

Neighborhood News

I would dedicate this nation to the policy of the good neighbor—the neighbor who resolutely respects himself, and, because he does so, respects the rights of others.
- Franklin D. Roosevelt



One Thousand for National Night Out



Children could climb inside the Sheriff's helicopter as part of the learning activities associated with National Night Out in Payne Park. For more photos, see back page. Credit: Pola Sommers

The 25th Annual National Night Out, a joint event by the city of Sarasota, Sarasota County, the Sheriff's office and city police, took place in Payne Park on Aug. 5. Gray skies and the threat of rain did not stop the estimated 1,000 citizens from as far away as Clearwater and Port Charlotte who gathered to enjoy free food, popcorn, children's activities and demonstrations from emergency responders and local police.

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Neighborhood Services

Jane Grogg
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Vickie French
Neighborhood Coordinator

Teresa Mast
Neighborhood Assistant

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Englewood CRA Coordinator

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Sustainable September for Sarasota County

Sarasota County invites the public to turn "green" intentions into positive actions during SustainAbility Month in September. Staff from county agencies and community partners will present practical tips for resource use that leave future generations a legacy of enhancement.

County-staffed panels focusing on issues such as sustainable growth and development, carbon footprint programs, the compost program (a partnership between Home Depot and local master gardeners) and money matters will meet at all county libraries at various times throughout the month.

Neighborhood Services will be represented on a sustainable growth and development panel titled People, Places, and



Above: Pictures of various stormwater gardens on sidewalks in Portland, Oregon. This is an example of smart growth development, one of the many topics to be discussed during SustainAbility Month. Credit: Kevin Perry, City of Portland Environmental Services.

Planning for Prosperity. This panel will discuss walkable neighborhoods, smart growth initiatives, mixed use facilities and green building.

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Building Stronger Communities in Florida

The Neighborhood Services team participated in the 12th Annual Florida Neighborhoods Conference, June 26-28 in Tallahassee. The team was joined by civic leaders John Krotec of the Fruitville 210 Alliance, Tom Matrullo of the Lake Sarasota Community and Betty Myers of Englewood.

Moderating a workshop entitled "Community Building," Krotec and Matrullo highlighted the importance of neighborhoods and government working together.

"Compromise," said Krotec, "will always get you further than conflict." Krotec discussed his involvement and experiences

within the Fruitville community and stressed the need for cooperation between citizens and government officials.

Matrullo demonstrated his contribution as a neighborhood leader through the creation of the Lake Sarasota Community Blog. He additionally spoke about various web tools and services. Matrullo emphasized the importance of effective communication through free, easy-to-use web-based services.

Members of the audience responded with questions regarding implementation of programs in various communities.

Comments ranged from the formation of a Neighborhood Watch to use of the internet among less-affluent communities. Krotec and Matrullo responded with answers based on personal experience and insight.

Over 400 participants representing Florida neighborhoods participated in the conference. Hosted by the city of Tallahassee and Leon County, attendees joined in neighborhood related workshops and discussions, networking opportunities, and tours of historic Tallahassee. ♦

Don't Miss a Step!

The Community Health Improvement Partnership (CHIP)

recently held a "Smart Growth and Walkability" forum. Read about their efforts to build healthier communities by visiting

chip4health.org

Learning From Your Neighbors: Osprey and Nokomis

Members of the Osprey Revitalization Committee (ORC) were treated to a joint presentation from the Nokomis Revitalization Advisory Committee (NRAC) and the Nokomis Area Civic Association (NACA) during a meeting in June.

Bruce Dillon, chairman of the NRAC, and John Ask, president of NACA, were invited to give an update on activities occurring in Nokomis, share best

practices from their respective operations, and talk about ideas for the future. The advisory board and civic association have a unique synergy in creating a unified voice for Nokomis.

Members of the ORC complimented both speakers on their successes in community building. Jay Leland, chairman of the ORC, said: "We can all learn a

great deal from our neighbors to the south."

Both the ORC and the NRAC are official county advisory boards charged with implementation of area revitalization plans. NACA is formed of citizen volunteers and homeowner associations within the Nokomis area.

To learn more about these organizations visit

www.scgov.net.

NACA can be found at www.naca-nokomis.com

The ORC meets monthly at Historic Spanish Point or the Osprey Inn. The NRAC and NACA meet semi-monthly (alternatively) at the Nokomis Community Center. ♦



Above: View of a stormwater pond in Woodmere Lakes, Venice. Julie Manna, a resident, applied for a Neighborhood Grant to complete this project, resulting in improved water quality and aesthetic enhancement. Credit: Vickie French, Sarasota County

Grant Funding for Neighborhoods

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.

