



Community News Update

8 April 2021

Creative Financial Solutions for Insurance Rate Hikes



Several Florida insurers filed for premium hikes ranging from 15% to more than 31% that will affect Community Associations budgets drastically this year!

What causes these rate hikes?
What is reinsurance?
How do storms effect these issues?
How have lawsuits effected rate hikes?

MODERATOR

Shauna Fleischbein | Castle Group

PANELIST

Matt Mercier | CBIZ Insurance
Sally Voorhees | Mcgriff Insurance
Joe Thompson | Gulfshore Insurance
Michael York | Forge Engineering
Donna McCombe | Cadence Bank

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US 41 at Gulfstream Roundabout Construction Project



The Florida Department of Transportation started preliminary work on the new US 41-Gulfstream Ave. roundabout last month. Crews began mobilization, including delivering equipment, surveying, clearing the right of way and installing erosion control devices.

The initial work will involve building a temporary bypass road for continued traffic flow during the roundabout construction. A similar diversion road was constructed during the recent US 41-Fruitville Rd. roundabout project.

To help lessen community impacts, FDOT deferred traffic detours and temporary lane closures until after Easter, the traditional end of peak season.

In addition to the new roundabout, the project includes construction of new sidewalks and pedestrian walkways, new LED streetlights, and the installation of a HAWK system with pedestrian refuge islands. Storm water also will be addressed by reconfiguring retention ponds and replacing underground drainage structures.

Learn more about the project [here](#) or visit the [project webpage](#).

As reminder, dual lane roundabouts are now open along US 41 at 10th and 14th streets and Fruitville Rd. When approaching a roundabout please slow down and *yield* to vehicles coming from the left before entering the roundabout. Other helpful roundabout tips including how pedestrians and drivers should use HAWK pedestrian signals can be found on the City of Sarasota [transportation planning webpage](#).



FDOT ROUNDABOUTS 101

Music in the News! Support & Appreciation to Local Musicians



Residents of DSCA member Valencia at Rosemary Place Townhomes hosted two separate concerts over the past three months to both enjoy and support Sarasota musicians. The latest concert was a performance of Hot Club SRQ, Gypsy Jazz Trio on perfect weather, March 14th. This event a follow-on to the Valencia owners sponsored a Sarasota Music Conservancy concert with the goal of supporting our local musicians during the challenging times for artists.

In the case of both concerts neighbors donated enough money to secure a musical group and attendees made additional donations at the events. The music was fantastic, the weather perfect and the gracious contributions were appreciated by the musicians.

Our neighborhoods and DSCA continue to try to support our local musicians. Contact information regarding the Sarasota Music Conservancy and Hot Club SRQ is available for other DSCA member buildings who would like to consider sponsoring concert events.

Florida Avenue Gets Decorative Look

BEFORE



AFTER



In February 2021 the effort to install canopy trees on Florida Ave. in the Rosemary District, between Blvd of the Arts and 5th , was completed. In all ten canopy trees were planted, including seven Pink Tabebuia's which are known for their spectacular display of pink blossoms in the Spring. The work included several city departments to ensure the project is a long-term success.

[Read More](#)

Upcoming Events

ASSOCIATE MEMBER EVENTS

- April 13 at 11:30 am - Mold/Bio-Hazards/Natural Disasters & Their Ability To Put Your Association in Jeopardy!

NEXT BOARD MEETING

Wednesday, May 5th from 4:00 pm - 5:30 pm via Video Conference **DSCA Board Meeting 2021-05-05**. DSCA Board Meetings are for Board Directors, with designated Condo & Associate Member Representatives, Liaison Association Representatives and invited Guests attending as observers. Contact President, David Lough at (760) 497-9230 or email DavidLough1@gmail.com, if you wish to be invited.



In March we passed the first anniversary of the beginning of the pandemic lockdown. This past year has been an adventure for us all—no matter where we live—as we navigated the challenges of Covid-19. Now, happily, we are on the cusp of returning to normal life. We're not there yet, but if we play our cards right, we'll get there shortly.

This also marks the end of my year as President of DSCA and my tenure on the Board. I will be transitioning from downtown condo owner to a private home. It has been my privilege to work with the DSCA Board of Directors—brilliant people, all of whom give generously of their time and expertise. It has also been my privilege and joy to renew acquaintances and make new connections with condo residents throughout the city.

I cannot say enough about the amazing people in Sarasota who volunteer their time to make the downtown a better place to live--DSCA's Board of Directors, the BOD's of every condo association, the residents who toil endless hours on seemingly-endless-issues-that-would-never-be-addressed-without-their-labors and the people who serve on Sarasota's advisory boards. The pandemic never stopped them. These people deserve our appreciation and applause.

Perhaps the drive to volunteer is baked into Sarasotans. My new home will be just outside the downtown in an area called Bungalow Hill. The house was built in 1916 by Lee Brewster and Lillian Hatch. They were activists—volunteers—who worked to organize and improve the area.

With humility and pride, we travel in their footsteps.

Eileen Walsh Normile

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