DESOTO·ACRES
ASSOCIATION, INC.
Country Estates in the Heart of Town

Message from the Prez

Things are good in the neighborhood. The DeSoto Acres Board is working hard and making progress on several items, including:

*Closing out the Sarasota County Neighborhood Services grant and receiving reimbursement for our new neighborhood signs. Thanks Pam! My personal contribution was to water and care for the plantings at the Tuttle and 47th location. It's so satisfying to plant seeds and watch them grow.

*Planning out next neighborhood cook-out. We provide the grill, wood fire, and utensils; you bring your items to be cooked. What a great opportunity to catch up up with neighbors and friends.

*Working with the County to protect and enhance our neighborhood and quality of life. Be it speeding traffic, developer intrusion, or protecting the natural environment, that define the DeSoto Acres neighborhood.

*Helping neighbors understand and navigate Sarasota County codes and ordinances. DeSoto Acres is a neighborhood association regulated by Sarasota County codes.

Take care of yourself and your neighbors now that the summer heat is upon us-- frequent breaks, lots of fluids, and shade.

You are holding another first-rate newsletter. We are always looking for fun and informative articles, so if you have something to share, please feel welcome to send us an article.

A big thank you to our newsletter advertisers, as they make our newsletter possible. Many of our advertisers are also neighbors who understand the benefit of building relationships and supporting our community.
Thank you guys - Alex

Slice of the Acres: *Celebrating Millie's Centennial*

by Martha Hafner

On June 14, between 50 and 70 folks – neighbors and family -- gathered at Doc and Michelle Schlekeway's home on DeSoto Road to celebrate the 100th birthday of Miss Millie Schlekeway, Doc's Mother. There was a tent and good food and a lovely cake. A week later they are still glowing with the memory of all the visitors and well wishers.
(Slice con't pg. 4)

DeSoto Acres News & Events

DESOTO ACRES FALL COOKOUT

October 17

Save the date. Details coming soon!

Get Seen!

If you are interested in advertising with us,email

desotoacresassociation@outlook.com

The DSA Board meets once a month. There are seats open! You can also offer your time without being a board member. Email

desotoacresassociation@outlook.com

Please be sure to like & follow us on Facebook @DeSotoAcres

Do you have an interesting property/story you'd like to share with your neighbors? Have something to say?

Let us know if you (or someone you know) wants to write for our newsletter!

News from your DSA Treasurer!

by Tom Bolt

As a reminder, here's what your dues go toward:

- DSA Corporate filing fees
- Post office box
- Newsletter printing & mailing
- General liability insurance & board member liability insurance
- Website development and maintenance
- Neighborhood signage
- Annual meeting rental fees
- Reserves fund for consultation and attorney fees if needed
- Community events

Please pay your 2026 dues if you have not done so already. See if your dues are up to date on page 7. We can keep the dues at a modest $35 as long as everyone contributes their share. Pay online at: https://desotoacresassociation.epay-centerstatebank.com. Note: the bank will ask for an account number, which we don't need, put in any number, it just can't be blank. Also, you can schedule an annual payment, and never worry about dues again!

Pay by check using the form below and mail to DeSoto Acres Association, P.O. 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_____

Slice of the Acres (con't)

by Martha Hafner

Flowers and cards still adorn the dining room where I sat with Millie to talk about her past and her future. The family made it clear they wanted to thank ALL who came out and made the day just a wonderful experience.

I met Millie a few years ago in late 2019. Even though she is legally blind, Millie would walk regularly along Traylor in the cool morning hours where she met the closest neighbors.

Millie grew up in Southeast North Dakota, born at home and raised on a farm. She wanted to go to High School and her Dad did not believe that girls should be educated. She found a way to work for a high school principal in a nearby town. She boarded at the school and worked as a maid and nanny in the principal's home. She briefly taught school before she joined her sister, who was supporting the war effort as a welder in Bellingham,Washington. While her sister was fixing airplanes that had been shot down in battle, Millie was operating an elevator in a nearby factory.

After that exciting time, Millie was married to a farmer in South Dakota and lived that hard life. They farmed over 100 head of cattle on 10,00 plus acres. Millie would make homemade bread every day and deliver sandwiches to the farm hands at 10am and 2 pm in a 1950 pickup truck. In between, she made a noon dinner for her family at home and a supper later on. After 40 years, she divorced and started the next part of her life.

Millie became an LPN and then went on to become an RN in a Veterans Hospital. Working in the psychiatric ward was a less physical job that allowed her some relief from her arthritis, but had it's own challenges dealing with veterans who had seen the worst of war.

