



SAVE THE DATE

LPNA General Meeting & Election

February 21, 2012
6:30 p.m.
Senior Friendship Center, 1888 Brother Geenen Way

Tunes in the Park

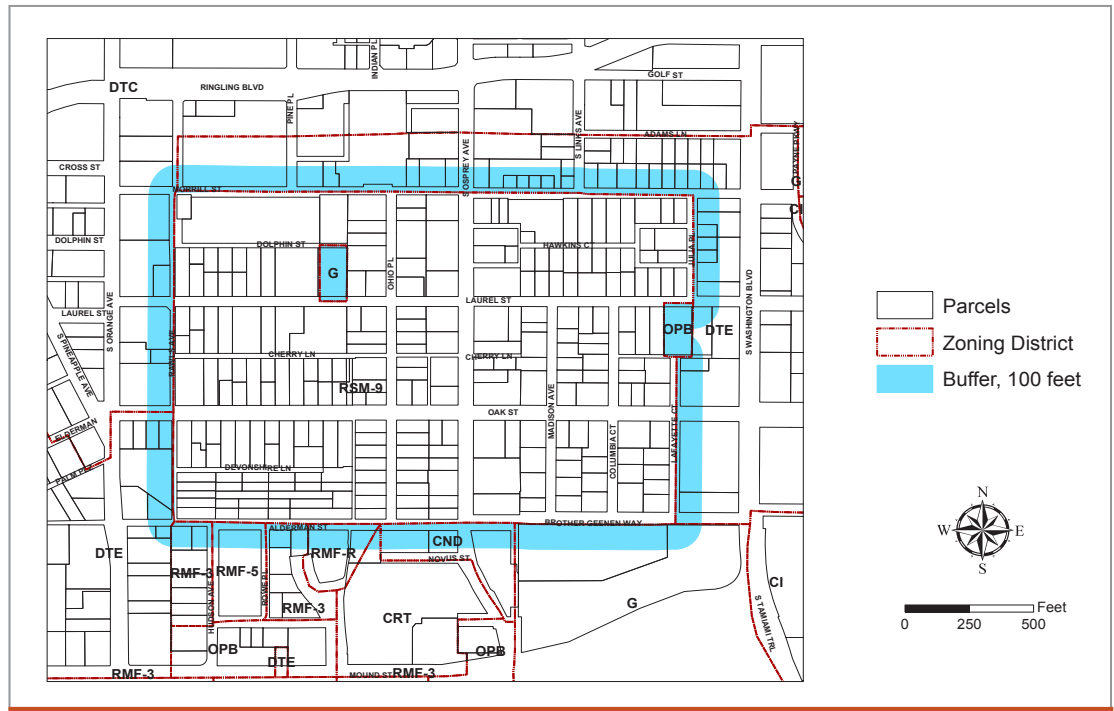
April 14, 2012
5:00-9:00 p.m.
Bring a dish to share.

LPNA GENERAL MEETING

February 21
6:30 p.m.
Senior Friendship Center

LAUREL PARK REQUESTS BUFFER

BY KATE LOWMAN FOR THE LPNA BOARD



Buffer areas surrounding RSM-9 Zone District.

On December 8, 2011, following a unanimous vote of support from members at the November general meeting, the Laurel Park Neighborhood Association requested that the City create a 100 foot buffer around Laurel Park. Within that buffer, citizens would be allowed to provide input to the City about large projects built across the street from the neighborhood. This buffer does not attempt to change the rules about what can be built or a developer's property rights, but rather, it provides for neighborhood meetings and a hearing before the Planning Board for projects over 5,000 square feet.

