



NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

LAKE EOLA HEIGHTS HISTORIC NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWSLETTER 3rd QUARTER 2014

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: NEW TRANSIT SYSTEM MAY AFFECT EOLA HEIGHTS

By David Martens

Orlando is now studying a new mass transit opportunity that will run a 21.5 mile corridor that will travel east-west along State Road 50 between the University of Central Florida on Alafaya Trail and the West Oaks Mall in Ocoee. The corridor passes through the East Colonial Drive Business District and downtown Orlando. It also connects with two SunRail Stations south of SR 50. Its purpose is also to service the Creative Village where the old Orlando Arena was located.

The City of Orlando website further describes the study as "in response to population and employment growth and changes in travel demand and traffic patterns. Transit improvements will support economic redevelopment, improve mobility of residents and workers, and provide a connection to regional transportation systems. SR 50 is a key transportation corridor and is served by 20 LYNX routes which comprise over half of the total system-wide ridership."

The transit mode being considered is known as a Bus Rapid Transit or BRT. Another example of this is the current LYMMO service in downtown Orlando.

The reason this is important to us is that the planned route may impact our neighborhood due to the proposed route that is selected. One route being considered is Robinson Street; another is Colonial Drive.

The group that is conducting the analysis for the City is coming to our meeting for an update. Please make every effort to make the meeting as your input can help decide how this route is determined.

See you at the meeting ...

GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

7 p.m. Thursday August 14
at Trinity Lutheran Church
123 East Livingston Street

Bring a Neighbor!

NATIVE PLANTS THAT HANDLE THE HEAT

By Jeff Thompson, RLA, ASLA

During the dog days of summer when it's too hot to walk down to Lake Eola, let alone to think about gardening, it's nice to know that there are some tough plants that can handle the heat even when the gardeners cannot.

Native plants have gained much popularity in gardening circles and it easy to see why. Evolution has adapted them to our climate, soils and other aspects of the local environment. So this means less water, fertilizer and pest management. All of which means less time and money spent on your landscape! This is especially important this time of year when the heat and humidity really takes a toll on plants leading to what local gardeners recognize as 'crapping out.'

A great native foundation plant for mixed sun locations is *Psychotria nervosa*, otherwise known as Wild Coffee. This plant handles those tough situations with varying degrees light. It can take full shade into almost full sun. It has dark glossy leaves, with small white fragrant flowers and bright red berries that look like coffee. The early Florida pioneers used them for brewing a type of

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