

Forty acres donated for L-SCC campus

By Ann Dupee

Maury L. Carter & Associates has donated 40 acres of land to Lake-Sumter Community College for a South Lake campus.

Last Wednesday afternoon LSCC board members and other interested citizens climbed into four-wheel drive vehicles to tour the beautiful site overlooking Lake Apopka near the eastern boundary of "Skytop," a 1200+ acre parcel owned by Maury L. Carter & Associates. Maury Carter and son Daryl each drove a vehicle. The southern boundary is about 350 feet north of SR 50, east of Hancock Road and very visible from 50.

The group then convened at the South Lake High School auditorium for a light supper and official board meeting under the direction of chairman Glenn Wade of Sumter County. Local people attending included Clermont city manager Wayne Saunders, city engineer John Springstead, Keith Mullins, Nick Jones, SLHS dean Dave Wilhelm, former LSCC board member and president Al Fogle, and SLHS principal Dave Cogshall. He welcomed the board and stated how much the high school was enjoying its good relations with the college by having college classes there.

Dr. Ken Stack, who supervises expansion, was delighted the Carters came forward with the land. "We're really impressed, it's a magnificent piece of property, high and dry."

Stack praised the working relationship they had enjoyed so far with Clermont city manager Wayne Saunders and engineer John Springstead.

Former LSCC board chairman Al Fogle was in the audience and he was commended for his dream of this South Lake campus by Mr. Wade.

Maury Carter told the audience he got involved in October of 1991 when his company purchased the 1228 acres, which had already been annexed into Clermont. "It had an existing DRI (Development of Regional Impact) for single family homes and we inherited the base data."

South Lake Memorial Hospital has purchased 40 acres on the west side of the Skytop property, with entrance from Jack's Lake Road. The Carters have also donated 10 acres adjoining the hospital property and Carter envisioned a three-way project of their organizations to establish a wellness center.

No conceptual plan of development has been formally submitted for the remainder of the Skytop acreage, although Carter said there have been several preliminary meetings with the city. The Carters do not build homes, leaving that to the experts in that field.

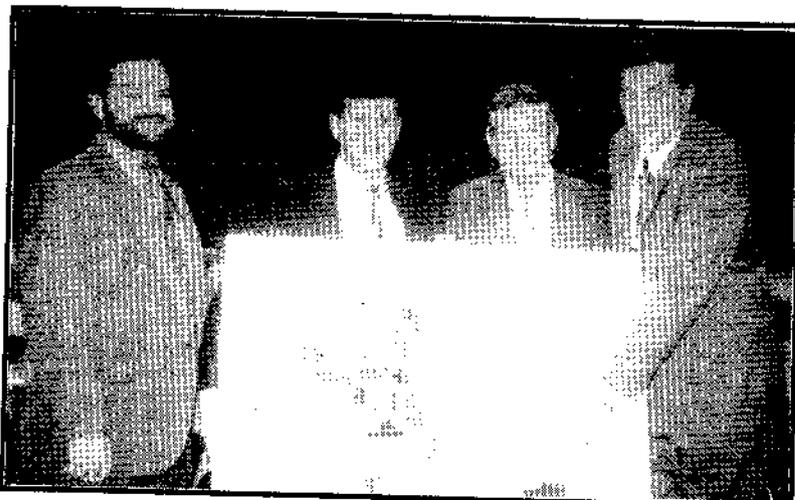
Carter said Saunders had persuaded them to move Hancock Road to line up with an improved Hancock Road to the south.

Dr. Westrick was delighted to work with the Carters and the city. "They are true professionals." Mr. Wade then called for a standing ovation for Maury Carter.

Saunders told the board it was a pleasure to work on a project that everyone loves. "I never thought when we cut the ribbon on the building downtown now occupied by Nautilus that we would ever get to this." Saunders said Clermont was expanding with one major shopping center to open in March and another of 120,000 square feet across SR 50 on Hancock Road. It is being designed by local architect Nick Jones.

The actual deed document will be brought to the board for final approval in January. It will contain permission for agricultural status until building begins. Two hundred cattle now graze the property.

The LSCC board must petition the state for this special purposes facility and is forewarning the Florida Legislature the board will be asking for construction funds in the 1995 session. A portion of the facility is expected to be ready for occupancy three years later.



Press Photo by Ann Dupee
Dr. Robert Westrick, president of Lake-Sumter Community College, points to the location of a new LSCC campus in Clermont. Forty acres of the 1200+ acre "Skytop" at the eastern Clermont city limits were donated by owner Maury Carter & Associates. From left are Clermont City Manager Wayne Saunders, Daryl and Maury Carter and Dr. Westrick.