

Palm Aire
Communities Council

Newsletter

SPRING, 2024



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What's in a Name?

When I moved to the Sarasota-Manatee area, I expected a lot of Indian names for places or Spanish names. I was perplexed by the French name for Honoré Avenue (This is not Louisiana!), but then I learned about Bertha Palmer, who contributed much to the economy, culture, the arts, and real estate development. Her maiden name was Honoré, hence the name of the avenue. But, what about Tallevast and Tallevast Road? That's French, too, and it translates to "vast size" in English.

One day as I drove west on Whitfield Avenue, I decided to visit Tallevast. I turned left on Lockwood Ridge Road and then right onto Tallevast Road. The next thing I knew, I was looking at Sarasota Bay! Without realizing it, I had driven right through the community and straight to the bay. I consulted Google Maps, turned around, drove two miles, and there it was: a tiny unincorporated community with a post office, some industrial properties, a new Amazon distribution center, and maybe 80 houses in total.

What was the purpose of connecting Tallevast to the bay?

So, I did a little research and found out that the whole area from Lockwood Ridge to the bay was populated with thousands of pine trees in the 19th and early 20th centuries. As one settler put it, "There were so many trees that a snake couldn't make its way through." In those days, the southeast of America was covered with pine trees, and pine trees meant money. Lots of it, as settlers established turpentine camps to sell turpentine, pitch, gum and tar to naval stores which sold them to shipping companies to repair their wooden boats.

Young Jeter Hollis Tallevast decided to move from South Carolina to our area in 1902; his brother Lide followed a little later. The brothers established a turpentine camp and a turpentine distillery on the land that now bears their names. They built a dirt road to the bay so that they could deliver their turpentine, tar,

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What's in a Name

by Dan Reeves

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and pitch to merchants there in awaiting boats. The brother's prime objective was to take full advantage of Florida's emerging pine timber industry. To do so, they needed workers—lots of them at cheap wages.

The Tallevast Camp, as well as the many other camps throughout Florida, relied mainly on black laborers who would work for next to nothing. Black people of formerly enslaved communities in the northern section of Florida, known as the "Panhandle," slowly moved to rapidly developing lands in search of work in emerging agricultural enterprises. By 1920, more than 80% of pine tree workers were black. While this population's migration south was of a different pattern from the more well-known "Great Migration," it was part of a large state-wide movement of laborers, financial investors, and real estate speculators. Tallevast, which sits a lit-

tle more than a mile from Sarasota Bay, summoned a cohort of black laborers to undertake the formidable work of producing naval stores, the manufacturing of forested materials like pine tar, pitch, resin, gum, and turpentine for military shipbuilding and repairs.

The Tallevast brothers were in the money, and the only thing that obstructed their progress was the occasional law officer attempting to enforce prohibition because a turpentine still operates on precisely the same principle as a still for making alcohol from grain. The brothers knew that in Florida, the prohibition agents had not learned to tell the difference between a turpentine still and a whiskey still.

What's in a name? Lots. Incidentally, Bertha Honore Palmer means "famous honored palm bearer."

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PalmAireNewsletter@gmail.com

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Leapin' Lizards

by Marguerite Puca

SPRING, 2024
Palm Aire Communities Council

Why did Lil' Orphan Annie say this? Did she visit Florida?

Yes, there are lots of lizards in this state. Some are native; some are "exotics" from elsewhere who have found the state a congenial place to settle and raise their young. Whatever the reason, seeing one or more species is a daily occurrence for most of us—on masonry walls, on patio screens, on blades of tall grass being stalked by egrets. They're often seen under the paws of house cats.

So what are we seeing? There are 15 species of lizards native to Florida and at least 34 species of non-native ones. None of them are venomous, but a bite from one may make you ill from the bacteria in its mouth.

The two most common species are the anole (green or brown) and the gecko. When you see one, which one is it? Anoles are out in the daytime, Geckos at night.

Anoles

There are at least nine species of anoles in Florida, but only one is native: the Green Anole which, confusingly enough, may be bright green or a shade of brown depending on temperature, humidity, mood, and health. The Brown Anole is actually an invasive species from Cuba.



Green Anoles are five to eight inches long, with the tail being half the length. They have a bright red dewlap, which they inflate for display to attract a mate or warn off an interloper (they are known to be territorial). Although we often see them at eye level, they are at home in trees and bushes.