The mother of 2 sons and one daughter, she has 12 grandchildren and numerous great grandchildren. She loves DeSoto Acres because everyone is so friendly and welcoming. She still rides around with Doc on his golf cart, listens to many audiobooks, and watches her church on Sundays on TV. She tells me that she has always loved the Lord and her favorite Bible passage is from Hebrews: *We have this hope as an anchor for the soul, firm and secure.*

Millie tells me that she is ready for whatever comes next. That I am sure of.

Trash Talk

by Jed Wolfson

Trash isn't the most exciting topic, but it's worth a refresh as to the latest rules, policies, and schedules for trash pick up in DeSoto Acres. The three pick-up services offered in our neighborhood are garbage, recycling, and yard waste. They do a great job at picking up most items, with some exceptions, which they provide individual services or alternatives if they don't provide pick-up. For detailed info visit www.scgov.net/government/solid-waste/trash-and-recycling. Here's the ABC's of what to do, what not to do, and how to do it.

Garbage & Recycle: Green for garbage. Blue for Recycle.

- Anything in barrels will be collected. Items not in barrels will not be picked up.
- Pick up day in our neighborhood is Monday. To be safe, put things out on Sunday night, to avoid missing a pickup.

Yard Waste:

- Can be in a barrel or tied in bundles. Loose yard waste will not be collected.
- Bundles must be in 4 ft sections (or less) & 40 lbs. or less.
- Yard waste is also picked up on Mondays.

Bulk Waste

- Items that don't fit in barrels (beds, sofas, tables, etc.) can be discarded curbside but **will not** automatically be picked up.
- You are entitled to 4 bulk pickups per year. Each pickup is limited to 10 cubic yards (13 ft long x 7ft wide x 3ft high).
- To arrange for bulk pickup call Waste Pro (941) 340-0700. They will come within 48 hours of your call.
- You will have to give your name and phone number.
- You can't call for someone else's property.

Electronics, Paints, Hazardous Waste

- These items are not allowed in normal pick up. Take them to: 8750 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota.

Beef & Sweet Potato Chili

recipe adapted from Whole 30 by Lisa Moody

Sweet meets heat in this lighter, summery version of a wintertime favorite.

INGREDIENTS

- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 pound ground beef (or plan-based crumbles)
- 2 cups chopped onion
- 1 medium jalapeno pepper, seeded and chopped
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 can fire-roasted tomatoes, undrained
- 1 can Rotel tomatoes with green chiles, undrained
- 1 cup beef broth
- 1 large sweet potato, peeled and cut into 3/4 inch chunks
- 1 cup chopped bell or sweet pepper
- 1/2 tsp chili powder
- 1/2 tsp salt
- 1/2 tsp pepper
- Chopped fresh cilantro (optional)
- Sliced green onions (optional)

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Heat olive oil in a large pot over medium-high heat.
2. Add ground beef, onion, jalapeno pepper, and garlic.
3. Cook, stirring frequently and breaking up meat with a wooden spoon until meat is browned.
4. Stir in tomatoes with their juices.
5. Add broth, sweet potato, bell pepper, chili powder,salt and pepper.
6. Bring to boil.
7. Reduce the heat to low, cover, and simmer stirring occasionally until the sweet potato is tender - 20 to 25 minutes.
8. Serve the chili topped with cilantro and green onions, if desired.

Your Board at Work

DeSoto Acres Executive Board

President - Alex Boudreau Vice President - Carissa Carbo
Secretary - Tim Lynch Treasurer - Tom Bolt

Pam Bournival, Robert Florio, Martha Hafner, Abby Hincker, Lisa Moody, Jed Wolfson

DeSoto Acres HOA Membership Dues are only $35

Please send your $35 check payable to:
DeSoto Acres HOA, PO Box 556, Tallevast, FL 34270
or pay online at https://desotoacresassociation.epay-centerstatebank.com.

This is the updated list of the residents that have paid their HOA fee of $35.00. Thank you to the residents who paid their dues. We have 325 residences in DeSoto Acres, and frequent newcomers to our wonderful neighborhood, so please spread the word, your money is being put to good use!