In the past, Laurel Park residents had the opportunity to discuss new development projects next to the neighborhood with the developer and with the City. This changed after the City of Sarasota adopted the Duany Plan for downtown Sarasota. Envisioned as a plan to make Sarasota more pedestrian friendly and to create a unified vision for downtown, it was opposed by a group of business and development interests which threatened to sue the City if it implemented the plan. The City reached a subsequent agreement with this group – they agreed not to sue and the City agreed to a number of conditions, one of them being Administrative Approval for the

Continued on Page 5, see **BUFFER**

HISTORIC
LAUREL PARK

DOWNTOWN SARASOTA

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Kasy Kane
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Kate Lowman
Editor & Ads

Laurel Park
Neighborhood Association
P.O. Box 1485
Sarasota, FL 34230

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

JUDE LEVY

Did you know that the twinkling lights on Osprey are put up for the holidays by the Jolie & Brian McInnis family?

In this issue, I want to focus on the residents who make Laurel Park the most sought out downtown neighborhood. Yes, it's a historic district, with sidewalks, a pocket park, tree canopied streets and is close to town and the bay. But our main resource is our people – the residents who volunteer for the Board, create popular social events, participate in clean-ups, care enough to report suspicious activity, keep up their own yards, maintain the park, and more!

First, thanks to the current Board of Directors: Juliette Reynolds, Kate Lowman, Rene Desjardins, Betsy Sublette, and Kasy Kane, who have served cheerfully and well for the past two years. These generous neighbors have helped steer our course but are usually behind the scenes.

I also want to thank all the volunteers who helped clean up the neighborhood and pitched in to make our social events the warm, generous & fun events they are. I wish I had space to individually thank all the people who make these events possible. I would like to recognize Jolie & Brian McInnis for their work on Tunes, and Kasy & Joe Kane for the holiday party. Katherine Orenic is always a ready helper at events and Board meetings, Alan Kranich provides lights, and Shani Thimm has been designing catchy & snappy posters. Stephanie Peters and her daughter Raven pop the popcorn for our movie nights and are welcoming hostesses. Tunes in the Park and the Holiday Party were highlights of the holiday season.

Thanks to all who submitted stories for our newsletters and delivered to every address.

And thank you to long time resident Steve Long who is thinking environmentally about the Laurel Park watershed by promoting rain gardens.

If you would like to join the ranks of our volunteers, please contact Jolie McInnis at 951-2468 This might not be the time in your life to volunteer, but your continued support with your membership and donations help make all these activities continue. Thanks to all of you for making Laurel Park a great place to live!

Hope to see you at the General Meeting, February 21, at 6:30 p.m. Senior Friendship Center on Brother Geenen Way. New board members will be elected and neighborhood issues discussed.

*Sincerely,
Jude Levy*

🌸 LPNA ELECTION 🌸
Get involved!

The Laurel Park Neighborhood Association elects new officers to the Board every two years. The next election will take place at the February 21 General Meeting, to be held at the Senior Friendship Center (1888 Brother Geenen Way, 6:30.) The LPNA Nominating Committee will present a slate of candidates, and nominations from the floor are also accepted. If you have questions, please contact Jolie McInnis at 951-2468 or Kate Lowman at 362-9303.

LAUREL PARK HOSTS CHALK ARTISTS

BY NINA ROYAL



From left to right, Nina Royal and Cesar Paredes Pacora.

Living in Laurel Park is thrilling. I don't think there is any other neighborhood in Sarasota that has as much vitality in its streets or interaction between neighbors and events both in it and near it. With our proximity to downtown's festivities and happenings, it is impossible not to be a part of the city we live in.

Denise Kowal, who lives on the edge of Laurel Park and whose sister and father both reside in Laurel Park, has brought us an electrifying event...The Sarasota Chalk Festival. It is literally right down the block. This year 150 artists came from all over the world, 200,000 people came to see their work, and over \$4 million dollars of revenue was brought into the city.

There is no doubt that the Chalk Festival helped highlight the eclectic

mix of shops on Pineapple Avenue. A new, vibrant mural by Brazilian street artist Eduardo Kobra soars above Pineapple and features an historic photo of Sarasota's Main Street.

