

NEIGHBORHOOD NEWS

VOLUME IX, ISSUE 2 - SPRING 2009

*"Remember always that you not only have the right to be an individual, you have an obligation to be one."
- Eleanor Roosevelt*

DRY SEASON MEANS WATER CONSERVATION

Water supplies continue to dwindle as the Southwest Florida Water Management District's 16-county region experiences the impacts of a three-year drought.

In an effort to ensure a safe, uninterrupted water supply during the drought and for many years to come, the district is urging all residents to make an extra effort to conserve water.

About half of the region, including Charlotte, DeSoto, Manatee and Sarasota counties, is under a Phase III or "extreme" water shortage alert. Aquifer levels are well below normal, and lakes are averaging more than four feet below the lowest

normal readings. The Peace River is the main public supply source for the four-county area.

Residents who live in these counties must follow the enhanced one-day-per-week watering restrictions that went into effect this month. These restrictions are in effect through June 30, 2009.

The district is urging the Peace River/Manasota Regional Water Supply Authority and its member governments to make a concerted effort to enforce the Phase III restrictions.

Enforcement includes stepping up patrols and issuing citations without having first issued a warning.

For more information about the drought and for tips on how you can conserve water inside and outside, visit the district's Web site at:

www.WaterMatters.org/drought

**Southwest Florida
Water Management District**

WATERMATTERS.ORG · 1-800-423-1476



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SARASOTA COUNTY SELECTED FOR NATIONAL EARTH DAY CONVERSATION

Sarasota County has been selected as one of 10 national conversation spotlights and the only location in Florida for a nationwide Earth Day event. On April 22, communities across the country will participate in the National Conversation

on Climate Action. This unprecedented initiative will engage thousands of citizens to drive substantive, solutions-oriented dialogues about energy and climate action at the local level.

Registration for the conversation is free and all are welcome. The event

will take place at the Venice Community Center, 326 S. Nokomis Avenue, from 1 to 5 p.m.

To learn more about the conversation or to complete a brief survey which will determine key areas for the event, please visit:

www.scgov.net



This newsletter was originally sent electronically. If printing is necessary, please recycle.

For more information on how you can get Energy Smart, visit: **www.scgov.net**

AN OPEN LETTER TO ALL PRIVATE ROAD OWNERS

A quiet 2008 hurricane season for Southwest Florida ended Nov. 30. The final tally for the season included 14 named storms in the Atlantic basin, six of which were hurricanes. The state was also impacted by numerous tornadoes, reminding us that hazardous weather is not limited to hurricanes.

Establishing a plan now on how you and your community will recover from a disaster should be a top priority, and Sarasota County is ready to assist.

In 2007, the county began notifying homeowner associations in the un-incorporated area of the county that in the event of a disaster, debris removal from private roadways is not eligible for public assistance from the Federal Emergency

Management Agency (FEMA).

This means that if a disaster strikes in a community with private roadways, the debris resulting from the disaster might not be removed by a government agency.

As with most policies, there are exceptions to FEMA's policy on debris removal from private roadways. Should FEMA determine that disaster debris on private roadways is eligible for removal, **written permission to enter private roadways must be granted to Sarasota County by the legal owner or their legal designee prior to debris removal.**

Because Sarasota County has so many private roadways, we are asking owners to grant

written permission to enter prior to a disaster occurring. This document must be notarized then recorded by the Clerk of the Court located at 2000 Main Street, Sarasota or 4000 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice.

There is a recording fee of \$10 for the first page and \$8.50 for each additional page. The legal owner keeps the original form and provides the county with a certified copy. The certified copy fee is \$1 per page plus \$1.50 for the certification. All recording fees are the responsibility of the legal owner.

Please do not send unrecorded documents with payment.

Signing the document does not guarantee debris removal services; it merely fulfills one

portion of FEMA requirements to remove debris from private roadways.

Sarasota County reserves the right to determine whether disaster debris poses a threat to the overall health and safety of the community and reserves the right to determine whether to initiate county debris removal. These determinations will be made by the Sarasota County Commission after a disaster has impacted the county.

If you have questions please contact Lois Rose at: 941-861-1532. We appreciate your participation as Sarasota County prepares residents for the 2009 hurricane season.

