

NEWSLETTER
2024 QUARTER 1 ISSUE



Working to Enhance the Downtown Experience

DOWNTOWNSARASOTACONDOASSOC.COM

PLATINUM ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

We encourage you to support these area businesses who help support the DSCA through workshops, professional services and discounts.

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Like it never even happened.®

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President's Message

Downtown Neighbors:

I'm excited to share some highlights from the [Architecture Sarasota Speakers Series](#). Wednesday night, I had the pleasure of attending Mitchell Silvers' presentation, and it was outstanding! With three out of four speakers already taking the stage, each event has drawn around 400 attendees, demonstrating a genuine interest in the future of downtown Sarasota by our residents, city staff, commissioners, and other stakeholders.

The main goal of this series is to spark conversations about the direction of our community, with a particular focus on downtown. It's a chance for us to reflect, think ahead, and see how our local scene aligns with national trends. I must admit, I wasn't entirely sure what to expect at the beginning of the series, but I'm thrilled to say it has exceeded all expectations. This series has the potential to be a game changer of sorts.

Each speaker has brought valuable insights that are resonating with a lot of people I talk to. And the series isn't over yet! We still have one more speaker lined up, Victor Dover, a prominent urban planner, who will share his message and expertise on 2/28.

For those who couldn't make it to the events, don't worry. Two of the presentations are already available on the [Architecture Sarasota website](#).

Now, let's discuss the City's Downtown Master Plan 2020. It's been over two decades since its last update, and there's a growing consensus, bolstered by insights from our speakers, that it's time for an important update. With an expected influx of 3,000 more residents downtown in the next 5-6 years, a solid plan is crucial. Sarasota has evolved significantly since the current plan was conceived, and as Mitchell Silver aptly noted, Sarasota is already a 'great' city with the potential to be even 'greater.' There's an opportunity for greatness here, and we certainly don't want to miss it.

A sincere thank you to Marty Hylton, Howard Davis, and the entire Architecture Sarasota team for bringing this invaluable initiative to our community. Let's keep this momentum going and collectively imagine the future of our downtown.

The March 20th DSCA Workshop asks, "**what's next and what do we do about it**"? This [DSCA March 20th Workshop](#) will explore updates on zoning, sensible ordinances, transportation, street planning, and smart growth. We seek your insights to help keep a focus on sensible, smart & sustainable development for a prosperous future for all who live, work or visit Downtown Sarasota. See information below to register for this important

event.

David Lough

DSCA President

DavidLough1@gmail.com

DowntownSarasotaCondoAssoc.com

March Workshop



DSCA DOWNTOWN SARASOTA CONDO ASSOCIATION
Workshop: Sensible, Smart, and Sustainable Development

SHAPING DOWNTOWN SARASOTA IN 2024 AND BEYOND

3,000 More People Coming to Downtown...
What's the plan?



MARCH 20, 2024
4:00 PM - 7:00 PM



Goewey Hall (at Church of the Redeemer's Robinson Center)
222 S PALM AVE STE B.
SARASOTA, FL 34236

REGISTER NOW

downtownsarasotacondoassoc.com

Are you curious about the future of our vibrant and economically sustainable downtown area? Wondering how our city plans to accommodate the influx of 3,000 more residents?

Join us for an engaging panel discussion where we delve into the strategies and initiatives aimed at enhancing mobility options, creating more walkable streets, and unveiling exciting street plans in the works.

Moderated by: Kevin Cooper - VP Communications and Strategic Initiatives, Mote Marine

PANELISTS:

- **Lucia Panica** - Director, Development Services Department, City of Sarasota
- **Nik Patel** - Chief Engineer, City of Sarasota
- **Jennifer Jorgensen** - Director of Governmental Affairs City of Sarasota
- **Heather Kasten** - President/CEO, Sarasota Chamber
- **Howard Davis** - Architecture Sarasota Board Member

[Click here to register](#)

**Important Reminder: Register Now for
Sarasota's March 19 Presidential Preference
Primary**



As the March 19 Presidential Preference Primary approaches, Sarasota County residents must act fast—the voter registration deadline is February 20. Only registered Republicans can participate, as the Democratic Party has already selected its candidate. Changes to party affiliation must also be made by this date. Register online or in person at one of Sarasota's elections offices. Existing voters can verify their information at SarasotaVotes.gov. Read more [here](#). For more details, call 941.861.8619 or visit SarasotaVotes.gov.