EMAIL REQUEST

Jolie McGinnis, Denise's sister, is an integral part of the Chalk Festival (and of all things Laurel Park.) When she sent an email asking if any Laurel Park residents would be willing to house a visiting artist,



From left to right, Tony and Eduardo Cuboliquido, Julio Jimenez, and Cesar Paredes Pacora.

I volunteered. Because I speak Spanish, I was paired with an artist from Spain.

That night I wrote on the Chalk Festival Facebook page that I was housing Eduardo Relero and immediately received a message from a Peruvian artist, Cesar Paredes, saying he was a big fan of Eduardo's work. (It is a close knit community of international street artists.) I realized I could stick two futons in the extra room, so I invited him to stay also.

Cesar had never been outside of Peru and it was Eduardo's first time in the US. The first morning we all walked down together to find their respective spots. They were both going to do rather complicated 3D paintings that took the entire week to complete. After that, they had their bearings and left early everyday to head over to Pineapple Avenue and worked until dark.

ENTERTAINMENT

We had so much fun in the days that followed. Eduardo was a comic. Although I speak Spanish pretty well, sometimes I could not understand him, so he mimed things, told us hysterical stories about his life and loves and showed us Youtube videos of his dog. Cesar was in heaven, completely in awe of our country. I chose to feed them, which is totally up to the host, and each night we cooked together, ate on the porch, laughing until bedtime. They could not have been more appreciative and respectful. I was also amazed at how humble they were.

Continued on Page 6, see **CHALK**



Happy New Year Laurel Park

Valentines is quickly approaching. With that in mind, Spa Gift Certificates from Melody's will help you create wonderful memories that will be long remembered

Nestled in a beautiful and quaint Victorian home on the corner of Osprey and Oak, Melody's has been serving the Sarasota area for 29 years.

Come in to tour the Spa, or better yet, stay awhile and enjoy a cup of tea or glass of wine on the veranda. We look forward to meeting you!

www.melody.us
941-952-1010

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE IN LAUREL PARK

BY JOLIE MCINNIS

On December 11th I was once again reminded what a great neighborhood we live in.

Arriving at the park, all were drawn to the twinkling white lights, Christmas tree and neighbors enjoying themselves in the gazebo. Kasy and Joe Kane did a super job of setting up for the tree trimming party this year, placing the tables and chairs inside the gazebo making for a cozy setting. Friends, neighbors and their children gathered and exchanged holiday stories and greetings.

After enjoying sandwiches provided by LPNA, we headed to the large dessert table where there were so many homemade goodies it was hard to choose. Watching as children picked out

the perfect spot on the tree for their ornament you could see how much they were enjoying the task. We were then fortunate to have flutist Jane Hoffman play holiday songs and Christmas carols.

Many neighbors joined in to sing along and put us into the holiday spirit. Thanks to all who came out, it was great to see many of our longtime friends and neighbors and to have a chance to meet some of our newer residents. We all really do have a wonderful life being able to call Laurel Park home. 🌸



From left to right, Katherine Orenic, Helga Harris, and Sheila Zachowski.



THANK YOU to the McInnis Family for once again putting up and taking down all the lights on Osprey Avenue.

BUFFER Continued from Page 1

entire downtown area included in the Duany Plan. This includes all of the land on Laurel Park's eastern, western and northern borders.

ADMINISTRATIVE APPROVAL

With Administrative Approval in place, any project which meets all the requirements of the zoning code can be approved by city staff without neighborhood meetings or other citizen input, regardless of a project's size. When this change was adopted, there was little if any public discussion of how this might impact single family residential neighborhoods located downtown, such as Laurel Park.

