

May 29, 2008

Venice Community Center hosts Battle of the Bands

On May 31 and June 1, the Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice will feature 20 bands from the region in the first-ever "Battle of the Bands" competition. The non-stop concert action will run 4-11 p.m. each day.

Local musicians, artists and businesses have teamed up with The Friends of the Venice Community Center, a non-profit group, to promote entertainment that caters to teens and young adults, an often underserved segment of the Venice population.

"We hope the success of this battle will pave the way for more events like this," said Dorian Mattox, program coordinator for Sarasota County Parks and Recreation. All proceeds will benefit The Friends of the Venice Community Center.

Event host and organizer Tim Treece said, "This type of musical entertainment is something that does not get a lot of exposure in this area despite the fact that its fan base, teens to young adults, is a growing part of our society. There are some really talented bands in this area that could play on a national and international level, they just need the exposure."

Some of the bands that will play include The D.O.O.D., Jack Somebody, Saint Sweetheart, Grimwood, Bad Sara, The Awareness Committee, Welcome Home Eleanor, Breaking Their Holds, The Blackest Blood, What We Aim For, Nomads of the Nook, Third Society, Instant Madness, Forbidden Fruit Farmers, The Audrey Slam, We the Wretched, Dirt Road Law, Covet, Scene of the Crash and Any Given Night.

The top prize is \$500 and eight hours of studio time donated by Science Recording Studio of Sarasota. The Venice "Battle of the Bands" is open to all ages. Doors will open at 3 p.m. each day with tickets available at the door for \$10 each day.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about the Battle of the Bands at the Venice Community Center.