



# CENTENNIAL

## Journal

Issue 2 • September/October 2020

## HISTORICAL SPOTLIGHT

*In each of our Centennial 2021 Newsletters, we will focus on some of our "Partners." Currently we have 68 ..but we eventually hope to have 100 marking the 100th Anniversary of Sarasota County!*

### DESOTO ACRES TURNS 100 on FEBRUARY 3, 2021

Unique in Sarasota County, DeSoto Acres is the oldest sub-division established outside of Sarasota city limits. It was founded by William Van Dame, a Chicago businessman who moved here in 1923. During the Florida land boom, he bought large tracts of land in North County including the solid block of land from the Seaboard Air Line Railway to Lockwood Ridge Road and County Line Road (now University Parkway) to 27th Street. In 1928, he gave Sarasota County the right-of-way connection from 27th Street to the County line. DeSoto Acres started with Van Dames vision for what he called "Van Dame Estates."

It was an unusual vision for the time. A 1928 ad stated: "Ideal for suburban homes – poultry ranches & small farms." Van Dame Estates was legally established on February 3, 1921 per the deed execution.

The estates slowly grew from inception through the 1940's. When Sarasota County replatted the area on March 4, 1945, Van Dame Estates changed its name to DeSoto Acres. The majority of existing homes were built in the 1950's & 60's followed by homes built in the 70's. The earliest home dates from 1925. The home most recently built was in 2014.

Current zoning no longer allows farm animals. Horses have been a constant in DeSoto Acres as they are not considered farm animals. The most defining character of DeSoto Acres is its large lots. Sarasota County's historical zoning maps (1960-75) shows all of the DeSoto Acres area zoned E for Estate...one house for one acre. The Sarasota County zoning code updated in the 70's ...designated the DeSoto Acres area RE-1, Residential Estate meaning one house for two acres. This was codified November 11, 1975 in the County Zoning Code.

DeSoto Acres residents have quite a diverse domestic and native animal population. Residents have horses, dogs, cats & peacocks. Native and migrating animals include bald eagles, ospreys, sandhill cranes, hawks, herons, fox, coyotes and every so often, a bobcat.

Architecture was never part of the original deed restrictions as testified by the variety of styles seen in DeSoto Acres. This variety has appealed to those who made DeSoto Acres their home. The one thing residents have in common is their choice to live in DeSoto Acres on large naturally landscaped lots, with native animals in the heart of an urban environment. Today as development encroaches all around DeSoto Acres perimeter, its residents are united in the goal of preserving the uniqueness of this community.



Lisa Moody, Board Member  
DeSoto Acres Homeowners Association



## *A Note From Our Chair*

### **Sarasota County Centennial 2021 Steering Committee**

#### *Executive Committee*

**Dr. Frank A. Cassell**  
*Chair*

**Dorothy Korwek**  
*Vice Chair, Treasurer*

**Betty Intagliata**  
*Secretary*

**Don Bayley**  
*Communications  
Coordinator*

**Marilyn Gerkin**  
*Chair of Events Committee*

**Harry Klinkhamer**  
*Chair, History &  
Preservation Coalition of  
Sarasota County*

**John McCarthy**  
*Vice President of Historic  
Spanish Point Campus,  
Selby Botanical Gardens*

#### *Committee Members*

David Baber, Rob  
Bendus, Thomas  
Bowers, Priscilla Brown,  
Kathryn Chesley, Walter  
Gilbert, Olivia Haynes,  
Ellen India, Thomas  
Jones, Kim Manning,  
Cathy McGuire, Betty  
Nugent, Clifford Smith

We are now only a few months away from the beginning of the Centennial year, and the Steering Committee is busier than ever. Among other things, our Invitation to the Centennial video has been completed. You can view it on our website [sarasotacountycentennial.com](http://sarasotacountycentennial.com). Also, plans for our kick-off event on January 9, 2021 at Phillippi Estate Park are cancelled as we develop an alternative virtual event due to the Covid-19 pandemic. There is a possibility we may be able to reschedule this event on another date later in 2021 but as of now, the end of the pandemic is uncertain. Many of our Partners are developing their own Centennial plans including lecture programs, orchestral performances, book fairs, architectural displays, museum programs, and even a play about the birth of Sarasota County. Most of these activities have not yet been scheduled on our website Centennial calendar. Be sure to check the calendar regularly to see when Centennial events will be taking place.

