

NEWSLETTER
2023 QUARTER 2 ISSUE



Working to Enhance the Downtown Experience

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President's Message

DSCA Residents and Friends,

There is breaking news on affordable housing incentives and market rate condos.

At the City Planning Board meeting held on May 16th, zoning text amendments proposed by the City's Planning Department to encourage Attainable Housing Units (AHUs) were approved and recommended for adoption by the full city commission. This action moves Sarasota one step closer to specific new zoning incentives aimed to add more attainable dwelling units in greater Downtown Sarasota. Initially these zoning incentives are focused on greater downtown, but similar plans are to be unveiled for other areas of the city later this year.

The recommended zoning amendments incentivize developers to prioritize the construction of attainable housing by offering significant density increases. If developers include 15% or more of total units as attainable, they will be eligible to build at four times the current density levels. Building height limits remain unchanged. As additional incentive developers' costs are decreased by reductions in residential building parking requirements.

Eligibility for individuals or families is equal spread of AHUs across the 3 groups (60-80%, 8--100%, 100-120% of Area Median Income) to address multiple levels of service worker salary ranges. Although most new units likely to result from these bonus density incentives are anticipated to be apartments, 'for sale' condo projects will be eligible too.

An important component to the AHU recommendations added by the Planning Board, and strongly advocated for by DSCA, is that Community Workshops must be held in advance of the final approval of new projects in which applicants wish to take benefit from the increased density incentive. The goal for these CWs is to provide residents an opportunity to provide comments and voice concerns regarding these new projects, which provides the developer and City staff with added insight into the local impact of their project.

Further details regarding the full set of recommendations will be forthcoming in the coming weeks. The next approval step is for these zoning amendments, now endorsed by the Planning Board, to be considered by the full City Commission during July.

While the City plans to move forward with incentives to encourage attainably priced units the demand for market rate, downtown condos remain high with demand outstripping supply.

Although more than 600 units are planned or under development in Sarasota, the influx of buyers from across the country, still outpaces development.

And, one more thing, Sarasota was named #5 best place to live in the U.S. This news just in. More information follows.

David Lough

DSCA President

DavidLough1@gmail.com

DowntownSarasotaCondoAssoc.com

Sarasota Living



Photo / article courtesy of City of Sarasota

Sarasota named No. 5 best place to live in U.S., No. 1 in Florida

Sarasota, FL: Sarasota jumped to the No. 5 position on U.S. News & World Report's Best Places to Live in the U.S. list for 2023-2024 and remains No. 1 in Florida.

In 2022, the Sarasota area ranked No. 9 on the annual list and No. 1 in Florida. The list evaluates metro areas based on quality of life, job market, value and desirability.

[READ MORE](#)

Real Estate - In the News

Downtown luxury condo supply remains shy of demand Although more than 600 units are planned or under development in Sarasota, the influx of buyers from across the country, many of them paying cash, still outpaces development. Who are all the buyers for these homes, where are they coming from, and are there enough to sustain the current pace of development? [READ FULL ARTICLE](#).



Luxury condominium tower Bayso nears completion at The Quay.
Photo by Andrew Warfield, Sarasota Observer

The Sarasota Experience | WEDU Documentaries



We encourage you to watch “The Story of Sarasota”, the story of America, from its indigenous population to its time as a sleepy fishing village, to the transformative city it is today. The Sarasota Experience, a WEDU PBS and Triforce Pictures documentary, tells both celebrated and little-known stories from the region. From the first Scottish settlers to the Civil Rights movement to the area's efforts to protect Florida's environment, this film traces the evolution of community, and explores what the future might hold.

This film captures Sarasota’s past, current and future through interviews with community leaders. Some of the interviewees include young entrepreneurs who have spoken at DSCA meetings, such as Megan Howell, [Second Heart Homes](#) and Anand Pallegar, [Dream Large](#); both of whom are leading active new programs today to improve the lives of residents of our City.

[WATCH NOW](#)

Arts and Cultural

The City Commission recently approved the creation of the Blue Ribbon Committee to develop recommendations for the future use of the Van Wezel Auditorium. Applications for 7 committee members will be accepted until June 15th. 5 members must have expertise in architecture and theatre design, historical preservation, civil engineering, financial expertise in performing arts, and climate adaptation. Two members will be residents of the City of Sarasota. Experts may reside anywhere. The committee's recommendations will be due in 2 years from the commencement of their deliberations. Interviews are already being scheduled.

