

May 19, 2008

Get outside the box and 'Get on Board' with Sarasota County in May

Sarasota County is looking for people who can think outside of the box and want to learn more about how county commissioners make budget decisions and public policy. On May 22, 30 and 31, three interactive workshops will ask players to imagine themselves in the role of a commissioner, during real-world scenarios that require them to make decisions based on spending and priority.

The workshops will take place:

- 6-9 p.m., May 22, Municipal Auditorium, 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
- 2-5 p.m., May 30, Venice Community Center, 326 Nokomis Ave., Venice
- 9 a.m.-noon, May 31, Gulf Coast Event and Conference Center of Girls Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, Inc., 4780 Cattlemen Road, Sarasota

Each workshop will last approximately three hours and participants should plan to attend the entire session. Light refreshments will be served. Attendance is limited to 300 participants per session.

Sarasota County Administrator Jim Ley says this is a new form of local government, where working directly with citizens, and involving them in decisions, is as important as representing them. He believes the three budget simulations will encourage and support this ongoing spirit of collaboration, and that residents throughout the community will continue to communicate what's important to them through the program's interactive Web site, www.scgov.net/getonboard.

For more information or to register, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about "Get on Board," or visit www.scgov.net/getonboard.

Media note: attached is a low-resolution image of the actual board that will be used during the scenarios. A high-resolution image is available by request.