves many factors. A key factor is DeSoto Acres' "Country Estates" . Our spacious lots are important to the overwhelming majority of our residents. Real estate agents have verified owners of residential property in DeSoto Acres obtain a higher rate-of-return than surrounding subdivisions because of our large lots.

We also maximize our real estate investment and personal enjoyment by keeping our own property in good shape. As prior articles in this newsletter have attested, annual home maintenance and monthly property upkeep returns both personal enjoyment and long-term value.

We have an inherent set of parameters all of us use to keep our personal and subdivisions' real estate in good shape, as we must all abide the simple governing laws of Sarasota County.

When you live in DeSoto Acres, the Sarasota County Zoning Code is the governing law for our properties. DeSoto Acres is zoned RE-1, Residential Estate One, which is one residential house per two acres. This zoning went into effect in the 70's and applies to all properties in DeSoto Acres with the exception of the parcels fronting University Parkway. See the DeSoto Acres Boundary Map.

When we own a home in our DeSoto Acres, we can 1) own and board a horse on our property, 2) have a single-family detached home, 3) have a backyard garden for personal use, 4) have one guest house, 5) rent home to one family, 6) have a group home of 6 or fewer residents all sharing a common kitchen and dining area, 7) have a home-based, indoor, one-person business.

When we own a home in DeSoto Acres we can not 1) board livestock or any animals on the property, 2) have a plant nursery, sell plants or supplies (Drymon's Nursery is grandfathered), 3) put in a manufactured home, 4) build and rent multiple homes on the property, 5) rent accessory dwelling to a non-relative, 6) have employees work at, or report to home-based business, 7) have a retail store, and 8) have an outdoor repair, vehicle repair, medical, dental, restaurant business, retail or school to name a few. The complete Code of Ordinances is located on line at www.municode.com/library/fl/sarasota_county/codes/code_of_ordinances.

Some major areas of confusion are clarified below. The reference source is the Sarasota County Code of Ordinances and Waste Management handouts.

Bulk collection, hazardous material and Recycling - Recycling is mandatory in Sarasota County per Sec. 106-41.a.1. Free recycle bins are available by calling 941-493-4100. Bulk items such as mattresses, sofas and other furniture, grills, carpet, push lawnmowers and wooden pallets are included in the residential collection. Call for a pick-up, at no additional cost, 941-493-4100 at least two business days prior to your pick-up day. Other oversized items can be picked up, but at an additional cost. Hazardous *(con't Blast, pg 9)*

(con't Blast pg 8) waste like aerosols, cleaners, fluorescent bulbs, paints, cell phones, medications, etc. are not to go in to the regular waste. You must bring these to a collection center for proper disposal. For more information go to www.scgov.net/Solid_Waste or call 941-861-5000 for more information and center locations.

Wetlands and buffers - We have a few wetland areas in DeSoto Acres. These areas fall under the County code "Requirements for natural resource protection." All activities involving filling, excavation, disturbance of native vegetation or storage of materials are prohibited within wetlands and sites unless authorized by Sarasota County. Wetland buffers are usually 30-foot width minimum. Both are not to be disturbed.

Vehicle Parking on Parcels - *Personal vehicle*s must be operational with current license tags and may be parked or stored on residential parcels. No more than four vehicles may be located in the front yard. Any additional vehicles must be parked within a fully enclosed structure or within a side or rear yard buffered by a six-foot fence, wall or 70 percent opaque six-foot hedge. Certain vehicles without current license plates and current inspection stickers shall be parked in a completely enclosed building.

Commercial vehicles, including but not limited to, semi-truck and/or trailer, tractor, dump truck, bucket truck, bulldozer, ditch digger, and all vehicles in excess of 6,000 pounds are prohibited in DeSoto Acres.

Recreational vehicles, such as, motor homes, camping trailers, truck campers, off-road vehicles, etc. must be operational with current license tags. No parcel shall contain more than one motorized boat, boat trailer, or boat on trailer, or two jet skis and one recreational vehicle stored outside of a completely enclosed building. No such vehicle or equipment shall be used for living, sleeping, housekeeping or business purpose, nor connected to a utility service except in preparation for departure.

One *private aircraft* may be stored in an enclosed building or in a screened rear yard. Yes, one aircraft folks!

Fences and Walls - Chain link, wood or vinyl fences on residential properties are subject to the Code of Ordinances, but may be constructed without a building permit. There are a lot of height and landscape provisions for wall or fences based on the location. Please refer to the Sarasota County Code of Ordinances 7.8.1. for all the details. Barbed wire or material of similar character is prohibited. Tennis courts have a special fencing provision at 7.8.1.g.

Cinder block and brick walls do require a permit. Call the Building Department for details.

Residential Building Improvements - When you have work done on your home or you do the work yourself, verify if you need a building permit or not. Visit or call the North County Building Dept. to verify at 941-861-3029, 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd, Sarasota. You can also verify if the Contractor has a current license. Trust us, your neighbor does check online.