#### **Centennial Ambassadors**

The newly launched Centennial Ambassadors Program is just getting started. Ambassadors represent the Centennial in a variety of ways. Some work to recruit new Partners or Sponsors. Others, like the distinguished historian Jeff LaHurd, lecture about Sarasota County history. Ambassadors, depending on their skills and experiences, assist with ongoing projects of our Events and Communications Committees. Above all, Ambassadors encourage friends, neighbors, local businesses, and social organizations to learn about the history of Sarasota County and the story of its establishment. Ambassadors should prepare by reading my book, *Creating Sarasota County*, which is available at any branch of the Sarasota County Library System. They should also frequently consult our website [sarasotacountycentennial.com](http://sarasotacountycentennial.com) to keep abreast of Centennial activities. Those interested in becoming Ambassadors can sign up on our website.

*Dr. Frank A. Cassell, Chair*  
Sarasota County Centennial 2021  
Steering Committee

## UNIDOS LIVE EVENT

The Centennial 2021 Committee is happy to report that one of our “Partners” is UNIDOS..an organization that serves the Hispanic Community of Sarasota. This group is holding an event on OCT 13, 2020 at 5:30 PM “live” on FACEBOOK.

There will be a play, followed by a Keynote speaker, the President of Eckerd College, followed by music. We hope that you will watch this event!



**CELEBRATING 100 YEARS**  
**UNIDOS NOW**  
HIS

**Hispanic Heritage  
Month Celebration**

**October 13, 5:30 p.m.**

**Join us!**

**BANK OF AMERICA** 



## NOTABLE AFRICAN-AMERICANS OF SARASOTA COUNTY

Betty Intagliata and Walter Gilbert, both Sarasota County Centennial 2021 Committee members are busy getting all of their “ducks in a row” to write a grant application to the Florida Humanities Council due October 14, 2020.

The subject of the grant is an oral history project entitled: “Notable African-Americans of Sarasota County.” Betty & Walter are working with Ringling College’s Center for Diversity and Inclusion. If the grant is awarded, notification will come in December 2020. The grant is being written on behalf of the Friends of the Sarasota County History Center, Inc. If received, the Friends see this grant as one of their contributions to the Sarasota County Centennial 2021!

## How Sarasota County Came To Be

**SarasotaCountyCentennial.com**

Be sure to visit our website to watch the video of Dr. Frank Cassell sharing the story of how Sarasota came to be, its break from Manatee County and the people involved.

# Become A Partner

We invite you to view "A Special Invitation" to join the celebration on our website: [www.sarasotacountycentennial.com](http://www.sarasotacountycentennial.com) or on YouTube [youtu.be/uo9U5fbm0PM](http://youtu.be/uo9U5fbm0PM)

## Join Our Partners

In every issue we will feature some of our Partners.



# OUR SPONSORS

## PLATINUM \$5,000

*Digisphere Marketing  
Williams Parker Law*

## GOLD \$2,500

*Mabry Carlton Ranch*

## SILVER \$1,000

*Don Bayley  
Dr. Frank & Elizabeth Cassell  
Collins Interiors  
Friends of Sarasota County Parks*

## BRONZE \$500

*Jasmine George  
Philip & Dorothy Korwek  
Rick Benitez Photography*

## INDIVIDUAL \$250

*Seaborn & Priscilla Brown  
Lawrence J. Magill  
Floyd "Stone" Rinehart*

## FRIENDS \$100-\$225

*Betty Intagliata  
John David & Kim Patton  
Manning*

*Thank You To All Our*

## CENTENNIAL SPONSORS



*Tampa Tribune  
June 16, 1921*

In 1921 the citizens of the Sarasota district won their battle for independence from Manatee County to become Florida's 62nd county. Next year in 2021, the entire Sarasota County community including Sarasota, Venice, North Port, Longboat Key, Osprey, Nokomis, Englewood, Newtown, Miakka, and Laurel will celebrate our 100th birthday. Representatives of local historical organizations have formed the Sarasota County Centennial 2021 organization to plan events and raise awareness regarding this important anniversary.

