



# Community News Update

July 2022



## Presidents Message

For those of you away, while things are a bit slower this summer in Sarasota, a lot is going on that should be of interest to all. Matters coming forward will have both important short and longer-term implications to all downtown residents. Your DSCA Board and its committees are meeting throughout the summer to ensure matters of importance to downtown residents are followed and proactively considered.

For the future, pivotal to helping ensure Sarasota's growth will be smart growth, there are several key areas your DSCA board is actively engaged with:

- Consideration of proposals by the City's Planning Department for new zoning code changes and related City's Comprehensive Plan changes that could alter downtown building height limits and maximum density of dwelling units per acre.
- Ensuring downtown residents are provided opportunities for early engagement on City initiatives affecting the DSCA neighborhood.
- Budgeting for the new fiscal year beginning October 1st, including funding recommendations for infrastructure enhancements including streetscape and the new Rosemary District Park.
- Advocacy for policy directions that will benefit downtown residents, businesses, and other stakeholders:
  - The City Commission Elections - two of the 5, "At-Large" city commission seats being up for election with term beginning this November
  - City Commissioner and staff engagement – As one example, Vice Mayor Kyle Battie will be DSCAs guest speaker at our Board Meeting of August 3rd.

Finally I extended wholehearted thanks to Judy Mower, Secretary on the DSCA board, for writing the following guest opinion for this month's newsletter. Her letter is an interesting read and provides a lot of food-for-thought this summer of 2022. Please consider her recommendations including, making sure those who can register to vote do so by July 25, and casting your ballot for your preferred city and county commissioners by August 23rd.

**David Lough**

DSCA President

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## A Message to Snowbirds about DSCA and Voting

If you are a seasonal resident of downtown Sarasota reading this DSCA newsletter, it probably landed in your email inbox because you live in a residential building that is a member of DSCA. Maybe, your condo board chair, or your building's liaison with DSCA, makes sure it gets forwarded to you every month. Or, even better, you went to the DSCA website and subscribed on your own. Either way, you're a rare (snow)bird. That's a guess, and I could be wrong, but I don't think so. You're somewhere north, telling your northern friends that summers in Sarasota – as much as you love it when you're there from fall to spring - just wouldn't be bearable. The locals, the year-rounders, have told you about it and its sounds awful.

But there's another factor in play here. You grew up somewhere else, not in Sarasota. You spent most of your adult years caring about issues local to wherever you did your volunteering, your civic leadership, your career building, your child raising. You have deep roots in a place that still feels like home, and that's why you still go back (it's not really about the weather) - even if the amount of time you are spending there is kind of shriveling. You still care about the local issues there, maybe even personally know the people serving in elected office there. But Sarasota – your new most-of-the-year home – still feels a little alien.

I could go on, but you get the picture that I'm urging you to enlarge. Keep the warm feelings you have about that other place, but let your heart grow big enough to embrace Sarasota, too. Sarasota needs you to care. Downtown, especially, needs you to care. DSCA is devoted to teaching you to care about downtown, so let it do its work. Read the newsletter, read the committee reports posted at the DSCA website – about what's going on in Commission meetings, about efforts to make downtown streets greener, cleaner and safer, about the growing need for EV charging stations, about the chronic problems of homelessness and lack of affordable places to live for people we care about who work in jobs that make your Sarasota urban living experience so wonderful.

Getting to the point here – make a special effort to learn from DSCA, and from whatever other sources of information you can bring up on your iPad or computer screen - about the issues at stake in this next round of city and county elections. Among those stakes are the rules that will govern the shape of the city's future skyline, and whether you and your downtown neighbors can have any say in that. Study the candidates and their track records and current positions. You used to do that as part of just being a good citizen "back home". Get that habit back where you are now registered to vote. If you have already gone to the Sarasota Supervisor of Elections website to get your absentee ballot for the August 23rd Primaries, good for you. If not, you have until July 25 to do that at <https://www.sarasotavotes.gov/> Or call 941-861-8618.

There are people who would rather you didn't care enough to vote in local elections. Disappoint them! If you haven't yet done so, learn the basics of how local government is organized in Sarasota, how services are delivered, what the problems are and how they are being addressed, how elective bodies are populated and appraised. And continue to let DSCA be one of your teachers about downtown matters. Because it does matter. A lot.

*Judy Mower*

DSCA Board, Secretary  
Syracuse, NY Snowbird and La Bellasara condo resident

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**IMPORTANT LINKS BELOW:**

[Subscribe to the DSCA Newsletter](#)

[Meet the DSCA Board Members](#)

[View the participating Downtown Sarasota Condos](#)

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## DSCA Board July Wrap Up

As has been the recent practice the 7/6 DSCA board meeting was held in hybrid fashion, both in person at the Broadway Promenade Club Room and via Zoom. Following are links to the full board meeting and presentation by, Tracie Troxler, Executive Director/Founder, Sunshine Community Compost

[View Meeting Video HERE](#) - DSCA Board Meeting 2022-07-06

[View Speaker Video HERE](#) - Tracie Troxler 2022-07-06

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## Sunshine Community Compost

We were thrilled to have Tracie Troxler, Founder and Executive Director of Sunshine Community Compost, as a guest speaker at our July 6 board meeting. Her organization is a nonprofit that provides Manatee and Sarasota Counties with information and education about food composting, and provides composting services. The organization has set up food scraps collection containers in some municipal parks (Whitaker, Gillespie, and others). After treatment, that material becomes excellent soil food instead of wasted in a landfill. Compared to typical fertilizers, the compost helps soil retain water, preventing runoff, and nurtures plants particularly well and naturally. Restaurant owners, food services, and residents can participate – bringing their food scraps to the bins, which are switched out every two weeks. Collectors are given special-purpose buckets to use, with instructions. Multi-unit buildings and commercial buildings can opt to have a collection bin available on site, and for a small fee (\$65 per month for 25 gallon capacity) Sunshine will pick up and replace the bins on a regular basis.