City News

Zoning Changes and Sound Ordinance

The upcoming City Commission meeting on February 20th is set to address critical issues, including further discussions leading to the potential adoption of new zoning rules for restaurants, bars, and nightclubs. Additionally, there will be a highly anticipated conversation about a draft revised sound ordinance, during which the city attorney will seek direction from the commission on how to proceed with a final ordinance for consideration at a subsequent time.

While the meeting won't finalize any decisions regarding the sound ordinance, it will provide a forum for discussing its relationship with the revised zoning regulations and establishing a basic understanding regarding enforcement plans. The collaborative effort involving multiple city departments has brought us to this pivotal point, making next week's meeting particularly significant. For further details, you can access the agenda document [here](#). Stay updated with more information in DSCA's March newsletter and local press coverage.

Getting Around

Airport Trolley Service



Announcing the launch of Route 76 "Flyer" on February 9, 2024! This route connects SRQ Airport directly to downtown Sarasota hotels, operating daily from 7am to 8:30pm. With no intermediate stops, travelers enjoy convenient, direct transportation. The trolleys feature luggage racks and a charming wooden interior, offering a comfortable ride. Payment options include cash, ride tickets, passes, or Change Cards. In case of a missed trolley, there's a frequent 30-minute service or alternative Breeze routes to Downtown Station. Wheelchair accessibility is provided onboard. Experience hassle-free travel with Route 76 "Flyer"!

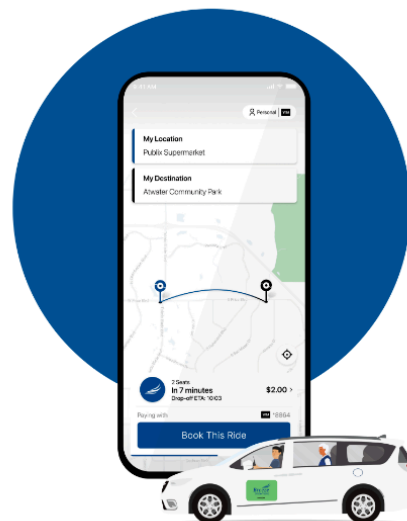
Click [here](#) to read more.

Breeze on Demand

**Get around on-demand
in Sarasota County – for
\$2 or less.**

We're a rideshare that's also public transit, so you'll ride in comfort at a great price every day.

Scan to download



Announcing Breeze OnDemand, now available for Downtown Sarasota residents and visitors. This convenient service allows you to book trips within the downtown area, providing easy access to transportation options right at your fingertips. Simply enter your starting and ending locations on the Breeze OnDemand website or app to confirm trip availability and get an estimated driver arrival time. Additionally, trip requests can be made over the phone at 941-300-1553. Click [here](#) to read more about this service.

Rosemary District

ROSEMARY DISTRICT ASSOCIATION

SPRING COMMUNITY MEETING

Wednesday March 6th

5:30pm - 6:30 pm @ WSLR Fogartyville

GROWTH AND GREEN SPACES

Discover the latest developments in the Rosemary District, meet and learn more about board candidates for the RDA, and hear about the progress of our eagerly awaited park.

Your input is vital as we shape the Rosemary District's future together. Join us to ensure your voice is heard and to stay informed about the changes and advancements in our vibrant community.

ALSO...

- Neighborhood updates
- Meet your neighbors
- Learn about new businesses

www.rosemarydistrictassociation.org



Register

Check out the latest news and events happening in the Rosemary District

A blend of modern culture, food and activities you can schedule your whole day around. [Click here to view Rosemary District Events](#)

DSCA Board November Wrap Up

As has been the recent practice, the 02/07 DSCA Board meeting was held in hybrid fashion, both in person at the Broadway Promenade Club Room and via Zoom. Following are links to the full Board meeting and guest speaker presentation.

