

Nov. 29, 2007

Learn how to get grant money for your neighborhood project

Sarasota County residents have the opportunity to improve their neighborhoods with funding that can help bring their ideas to life. The Sarasota County Neighborhood Grant program makes up to \$12,000 available for each neighborhood during a grant cycle. All it takes to put that resource to work is attendance at a two-hour workshop to learn the application process.

Representatives of the Neighborhood Grant program will conduct two workshops; 2-4 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 1, at Jacaranda Public Library, 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice and 1-3 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 11 at the Sarasota County Administration Center, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota. Attendance at a workshop is a prerequisite to applying for the grant program. Space is limited and reservations are required.

The workshop is open to representatives of any neighborhood associations, homeowner associations and informal groups of neighbors who wish to use the matching grant program to fulfill needs in their communities that preserve character and value, enhance safety, build neighborhood leadership or improve environmental and physical health.

Neighborhood groups can match the county grant funds with cash, volunteer hours, direct donations by neighbors, other grant sources or by donations of materials and services. A maximum of \$100,000 is available twice per year.

The deadline to apply for funding during the current grant cycle is Feb. 19, 2008.

For more information, call the Sarasota County Call Center at 861-5000 or send an e-mail to neighbor@scgov.net.