

SARASOTA COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 1 - WINTER, 2009

*"Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man."
- Benjamin Franklin*

RIDING INTO THE FUTURE WORKSHOP

On Saturday, Feb. 7, Sarasota County residents can participate in an interactive discussion on Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) and find out how it might benefit the community in the near future.

The outdoor event will be held from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at City Hall, 1565 1st Street, Sarasota.

During the event, residents will have a chance to hear national transit experts explain the transit planning process and how to use public participation tools more effectively.

Experts will also present best practices on transit oriented development, friendly streets and walkable communities.

Event participants can also play a building by region block game that highlights the effect of land use decisions.

Other activities will include a walking audit to help participants visualize the walkability of potential stations while giving them a real-time opportunity to share their observations.

In conjunction with the event, Sarasota County staff will attend the farmers markets on Jan. 31, Feb 7 and 21 to discuss the county's approach to integrating land use and transportation.

Transit-oriented development makes it possible to create environments that maximize

access to public transportation while providing a pedestrian-friendly destination for transit riders.

For more information, visit www.scgov.net or call the Sarasota County Call Center at 861-5000.



Pictured above, the rapid bus of Phoenix, Arizona allows riders to board luxury buses at citizen-designated hot spots.

Credit: STV Incorporated



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MENTORING, MUSIC AND MASTERPIECES

A mentoring recruitment fair will be held Jan. 24 and Jan. 31 for anyone interested in serving as a mentor to young people in our community.

The mentoring fair will take place at the Senior Friendship Centers in Sarasota and Venice, and

will additionally offer 30 minute training sessions on how to provide tutoring and guidance to young persons.

Mentors are asked to dedicate at least one hour per week to their mentees.

Details on the fair are:

Saturday, January 24
Senior Friendship Center
1888 Brother Green Way
Sarasota
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Saturday, January 31
Senior Friendship Center
2350 Scenic Drive
Venice
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

“RIDING INTO THE FUTURE”

AN INTERACTIVE LEARNING EXPERIENCE

WILL BE HELD

**SATURDAY, FEB. 7
9 A.M TO 1 P.M.**

SARASOTA CITY HALL

LEARN FROM EXPERTS

SHARE YOUR IDEAS

RIDE SCAT

CREATE BETTER COMMUNITIES

ALL ARE WELCOME!

CIVICS 101 RETURNS

This is the 19th session of Civics 101. It is a unique opportunity for residents of Sarasota County to learn about Sarasota County Government from county administrators, elected officials, staff, and Civics Alumni. This is a 10 week program offered at no cost. The class meets at a variety of locations on Thursday evenings from 6 -9 p.m. In addition to the classes, there are tours, opportunities to get

involved with the community and a graduation ceremony. Class size is limited to 25 so please register early. The dates for this year’s spring session are March 26 through May 28.

To get an application go to www.scgov.net and search for Neighborhood University or call 861-5145. The new schedule of classes will be posted by Jan. 30.

- Vickie French

Neighborhood Grant Applications are due March 2!

Grant workshops will be held on Jan. 14 and Jan. 22

Please visit: www.scgov.net or call 861-5145 for more information.

NATIONAL NIGHT OUT AWARD GIVEN

Neighborhood Services has accepted a national award from the National Association of Town Watch.

“Greater Sarasota” (Sarasota County and the City of Sarasota) was selected to receive the award for it’s outstanding participation in the 25th Annual National Night Out. Our attendance was the highest that it’s ever been, the involvement from neighborhood and business associations along with the city

police and the county sheriff’s departments were present in so many ways.

National Night Out, a campaign to prevent crime, drugs and violence within our neighborhoods, is held annually in August. This year’s event was the largest ever involving 37 million people, in 449 communities from all 50 states.

Next year’s event will be held at Payne Park on Aug. 4,

from 6 - 9 p.m.

Neighborhood Services will be presenting the award to the County Commissioners and the City Commissioners on February 17 at 9 a.m.

- Teresa Mast

NOKOMIS RESIDENTS RECEIVE PLANNING HONORS

Two Nokomis residents received the prestigious 2008 Citizen Planning Award from the Suncoast Chapter of the American Planning Association.

John Ask and Bruce Dillon were presented the award for their work on an amendment to the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan that affected the Nokomis Center Revitalization Plan. The amendment to the county’s future land use map identified areas within the community that were ripe for redevelopment.

Ask and Dillon realized it was more efficient to pursue a publicly initiated amendment to the comprehensive plan than as individual owners seeking redevelopment amendments.

“It was obvious that development was going to come to Nokomis along our 41 corridor,” Ask said. “The right thing to do was to help shape what would happen, incorporating community values and priorities.”

“Dedicating these years to planning the redevelopment of Nokomis ensures that the community will always have something to be proud of,” Dillon said.

Ask and Dillon also pursued and gained revisions to the Nokomis Revitalization Plan that incorporated building design standards, choosing a Key West style instead of the Mediterranean style found in neighboring communities.

To gain support for the amendment, Ask and Dillon tapped into their network of 39 homeowner associations comprising the Nokomis Area Civic Association, worked through the Sarasota County-sponsored Nokomis Revitalization Advisory Committee, and held meetings with local businesses and property owners.

-Warren Richardson and Chris Kohatsu