



# Community News Update

## January 2023



### STARTING THE YEAR OUT RIGHT!

## New Years Eve

**Sarasota celebrates the arrival of 2023** Sarasota partied to welcome the new year with its annual Pineapple Drop. A little drizzle of rain didn't stop the Sarasota Downtown Merchants Association from hosting its traditional New Year's Eve block party and Pineapple Drop on Main Street and Lemon Avenue on Dec. 31. [Click here to read the article in the Observer.](#)



Photo credit: City of Sarasota



### Downtown Sarasota Farmers Market

The Sarasota Farmers Market is open every Saturday, year-round, from 7am to 1pm, rain or shine. Located in the heart of downtown Sarasota, centered at the intersection of Main Street and Lemon Avenues, extending to First Street on the North End, and Pineapple Avenue on the South End, with Vendors also located on State Street. [Click here to learn more about what makes the Sarasota Farmers Market so special.](#)

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## Attainable Housing Density Incentive Town Halls



The first of two town hall meetings were held on 1/19 for residents to learn more about density bonus increases to incentivize more affordable housing in the downtown developments. A large crowd attended the two-hour event, with many questions asked after a presentation by city staff, led by Director of Planning Steve Cover.

A DSCA ad hoc Zoning and Affordable Housing Committee met with City Planning staff in advance of the 1/19 meeting to provide comments and, a subsequent meeting is planned during mid-February. Representatives from eight different downtown condos are participating in the DSCA committee. Planning staff will be holding a second Town Hall meeting on March 1st at which time proposals for consideration by the community and City Commission are to be unveiled. [Click here to read article from mysuncoast.com](https://mysuncoast.com)

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## Sarasota Performing Arts Center Foundation

## Arts and Cultural

The City Commission is in the process of addressing two significant issues related to the planning for a potential new Sarasota Performing Arts Center.

- Earlier this month the commission unanimously approved plans to enter an agreement with an expert consultant to provide consultation services to the city during the early concept and planning stages for a new performing arts center.
- Further the city commission will be holding a special workshop on 1/30 to further consider the agreed establishment of a Blue-Ribbon committee to determine viable alternatives for sustaining the Van Wezel Center.

### [Commission OKs owner's rep for SPAC architect selection](#)

The city will hire an owner's representative to advise on the new art center process, and commissioners held an initial discussion on repurposing the Van Wezel.

### [Major Donation](#)

In separate news, the Sarasota Performing Center Foundation has announced a \$10 million dollar donation from the Paul Seed Fund to support the architectural and design effort of a new performing arts facility. [Click here to read more.](#)



**Van Wezel 10/26/22 tour**

To help foster a better understanding of the Van Wezel facility DSCA has facilitated 'backstage', in-depth tours of the facility led by Van Wezel staff. To date over 50 people have taken small-group tours. Pictured above is an October tour with Commissioner Ahearn-Koch participating.

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## Getting Around



## Gulfstream Roundabout Update

**NOW OPEN and fully functioning... Now with improvement signage and lane markings.**

For those interested, you can watch progress live on a webcam.

[Marina Tower Roof \(Marina Tower Roof\) | Nest](#) NOTE - once the link loads, hover over the image and click on the play (>) button.

As the functional portions of the roundabout are completed, landscaping in the surrounding area is going to be installed. Budgets for this work have been approved and landscape designs are being finalized.

Members of the DSCA Greenspace Committee engaged with the FDOT on design concepts last July. DSCA is pleased to see several recommendations it made were taken to heart in the final landscape plans evolved. Recognition is also due to Parks & Recreation General Manager Candie Pedersen and Senior Planner, Office of Public Arts, Mary Davis Wallace for their work with FDOT that resulted in many more canopy trees and Florida native plants in the landscaping plan than the original treatment.



### SRQ Airport

More than 3.8 million passengers traveled through Sarasota Bradenton International Airport last year, a new record for the airport. Last month 377,775 passengers traveled through the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport, compared to 347,268 passengers in December 2021. This represents an increase of 8.8%. Passengers traveling through the airport in the calendar year 2022 totaled 3,847,606. This is a 21.6% increase over the previous calendar year record of 3,163,543 passengers.

[Click here to read full article from FlySRQ](#)

## Legacy Trail Extension to Alderman

Great news! The City received confirmation that they received a grant from FDEP totaling \$400,000 for the Legacy Trail – Payne Park connector to the Alderman Multi-Use Recreational Trail (MURT). The total project cost is estimated to be \$775,000. The project concepts are below.