The history of Laurel Park shows that residents did in fact take advantage of the opportunity to discuss nearby development projects with the developer and with the City. Over the years, the neighborhood used that opportunity to improve projects such as the lawyers' offices and townhomes at the corner of Morrill and Osprey. This project

originally called for all the parking to be in front of the buildings, facing the street. With a series of conversations and neighborhood input, the owners agreed to place the parking, services and ingress and egress in positions more compatible with the built environment. This enabled the project to better fit in with the neighborhood, while still allowing the law firm to build what it needed for a successful project.

REAL ESTATE BOOM

During the recent boom era, the neighborhood had many opportunities to interact with developers: these exchanges also resulted in increased compatibility of new projects with the neighborhood.

- ⦿ Michael Saunders agreed to put townhouses facing Rawls Avenue on the back of her large project at Laurel Street and Rawls Avenue.
- ⦿ The Atrium Project, between Ringling and Morrill, made a similar agreement about townhouses facing Morrill.
- ⦿ The developer of the Devonshire Project agreed to keep major trees and maintain public access through the streets, preventing the potential creation of a gated community within Laurel Park.

While these last three projects ultimately were not built due to the real estate downturn, they do demonstrate what can be achieved by simply communicating the neighborhood's concerns.

THE FUTURE

Laurel Park has a long track record of positive outcomes based on constructive communication. Due to the real estate downturn, the neighborhood has not yet

WE LOVE DOGS!**BUT...**


Please be responsible
and pick up after yours.



faced the situation of staff approval of projects without citizen involvement. This will change, of course, as the economy recovers.

For this reason, the LPNA board, after careful review, made the recommendation at its November 15, 2011 general meeting that this may be a suitable time to ask the city to modify Administrative Approval. The proposal was adopted unanimously by the attendees. The proposed buffer is very narrow – 100 feet – in order to ensure it only impacts properties which actually touch Laurel Park's RSM-9 zone. If a project includes land within that 100 foot buffer, the developer would be required to have a neighborhood meeting and to appear before the Planning Board.

In order for the buffer to be adopted and implemented by the City, both the Comprehensive Plan and the Zoning Code will have to be changed. This is a lengthy process taking one to two years to complete, and will require hearings by both the Planning Board and the City Commission

The Board will keep the neighborhood notified as this proposal moves through the process. 

Come on by, neighbor,
have a cup of coffee,
enjoy our unique gallery.

**Family "U R MY VALENTINE" DAY**

We have the valentine fixings
We'll be looking for you
Sat, Feb. 11th from 10 to 3.

For info on current classes
see: www.artistsonthecourt.com

Artists on the Court
1943 Morrill Street, Towles Court

WORD OF MOUTH

BY NANCY RICHARDSON

South Osprey is becoming a restaurant center for the neighborhood. With P.F. Chang's arriving in the near future, nearby Word of Mouth (711 S. Osprey) has been a neighborhood fixture for four years. Owner Shannon Lugannani has something for everybody, including gluten-free and vegetarian offerings and all-natural deli meats. Healthful alternatives are offered next to standard fare, i.e., a regular burger has the alternative choice of a vegetable burger. Everything is made from scratch because "it just tastes better."



Pet-friendly, outdoor dining area.

The restaurant, with a modern decor inherited from the former Metro restaurant, has pet-friendly outdoor seating and windows that bring in the outdoors. Shannon says that the arrival of P.F. Chang's will be good for business because it will bring more people into the area.

Shannon and his two children helped during the recent neighborhood clean-up, and his contribution of home-made cookies was a treat for the hard workers of the cleanup crew. Laurel Park is indeed fortunate to have such a dedicated neighbor and well-established eatery. 🌸

WORD OF MOUTH HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday 7:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.
 Tuesday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.
 Fridays and Saturdays 7:30 a.m. - 9 p.m.
 Sundays 7:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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www.wordofmouthsrq.com

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like us on facebook

CHALK Continued from Page 3

This year 13 Italians, one Spaniard, 1 Peruvian and 1 Texan stayed in Laurel Park homes.