Brown Anoles are about the same size (five to nine inches long). Like Green Anoles, they can also vary their skin color (to grey and black). They also have a

red dewlap, and in addition, they can raise a crest along their back and tail. Unlike the green anoles, the skin is usually patterned with stripes, spots, and dashes.

The brown ones are known to be more aggressive than the green ones, so where they occur in the same area, the Brown Anoles occupy the ground and the Green Anoles roam throughout the trees.

If you want to have a lizard as a pet, the green species is very often available. In addition to a warm cage and branches to climb on, it will require a daily ration of insects.

Geckos

Out of the 15 native lizard species and 34 exotic species, only one is native: the tiny, two-inch-long Reef Gecko, found in south Florida and the Keys. The most common species is the Tropical House gecko, originally native to sub-Saharan Africa.



They are small lizards, no longer than five inches with light brown skin patterned in mottled grey, dark brown, and black splotches. Being nocturnal, it has large eyes with vertical pupils, which it can dilate to absorb as much light as possible. It will eat any insect it can catch. It is common to see them on walls next to night lights, catching bugs that are drawn to the light.

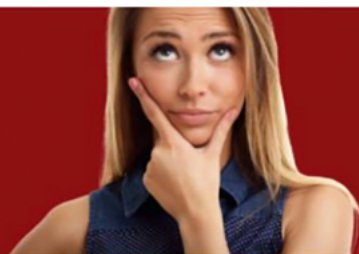
Other Florida Lizards

Two invasive species deserve mention: the Nile Monitor Lizard and the Tegu.

Nile Monitor lizards, native to sub-Saharan Africa, can grow to over 5 feet. They are strong swimmers and carnivorous, eating small animals, birds, other reptiles, etc. There are thought to be over 1000 of them in Cape Coral, Florida with breeding populations in Miami-Dade, Lee and Palm Beach counties.

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Cooper's Hawk

by Dan Reeves

The Cooper's hawk is featured in the masthead in this edition of our newsletter. This hawk is a medium-sized bird of prey that can be found throughout North America, including Florida. These birds are known for their incredible hunting skills and agility in flight, making them formidable predators in the wild. In Florida, Cooper's hawks can often be spotted in wooded areas or near open fields where they hunt for small birds and mammals.



One of the key characteristics of a Cooper's hawk is its striking plumage, which includes a slate-colored back, orange and white bars on

the chest, and bright red eyes. These features make them easily identifiable in the wild and help them blend into their surroundings as they search for prey. Their sharp talons and hooked beak also play a crucial role in capturing and killing their quarry.

Cooper's hawks have a widespread presence in residential areas, where they may be seen preying on songbirds that visit backyard feeders. While some people may be concerned about these birds targeting smaller species, it is important to remember that they are a natural part of the ecosystem and play a crucial role in controlling local bird populations. By observing and appreciating these magnificent crea-

tures in their natural habitat, we can gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity of wildlife that calls Florida home.

Cooper's hawks are known for their elaborate courtship displays that take place before breeding season. During courtship, the male Cooper's hawk will perform aerial acrobatics to impress the female. This includes flying in circles and diving towards the female, all while making high-pitched calls. The female will respond by flying alongside the male and engaging in synchronized flight patterns. These displays not only demonstrate the male's agility and strength, but also serve as a way for the pair to bond and establish their compatibility as mates.

In addition to aerial displays, Cooper's hawks also engage in mutual grooming and gift giving during courtship. The male will present the female with food items, such as small mammals or birds, as a way to show his ability to provide for her and potential offspring. This behavior is a form of courtship feeding, where the male demonstrates his hunting prowess and willingness to share resources with the female. Likewise, the female will reciprocate by preening the male's feathers, which helps to strengthen their bond and build trust between the pair.

Overall, courtship in Cooper's hawks is a complex and ritualistic process that plays a crucial role in pair bonding and successful breeding. The elaborate displays of agility, vocalizations, and mutual grooming serve to strengthen the pair's relationship and ensure their reproductive success. Through courtship behaviors, Cooper's hawks are able to establish strong bonds that will last throughout the breeding season and help them raise healthy offspring.

