

SCgovHEALTHnews

Sarasota County Health Department | Florida Department of Health | scgov.net | 941.861.5000 | TV

Oct. 22 2008

Media Contact: Dianne Shipley, 941-861-2852; cell: 941-302-1058, Dianne_Shipley@doh.state.fl.us or Crystal Bruce, 941-861-2876; cell: 941-650-4282; Crystal_Bruce@doh.state.fl.us

Free forum: “Bariatric Surgery – The Last Resort”

As people evaluate weight loss options, “gastric bypass” or bariatric surgery may be a consideration. In an effort to educate health care professionals and others about bariatric surgery, The Sarasota County Wellness Coalition is hosting a free community forum, “Bariatric Surgery – The Last Resort” on Friday, Nov. 7 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Sarasota County School Board Administration facility, 1960 Landings Boulevard, (look for the blue awning) in room 221 in Sarasota.

Local experts from Sarasota Memorial Hospital’s Comprehensive Bariatric Program, Dr. T. Patrick Fitzgerald, Patrice Burnett, R.N., and Linda Materewicz, R.D. will present the seminar. They will focus on obesity trends, the role of exercise and diet in weight management, how bariatric surgery works and who is eligible, its benefits, potential complications, and effectiveness over time.

Join us to learn more about what your community is doing to prevent obesity and ways you can get involved. The Sarasota County Wellness Coalition is working through partnerships to create a healthier community. The Coalition sponsors free and low-cost education sessions on a range of obesity prevention topics. Member organizations of the coalition include: Sarasota County Health Department, Sarasota County Parks & Recreation, Sarasota County Extension Family Nutrition Program, Venice Regional Medical Center, Sarasota County Schools, Gulfcoast South Area Health Education Center, South County Family YMCA, and Sarasota Family YMCA.

Licensed nurses, registered dietitians, and mental health professionals who attend the Friday, Nov. 7 forum are eligible for three Continuing Education credits provided by Gulfcoast South AHEC

For more information or to register for the forum, contact Ansley Mora at 941-361-6602 or via e-mail at amora@health.usf.edu. Visit The Sarasota County Wellness Coalition’s newly launched web site at www.sarasotawellness.org.

-end-