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Media Contact: Warren Richardson, cell 941-232-5388; wrichardson@scgov.net

Project Contact: Vickie French, 941-861-5145; vfrench@scgov.net

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. 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 a workshop from 2-4 p.m. Wednesday, July 23, at the Sarasota County Administration Center, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota. Attendance at a workshop is a prerequisite to apply for the grant program. If you have attended a workshop in the past, attendance at a new workshop, while not mandatory, is beneficial to learn about new application guidelines. Space is limited and reservations are required. To see the schedule of grant classes, go to the county's Web site at www.scgov.net and navigate to neighborhood grants using the County A-Z link.

The workshop is open to representatives of 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, promote healthy lifestyles or improve the environment.

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. The county has \$100,000 available for this grant cycle.

The deadline to apply for funding during the current grant cycle is 5 p.m. Monday, Aug. 18.

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

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