-Tom Bolt, Treasurer

2026 Paid dues – 106
Aguilar, Alberti, Andrews, Baker, Baldwin, Baranski, Baxter, Berrier, Boudreau, Bournival, Brand, Byers, Callahan, Carbo, Carlson, Cattin, Coffman, Colbert, Coorssen, Coty, Cramer, Crooke, Currier, Curtis, Davino, Deveau, Dewald, Dowd, Eavis, Elliott, Elwood, Feikema, Fenton, Florio, Franklin, Freeman, Galloway-Bolt, Garfinkel, Gockley, Griffin, Grimes, Hafner, Hasselbring, Heere, Hightower, Holland, Hunter, Irwin, Izquierdo, Jilderda, Johnson G&C, Kelln, King, Kocur, Kohrs, Ledford, Leyva, Lipman, Lobo, Lovesky, Lynch, Mainville, Malinsky, McElroy, McNaughton, Miller, Sam, Moody, Moser, Murray, Nelson, Norwood, O'Connor, Olejnikow, Oppenheimer, Pace, Palm, Perkins, Petrat, Pinson, Podgis, Pope, Roberts, Robinson, Rochette, Ross, Socierty of Friends', Schlekeway, Seyfried, Siem, Pecha, Silvis, Slakans, Smith S, Stansbury-Milum, Stanton, Stokes, Tally Rent, Tapia, Teshima, Tolle, Utley, Walrath, Welch, Williams A, Wilson, Wolfson

2027 Paid dues – 35
Aguilar, Baldwin, Baxter, Boudreau, Coffman, Colbert, Coty, Crooke, Currier, Dewald, Elliott, Elwood, Garfinkel, Griffin, Hafner, Heere, Hunter, Johnson G&C, King, Kocur, Leyva, Lipman, Lovesky, Mainville, McElroy, Moser, Norwood , Petrat, Robinson, Ross, Stokes, Tapia, Walrath, Welch, Wilson

2028 Paid dues – 14
Baldwin, Boudreau, Coffman, Dewald, Elliott, Hunter, Kocur, Lipman, Lovesky, Mainville, Robinson, Ross, Walrath, Wilson

2029 Paid dues – 4
Baldwin, Elliott, Kocur, Walrath

2030+ Paid dues – 2
Elliott, Kocur

Out and Back in a Day

by Pam Bournival

It's time to head south to Ft. Myers. Here, on the Caloosahatchee River, you will find the Edison and Ford Winter Estates. The historic winter homes, acres of botanic gardens, museum, laboratory, Garden Shoppe (Garden Center) and Museum Store are open from 9 a.m. – 5:30 p.m. daily (except Thanksgiving and Christmas). The last admission is at 4:30p.m.

Stroll through more than 20 acres of botanical gardens, the 15,000-square-foot air-conditioned museum, and the Edison botanic research laboratory. The museum contains several galleries that feature some of Thomas Edison and Henry Ford's most prominent inventions.

Thomas Edison first came to Fort Myers in 1885. He was a well-known inventor in search of a warm escape from the cold northern winters. On his first trip to Southwest Florida he purchased more than 13 acres along the Caloosahatchee River. Edison returned to Fort Myers in 1886 with his new bride, Mina Miller Edison. For the next six decades the Edison family enjoyed their winter retreat. In 1947, Mina deeded the Estate to the City of Fort Myers. Nearly all of the furnishings in the Edison Main House and Guest House are original to the Edison family.

The original design of the Main House included a kitchen and dining room. In 1906, the Edisons remodeled these rooms to serve as family bedroom suites, since the newly renovated Guest House had a kitchen. The Main House includes a library, study, bedrooms and Edison's den.

In 1914, Henry and Clara Ford, along with their son Edsel, visited Fort Myers at the invitation of Thomas Edison. They enjoyed the visit so much that two years later, Ford purchased the home adjacent to the Edison Winter Estate. The two-story riverfront home was built in the Craftsman architectural style.

The Ford's sold The Mangoes in 1945 to a private family who then sold the estate to the City of Fort Myers in the late 1980s. The Ford Winter Estate was opened to the public in 1990. *edisonfordwinterestates.org*

Votes That Affect DeSoto Acres

by Tom Bolt

This year, as in most election years, there will be key votes that have direct consequences for DeSoto Acres residents. The neighborhood association, and this article, do not presume to know what the right vote is for individual neighbors, so this to just highlight a couple of important choices to be made this year

On August 18, Mark Smith, our current commissioner in District 2, is being challenged by Kristina Sargent in the Republican primary. This is important because there are developers holding property on the borders of DeSoto Acres who have already indicated that they will seek to rezone their properties when the situation is favorable to them. "Favorable" means when they believe the County Commissioners will vote their way on Comprehensive Plan amendments leading to rezoning. In recent petitions that we as a neighborhood opposed by turning up in our dozens at County meetings to speak against the rezoning, only Mark Smith voted with us each time. There may be many reasons influencing a person's vote in the August 18 primary, but purely from the neighborhood's perspective on rezoning, Mark Smith's record has proven he believes in DeSoto Acres' special environment and that it is worth preserving against inappropriate rezoning.