Gary Bennett
Solid Waste

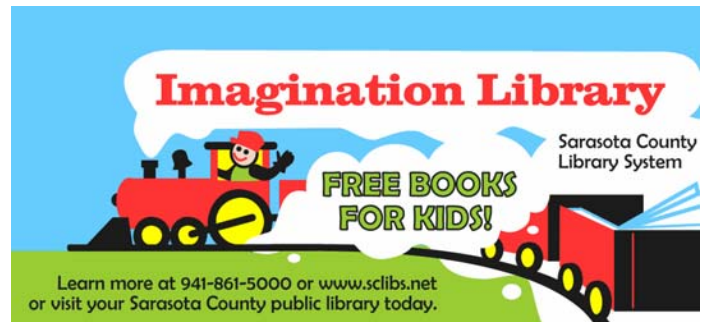
Edward J. McCrane, Jr.
Emergency Management

FREE BOOKS FOR KIDS UNDER FIVE

The Dollywood Foundation, founded by celebrity Dolly Parton, sponsors the Imagination Library, a free literacy program for children under the age of five. The Imagination Library mails a free book to a child's home once a month, encouraging family reading time and use of the local public library.

Sarasota County libraries became an affiliate of the Imagination Library through a grant from the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. Parents of children under five who reside in zip codes 34231, 34232, 34234, 34237, 34287 and 34293 are eligible to enroll in the program.

Enroll online by visiting www.dollysimaginationlibrary.com/online_reg_step1.php or visit the Fruitville Library located at 100 Coburn Road in Sarasota for more information.





Above: An artist works on a portrait of the Madonna. "Avenida de Colores" a street festival celebrating chalk based art, will be held in Sarasota beginning May 2.

CHALK FESTIVAL IN MAY

Celebrating a 400-year-old type of performance art, the "AVENIDA DE COLORES" Chalk Festival will welcome over 20 professional "I Madonnari" (Street Painters) to Sarasota. The painters are traveling from several states to join over 40 local artists in painting Pineapple Avenue. During the two-day festival, May 2 and 3, large temporary artwork will come to life on the street surface where the public can be a part of the "art process." Local schools have

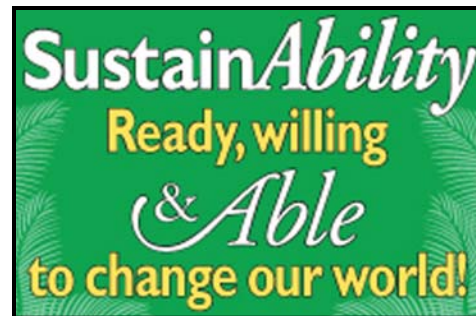
numerous artists participating and they will be honored with an instructional class from professional 'I Madonnari' prior to the event. For aspiring artists 12 years of age and younger, the festival will have a whole area dedicated to them. This is a must-see non-stop performance art event with live music and fun the entire weekend. For more information visit www.avenidadecolores.com

SUSTAINABILITY MONTH RETURNS TO SARASOTA LIBRARIES

The Sarasota County Library System will celebrate "National Library Week" April 12-18 and "SustainAbility Month" during the month of April.

One meaning of sustainability is the responsible use and disposal of our natural resources. You have the ability to make sustainable choices.

Lectures, presentations, movies, demonstrations and crafts will be featured all month. These events will focus on your ability to make our world more sustainable today and tomorrow. For additional information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about Sustainability Month at your local library.



NEIGHBORHOODS NEEDS YOU!

Neighborhood Services continues to improve the mapping and locating of Neighborhoods online. We are continually working to partner with the community at large to improve our mapping and location of Neighborhoods. If you could please go to our Web site and take about five minutes to complete the survey this would help us:

www.scgov.net/PlanningandDevelopment/NeighborhoodServices/NeighborhoodServices.asp .

Once you are at our home page, please click the button on the right hand side that says **Register Association**. An e-mail will come to our office once the survey is completed and you will be notified to give the specific boundaries of your neighborhood.

Thank you in advance for your assistance in getting everyone in Sarasota County mapped. If you have any questions, please contact Teresa Mast at 861-5415.

