

# SCGOVNEWS Tropical Storm Fay

Sarasota County Communications

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## **Sarasota County announces office closings, service changes, shelter openings and locations**

Sarasota County government offices, all city offices, courts and schools will be closed Tuesday as Tropical Storm Fay is expected to reach hurricane strength when it reaches the Florida coast.

Sarasota County, School Board and municipal officials urged the public to closely monitor the storm's path during the day and this evening. Sarasota County Emergency Management Chief Ed McCrane said three storm shelters will open at 7 p.m. but meals won't be available until Tuesday:

- Brookside Middle School, 3636 S. Shade Ave., pet friendly
- Heron Creek Middle School 6501 W. Price Blvd., North Port, pet friendly .
- Venice Community Center, 326 Nokomis Ave. South, Venice, no pets.

A mandatory evacuation already has been ordered for residents living in mobile homes. Residents living in low-lying areas and barrier islands are urged to evacuate voluntarily.

SCAT service will be suspended at 7 p.m. today and Tuesday, according to Anthony Beckford, general manager. Service is expected to resume Wednesday.

Garbage collection for Sarasota County has been cancelled for Tuesday. Collections will resume Wednesday if the storm has passed. The Sarasota County landfill will close at 5 p.m. today and is expected to reopen Wednesday.

Early voting for the Aug. 26 primary election has been suspended until county facilities re-open. Officials reminded candidates to secure their signs or pick them up.

Businesses are urged to release any employees who are Red Cross volunteers so they can carry out their duties.

Misdemeanor arraignments scheduled for Tuesday have been rescheduled for Aug. 27.

Safety officials also reminded residents that they should only call 911 to report medical and other emergencies. The number should not be used to report power outages, flooding, trees down or other non-emergency or life-threatening conditions.

Fire Chief Brian Gorski warned residents to be careful when using generators or charcoal grills to avoid carbon monoxide poisoning. He also urged caution with candles, downed power lines and power saws.

Officials also reminded residents that emergency crews won't be able to respond while winds are above 45 miles per hour.

Residents are urged to monitor local media and NOAA weather radio throughout the day and tonight for the latest information.

For information about evacuation zones or storm preparation, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for Emergency Management, or visit [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net).

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