Workshops are open to representatives of any neighborhood or 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.

Please contact Vickie French at: 941-861-5145 or e-mail vfrench@scgov.net Visit www.scgov.net for the workshop schedule. ♦

Sustainability Month continued

Besides the panels, there will be lectures by local environmental specialists Laurel Schiller, Jeff Weber and Robert Wright. Schiller's lecture is entitled "Florida Native Plants" and will discuss Florida-friendly plants along with a walking tour that identifies thriving plants. Weber will lead "Perils in Paradise" featuring tips on how to enjoy the outdoors while avoiding potential danger. Wright discusses "Living on the Waters Edge," a primer on the variety and importance of aquatic plants in our ecosystem. Robert Kluson and Patricia Porchey will hold classes on "Food Choices and Your Carbon

Footprint" and "Container Gardening" respectively.

Educational film presentations are also scheduled. "The 11th Hour," produced and directed by Leonardo DiCaprio, will run at several libraries. "11th Hour" discusses practices to preserve our environment. "Six Degrees Could Change Your World" is an additional film to be shown at the North Port Library. "Six Degrees" explores what rising temperatures could mean for the future of humanity.

Children's events will be held as well. Through songs, puppet play, games and crafts pre-school aged children are invited

to learn about environmental awareness and conservation.

All activities are intended to demonstrate multiple definitions of sustainability, the County's involvement in sustainable practices, and what citizens can do to contribute to a healthier environment for all. Seating is available on a first come basis and activities are free of charge.

For more information on SustainAbility Month contact Greg Carlson at 941-861-1277 or e-mail gcarlson@scgov.net. ♦



A "green street" in Gresham, Oregon, demonstrates how atmosphere, environment, mobility and community can co-exist. Credit: Kevin Perry, City of Portland

Hurricane Season: Are You Prepared?

A Message from Jim Ley, Sarasota County Administrator

Two hurricane seasons with little storm activity make it easy for all of us to become complacent about preparing for storms and about our responsibilities. Nothing could be more dangerous or irresponsible.

Just one storm, any storm, can bring us a disaster. If that happens, our community may be on its own for days, or

longer. First, we must make sure our families are prepared. Are you in a house or building that will be safe, or should you plan to leave? Not every home is safe during a hurricane, no matter how many shutters you have.

Create a disaster plan for your family. Make sure each family member understands the plan and what they need to do. Store enough supplies (food and medications) for at least a week. Create a disaster kit for

your family, car and work. If you live alone, talk to neighbors and friends about developing a neighborhood response plan. Make arrangements to shelter pets.

If you have any questions or need assistance preparing, you can contact Emergency Management at 941-861-5000. They will be glad to help you and your family get prepared. ♦

Find information on creating your family's disaster plan by visiting:

<http://www.scgov.net/EmergencyServices/allhazards.asp>

Information on neighborhood disaster planning grants and opportunities are also available.

Citizens Academy Returns for Fall Classes

Sarasota County's Citizens Academy, popularly referred to as "Civics 101," started in 2000. Since then, over 400 people have graduated from the program.

Civics 101 is an opportunity for citizens to learn about the services the county provides, meet the staff that provide these services and hear from elected officials.

Tuition is free but space is limited. To join the Citizens Academy, download and complete an application from our Web site at www.scgov.net.

Click on Neighborhood University.

For more information contact Vickie French at 861-5145 or e-mail vfrench@scgov.net. ♦



Pictured: A Civics 101 class on an excursion. Field trips and tours of facilities are a part of the Citizens Academy. Credit: Vickie French, Sarasota County

SustainAbility Month Events

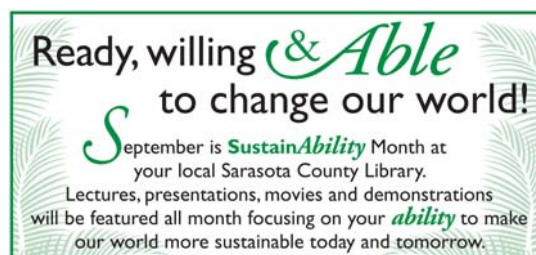
Below are some highlights for events pertaining to SustainAbility Month. For the entire list of activities and events visit www.scgov.net or your local neighborhood library.

People, Places, and Planning for Prosperity

Fruitville Library Sept. 3 2-4 p.m.	Venice Library Sept. 9 2-4 p.m.	Elsie Quirk Library Sept. 16 2-4 p.m.	Jacaranda Library Sept. 16 5:30-7:30 p.m.
Selby Library Sept. 19 1-3 p.m.	Gulf Gate Library Sept. 22 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.	North Sarasota Library Sept. 24 2-4 p.m.	North Port Library Sept. 25 5:30-7:30 p.m.