The Architect Selection Task Force for the Sarasota Performing Arts Center is continuing its work by visiting the sites of structures designed by the 6 architect finalists. Some sites will be outside the US.

The Sarasota Performing Arts Center will bring four finalists to town for in-person presentations to design the Sarasota Performing Arts Center

The task force appointed by the SPAC foundation and the city to hold a global search to imagine the new \$275 million to \$300 million facility had already whittled the field to six from 43 respondents to a request for qualifications. At its May 12 meeting, the task force was working to determine the finalists to come to Sarasota and meet with the committee and the public in person.

[READ FULL ARTICLE.](#)

Applications now accepted for Van Wezel Ad Hoc Purple Ribbon Committee

Following the City Commission's unanimous approval to create a Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall Ad Hoc Purple Ribbon Committee, applications are now being accepted for consideration.

The Ad Hoc Purple Ribbon Committee will study financially sustainable options for the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall as well as the use, purpose, and lease of the facility.

An online application is available at www.SarasotaFL.gov on the Advisory Board webpage. Click [here](#) to access the application.

Applications must be submitted by June 15, 2023. The City Commission will then appoint the seven committee members. Click [here](#) for more information.

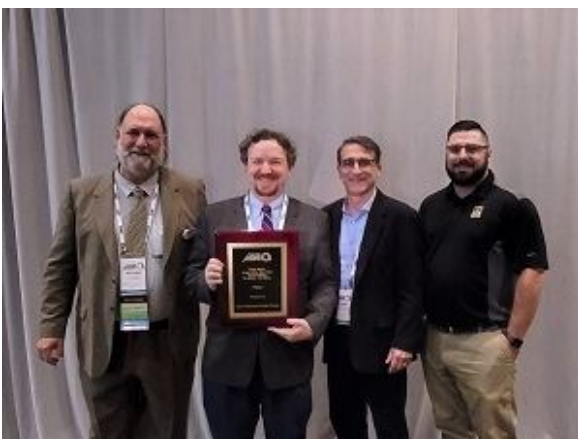
Greenspace Update



Parks, Recreation & Environmental Protection (PREP) Advisory Board Meeting Apr. 20, 2023 - [Meeting Agenda](#)

Werlin Park Bench Installation - Jerry Fogle, Director, City Parks & Recreation Department; gave a slide presentation on the status of various park remodeling and amenities plans. Parks Dept staff have helped design new benches for our City parks. View presentation slides [here](#).

Getting Around



Photos courtesy of City of Sarasota

Ringling Trail Complete Street recognized as 'Project of the Year' The Ringling Trail Complete Street was recognized as the Project of the Year by the American Public Works Association (APWA) Florida Chapter during its annual conference in Jacksonville last week. Assistant City Engineer Dan Ohrenstein, project team co-lead along with Capital Projects Manager Camden Mills, accepted the award on behalf of the City of Sarasota.

The Ringling Trail Complete Street project transformed Ringling Boulevard into a complete street in December 2022 with enhanced bicycle safety and expanded multimodal and connectivity opportunities between The Legacy Trail, downtown Sarasota and the Bayfront. The Trail extends one mile between Lime and Pineapple avenues and features protected bike lanes for a safer road experience for recreational cyclists and commuters. [READ MORE](#).



Gulfstream Roundabout Webcam

Intermittent work on the roundabout area continues. This work is a moving target. Week by week things are improving with landscape efforts beginning in the next few months.

[Marina Tower Roof](#)
([Marina Tower Roof](#))_|_Nest

NOTE - once the link loads, hover over the image and click on the play (>) button.



