

Jan. 4, 2008

Grants class shows the way for neighborhood projects

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. Representatives of the Neighborhood Grant program have scheduled four workshops to take potential applicants through the application process for the following locations:

- 1-3 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 8, Jacaranda Public Library, 4143 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice
- 2-4 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 10, County Administration Center, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota
- 10 a.m. – noon Saturday, Jan. 12, North Port Library, 13800 S. Tamiami Trail, North Port
- 2-4 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 15, North Sarasota Library, 2801 Newtown Blvd., Sarasota

In addition, following the Jan. 12 grant workshop, staff will present a special workshop from 12:15-1 p.m. at the North Port Library on fundraising through neighborhood events. This workshop discusses the process to plan efforts to raise funds for a neighborhood project. Participants will learn why people give, the soliciting process, how to gain sponsorships, major gifts, and the special results of engaging individuals in their neighborhood.

Attendance at a workshop is a prerequisite to applying for the grant program. Space is limited and reservations are required. The workshops are 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.

For more information, call the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or send an e-mail to neighbor@scgov.net.