

Sept.15, 2008

## Historic Nokomis Beach Plaza to re-open

Almost five years after being closed to the public, the historic Nokomis Beach Plaza will re-open at 6 p.m., Friday, Sept. 19. Jack West, the architect who designed the original plaza and oversaw its rehabilitation, will join Sarasota County Commissioners for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The \$1.3 million project was funded by a combination of impact fees, penny surtax (1-cent sales tax) funds and historical resource grants. The beach plaza is designed to protect sea turtles with recessed lights with true red filters, tinted windows, louvers and shades. These features help guide sea turtle hatchlings toward the sea and enable female sea turtles to come ashore to lay their eggs.

Sarasota County dedicated its first beach plaza at Nokomis Beach in February 1956. For the next 53 years the Nokomis Beach Plaza provided residents and visitors with restrooms, locker room facilities, a community meeting space and a shaded plaza overlooking Nokomis Beach and the Gulf of Mexico. Following its designation as a historic structure in 2003, Sarasota County Parks and Recreation officials worked with the Sarasota County History Center to seek grants to rehabilitate the building.

For more information contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about the historic Nokomis Beach Plaza.