

SHORE LINES

DANA SHORES

PELICAN ISLAND

MARCH 2016

CHANGE MEANS THAT WHAT WAS BEFORE WASN'T PERFECT. PEOPLE WANT THINGS TO BE BETTER.

Esther Dyson

Are you ready for some change, for things to continue improving? Change is not an indictment of the past. Rather, it's a principle that builds on past successes. It's a notion the women's club and civic association hold dearly because we have seen what this neighborhood accomplishes by working together. And we ask for your help in our continual striving to reach our neighborhood's full potential.

Volunteers Needed for Enhancing the Bike Path and Entryways: Saturday, April 9

We are asking all Dana Shores and Pelican Island residents who are capable of doing so to participate in the Great American Clean Up on **Saturday, April 9**. During last year's event, the team removed more than 40,000 pounds of invasive plants from the sides of the bike path at the south end of Skyway Park. We almost made it to the first set of bollards, but not quite. This year we will start where we left off by clearing the remaining invasive plants and treating the cut areas to prevent regrowth. There are a few areas we missed treating last year, and these spots will require a recut and treatment. There is also plenty of trash throughout the park that should be picked up. There are jobs of all skill levels, and we could use the help of all family members. If you have kids who need service hour credits, this is a great opportunity for them to earn those hours working on an environmental project while helping our neighborhood!

Additionally, we are ready to move forward with the next phase of our entryway improvements: enhancing our planters with new borders, irrigation at Doral, and new plants.

Continued on page 4

OVERJOYED WITH UNDERGROUNDING!!!

We are one giant step closer to undergrounding thanks to the efforts of many.

As prior newsletters have indicated, last year we were successful working with the Hillsborough County Attorney's Office, the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners, and TECO to develop a landmark county-wide ordinance. The ordinance offers neighborhoods a method of financing the upfront engineering work associated with undergrounding and offers homeowners long-term financing options for implementation.

We began working through the initial phases of the ordinance last year, which led to a neighborhood-wide petition drive. We are pleased to announce that we achieved roughly 84% favorable support for the petition from Dana Shores and Pelican Island homeowners, exceeding the required vote. This year, a budget resolution was subsequently carried with a vote of 7-0 by the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners to provide upfront funding in accordance with the undergrounding ordinance needed to support the next phase of our initiative.

This phase involves detailed engineering work, cost estimating, and other planning work required to underground the utilities.

This item, though it may seem small, is a huge item for us, probably one of the most important things we've done since I've been here on the Commission... This is going to create momentum throughout the county. ~ Commissioner Sandy Murman, Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners

Dana Shores continues to lead the way for established neighborhoods to pursue undergrounding and address concerns associated with legacy overhead systems, including safety, reliability, aesthetics, and property values.

Although more work remains, this is a milestone worth celebrating. We have achieved something few neighborhoods (or groups of any kind) achieve: An Exemplary Ability to Work Together! If we haven't said it enough, we'd like to thank everyone for their support on this and other important initiatives. In particular, we'd like to thank our dozens of volunteers for their get-up-and-go, and we'd like to thank Commissioner Murman's office for her work shepherding the project.

This milestone offers us even more reason to believe we will be able to save our younger oaks (and property values) from damage associated with a line clearance project. So we celebrated with an investment in professionally shaping the trees along the Dana Shores Drive right-of-way. Over time, we anticipate Dana Shores Drive returning to its former glory – a tree-lined street renowned for its beautiful overhead canopy and worthy of the World War I veterans the original oaks were planted nearly a century ago to honor.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Mar. 3rd – 10:00 am, DSWC Board Meeting at RPGC Clubhouse

March 18th - 6:00-9:00 pm
St. Patrick's TGIF at RPGC Clubhouse

Dana Shores Women's Club (DSWC)

