

June 18, 2009

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

Project contacts: Jeff Seward, 941-861-7284; jseward@scgov.net

Shelia Roberson, 941-861-5438; sroberson@scgov.net

Citizens' Budget Task Force announces meeting schedule

The Citizens Budget Task Force, which held its introductory meeting June 15, has released its meeting schedule to meet with executive and department heads during July.

The task force will meet on July 1, 15 and 29 to review the county's proposed fiscal year 2010 budget. All meetings will begin at 6 p.m. in the Think Tank on the third floor of the Sarasota County Administration Center, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota. The meetings are public and will also be aired live over Access Sarasota TV on Comcast channel 19 and Verizon channel 32 except for the July 15 meeting which residents can watch through a live Webcast on scgov.net. The live airing of the July 15 meeting was preempted by a previously scheduled Sarasota City Commission meeting.

More session(s) may be scheduled in August for the task force members to review additional information and/ or to take care of any final business before making their report to the county commission on Sept. 8.

Sarasota County Commissioners formed the Budget Task Force on May 12 and appointed members on May 27. The members of the task force are:

- Robert L. Anderson
- R.G. "Kelly" Caldwell Jr.
- Lisa Carlton
- Harrison Fox
- Robert Long
- Eric Resker
- John W. Saputo
- Mary Anne Servian
- Richard Singer
- Joseph J. Welch

Residents can also provide feedback about county budget priorities through an online budget tool at www.scgov.net/CommunityConnections. This web-based survey allows property owners to enter their assessed property value and shows the amount of their property tax bill that pays for services such as fire and emergency medical service, libraries and parks. Property owners can select different levels of service for these areas and see how changing the level of service affects their property tax bill.

For additional information on the Citizens' Budget Task Force, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or go to the county's Web site at www.scgov.net