There was brief discussion about the potential benefit of having one or more such bins as part of the Bay Park Conservancy. It was also noted that clogged pipes are a frequent problem in some condos that have garbage disposal systems in kitchens. Encouraging residents to compost could be a positive way to address that problem. Learn more at: [Sunshine Community Compost](#)

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## Arts & Culture



*Vice Mayor, Kyle Battie and David Lough, DSCA president at mural unveiling event on July 21*

### **New Mural**

A new mural was unveiled this week in the Rosemary District as part of the Gilbert Mural Initiative, which celebrates and preserves the people and history of the Rosemary Art & Design District. A larger-than-life mural of John "Buck" O'Neil, an iconic, historic figure and baseball legend from Newtown now becomes a permanent fixture in the Rosemary District, signifying his powerful legacy.

O'Neil will be inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame on July 24, 2022. He is celebrated for being the first African American coach in Major League Baseball and one of the most talented first basemen in Negro League history. This mural honors his legacy and serves as a reminder of his efforts in seeking equality in baseball for African Americans.

The mural, painted by artist Matt McAllister, has been supported by the Community Foundation of Sarasota County, DreamLarge, Newtown Alive, Baltimore Orioles, RADD, and the Sarasota African American Cultural Coalition.

### [Gilbert Mural Initiative](#)

On Sunday, July 24, from 1-5 join in on a community celebration, Hall of Fame induction watch party, and public mural unveiling in honor Buck! Further details and registration for this free event follows:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/buck-oneil-community-celebration-tickets-381971796927>

## **Gulfstream Roundabout Update**



Thankfully, the Gulfstream roundabout project is on-track to be completed later this year. The Gulfstream construction is the last of three recently built new roundabouts along Tamiami Trail. The three new roundabouts won't come too soon as new residential construction continues at a rapid pace with over 1,300 condo and apartment units under construction downtown. And at least another 700 planned on top of this in the coming 3 years.

The lengthy \$8.6 million project has had a fall 2022 deadline since construction began in the summer of 2021, and that has not changed. According to Adam Rose, spokesman for Florida Department of Transportation District 1, access restrictions on 1st and 2nd streets, including the alleyway, will continue for the next four to six weeks.

Until the roadway on the northbound side of U.S. 41 is completed and paved, which Rose anticipates will occur by the end of September or early October, "side streets and driveways directly connecting to U.S. 41 will remain closed," he said. [Click here to read more](#)

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## DSCA Upcoming Events

### DSCA Board Meeting

**DSCA Board Meeting | August 3, 2022 | 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.** held via Zoom & at Broadway Promenade, 1064 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236





**Guest Speaker:**  
Kyle Battie, Vice  
Mayor,  
**City Commission**

[Register](#)

Kyle Scott Battie grew up in District 1 and graduated from Sarasota High School. He has a long family history in the community. His mother, Mrs. A Jean Battie taught in the Sarasota County School System for thirty (30) years and his father Henry "Hank" Battie, was, at the time, one of the few African American entrepreneurs to establish a business downtown Sarasota at the old Quay.

Growing up around his father's shop and later working in hospitality, Kyle Battie learned firsthand the challenges facing local business owners and working families in the city of Sarasota. Kyle Battie moved back to Sarasota eight years ago and now hosts a local television show on ABC 7, while striving to make a difference in District 1.

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](mailto:DavidLough1@gmail.com), if you wish to be invited.

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**Save-the-Date**

## DSCA WORKSHOP | October 20, 2022

**Topic: Are Fines Coming to your Condo? New Legislative Deadlines.**

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### COMING ELECTIONS

August 23, 2022 Primary Election

Mon., July 25: Voter Registration Deadline

Sat., Aug 13 - Sun., Aug 21: [Early Voting](#)

Sat., Aug 13, 5 p.m.: Deadline to request a vote-by-mail ballot be mailed

Tues., Aug 23, 7 p.m. (election night): Voted vote-by-mail ballots must be received in the elections office

Note: All registered voters, including those without party affiliation, are eligible to vote in nonpartisan school board races on the Aug. 23 primary ballot

[Click here to view the City of Sarasota Candidates](#)

[Click here for more information](#)

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## Associate Member Events

[SIESTA KEY CONDO ALLIANCE](#) | July 21 @ 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm

Location: Casarina 5880 Midnight Pass Road, Sarasota, FL

Hear ED MCCRANE speak about hurricane and disaster preparedness for Siesta Key board members and managers!

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW EVENTS OR SUBMIT YOUR EVENT](#)

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## Upcoming Community Events

### Fresh Friday's

**Jazz on Palm | Friday, August 5th | 7- 10 p.m.**

The Downtown Improvement District presents a snazzy-jazzy block party on Palm Avenue, featuring music from live jazz ensemble, HOT TONIC ORCHESTRA. Expect our free signature giveaways, food and beverage offerings from downtown hospitality partners, and dance demos from Dynasty Dance Clubs. [Click here to find out more](#)

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## Rosemary District Park

Check out the latest news and events happening in the Rosemary District, a blend of modern culture, food and activities you can schedule your whole day around.

[Click here to view Rosemary District Events](#)

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## The Bay Park Conservancy

Sarasota's bayfront will be an iconic, public destination that welcomes the diversity of Sarasota, enhances our status as a cultural capital and serves as a venue for multi-generational, inter-neighborhood, broad-based enjoyment of our bayfront.

[Click to view the updates from The Bay Park Conservancy.](#)

[Click to view The Bay Park - Calendar of Events](#)

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## **We Are Downtown Sarasota Residents partnering with Businesses!**

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