Thanks to people like you, the Sarasota County Centennial will be a historic event to remember. We invite you to be a sponsor of this very important community initiative! Your contribution will help support the entire Centennial effort, including the community events, history programs and a website to share all of the various opportunities for the community to participate. You or your business will be promoted through our marketing efforts online and in print.

Please view our levels of sponsorship. Go to our website [sarasotacountycentennial.com](http://sarasotacountycentennial.com) or print and fill out the Application on the next page to secure your sponsorship. Friends of the Sarasota County History Center dba Sarasota County Centennial 2021 is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.\*

Your support is critical to celebrating this once in a lifetime milestone!



**A Community Celebration of 100 Years of Sarasota County**  
**January 9, 2021 – July 4, 2021**  
***Sponsorship Information***

\_\_\_\_\_ Presenting (\$10,000)    \_\_\_\_\_ Platinum (\$5,000)    \_\_\_\_\_ Gold (\$2,500)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Silver (\$1,000)    \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze (\$500)    \_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$250)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other Donation Amount

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name for listing in event materials and website: \_\_\_\_\_

Link to your website: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a logo for use in event materials and website: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

*If yes, please also send a PDF or JPG file to [sarasota2021@gmail.com](mailto:sarasota2021@gmail.com)*

Please make your check out to "Sarasota County Centennial 2021" and mail to: SC Centennial 2021, P.O. Box 91, Venice, FL 34284. To pay via credit card, go to SPONSORS page on **[www.sarasotacountycentennial.com](http://www.sarasotacountycentennial.com)** for information.

To ensure your name appears in event materials please respond by October 1, 2020

If you have any questions, please call Marilyn Gerkin at 941-922-8730



## BECOME AN

# Ambassador

Centennial 2021 Ambassadors are people who agree to become knowledgeable about the evolving Centennial celebration and talk to neighbors and friends about the importance of the Centennial. Ambassadors can also agree to serve as volunteers at Centennial events, help distribute Centennial promotional materials, and help the development of Centennial Neighborhood Associations.

### A. The Roles and Functions of a Centennial Ambassador

1. To become a knowledgeable advocate of the Centennial 2021 by learning about the historical events surrounding the creation of Sarasota County as well as the plans for the 2021 celebration.
2. To promote and foster interest in the Centennial with neighbors, friends, groups and organizations to which you may belong. To lead discussions on the upcoming Centennial.
3. Possibly to serve in volunteer capacities at Centennial 2021 events.
4. Possibly to become active in forming or joining a Centennial 2021 Neighborhood Association where you live and help plan neighborhood Centennial 2021 events or to help prepare a history of your neighborhood.
5. To encourage attendance at the Centennial 2021 lecture series and other Centennial events.
6. Possibly to speak about Centennial activities before local groups.
7. To be sure your local library is stocking Centennial 2021 materials in its pamphlet racks. Possibly distribute pamphlets and other Centennial items to local chambers of commerce, visitor centers and interested businesses.

### B. Who can apply to be a Centennial Ambassador?

Ambassadors must be at least 18 years of age and live or work either full- or part-time in Sarasota County. Application forms can be filled out on line at the Sarasota County Centennial 2021 website. Ambassadors must be reliable when volunteering to work at Centennial 2021 events.

All applicants must be approved by the Centennial Steering Committee.

### C. What do Ambassadors receive for their efforts?

1. Their names are listed on the Sarasota County Centennial 2021 website.
2. A name badge for use when working as an Ambassador.
3. Each Ambassador receives an appropriate Centennial 2021 certificate.
4. The satisfaction of helping the Sarasota County Community mount a meaningful celebration of its 100th birthday.

Please fill out the application below:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Website: \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly tell us why you want to become an Ambassador \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail to: Sarasota County Centennial 2021, PO Box 91, Venice, FL 34284**

*Thank you! Please remember that your application will be reviewed by the Sarasota County Centennial 2021 Steering Committee. Also, if you or your group wishes to organize a Centennial event, it must be approved by the Centennial Steering Committee before it is entered on the Centennial Calendar.*