

NARCOOSEE BECOMING A HOTBED OF GROWTH THE RURAL AREA IS POISED TO BOOM AS ORLANDO CONTINUES TO EXPAND TOWARD THE SOUTHEAST.

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Ask about any of Osceola County's hot spots for residential growth and you'll probably hear the same old answers: Disney's Celebration, Remington or Poinciana.

Ask the same question in about five years and you might get a surprising response: Narcoossee.

The rural area on Osceola's east side, which is often recognized more for its cows and dirt roads, is now budding with large, new homes. In fact, many local business people agree it could quickly become a focal point on the county's residential landscape.

"I believe that southeast area (of greater Orlando) will have tremendous growth in the future," said Maury Carter, head of Maury L. Carter and Associates, which has about 6,000 acres along County Road 15. "The other three quadrants (of the Orlando area) are so filled up with development already. That makes the southeast quadrant a perfect place to build."

Carter moved into the area last year because it offered immediate access to nature and wildlife. It also is just minutes from the wild life in downtown Orlando.

"I can get to my office in Orlando within 30 minutes. It's great," Carter said.

Narcoossee now has several growing developments including Majestic Oaks, Lake Ajay Village and nearby Ashley Oaks. Another, Hammock Pointe, is preparing for second and third phases of homes ranging from \$120,000 to \$200,000.

"It's really a gorgeous area with lots of lakes and trees," said Tracy Koger of Derrick Builders. "It's also very close to the Orange County line and the airport, plus the taxes are so much lower in Osceola."

Paty Wright, president of the Greater Osceola County-St. Cloud Chamber of Commerce, said Narcoossee is showing signs of growth with increased traffic along C.R. 15 and several businesses looking to build east of St. Cloud.

In fact, the Winn-Dixie supermarket chain opened a new location at C.R. 15 and U.S. Highway 192 last week.

[Illustration]

PHOTO: New homes. Narcoossee is expected to become a major force. ED SACKETT/THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

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Abstract (Document Summary)

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