4 facts

1. Native Americans were living for at least 12,000 years in what is now Florida when first known European visitors led by the Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León landed in April 1513.
2. Cities and towns names in South Florida are simply modified versions of the original Native American terminology. Opatishawockalocka, was originally

called Opatishawockalocka, a Seminole name that roughly translates to "big tree-covered island in a swamp."

3. Similar to a drive-in movie there is a drive-in christian church in Daytona Beach. The church promotes itself as "Daytona's Original Drive-In Worship Experience." Services are held at 8:30 am and 10 am every Sunday.

4. The birth of the modern-day IBM personal computer took place in August, 1981 in Boca Raton, and it literally put the city on the map. It was originally called the Acorn and was named "Machine of the Year" by Time Magazine. The IBM campus there consisted of more than 40 buildings containing more than 3.6 million square feet.

Palm Aire Communities Council Board Update

by Susan Romine

SPRING, 2024

Palm Aire Communities Council

May

Mike Grubbs, Treasurer, reminded members that we need to be advised when a new management company is retained. We send invoices, and it delays that process when they come back from the old management company.

We have lost our construction manager at Risk for the MSTU project. Back to square one.

Another crime prevention program will be held on May 23rd by Deputy Tom Kazcmarek.

The information for painting the fire hydrants is in the minutes. No longer are the tops of the hydrants a different color, all yellow for those on public land and red for those on private land.

Once again, people are asking about the sidewalk at Fairway Six, and once again, Barbara Robinson, President, relayed that county maps show that the sidewalk belongs to Fairway Six.

June

Manatee County may take over the MSTU project due to the lack of response from companies. They would install materials, and PACCI would be responsible for ongoing maintenance.

The Crime Prevention Program was so successful that another will be planned for the fall.

Barbara, once again, will contact Sarasota County about the timing of the traffic signal at Whitfield Avenue and University Parkway.

September

Barbara received communications from Manatee County that indicated that PACCI would pay for more than discussed earlier. There will be a meeting to go over what was agreed.

Cathy Allen, webmaster, will update settings so the website opens better on cellphones.

Due to constant maintenance of the "popsicles" at the right-turn lane at Whitfield Avenue and University Parkway, the county may remove them.

October

Barbara noted that the landscaped median at University and Whitfield has been cleaned out. The next step will be work on the irrigation and electrical systems. The trees will be going in by the end of the month, followed by groundcover.

The Fraud Prevention Program will be held on October 24th. Deputy Tom Kaczmarek will be present.

The representative from Fairway Six asked when the sidewalk was to be fixed (damaged by Hurricane

Ian). Barbara again asked Manatee County representatives, who again reported that the sidewalk was on Fairway Six property.

Julie Jacques and Lesa Hartigan will work on the holiday lights for the new trees, etc. in the landscaped median.

A lengthy discussion of Avid at University apartments was held.

November

Barbara Robinson reported that the planting of the landscaped median was completed. Ongoing maintenance estimates are to be received.

Guelda Wooldridge asked if we could paint the curbs with something like fluorescent paint, to increase visibility for those making a turn at the island, especially in the evening.

Following the discussion of Avid on University, there was discussion about further development in other sections of that area. It was noted that the northern undeveloped section is owned by TGM, the developer of the apartment complex next door (thus providing more potential apartments).

Julie Jacques solicited bids from five companies for the holiday lights and recommended Sarasota Holiday Lighting.

We were disappointed that there were no poinsettias in the bullnose of the median, but we will make sure there are some next year.

January

Barbara Robinson reported that Manatee County will take the funds out the MSTU funds instead of the PACC funds to pay for the palm trees at Whitfield and University.

The next phase of the MSTU project is The Gardens median (first median) and irrigation from University Parkway to Country Club Way.

Discussion of the Newsletter distribution being strictly via the website or via paper, which is expensive. A committee will meet.

Avid at University will be scheduled before the Planning Commission and the County Commission.

Susan Romine will chair the Nominating Committee. Lesa Hartigan will join the committee.

Guelda Wooldridge asked if the yellow lines near the island at University Parkway could be repainted. They have become very faded over the years.

Our Winter, 2023 Newsletter featured an article about a proposal by Third Wave Development to build a new apartment complex adjacent to Palm Aire Plaza at the intersection of Winfield and University Parkway. The project known as AVID was approved by the Manatee County Commission by a vote of 4 to 3.