President:	Julie Bowers	389-2847
Vice President:	LeAnn Anseeuw	888-6510
Treasurer:	Tina Mawn	884-5132
Recording Secretary:	Kim Hajastron	882-0651
Corresponding Secretary:	VeeAnn Mahdieh	889-0445
Past President	Marynell Palmer	886-3193
Newsletter:	VeeAnn Mahdieh	889-0445
Newsletter Advertising:	IKare Publishing	991-7843
Auditor:	Mary Chiricos	886-3849
Budget:	Amy Veith	887-5868
Benevolent:	Pat Bailey	886-5758
Chaplain:	Susan Huston	885-2240
Membership Contact:	Kim Hajastron	882-0651
Garden/ Entries:	Anne Tate	493-9980
Historian:	Debbie Trujillo	966-2520
Hospitality:	LeAnn Anseeuw	888-6510
Directory:	Amy Veith	887-5868
Holiday Boutique:	Jeffy Beaver	885-3300
Sunshine:	Mary Chiricos	886-3849
Street Rep. Coordinator:	Ali St. Cyr	294-3070
Welcoming Committee:	Sabrina Martin	886-5758
	Pat Bailey	

Dana Shores Civic Association (DSCA)

President:	Allison Roberts
Vice President :	Danny Anseeuw
Treasurer:	LeAnn Anseeuw
Communication Director/Secty:	Holly Simmons
Govt. Liaison/Special Projects:	Nick Nichols
Pelican Island Liaison:	Gail Fabrega, Jacque Reina, Middy Veal

Dana Shores Street Representatives

Americana	Greg Dorion, Toni Jabaay
Dana Shores Drive	Ooneen McGettigan, Rita Munaker, Holly Simmons
Doral Drive	Callie Almond, Susan Huston, Amy Veith, Maria Petterson
Eden Roc East	Chantel & Brian Heitler, Karin Miller
Eden Roc West	Julie & Jim Bowers
Fontainebleau Drive	Pat Bailey, Mary Chiricos, Rita Munaker
Pelican Island	Debbie Trujillo
Versailles Drive	Debbie Anderson, Jonathan Kaplan, Tiki Kirk, Tina Mawn
Venetian Way	Pamela Adkins, Ginger Wayne

Neighborhood Watch Cheri Bett 887-4939

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THE OFFICIAL *Newsletter* OF Dana Shores



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DAVID WEEKLEY MAY BE OUR NEW NEIGHBOR

The Egypt Shriners has owned the parcel that lies between Pelican Island and Sweetwater Cove Apartments for roughly forty years. By now, many residents have seen recent media reports that A La Carte is withdrawing from the event catering business and the Shriners will be selling this land. This will allow the Shriners to direct proceeds and time back to their core mission of helping children.

This land is zoned for relatively intensive commercial uses. That's why we were happy to hear that David Weekley Homes is currently under contract to acquire the property. They have indicated plans to develop the parcel into an "upscale, waterfront residential community."

We look forward to being involved with the home builder at appropriate points and will work to keep the community informed. If you have pertinent information or opinions you would like to share, feel free to email us at dana.shores.tampa@gmail.com.

**PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT:
 FREE TAX PREPARATION**

The Free Tax Preparation Program was established in 2004 through a collaboration of public, private, and nonprofit organizations to benefit residents of Hillsborough County earning less than \$62,000 last year. Those who qualify may access free nearby assistance from IRS-certified preparers and trained volunteers in preparing and electronically filing their tax returns.

Nearby Location: Town and Country Regional Library, 7606 Paula Drive #120. Call (813) 943-8482 for an appointment. Open Tuesdays 3 - 7 p.m., Fridays 1 - 4 p.m., and Saturdays 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. through 4/12/16.

For more information, including what you need to bring with you, visit <http://www.unitedwaysuncoast.org/our-work/income/free-tax-help/>





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CHANGE MEANS THAT WHAT WAS BEFORE WASN'T PERFECT. PEOPLE WANT THINGS TO BE BETTER.

Continued from page 1

We were recently awarded a mini-grant from the Hillsborough County Board of County Commissioners that will offset roughly one-third of our cost for new borders. Implementation will be a collaborative effort between the Dana Shores Women's Club (DSWC), the Civic Association (DSCA), and YOU! We will need help removing the current borders and prepping planters in front of each wall, which is also scheduled for April 9 in order to take advantage of the onsite dumpsters.

Water, Gatorade, and lunch will be provided to all volunteers. Like last year, we plan to have two shift times available – morning and afternoon. We were only able to accomplish what we did last year thanks to the number of volunteers who came out to help us! If you or a family member(s) would like to join us, please contact Allison Roberts, DSCA president at 813/335-8931, Julie Bowers, DSWC president at 813/389-2847, or e-mail us at dana.shores.tampa@gmail.com.