Jolie and Brian McGinnis had 8 Italians! "They loved staying in an American home and loved being so close to the festival. For some it was their first visit to the U.S., others stayed with us last year," says Jolie. "We spent many nights eating wonderful Italian pasta dishes. It was a pleasure having them and we look forward to seeing them again next year."

I cried when they left. Eduardo sent me three engravings.

PLAN FOR NEXT FESTIVAL

This coming year we would love to see some more artists housed in Laurel Park. Some stay for a week, others a few days. Some speak English, some do not. It is up to each host as to how involved they want to be with the artist. There is no doubt that the experience will be a positive one for both!

If you have interest in being a host (YES! Do it!!), please e-mail Nina Royal at worldofninaroyal@gmail.com. 🌸

P.F. CHANG'S ON SOUTH OSPREY

BY KATE LOWMAN

On January 17, the Sarasota City Commission approved a new P.F. Chang's Restaurant to be built just south of Laurel Park. Developer Dr. Mark Kauffman plans to replace the building at the corner of Mound and Osprey with the new structure shown in the accompanying image. The nearby office building and assisted living facility will remain. The developer worked with the neighborhood to address concerns raised by residents.

Although the land is being rezoned to Downtown Edge (five stories), in response to neighborhood concerns, Dr. Kauffman voluntarily agreed to limit what will be developed. As approved by the City Commission, the approval is limited to the proposed restaurant which is only two stories. Any change to the height or use approved by the Commission would require another neighborhood workshop, Planning Board hearing and City Commission approval.

The initial neighborhood meeting was held on December 7, 2010 at City Hall. Residents expressed concerns about the impact of traffic on the neighborhood generally and also asked about buffering on the border of Laurel Park (south of Ohio Place). Residents requested a substantial vegetative buffer and also a wall to prevent light and noise from intruding into Ohio Place. Although City Planning staff did not approve the use of a wall due to security concerns, final plans do include a substantial vegetative buffer for the project. Additional vegetation is in the MURT trail between the project and Ohio Place.

City Commissioners were very positive about the manner in which the developer and the neighborhood worked together on this project. The project was previously approved by the Planning Board 4-1 on December 14, 2011. 🌸



SOUTH ELEVATION



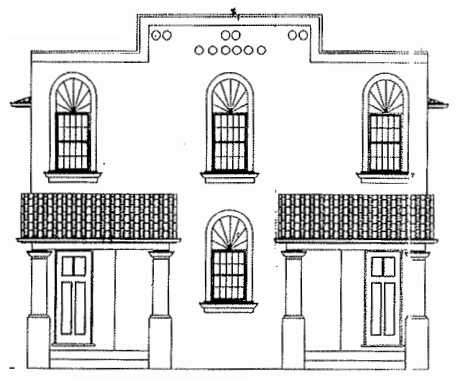
EAST ELEVATION

LAUREL STREET DUPLEX REJECTED

BY JUDY LEVY

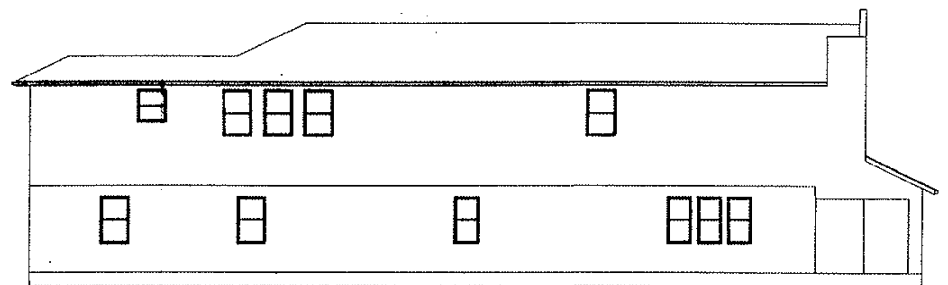
A proposed duplex for 1910 Laurel Street was turned down by the City Commission on January 3, 2012.

