

troubles/

from A1

High’s reach. Woodland Middle is about 18 miles, or a 30-minute drive, from Wellen Park High’s campus.

Hall said a number of families were urged to follow former Woodland Principal Mark Grossenbacher to his new role as principal of WPHS.

Hall’s daughter was impressed with the Wellen Park High’s veterinary program and wants to be involved with it.

Hall feels as though the situation is unfair. Some programs at the new school are not offered at NPHS.

On Tuesday, she told Sarasota County Schools Transportation Director Keith Little she feels like some students are being forgotten.

Little said the issue is not exclusive to North Port and Wellen Park High. There are a number of students who want to go to schools outside of their districts, but the resources are not available to provide transportation.

During that meeting, he noted seniors at Venice High School and NPHS are being given transportation to Wellen Park, even if their district has changed so they can graduate from their school. That provision, however, only applies to seniors and will go away next year.

Another parent, Eden Ecklund, asked how many students are enrolled in “school choice,” meaning going to schools outside of their respective districts.

Little initially hedged to other experts, but later said the number is in the thousands.

“So you don’t know the

number of students who are scrambling?” Ecklund asked.

She said it sounds like the current policy creates a transportation problem. Ecklund also said traffic will be worse in the area due to more cars on the road.

Another parent said they were told, during a student-parent night, that the district was looking at the possibility of “pocket stops.” That would be one stop where students in the district all go to be taken to a school outside of the district, sometimes miles away.

“A lot of us have turned down other schools to come to this because we were told the district would be working on these pocket stops,” she said.

“All I can do is apologize for that,” Little said.

Little said that six weeks into the school year there could be “courtesy stops” for some students outside of the district that are first-come, first-served.

Khilly Kartheiser, an incoming Wellen Park freshman, said the school feels “inaccessible” to many North Port students despite being in the city’s limits.

Only some city students are in the new school’s district. The Warm Mineral Springs area and communities in Wellen Park are among them.

“If we don’t have a bus, they’re not gonna be able to fill a school that millions of dollars were paid on,” she said.

Little said thousands of Sarasota County students who attend a school outside of the district have the same issue. If the school district were to provide transportation for Wellen Park High students who live outside of its area, they would

have to do it across the board, he said.

The meeting eventually ended with the attendees in red wondering what they were going to do.

Hall noted students can’t even get to the school with the county’s public bus system.

The Daily Sun reached out to Sarasota County Transportation officials to validate that information.

“Breeze Transit has recently been contacted by some concerned community members,” it stated, referring to Sarasota County’s public transportation program.

Officials noted Breeze does not serve Wellen Park and a route adjustment is not on the cards.

“Breeze staff looked at the potential for minor adjustments to Route 9, but the distance from the school to the route would impact the hours of service and cost,” officials stated.

“The Breeze budget is approved by the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners.”

As things stand, parents will have to find their own ways to get their students to the new high school.

In an email to Hall, Grossenbacher stated he would advocate for them.

“I too will be advocating for ‘pocket stops’ for our North Port students,” Grossenbacher stated in an email Hall showed *The Daily Sun*.

Grossenbacher responded to *The Daily Sun* in a separate email.

“I will always do my best to advocate for families. At this time, transportation for families out of district will not be



SUN PHOTO BY DANIEL FINTON

Sarasota County Schools Director of Transportation Keith Little speaks at a meeting at North Port High School as concerned Wellen Park High parents and a student from outside of the district listen.

provided. I am hopeful we can come up with a solution in the future,” he stated.

Hall and other parents are frustrated with the situation and worried about the upcoming year.

“It is now too late to get our kids into their districted school and get advanced programming because you have to apply to those programs. They have limited spots and we’ve missed the application

deadlines,” Hall said.

She said they have even tried to work with private companies to get transportation, but the School District would have to approve a contract.