Last year we also hosted a community clean-up day on the same day as our park clean-up. This allowed residents to bring large items to the park for disposal. This year, we are moving our community clean-up day to the fall so that we can take advantage of the impending rainy season for new plants at our entryways.

Join us for Some Food and Fun: Friday, March 18

In other news, our St. Patty's Day TGIF will be held on Friday, **March 18, from 6:00 - 9:00 at the Rocky Point Golf Course**. Dinner will include an Irish fare buffet with a flight of beer. This is a prepaid event and the cost is \$20/person. Please watch for your e-vite with menu and payment details.

Help Feed the Hungry by Thursday, March 24

The DSWC is sponsoring a spring canned goods drive to benefit Metropolitan Ministries. A box has been placed in the lobby at the Rocky Point Golf Course to collect your donated items. DSWC board members, Pat Bailey and Mary Chiricos, will pick up the box on **Thursday, March 24 and deliver our collection to Metropolitan Ministries on Friday, March 25**. I hope that you will help us support this wonderful organization that does so much for the less fortunate families in the Tampa area.

Compete for a \$2,000 Award: Applications Due Mid-March

Did you know that Dana Shores is a member of the Hillsborough County Neighborhood Association (HCNA)? Each spring they have a Neighborhood Conference that is attended by several residents and our associations' presidents. Last year, our community won an award for best environmental project based on our invasive species removal at Skyway Park! This year, the HCNA is sponsoring a contest for neighborhood youths and it has a monetary award! Through an application process, they would like to hear from our younger residents what they love about our neighborhood, talk about a change they would make if they could, and come up with a project to get it done! The winner will receive a \$2,000 award to support the completion of the project. Applications are due mid-March. Need some ideas? Feel free to reach out to Allison or Julie. Once again, this is a great way for our younger residents to earn those required service hours. Get your friends together and make a plan! We are here to help you accomplish your goal. (See separate article for additional details.)

Provide a Little Elbow Grease

Last month you may have read about the doggie poop bag boxes that were generously donated to us by the Twelve

Oaks community. The boxes are in good condition but need to be sanded prior to our repainting them and mounting them on the back side of the entryway walls. We estimate a couple of people could take care of this in a few hours. We would appreciate it if you or your teens have a couple of hours and could help us out so we can make them available for use.

Share in Our Appreciation

Lastly, our Valentine's Happy Hour food and wine pairing was a great success with about 50 people attending. The food was delicious – Jim and Deb at the RPGC really out did themselves, and the wine was great too! The Dana Shores Womens Club raffled off men's and women's Valentine's Day baskets. Monies raised will support the improvements to the entryways. Congratulations to Callie Almond (Doral Dr.) who won the men's basket and Maggie Coleman (Fontainebleau Dr.) who won the women's basket. We would also like to thank our donors: The Backyard Experts for two generous donations of pool service, Hand Car Wash on Memorial Hwy, Bahama Breeze, LeAnn Anseeuw, Julie Bowers, Allison Roberts, VeeAnn Mahdieh with SugarBar, Camille Mahdieh with Boho Bar Boutique, and Rocky Point Golf Course.



Please consider helping us out in our community in the coming months. We have a bevy of opportunities available for people of all ages and skill levels. It is very evident by the neighborhood's lack of *for sale* and *for rent* signs that we must be doing something right!

Until next time,

Julie Bowers

President, Dana Shores Women's Club

Allison Roberts

President, Dana Shores Civic Association



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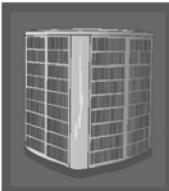


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PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT: PROPERTY TAX RELIEF MAY BE AVAILABLE

The Dana Shores Civic Association's vision focuses on nine strategic areas, one of which is to *assist individual neighbors*. We'd like to thank Jeff Coleman, an active member of our association and resident of Fontainebleau Drive, for his bringing the following matter to our attention and offering his assistance.

For some of our more "mature" or low income residents, significant tax relief may be available in the form of a tax deferral. The real estate tax will ultimately need to be paid upon sale of the property; however, there is a program available to help protect your home and provide cash flow relief. Florida statutes establish the requirements and the Hillsborough County tax collector administers the program. There are forms available to be filled out but be aware that the deadline for filing this year will be **March 31, 2016**.