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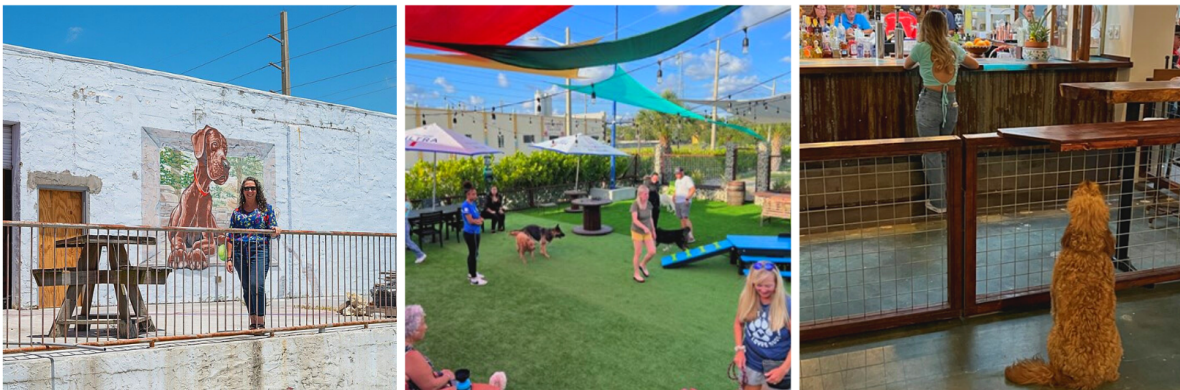
SRQ Airport News - SRQ Passenger Numbers Continue to Grow In April 2023 Last month 451,036 passengers traveled through the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport, compared to 386,013 passengers in April 2022. This is a 17% increase and is the highest number of passengers for the month of April. [READ MORE](#)

Rosemary District



Rosemary District Community Meeting, Thursday June 15, 5:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. Location: WSLR @Fogartyville

Topic: Parking | **Special Guests:** Broxton Harvey, Parking Division General Manager



Boo's Ice House & Dog Bar was named after owners Mindy Kaufman and Bobby Boivin rescue dog, Boo. - Photo by Lori Sax, Business Observer

Boo's Ice House / Dog Bar Announces Open Date - After bypassing three expected open dates, Boo's Ice House in the Rosemary District will officially let the dogs in on May 22. If you heard a collective howl on Friday, it was probably because Boo's Ice House & Dog Bar finally has an opening date set for later this month. Contrary to the song "Who let the dogs out?" Boo's will let the dogs in May 22. Not every dog will be invited in, though; just those who are up-to-date on their vaccinations. [READ MORE](#) from the Business Observer.

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](#)

Hurricane Preparedness

Prepare Now for Hurricane Season - Emergency Management officials encourage community members to take steps now to prepare for the start of hurricane season on June 1 and assist their neighbors who may be new to the area. Update plans and contact information as well as refreshing items in disaster supply kits as needed throughout the season. For information about how to prepare and available resources, visit the [County's website](#).

City News and Updates - Look for information below in City News to help you and your family be storm-ready -- from assembling a disaster kit to verifying your evacuation level. Now is the time to get ready! You don't want to find yourself in a situation where time and supplies are short. [City News: Hurricane Preparedness, Memorial Day Parade, Swim Lessons](#)

The Bay Park Conservancy



On Mother's Day - May 14 2023, Patrick Gannon & his wife made the first deposit of 5 lb of organic material into the new compost station at Bay Park. "We make this donation in honor of Mother Earth.

Sunshine Community Compost at The Bay

As International Compost Awareness Week comes to a close, Sunshine Community Compost launched a new compost location at The Bay. Click here to join the food-scrap drop off composting program. Based on community participation, as much as 50% of the compost generated could be returned to The Bay for landscaping purposes. View the Video [HERE](#)

The Bay Park | Calendar 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](#)

DSCA Board May Wrap Up



Working to Enhance the Downtown Experience

DSCA BOARD MEETING - MAY 3, 2023

**GUEST SPEAKERS:
FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (DISTRICT 1)**



Nicole Mills
Interim Director of
Transportation



Keith Robbins
District Safety
Administrator



Bessie Reina
Interim Intermodal
Systems Development
Administrator

As has been the recent practice, the 5/3 DSCA Board meeting was held in hybrid fashion, both in person at the Broadway Promenade Club Room and via Zoom.

We would like to thank our guest speakers from FDOT for sharing their time and knowledge. Following is a link to the full board meeting, speaker zoom video and presentation slides.

Guest Speakers: Florida Department of Transportation (District 1)

- Nicole Mills, Interim Director of Transportation
- Keith Robbins, District Safety Administrator
- Bessie Reina, Interim Intermodal Systems Development Administrator

View Meeting Video [HERE](#) - DSCA Board Meeting 2023-05-03

View Speaker Video [HERE](#) | View Presentation Slides [HERE](#)

DSCA Upcoming Events

DSCA Board Meeting



Register

DSCA Board Meeting | June 7, 2023 | 4:00 PM – 5:30 p.m. held via Zoom & Broadway Promenade, 1064 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236

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.

