

March 18, 2008

## County libraries choose 'Sweetheart Deal' for One Book, One Community

Sarasota County libraries popular program "One Book, One Community" returns during March and April and will feature former Sarasota attorney Claire Hamner Maturro's novel "Sweetheart Deal," a legal mystery with a sense of humor.

The novel follows Sarasota attorney Lilly Belle Cleary back to her backwater hometown of Bugfest, Georgia to solve a murder and save her mother's life. The smart and sassy Cleary has been the central character in three previous Maturro mysteries, "Skinny-Dipping," "Bone Valley" and "Wildcat Wine."

"This is so great and I'm honored that the library asked me to join them for this program during National Library Week," Maturro said. "I love libraries and totally believe in them. Plus, coming to Sarasota is always fun because it's like coming home." Maturro graduated high school in Sarasota and returned here after law school, practicing law with the firm of Dickinson and Gibbons for nine years. She is the daughter of area veteran newspaper man, John Hamner.

Maturro will make two public appearances on Monday, April 14, 10 a.m. at Selby Public Library and 2 p.m. at Venice Public Library. She will read excerpts from "Sweetheart Deal," describe the evolution of her characters, reflect on the craft of writing, and sign copies of her books. Maturro's visit will also coincide with National Library Week, April 13-19.

Maturro's legal mystery series about a high strung Sarasota trial attorney has won national recognition and awards. "Library Journal" said, "Maturro has a fresh voice and lively style (think Janet Evanovich and John Grisham) and as a former appellate attorney and member of the writing faculty at Florida State University College of Law, she's certainly qualified to write about the law."

The "One Book, One Community" concept began in Seattle, Washington and has been a popular event at Sarasota County libraries in recent years. According to Greg Carlson, Jacaranda Public Library Manager, "The program encourages everyone to read the same book, which invites people to come together, feel a sense of community and share their insights with each other and the author." Maturro's visit is one event in many planned at Sarasota County libraries for the program which runs through March and April.

Additional information on Claire Hamner Maturro and all her books can be found on her Web site, <http://www.clairematurro.com>

For more information contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit the Sarasota County libraries Web site, [www.sclibs.net](http://www.sclibs.net).