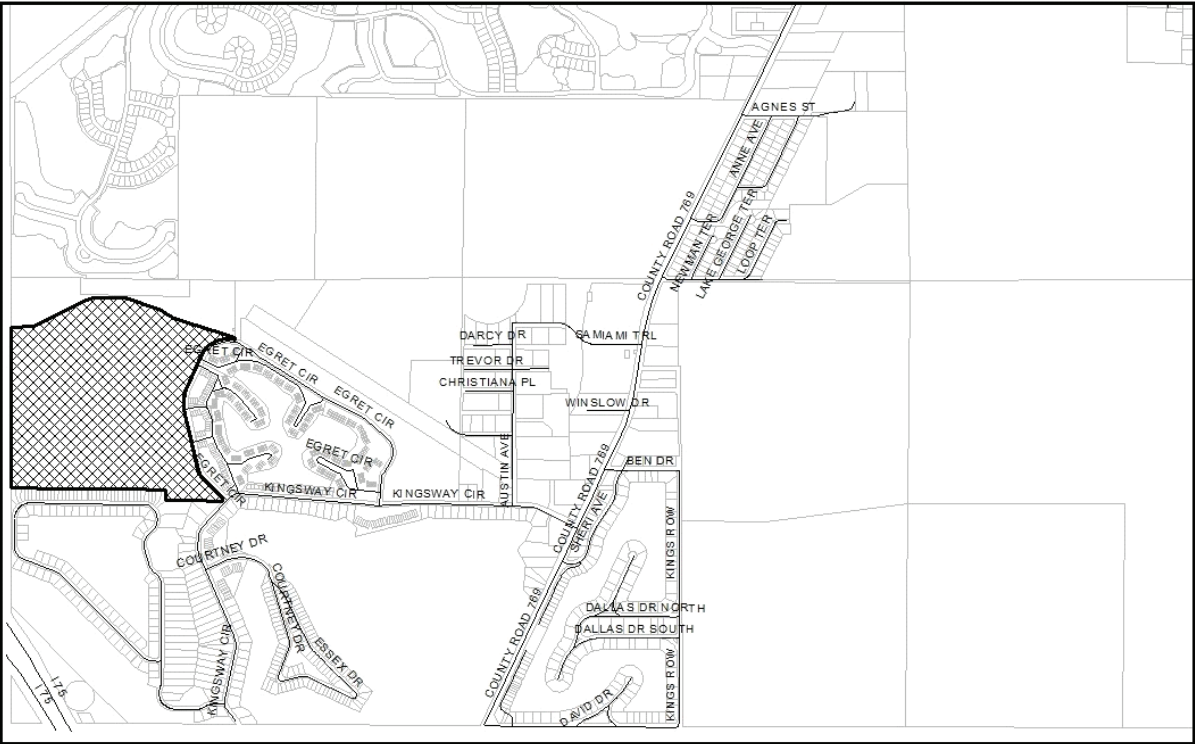
“We want equal treatment for all students,” Hall said. “The school costed over \$200 million to build. It’s astonishing all the technology and opportunities that our kids will miss out on if we go to a districted school.”

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the below ordinance will be considered at the regularly scheduled Public Hearings/Meetings of the **PLANNING COMMISSION** (“PC”), sitting as the Local Planning Agency, on **Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 5:30 PM**, or as soon thereafter, as they may be heard on those dates. All public hearings will be held in the County Commission Meeting **Room 103, Administration Building, 201 E. Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida**. Copies of the applications and staff reports are available at the Development Department Room 204, Administration Building, 201 E. Oak Street, Arcadia, Florida five days prior to the meeting dates and are available on the County’s website at www.desotobocc.com under Department News and News & announcements. Members of the public may appear and be heard on the matters to be considered. Pursuant to Section 286.0105, F.S., if you want to appeal any decision of the Planning Commission, you will need a record of the proceedings, and for such purpose, you may need to arrange for a verbatim transcript to be prepared.

PLANNING COMMISSION: (PC) Tuesday, August 4, 2026, at 5:30 PM

1. **Ordinance, Millrose Properties Florida LLC (Heritage Lakes), Rezone (RZNE-0065-2025)**
- AN ORDINANCE OF THE DESOTO COUNTY, FLORIDA BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING ATLAS IDENTIFIED IN LAND DEVELOPMENT REGULATIONS ARTICLE 2, ZONING DISTRICTS AND REQUIREMENTS, SECTION 20-31, ESTABLISHMENT OF ZONING DISTRICTS; GRANTING TO THE PROPERTY OWNER MILLROSE PROPERTIES FLORIDA, LLC, AN OFFICIAL ZONING DISTRICT ATLAS AMENDMENT (RZNE-0065-2025) BY CHANGING THE ZONING DISTRICT OF 109.64 ACRES FROM RESIDENTIAL MULTIFAMILY 6 (RMF-6) TO PLANNED UNIT DEVELOPMENT (PUD) FOR A RESIDENTIAL PROJECT UTILIZING BONUS DENSITY ON PROPERTY GENERALLY LOCATED SOUTHWEST DESOTO COUNTY, WEST OF COUNTY ROAD 769, ALONG SW EGRET CIRCLE IN LAKE SUZY, FL, THE PROPERTY IDENTIFICATION NUMBER BEING 31-39-23-0000-0206-0000 AND PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.



adno=3994674-1

Concern/

from A1

reported, according to the CDC.

Cases are generally assumed to be under-reported because in most people the illness resolves itself without medical help, though in some it can last for weeks, Fusco said.

The most prominent symptoms are diarrhea and abdominal pain, he said, though they can be accompanied by fever and nausea. People who eat a lot of salads and fruit are at greater risk, he said.

The illness can be managed at home if someone isn’t “super-uncomfortable,” can stay hydrated and isn’t vomiting, he said. They should focus on hydration and rest.

Medical help should be sought if there’s a fever,

pain worsens, diarrhea continues for weeks or there’s vomiting, which can cause dehydration, he said.

“If it’s something prolonged, we definitely want to see those people,” he said.

They can get tested for the parasite and, if positive, receive a prescription for antibiotics, Fusco said.

Until the causes of the outbreak have been identified and remedied, he said, the best prevention is hand-washing; keeping the environment clean; and avoiding bagged salads, vegetables with outer skin, where parasites can linger, and fresh fruit.

“Washing (produce) is not great, but it’s better than nothing,” he said.

Peeling, then washing vegetables can help too, he said.

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