To defer real estate taxes and assessments you must be entitled to claim the homestead tax exemption. The amount that can be deferred is based on age and adjusted gross income of all members of the household. There are various circumstances and calculations that need to be done but some basic program rules are as follows:

- If last year's adjusted gross income for all members of the household was less than \$10,000, the entire tax amount and any non-ad valorem assessments may be deferred. This program is available regardless of age.
- If you are 65 years of age or older with an annual adjusted gross household income less than the household income limit for the additional homestead exemption under section 196.075 of Florida statutes (currently approximately \$27,000), you may be able to defer the entire amount.

A relatively small interest rate will be charged on the deferred amount and that amount will constitute a lien on your real property; however, for those who are facing high real estate taxes and have a low income, this can help certain qualified individuals remain in their home.

If you need help in determining whether this program applies to you, neighborhood volunteers can help point you in the right direction. Email us at dana.shores.tampa@gmail.com for more information.

Authored by Attorney Jeffrey P. Coleman,
Fontainebleau Drive

PROTECTING OUR CANALS (AND POCKETBOOKS)

Unlike most rivers, our canals are considered low-flow systems, and low-flow systems are easily fouled by biodegradable materials.

A little yard waste from multiple neighbors adds nitrogen, kills fish, and accumulates as silt. Over time, accumulated silt also reduces clearance for boats and lowers property values, as can be seen around neighboring communities. The only way to remove the silt is through dredging. Not only is dredging expensive, but the cost is also assessed back to local residents. The county does not pick up the cost. To avoid most if not all of these issues (and to avoid breaking the law) we ask that all neighbors please collect and dispose of all yard waste, palm fronds, leaves, and similar matter at the curb.

Most Dana Shores and Pelican Island lawns are cared for by a resident-owned company, Southern Florida Landscaping. Bart Butler, president and owner, supports our water quality initiatives and expects his team to keep all yard waste from flying into canals or going down storm drains. If you see a member of his team improperly managing or disposing of yard waste, Bart asks that you please take a picture or video of the incident so that he may address the problem. You may send pictures/videos to Bart at southernflorida@live.com or contact him directly at 813-486-3727.

We currently have complaints alleging that the City of Tampa's contractor responsible for maintaining the bicycle trail south of Dana Shores near the overpass to the causeway has allowed leaves and clippings to fall into the canal. We have raised this concern with the City of Tampa. If you witness any of these workers blowing materials into the canals, please take a picture and email it along with your contact information to us at dana.shores.tampa@gmail.com.

Lastly, please work together to help ensure all homeowners, renters, and contractors are educated on the law and our desire for clean water. If your requests to keep our waterways clean go unheeded, you may report water pollution using your Smartphone. Snap a picture of the person committing the act and email the picture along with the location to reportpollution@hillsboroughcounty.org.

THE DOGS OF DANA SHORES

As of this writing, Dogs of Dana Shores has the #3 ranking among 89 fundraising teams. Will you please help us remain on top before the final date of March 19?

Background: The Dana Shores Women's Club (DSWC) has a rich history of supporting responsible causes with special meaning to our residents. Because Dana Shores is a pet-oriented community, we have historically provided support to the Hillsborough County Humane Society. This year Callie Almond (Doral Drive Street Representative) is helping us take our support one step further. Callie has organized a *Dogs of Dana Shores* team to participate in the 2016 Bark in the Park.

Please consider joining her team for a fun-filled day or follow the website link below to make a donation. Donated funds are used to provide shelter, food, spay/neuter services, and medical care for thousands of animals each year.

What: A family-oriented, dog friendly walkathon and pet festival featuring live music from Stereo FM, pet costume contest, adoptables, doggie fun zone, parade of rescues, and other fun activities for pups of all sizes! Also enjoy a pancake breakfast, food trucks, beer, and vendor booths.

When: Saturday, March 19, 2016 from 11:00 am - 3:00 pm

Where: Cotanchobee Fort Brooke Park - along the Hillsborough River in beautiful downtown Tampa.

Why: To raise funds for homeless animals while celebrating our love for pets!

To make a donation or join the event, give Callie a call [813.503.9860](tel:813.503.9860) or visit <http://humanesocietytampa.donorpages.com/BarkinthePark2016/DogsofDanaShores/>

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