The 11th Hour - Public Presentation

Gulf Gate Library September 4, 2008 10 a.m.	North Port Library September 5, 2008 1 p.m.
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Lectures and Presentations

Container Gardens Selby Library Sept. 2 2 p.m.	Perils in Paradise Jacaranda Library Sept. 10 2 p.m.	Food Choices & Footprints Selby Library Sept. 16 11 a.m.	Pond Life Jacaranda Library Sept. 23 5:30 p.m.
Living Green Jacaranda Library Sept. 18 10 a.m.	The Water's Edge Jacaranda Library Sept. 24 5:30 p.m.	Florida Yards Selby Library Sept. 23 10:30 a.m.	Native Plants Gulf Gate Library Sept. 26 1:30 p.m.

Money Matters: Stretching Your Food Dollars

Selby Library Sept. 2 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.	North Port Library Sept. 9 10 a.m. - Noon	North Sarasota Library Sept. 10 2 - 4 p.m.	Jacaranda Library Sept. 11 10 a.m. - Noon
Gulf Gate Library Sept. 19 1:30 - 3 p.m.	Elsie Quirk Library Sept. 23 10 a.m. - Noon	Venice Library Sept. 23 2 - 4 p.m.	Fruitville Library Sept. 24 3 - 5 p.m.

Ready, willing *& Able*
to change our world!

Englewood Hosts Candidates Forum

On July 17, the Olde Englewood Village Home Owners Association (OEVHA) hosted both District 3 candidates for the Sarasota County Commission at the Historic Green Street Church.

Commissioner Shannon Staub and North Port City Commissioner Barbara Gross fielded questions ranging from the goals for the Olde Englewood Village redevelopment to offshore drilling in the Gulf.

With more than 50 guests in the audience, the OEVHA

Board was thrilled with the turnout. Since Englewood is the furthest south in the county, many residents appreciated the interaction from the candidates. ♦



National Night Out continued

Corporate sponsor Target offered gift card raffles which drew tremendous enthusiasm.

The non-denominational Harvest Tabernacle Church donated and distributed all food for the event. The ministry of Harvest Tabernacle includes outreach to the community with a message of hope and life.

The local group Jazz Box, an ensemble of Booker High School graduates played music throughout the evening. Members of the ensemble will attend the prestigious Berklee College of Music in Boston beginning this fall.

Local officials and candidates running for office made speeches and took the opportunity to hear directly from citizens.

National Night Out started as an effort to have

residents turn on outdoor lights and hold front porch vigils to prevent crime and reduce drug-related incidents. Since its inception in 1981, it has grown to include block parties, street festivals, parades, and exhibits across the nation.

“It sends a clear message,” said Jane Grogg, manager of Neighbor Services, “that citizens who love their neighborhoods will join together in order to keep them strong and safe.”

Sponsored by the National Association of Town Watch, National Night Out is a unique partnership of local law enforcement agencies, citizens, neighborhood and civic associations, churches and businesses.

An estimated 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, military bases and Canadian

Re-Energize Our Local Economy

Sarasota County is participating in a collaborative economic summit that will identify actions to jump-start the local economy. The Re-Energizing Our Local Economy (ROLE) summit will be from **7:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 3**, at the Gulf Coast Conference Center, 4740 Cattlemen Road, Sarasota.

People who want participate in the summit or nominate others to participate should visit www.scopexcel.com by Sept. 8. to fill out the nomination form.

Self-nominations are encouraged. The fee is \$25 and includes lunch.

Organizers are seeking a balanced group of participants who represent diverse facets of the Sarasota County community including business, municipal, education, faith-based, environmental, neighborhood and civic groups.

Summit discussions will focus on four issues to improve the local economy – job creation, business support, government/community collaboration and business climate.

The summit, coordinated by Sarasota County Openly Plans for Excellence (SCOPE), is a collaborative effort of public and private entities and Sarasota County Government. ♦

Re-Energize Our Local Economy Friday, Oct. 3

If you would like to participate in the summit or nominate others to participate, visit www.scopexcel.com

cities participate.

“National Night Out promotes the spirit of safe, healthy neighborhoods and vibrant communities,” said Grogg. “We are proud to bring people from all neighborhoods together to participate in such an effective activity.” ♦

For more pictures from National Night Out, please see back page.



Cotton candy was enjoyed by many at National Night Out.
Credit: Pola Sommers

National Night Out

Local photographer Pola Sommers shared these images of National Night Out on August 5, in Payne Park, Sarasota.