The land, owned by Mr. Jeff Twigg, faces Laurel Street in the front and a truncated Cherry Lane in the back. Although it is technically large enough for two homes, the Cherry Lane access does not meet City requirements for a driveway (width and turn-around standards), so Mr. Twigg proposed building a 4,000 square foot duplex on the two lots.



Front Elevation

He could have built a single-family home with a guest house in the rear with no special permission, but RSM-9 zoning requires minor conditional use approval from the Planning Board when building a duplex. Minor conditional use has a number of criteria, one of which is neighborhood compatibility. At the neighborhood meeting held March 31, 2011, Devin Rutkowski who owns the bungalow next door to 1910 Laurel, expressed concerns about the bulk and scale of the proposed duplex. He and several other neighbors stated



East Elevation

similar concerns at the November 9, 2011 Planning Board hearing, where the project was rejected on a 3-2 vote.

PLANNING BOARD

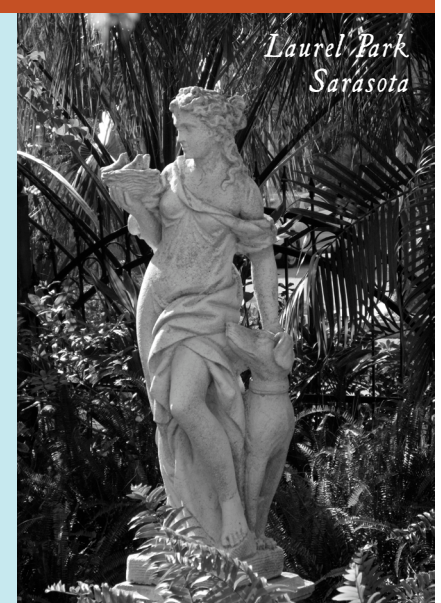
The two Planning Board members who supported the project both pointed to the large buildings on 301, specifically the former Landmark Bank, to justify permitting the duplex within Laurel Park. When Mr. Twigg appealed the Planning Board decision to the City Commission, there was discussion about this fact. When considering whether the duplex was

compatible, it was necessary for the Commissioners to consider the adjacent Laurel Park homes, but not the buildings on 301 which are in an entirely different zoning category.

Models were presented by Mr. Rutkowski at the January 3 Commission meeting, showing the proposed duplex and its relationship to the surrounding homes. The east and west walls of the proposed building are 92' long with little architectural detail (see images). The Commissioners turned down the appeal 5-0, noting that the walls could not be mitigated with landscaping. 🌸

GARDEN CLUB AWARDS LAUREL PARK

To acknowledge Laurel Park residents for their bi-annual cleanups and ongoing care of Laurel Park, the Sarasota Garden Club presented two beautification awards to the LPNA on January 20. Thanks to all who participate in the clean-ups and those who keep an eye on the park. 🌸



2012 LPNA MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

Many thanks to all of you who have renewed your membership in the Laurel Park Neighborhood Association.

Renewals are due at the beginning of each year. If your name is not on this list, please send in the attached form. You do not need to contribute financially to become a member, but your contributions do fund Tunes, Movies in the Park, our Holiday party, publish this newsletter and pursue other activities. We appreciate your support.