[Requests from Commissioner Ahearn-Koch - Bahia Vista Apartments plan amendment questions](#)

The City Parks & Recreation Department has plans for a bike-ped connector path continuing the path from the south spur ending at School Ave, across the south edge of the park towards Alderman St (behind Sarasota Ford), with an entrance off East Ave (at the breezeblock wall). Also, eventually, plans may be in the works for a northern extension from Fruitville all the way to University Parkway.

## DSCA Board January Wrap Up

As has been the recent practice, the 1/4 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 presentation by, Camden Mills, P.E. Capital Projects Manager, City of Sarasota

[View Meeting Video HERE](#) - DSCA Board Meeting 2023-01-04

[View Speaker Video HERE](#) - Camden Mills, P.E. Capital Projects Manager, City of Sarasota.

View Presentation Slides: [CIP-DSCA Board Meeting 01.04.23 V1.pdf](#)

## DSCA Upcoming Events

## DSCA Board Meeting

**DSCA Board Meeting | February 1, 2023 | 4:00 PM – 5:30 p.m.** held via Zoom & Broadway Promenade, 1064 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236



**Guest Speaker: Marlon Brown, City Manager**

Originally from the twin islands of Trinidad and Tobago in the Caribbean, Marlon Brown received his Bachelor’s degree from West Virginia University and his Master’s degree from Georgia Tech. In 1988 and 1989, he served as a Management Trainee with the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey at the now destroyed World Trade Center Complex. Marlon is currently the City Manager for the City of Sarasota. He holds/held numerous certifications in public administration and memberships in many professional/public/civic entities. He also serves on the Board of the United Way Suncoast and chairs the United Way’s Community Impact Committee. In his free time, Brown enjoys sports, traveling, exploring Sarasota’s diverse cultural, recreational, and culinary offerings and spending time with his family.

[Register](#)

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# SAVE THE DATE

**March 16, 2023** - Workshop: The Exploding Costs of Living in Paradise!  
Mitigating the Pain of Increasing Insurance Fees

A LIVE Workshop  
brought to you by:



**DSCA**  
CONDO ASSOCIATION

DSCA  
PLATINUM ASSOCIATE  
MEMBERS






















## The Exploding Costs of Living in Paradise!

Mitigating the Pain of Increasing Condo Fees

**Thursday, March 16th, 2023**  
**4:00pm - 7:00pm presentation**  
 at Goewey Hall  
 (Church of the Redeemer's Robinson Center)  
 222 S Palm Ave Ste B, Sarasota, FL 34236

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Residents are increasingly feeling the pinch when it comes to condo living. Do you find yourselves asking what can be done about it? Is there anything residents can do to help control and manage their rising insurance costs? Bring your questions and concerns to this comprehensive discussion!

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**MODERATED BY:**  
 Darrin Caldwell | Director of Marketing and Sales  
 WrightWay Emergency Services

**PANELISTS:**  
 Michael Angers | Brown & Brown Insurance  
 Patricia Staebler | Staebler Appraisal and Consulting  
 Cindy Hill, Esq. | Tannenbaum Lemole & Hill  
 Stephanie Burtwell | Lighthouse Property Management

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**Thursday, March 16th, 2023**  
 4:00pm - 4:30pm **Check-in and meet the sponsors**  
 4:30pm - 6:00pm **Moderator and panelists discussion**  
 6:00pm - 7:00pm **Refreshments and mingling**

Cost: \$10 - Members, \$15 - Non-Members

\* PARKING AVAILABLE ON LOCATION AND AT GULFSTREAM AVENUE

**April 05, 2023** - Annual Member Meeting with Town Hall

## Associate Member Events

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW EVENTS OR SUBMIT YOUR EVENT](#)

# Upcoming Community Events

## DSA Annual Evening of Recognition

SAVE THE DATE – YOU'RE INVITED!

### DSA Annual Evening of Recognition



**WALKING ON  
Sunshine**

**Tuesday,  
February 21  
6-9 pm**

Tamiami Tap  
711 South Osprey Ave

The Downtown Sarasota Alliance is excited to announce our 2022 Annual Party to celebrate the DSA and all things Downtown Sarasota!

**INDIVIDUAL TICKETS**      \$40

*Each ticket purchase includes: one welcome drink, one drink ticket and heavy hors d'oeuvres.*

Raffle Tickets will be available for purchase at the event will be for a chance to win amazing prizes!



**Award Ceremony**  
**PAUL THORPE**  
**"MR. DOWNTOWN"**  
**AWARD**

**2022 ANNUAL PARTY AWARDS NOMINATION\***

Each year the DSA is proud to recognize and celebrate businesses by honoring them at our Annual Awards Celebration. This event recognizes the area's outstanding businesses, nonprofit organizations,

community advocates, young professionals in our community as well as awarding The Paul Thorpe "Mr. Downtown" Award. Nominees will be evaluated based on the criteria in each category.