Guest Speaker: Jake Hartvigsen
Associate Director of Marketing &
Community Partnerships, WEDU PBS

Associate Member Events

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

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR EVENT](#)

[Property Management vs. Project Management](#)

Wed, June 07, 2023, 12:00 PM – 1:00 PM @WEBINAR Event Organizer: Castle Group

[CAMATHON 2023](#)

Tue, June 20, 2023, 8:00 AM – 5:00 PM @ WEBINAR | Get 8 hours of CEU credits for free from the comfort of your home or office! Event Organizer: Kristin Fourie

Upcoming Community Events



2023 PATRIOTIC POPS & FIREWORKS | May 27, 2023 at CoolToday Park with the Venice Symphony! Venice Symphony Music Director Music Director Troy Quinn has programmed an unbeatable concert of American music, patriotic songs and a tribute to our Armed Forces. Their special guest vocalist is the renowned vocal group Liberty Voices. Tickets are on sale on line and at the CoolToday Box Office 941-413-5000. Various ticket prices starting at \$49. 7:30 p.m. (gates open at 5:30 p.m.) CoolToday Park, 18800 S. West Villages Parkway, Venice FL. May Sarasota Events on Escape-to-Sarasota.com. Click [here](#) for tickets and more information.

MEMORIAL DAY PARADE | The annual Memorial Day parade will be held Monday, **May 29** starting at 10 a.m. at Main Street and Osprey Avenue and will travel westward to lower Main Street, where it will end at Gulfstream Avenue. At approximately 11 a.m., a ceremony will be held at Chaplain J.D. Hamel Park. The Memorial Day holiday honors those who died during military service. We are grateful to those who served for our freedoms and the sacrifices they and their families made for our nation.

Fresh Friday's



SIP-SHOP-STROLL | Downtown Sarasota, Lemon Ave and Main Street

June 2, 5-8 p.m. The Sarasota Downtown Merchants First Friday event runs along the 1400, 1500, 1600 blocks of Main Street, Palm Ave., 1st & 2nd Street. The event is open to the public. Stroll trendy fashion boutiques, art galleries, experience wine tastings, and live music throughout Main Street. Tourists and locals, even the occasional celebrity, enjoy caricatures as the perfect souvenir, something hand-drawn and one of a kind.

Visit DestinationDowntownSarasota.com to learn more.

SUNSET SERENADE | June 2nd, 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.](#)

SOUNDS OF SUMMER | June 2nd, 7-10 p.m. | Fresh Fridays is back on Palm Avenue to kick off the summer with live music from the outstanding ensemble, Bay Kings Band, along with lawn games and tailgate BBQ! We can't wait to see you there for more signature giveaways, drinks and light bites from select downtown hospitality partners, and more fresh entertainment to be announced! For now, listen for the Sounds of Summer updates in the coming weeks! [Click here for more information.](#)



VAN WEZEL FRIDAY FEST | June 16 - Friday Fest, the free, outdoor summertime concert series at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall returns this year with an exciting lineup of bands who will bring the audience to their feet! The events run from 5-9 p.m. and are located on the lawn of the Van Wezel.

Opening the Friday Fest series on June 16 is returning favorite, Kettle of Fish. Kettle of Fish plays festival music that features blues, soul, and funk with the energy of rock 'n roll. They make old songs new again, and their originals sound like classics. Kettle of Fish is one of the hottest live acts in southwest Florida, headlining to thousands, and opening for such acts as Eddie Money, Marshall Tucker, Elvin Bishop, Dickey Betts, and many more.

The excitement continues with a great line up of local bands:

- July 21: One Night Rodeo
- August 11: TEN-76
- September 22: Jah Movement

Bring blankets or lawn chairs, take in the music and sunset, and enjoy food and beverage from local vendors. Bringing in food, drinks and coolers from outside Friday Fest is prohibited. For additional information, visit VanWezel.org.

We Are Downtown Sarasota Residents partnering with Businesses!

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1-941-357-6224, <https://downtownsarasotacondoassoc.com/>