Manatee County has been maintaining the island at Whitfield and University by weeding and removing fallen fronds. They plan to place new plantings at the front and rear of the island. The uprights under the plus reach only half way up the trees. Our Council has asked the county to adjust the lights which they did. The yellow line at the north side of the island is scheduled to be repainted.

Palm Aire Community Council has been advised by the county that with the extension of the right turn lane, there is not enough space on either side of the swale to plant the palms that were requested by the council's Board. The Board will review possible options including using the county funds allocated to plant trees elsewhere along Whitfield Avenue.

The county has advised the Council that golf cart drivers should be using the driving lanes, not the bicycle lanes. The county has sent the information to our president, Lesa Hartigan, for review.

What's in a potato chip bag? If you guessed nitrogen, you are right. Some people get annoyed by all that "air" in the bag of chips. But that isn't air at all. If it were, it wouldn't take long for your potato chips to spoil and for their taste to deteriorate. To address this problem, high-quality nitrogen displaces the air in the chip bag. Why nitrogen? Because it is an inert gas, which means it reacts poorly with other chemical substances.



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Flourishing Real Estate Landscape in Palm Aire

by Julie Jacques

SPRING, 2024
Palm Aire Communities Council

A Jewel on Florida's Gulf Coast

Nestled along Florida's Gulf Coast, the Palm Aire community in Sarasota has emerged as a hidden gem in the state's vibrant real estate market. Boasting a unique blend of tranquility, accessibility, and luxurious living, Palm Aire has become a sought-after destination for homebuyers and investors alike. In this article, we will explore the distinctive features that make Palm Aire a prime real estate hotspot and delve into the current state of its housing market.

Palm Aire's strategic location in Sarasota is a key factor contributing to its real estate appeal. Situated just minutes away from the cultural hub of downtown Sarasota and the pristine Gulf beaches, residents of Palm Aire enjoy the best of both worlds. Easy access to major highways and proximity to Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport further enhance the community's accessibility, making it an ideal choice for those seeking a well-connected yet serene living environment.

Palm Aire is renowned for its golf and country club lifestyle, attracting residents who appreciate luxury and recreational amenities. The Palm Aire Country Club, with its championship golf courses, tennis facilities, and social events, adds a touch of sophistication to the community. This exclusive lifestyle offering has contributed to the high demand for homes within Palm Aire, especially among those looking for an upscale living experience.

The real estate market in Palm Aire showcases a diverse range of housing options, from elegant single-family homes and spacious villas to stylish condominiums. Each property type caters to different preferences, ensuring that the community accommodates a varied demographic. Architectural styles in Palm Aire range from Mediterranean-inspired designs to contemporary aesthetics, allowing buyers to find a residence that aligns with their personal tastes.

According to the latest market reports, Palm Aire has experienced a steady increase in property values, reflecting the high demand for homes in this exclusive community. While this growth presents opportunities for sellers and investors, it also underscores the desirability of Palm Aire as a residential haven. Prospective buyers should be prepared for competitive pricing, emphasizing the importance of working with experienced real estate professionals familiar with the local market dynamics.

Beyond golf and country club amenities, Palm Aire offers a range of community services and facilities, including parks, walking trails, and proximity to shopping and dining establishments. The emphasis on community well-being and convenience contributes to the overall allure of Palm Aire, making it an ideal place for families, retirees, and individuals seeking an enriched lifestyle.

Palm Aire stands out as a beacon of luxury and sophistication in Florida's real estate landscape. With its prime location, upscale amenities, and diverse housing options, Palm Aire continues to attract discerning homebuyers and investors seeking a refined living experience. As the community evolves, those interested in the Palm Aire real estate market should stay attuned to emerging trends and collaborate with local experts to navigate the dynamic opportunities this unique enclave offers.

Here's a sample of recent sales in Palm Aire:

Single family homes:

7845 Pine Trace Dr.	360,000
4951 Creekside Trail	525,000
5691 Country Lakes Dr.	605,000
7579 Links Ct.	817,000

Condos:

7799 Eagle Creek Dr. #74	235,000
5659 Gardens Dr.	265,000
7130 Fairway Bend	308,000
5619 Palm Aire Dr. V-104	415,000



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