\*We will inform the finalist in each category and send them a questionnaire to complete; self-nominations are accepted.

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS!

**PRESENTING SPONSOR**



**DTC – Engineering  
Consulting Services**

**SPONSORSHIPS  
ARE STILL AVAILABLE!**

Please email your sponsorship level interest to James Levin at [DSA@DSASarasota.com](mailto:DSA@DSASarasota.com)



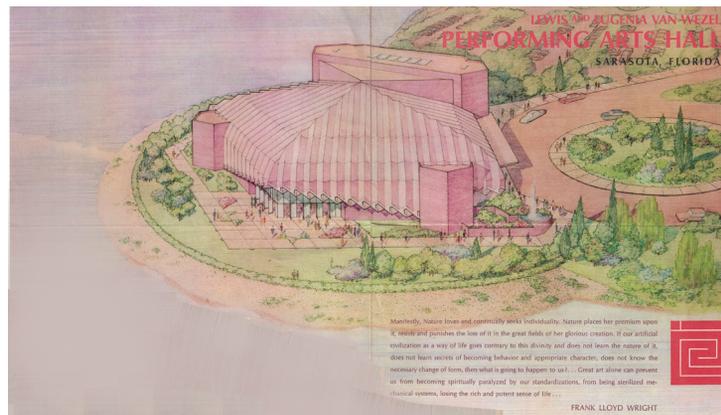
**DSA**  
DOWNTOWN SARASOTA ALLIANCE

[www.DSASarasota.com](http://www.DSASarasota.com) | [DSA@DSASarasota.com](mailto:DSA@DSASarasota.com)



## Sarasota Seafood & Music Festival | JD Hamel Park | January 27th – 29th

Fun, food, festivities and relaxation begin Friday evening 4-10pm, continuing Saturday 11-10 and Sunday 11-6. The event is produced by Paragon Festivals, hosted by the Downtown Sarasota Enrichment Association with the Humane Society of Sarasota County the event's Special Guest. General admission is FREE!!! [Click here for more details.](#)



**The Past, Present, and Future of the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall**  
**Sunday, January 29th | 2:00 - 4:00 PM** Location: Crocker Memorial Church  
 1260 12th Street (in Pioneer Park) Sarasota A community conversation organized and presented by the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation and the Historical Society of Sarasota County. Free event, no reservations required. This important community discussion about Sarasota's Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall will include presentations about the history of the building and its architectural significance, its current condition and the viability of having it continue as Sarasota's Performing Arts Hall. Van Wezel family members have been invited to participate. Professionals in the fields of architecture, finance, and the arts will provide information about the current status of the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall and entertain questions from the audience. [Click here for more information.](#)

## Fresh Friday's

### **SIP-SHOP-STROLL | Downtown Sarasota | Feb. 3rd 5-8 p.m.**

Join Destination Downtown Sarasota for the Sarasota Downtown Merchants Sip & Shop event. Guests are invited to stroll through twinkling lights and Valentine decor as they witness the popular downtown district transformed into an awesome night shopping market. Enjoy live music along Lemon Ave. and Main Street. Stop by to see your favorite store owner as you 'Sip, Shop & Stroll' the area's top fashion boutiques and trendy home-decor stores! Visit [DestinationDowntownSarasota.com](https://DestinationDowntownSarasota.com) to learn more.

### **ROMANCING THE ARTS | Gallery Walks on Palm Avenue | Feb. 3, 6-9 p.m.**

Palm Avenue hosts a monthly Art Walk. Browse the fine art galleries, jewelers, and restaurants of Palm Avenue while enjoying dancing, live music, and refreshments. This has been one of the traditional ongoing monthly events in Sarasota for many years.

Visit [Palm Avenue in Downtown Sarasota for more details.](#)

### **HEARTBEATZ | State Street | Feb. 3rd, 7-10 p.m.**

With the month of romance on the horizon, the Fresh Friday's team is excited to announce a celebration of love and dance, HEARTBEATZ. With a killer playlist of heart-thumping, rump-shaking, and lovey-dovey hits, State Street will be transformed into a dance party where you can woo your sweetheart with some smooth moves. The event's headliner is Resonance, one of South Florida's most jaw-dropping and talent-filled cover bands. With two incredible vocalists and an all-pro backing band, Resonance puts a fresh spin on everything from Motown's greatest hits to chart-toppers from the 90s and 2000s. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for more updates on hospitality partners and more!

[Click here for more details.](#)

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## Rosemary District

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](#)

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## The Bay Park Conservancy



Thursday night at the movies at the Bay Park, watching Top Gun

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.

[Click to view the updates from The Bay Park Conservancy](#)

[Click to view The Bay Park - Calendar of Events](#)

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## 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](#).

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