Residential Contractors holding an operating certificate in one or more of the classes (A, B or C) may be issued a building permit for all phases of a construction project as allowed by their respective operating certificate. Electrical, mechanical, plumbing, roofing, sheet metal, swimming pool, and air conditioning work must be subcontracted to holders of operating certificates for the specific trade required for such work. A subcontractor verification form shall be submitted to the Planning and Development Services Business Center naming the certificate holder who shall perform the respective work for these phases. Contractors holding an operating certificate other than one of the classes may be issued a separate permit if only work involving their specific trade is to be performed. The A, B or C con-tractor shall be totally responsible for the entire project, to include work performed by *(con't Blast pg 10)*

(con't Blast from pg 9) specialty contractors working directly for the A ,B or C contractor. Sec. 22-124.

Residential Yard Improvements - Mulch and dirt hauling. Moving 100 cubic yards of dirt (about 10 large dump truck loads) on to your property does not require a permit. Moving those 101+ cubic yards of dirt, at any time thereafter, onto the property requires an earthmoving permit. Moving mulch on to your property is for horizontal landscaping. The mulch is to be spread out and not left in a pile. Removing or relocating a tree, does not require a permit as our lots are under 5 acres, Sec.54-585.

Loose Pets and Barking Dogs - We all love our pets, so let's keep them safe from being labeled as a "public nuisance" and possibly removed from our ownership.

No person shall cause, permit, or allow a dog or cat to stray or in any manner to run at large, unless the dog or cat is leashed, in any of the following circumstances: upon any public street, sidewalk, or other public property unless specifically allowed through other ordinance, resolution, or Board action or the property of another. Owners of female dogs and cats in heat are required to keep such animal in an enclosure.

It is considered a Public Nuisance if an animal is repeatedly found at large, damages property of another than its Owner, chases vehicles on the public right-of-way, makes but not limited to continued or repeated howling, barking, whining, or other utterances causing unreasonable annoyance, is offensive or dangerous to the public health, safety or welfare, or attacks other animals.

Overgrown Lots - Weeds and grass growing out of control reduces the communities and adjoining proper-ties' enjoyment and value. Code indicates the lots are to be kept under control, not to exceed 12" in height.

What can we do about keeping our community in shape? As a community, we all chip in to keep our location a desirable place to live. If you see any sidewalks, culverts or other County improvements in the right-of-way that need repair or attention, call 941-861-5000 and report the problem to the County for their attention. If you see any code violations on personal property, please call 861-5000. We're not being mean, petty or uncaring, we're just looking after our neighborhood and our personal property values.

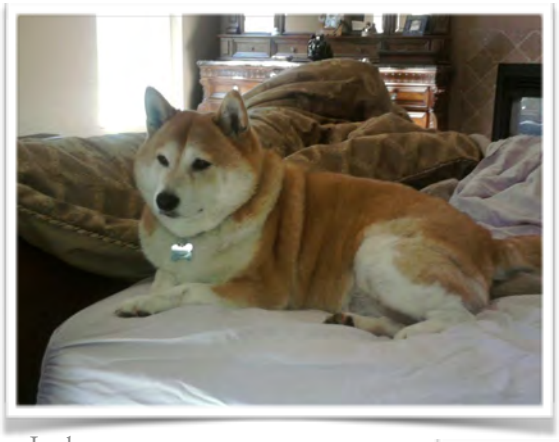
DeSoto Acres is the place we all want to live so we must work to keep our homes and property in good shape to maximize our return on investment and personal enjoyment. Let's keep DeSoto Acres a desirable place to live and keep our area "good-looking" County Estates in the Heart of Town.

If you have any questions that can not be found on line, call the Sarasota County Call Center at 861-5000.

(DISCLAIMER: Some items in this article may be outdated, since it is a reprint from 2015.)

"Let's keep DeSoto Acres a desirable place to live."

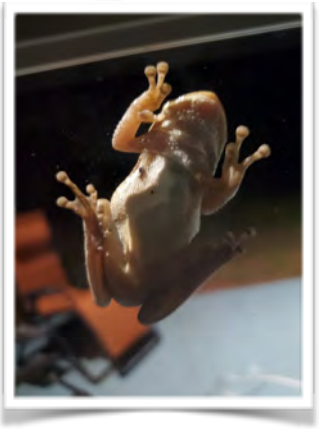
Dogs of DeSoto



Jordan

Animals in the Acres

Bobcat



Tree frog on glass

Cop's Corner

Fortunately, crime continues to be low in our area, with only four incidents between October 1st and December 21st.

10/9 on 47th Street - Grand Larceny
10/11 on 53rd St - Simple Assault
11/16 on 59th Street - Simple Assault
12/7 on DeSoto Road - Fraud Identity

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

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UPCOMING DSA EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!

Jan 1 @ 5-8 pm
Friday Food Truck

Jan 21@ 7 pm
Annual DSA Members Zoom meeting

Feb 5 @ 5-8 pm
Friday Food Truck

March 5 @ 5-8 pm
Friday Food Truck

March 20 @ 8 am
DSA Annual Yard Sale

April 2 @ 5-8 pm
Friday Food Truck

April 10 @ 8 am
DSA Clean-Up