Guest Speaker: Mark Smith - Sarasota County Commissioner

- View full meeting video [here](#)
- View speaker video [here](#)

DSCA Upcoming Events

DSCA Board Meeting

DSCA Board Meeting - Wednesday, March 6, 2024 4:00 PM – 5:30 PM | @
Zoom & Broadway Promenade, 1064 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236

Guest Speaker: Mary Bensel, Executive Director Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall



Mary Bensel, Executive Director Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall

Mary Bensel has been the Executive Director of the Van Wezel since December 2007, entering her fifteenth season. With a background spanning diverse roles in theatre management, including stints at Troika Entertainment and the Walnut Street Theatre, Bensel has steered the Van Wezel to remarkable financial stability, transforming it from a recipient of a projected City subsidy to an institution generating a surplus exceeding \$1,250,000 and operating on an impressive 94 to 6% earned/non-earned income ratio. Her leadership has seen the implementation of strategic booking, targeted marketing campaigns, and stringent fiscal controls, bolstering the theatre's success. Bensel's accolades include numerous awards for her contributions to arts management, and she is actively engaged in professional organizations such as the Broadway League and Florida Presenters. Under her direction, the Van Wezel has undergone significant capital improvements and established community outreach programs. Her curated lineup of stars for Gala and Anniversary shows, including luminaries like Ringo Starr, Sheryl Crow, and Diana Ross, further underscores her commitment to excellence in the performing arts.

Register

DSCA Board Meetings are for Board Directors, with designated Condo Member Representatives, Liaison Association Representatives and invited Guests attending as observers. Contact President, David Lough (760) 497-9230, if you wish to be invited.

Associate Member Events

ZOOM The Smart Board & Property Manager Legal Guide: The Limits of Fining Authority and How Best to Implement

February 22 | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | Zoom Webinar

Fining can be an effective means of inducing covenant and rule compliance by owners. Strict compliance with statutory guidelines, however, is essential. To be effective, processes must be strictly adhered to. Fines are not appropriate in every instance. If fines are not paid and/or the fines do not bring about compliance, there are alternative remedies available. Firm attorneys in this Smart Board Session will prove the low down on fines and best practices for implementing them.

Zoom link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMlcequrj8tHtFlhzklf2Bwk80RnJikRx4t>

To register for this event, please contact:

Michelle Colburn
mcolburn@tlhlegal.com
Tannenbaum Lemole & Hill

Associate Members - Post your event on our DSCA Calendar to share with the community!

CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR EVENT

Upcoming Community Events

Fresh Fridays



NEIGHBORS & NEWCOMERS | March 1st | 7-10 PM | STATE STREET

Fresh Fridays welcomes guests and locals alike to experience the culture that makes downtown Sarasota shine. On March 1st from 7-10 p.m., Fresh Fridays is back on State Street for a block party everyone can enjoy with live entertainment from the local band [Southbound 75](#), downtown bites and beverages, and inclusive fun and games!

Visit downtownsarasotadid.com for more information.

SARASOTA FARMERS MARKET | 7 AM - 1 PM

The Market is open every Saturday all year round! In the heart of downtown Sarasota, centered at the intersection of Main Street and Lemon Avenue, extending to First Street on the North End, and Pineapple Avenue on the South End, with Vendors also located on State Street. Click [here](#) for more information.

PALM AVENUE GALLERY WALK

A casual walk down Palm will lead you on an art walk, housing exceptional pieces curated by downtown galleries and murals created by local artists. The City of Sarasota is committed to the aesthetic enrichment of the community through private and public acquisition of works of art so that citizens and visitors to the City are afforded an opportunity to enjoy and appreciate art. Click [here](#) for an audio tour guide and for more information.

THE BAY PARK | CALANDER OF EVENTS

Sarasota's bayfront is an iconic, public destination that welcomes the diversity of Sarasota, enhances our status as a cultural capital and serves as a venue for multi-generational, inter-neighborhood, broad-based enjoyment of our bayfront. [View the updates from The Bay Park Conservancy](#)
[View The Bay Park - Calendar of Events](#)

SARASOTA 2024 FILM FESTIVSLAL



The 26th Sarasota Film Festival (SFF) returns April 5-14th, 2024, at Regal Hollywood, Sarasota. With over 200 films, including features, documentaries, and shorts, alongside celebrity guests and educational programs, SFF promises an unforgettable cinematic experience. Don't miss out! Click [here](#) to visit the festival's website for tickets and details.

If you missed any of our newsletters [Click here](#) to view past issues to share with your condo community

We Are Downtown Sarasota Residents partnering with Businesses!

Are your neighbors receiving our emails? *Help your neighbors stay connected and forward this email to downtown condo residents!* Click here to [subscribe here](#).

This message was sent to you by {Organization_Name}.
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