2012 LPNA MEMBERS

Many thanks to all those who have already sent in their 2012 renewals:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Juli Abdulla | Marwan & Monika Khammash |
| John Aun | Vicky Levitch (Friend) |
| Don & Cathy Baillie | Jude Levy |
| Erika Brigham | Brian & Jolie McInnis |
| Bill Bronson & Jodi John | Jan McLaughlin |
| Jack Buhmer | Marge McKeever |
| Tom Carter & Kate Lowman | Jim Miller/Spanish Oaks Apts |
| Roger Copple | Carl & Bonnie Mittelstadt |
| Bill & Ellen Cornelius | Jack & Nancy Notestein |
| Jodi Coyne | Jeff & Mikeal'an O'Keefe |
| John & Deborah Dart | Nancy Richardson |
| JoAnn DeMartini | Corey Roscoe |
| Pamela Diamond | Terry Rowe |
| Greg DiBona & Barbara Southard | Senior Friendship Center (Friend) |
| Arlena Dominick | Serrealty, LLC |
| Michael Edelstein & Ada Perez | Betsy Sublette |
| G.M.N. Corp | Veronica Tarnowski |
| Daniel Harris & Maureen Mulvihill | Shani Thimm & Kelley Ferguson |
| Chris Horn | Arthur Thompson & Anne-Marie Tardif |
| Joe & Kasy Kane | Maggie Wood |
| John & Regina Kearney | Word of Mouth (Friend) |
| Gale Kelley | |



SUPPORT YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

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OWN RENT

CONTRIBUTION:

\$25 \$35 \$50

OTHER _____

Please mail form and contribution to:

LPNA
P.O. Box 1485
Sarasota, FL 34230

THE STATE OF REAL ESTATE

There are currently 3 residential properties listed for sale in Laurel Park. Six properties have sold since the last newsletter was published in October 2011.

	List Price	Sold Price
640 Madison Court	\$120,000	\$121,500
610 Madison Court	\$209,000	\$210,500
1831 Hawkins Court	\$249,000	\$215,000
1718 Cherry Lane	\$550,000	\$551,100
602 Ohio Place	\$649,000	\$555,000
1876 Oak Street	\$785,000	\$737,500

Currently there are 4 sales pending:

	List Price
643 Ohio Place	\$199,000
1678 Cherry Lane	\$279,000
1638 Oak Street	\$399,000
329 S. Osprey	\$599,000

There have been no price adjustments on any of the active listings.

*Information provided by Betsy Sublette, Realtor
Signature Sotheby's International Realty*

Your High Energy Neighborhood Realtor

BETSY SUBLETTE

Signature
Premier

Sotheby's
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betsy.sublette@sothebysrealty.com



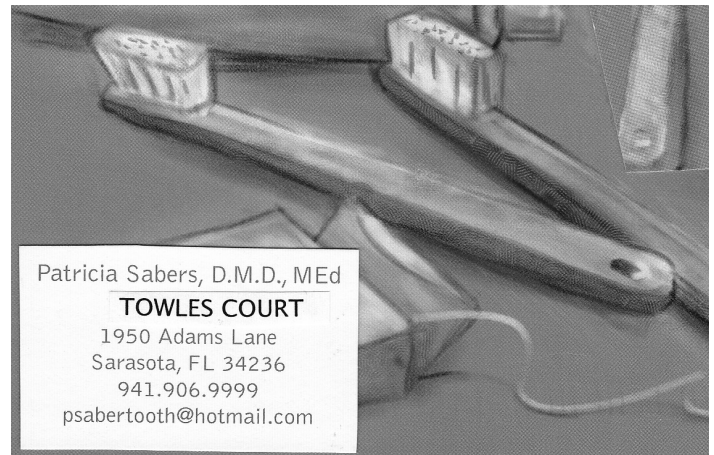
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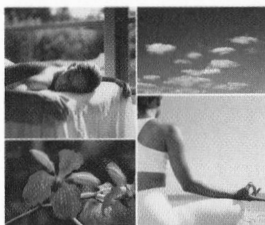
Rebeca Jaensch



Patricia Sabers, D.M.D., MEd

TOWLES COURT

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THANK YOU MINUTEMAN PRESS!!

Special thanks to Laurel Park residents Bob and Teresa Stone, who own Minuteman Press on the corner of Fruitville Road and Lime Avenue. They are registered with the City as an authorized Neighborhood Association Newsletter printer and they always do a great job with printing our newsletters.

MICHAEL LANG

MEDIATOR

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mlang@mediate.com
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Sarasota, FL 34236