

October 22, 2010

Media contact: Curt Preisser, 941-861-5884; cell 941-650-2883; cpreisser@scgov.net

Project contact: Sandra Washington, 941-861-5399; cell 941-650-4797; swashing@scgov.net

Keep Sarasota County Beautiful Coastal Cleanup draws 2,100

The annual Keep Sarasota County Beautiful (KSCB) Coastal Cleanup, held Sept. 25, at more than 20 locations throughout the county drew more than 2,100 participants. Volunteers gathered at beaches, rivers, streams and inland areas to remove debris.

“We had a tremendous turnout,” said KSCB manager Sandra Washington. We got great support from the business community, non-profits and citizens.” Event sponsors included Christina Pichford of Allen Real Estate Services, Waste Management of SW Florida, Chic-fil- A, Domino’s Pizza, Publix Super Market and Panera Bread.

One area that received a great amount of attention was Whitaker Bayou along S.R. 41 north of downtown Sarasota. “Whitaker Bayou, which flows directly into Sarasota Bay, has a heavy concentration of commercial and residential buildings,” Washington said. “The area was in desperate need of attention and the local residents, business owners, church and adopt groups turned out in force to help clean up not only Whitaker Bayou, but the surrounding Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park.” Siesta Beach, Venice Beach and Lido Beach all received attention from the volunteers.

Working in partnership with Keep America Beautiful and the Ocean Conservancy, KSCB has been hosting the Coastal Cleanup since 1988. According to the Ocean Conservancy website countless marine mammals, sea turtles, seabirds, and other animals are sickened, injured, or killed because of dangerous items we allow into the sea. They are poisoned, choked, or entangled in the trash we leave behind, from leaky paint cans to empty yogurt cups to cast-off fishing line. Trash also poses health threats to humans, contaminates marine environments, and clogs boat propellers.

For more information, or to volunteer with Keep Sarasota County Beautiful, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit www.scgov.net, keyword KSCB.

-end-