On November 3, we will elect our County Commissioner. We will also vote on the referendum to change the Florida Constitution to force an overhaul the ad valorum part of property taxes (excluding school taxes). If approved by 60% of voters, this would in effect start increasing the homeowner exemption amounts starting 2027, with the long-term intent of eliminating the non-school ad valorem taxes entirely. Two thirds of DeSoto Acres lots have a homestead exemption, so most in the neighborhood would immediately pay less tax.

This seems almost too good to be true. Knowing that nothing comes for free, and big changes often have unintended consequences, voters should educate themselves. Much is still undecided and unclear on how current services will be cut if not replaced by non-ad valorem taxes or funded differently. Who will make those cuts or funding decisions is also unclear. We should listen to both the arguments of the proponents as well as the concerns of the critics before making our own decision. A summary of the proposed changes is available at www.FL-counties.com. Click on "Policy Action Center". A good facts-only non-political source of information is www.PropertyExemption.com. Click on "Guides" at the top.

COPS CORNER

provided by Janet Hunter - March - May 2026

Burglary
03/11/26 @ 7:25 am
2300 Blk DeSoto Road
BURGLARY-RES/UNK/UNLAW

Theft Larceny
03/11/26 @ 11 am
2800 Blk 49th Street
P/THEFT-ALL OTH/U 750/CMM

Theft Larceny
03/25/26 @ 1:36 pm
2300 Blk DeSoto Road
G/LRCNY-FR AUTO/750+OV/CM

Fraud
04/10/26 @ 3:09 pm
5600 Blk Shade Avenue
FRAUD USE PERSONAL IDENT

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

Wings Over Our Neighborhood

by Sylvia Colbert

DeSoto Acres is designated as a bird sanctuary. You've seen the signs posted on different corners of our neighborhood. A bird sanctuary is an area designated for the protection and preservation of birds and their habitats. They are found all over the world, from small urban parks to vast wilderness areas to organized neighborhoods like our DeSoto Acres.

The purpose of our bird sanctuary is to provide a safe haven for birds to breed, nest, feed, and migrate without being disturbed or threatened by human activities such as hunting, or development. It's important to conserve habitats critical to birds' survival. We have wetlands and our common residential landscapes and other properties with ecosystems that support diverse bird populations.

Bird-friendly gardening practices are a critical aspect of maintaining healthy ecosystems within bird sanctuaries. This involves planting native vegetation that provides suitable nesting sites and food sources for birds. It also means avoiding pesticides and chemical fertilizers that harm birds' health and well-being. Also, to create and maintain a bird sanctuary we need biodiversity, nesting structures or shelter, water features, food sources and native plants.

Protecting our avian friends requires an ongoing effort and commitment from everyone who values nature's beauty and the beautiful "sing-song" that we hear in the wee hours of the morning. Take the time to do bird identification and appreciate their unique characteristics. Let us all continue working together towards ensuring the survival of our beloved winged creatures by safeguarding their homes – one habitat at a time!

Hurricane Tips: Get Ready

by Alex Boudreau

Hurricane season lasts a full six months - June 1 - November 30. The 2024 hurricane season brought a whole new respect for the power and damage these events can bring. Since then I've done a lot of research and subsequent preparations for future storms and offer the following:

- Buy your supplies and nonperishable food and water in advance.
- Gas up your tank.
- Secure all loose items on your property and inside. Secure important paperwork and raise items off the floor in case of flooding.
- During a storm, Fire, EMS, Police, and Public Works staff will not deploy if winds exceed 45 mph. Stay inside, away from doors and windows, and wait until the storm is over before venturing outside.
- After the storm, avoid downed power lines, leaning trees, and flood waters.
- Be prepared for delays and inconveniences of all kinds. Have patience, count your blessings, and reach out to your neighbors and friends. Recovery is a long and slow process.

Here's hoping for a slow to non-existent hurricane season.

Desoto Acres Association, Inc.
SARASOTA, FLORIDA
Country Estates in the Heart of Town
P. O. BOX 556, TALLEVAST, FL 34270

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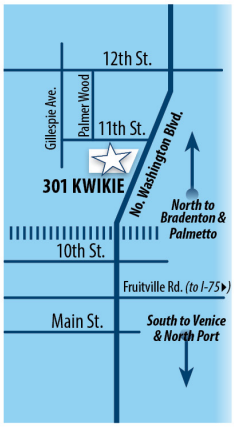

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Monday - Friday
8AM - 5PM

Northminster Presbyterian Church
Please join us for
Worship Sundays at 10:30am

in person or online at facebook.com/npcsarasota

Food Pantry on the 4th Thursday of the month
4:30pm-6:00pm

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