

Palm Aire  
Communities Council

# Newsletter

SPRING, 2024



## IN THIS ISSUE

What's in a Name  
Dan Reeves

Leapin' Lizards  
Marguerite Puca

Cooper's Hawk  
Dan Reeves

Palm Aire Communities  
Council, Inc. Board Update  
Susan Romine

Palm Aire Updates

Flourishing Real Estate  
Landscape in Palm Aire  
Julie Jacques

## 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,

*Continued on page 2.*