

NEWSLETTER
2023 QUARTER 4 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.



President's Message

As Thanksgiving approaches, it's clear how quickly this year has passed. Day by day, we are witnessing our city come to life, with the increase in activity evident everywhere. The busier streets, the challenge of securing dinner reservations, and longer checkout lines at the supermarket are sure signs of this. The eastward extension of new residential units and a hotel project along Main Street are other examples of our community's growth. Also, as a result of the recent zoning changes aimed at encouraging more attainably priced housing, a new downtown apartment project, including 26 attainable units, is now progressing through the city's development review process. Although it's in the early stages, plans are actively being submitted.

Over the past few months, the DSCA Board and its committees have been busy with several key issues. We've been involved in the review of draft parking policy changes, providing feedback on significant zoning text amendments for restaurants, bars, and nightclubs (especially around outdoor and rooftop spaces), and preparing for revisions to sound and special event ordinances. Our efforts also extend to enhancing downtown streetscapes along Fruitville, Main, and Boulevard of the Arts. More information on these initiatives is provided below.

We're excited to welcome the new residents of the 149-unit Bayso Condominium at the Quay. The majority are relocating from out of state, attracted to Sarasota's vibrant lifestyle, rich history, and cultural diversity, as their realtors and the buzz on their 126-member Facebook community indicate.

A word on our roundabouts: while many of you are familiar with them from your home states or travels abroad, others may find them new. Please slow down and remember to '**Yield**' for safety. As part of DSCA's transportation and safety initiative, we've added a bit of fun to roundabout safety – take a look at Ginny the Giraffe at work near the 10th Street roundabout. Image follows.

Shifting gears to city leadership, each November, as required by the City Charter, the City Commission meets to elect one of its members as Mayor and another as Vice Mayor. Congratulations to Liz Alpert on being elected Mayor and Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch as Vice Mayor.

As we enter the holiday season, let's keep supporting each other, particularly in matters involving the City Commission and City staff that affect our community. The decisions they make significantly impact the quality of life for all of us downtowners, who now number over 12,000; with over 1,100 residents receiving this newsletter. I urge you to pass the

newsletter along. Together, let's help maintain Sarasota as the special place it is.

Wishing you all a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving.

David Lough

DSCA President

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DowntownSarasotaCondoAssoc.com



Veterans Day



The City of Sarasota, in partnership with the Sarasota Patriotic Observance Committee, held their annual Veterans Day Parade and Ceremony on Saturday, November 11th. The parade featured various participants, including color guards from the Sarasota Police Department, Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, and Sarasota County Fire Department, as well as antique military vehicles, Jeeps, marching bands, and students from local high schools.

The parade route began at Osprey Avenue and moved westward along Main Street, culminating at Gulfstream Avenue. The festivities concluded with a ceremony at Chaplain J.D. Hamel Park, located at the corner of Gulfstream Avenue and Main Street. This ceremony held particular significance, as it commemorated the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month when the armistice was signed in 1918, ending World War I.

The theme of this year's parade was "We don't know them all, but we owe them all," highlighting the importance of honoring all veterans for their sacrifices. The ceremony featured guest speaker Carlos J. Moreira, a former U.S. Marine Corps member with 15 years of active duty experience. Moreira, currently serving as the director for campus engagement for Veteran Success and Alumni Affairs at the University of South Florida, also holds the chairmanship for SALUTE Veterans National Honor Society.

[Click here](#) to read more.

October Workshop



For those of you who missed it, the October DSCA Platinum Workshop, "Sarasota's Rapid Growth, Boom, Bubble or Bust" attracted quite the turnout!

Speakers included Deputy City Manager, Pat Robinson, Ian Black, Founder of Ian Black Real Estate, Lt Jamie Adams of the Sarasota Police Department, Erin Silk, President and CEO of the EDC, Platinum Members, Joe Thompson of Gulfshore Insurance and Diana Sada of Burg Simpson and Wayne Rubin of the DID.

Participants learned about how the city of Sarasota is managing growth so that downtown Sarasota remains a viable and livable place for all to live, work and play. Thank you to all our esteemed speakers, participants, sponsors, and attendees for joining us. Your valuable contributions and support made this event a huge success. Stay tuned for future DSCA workshops and make sure to sign up early so you don't miss out! To watch the workshop, [Click here](#). View the Presentation Slides [here](#).

Get Involved - Make a Difference

The Downtown Sarasota Condo Association (DSCA) is currently looking for committee participants. If you are passionate about making a difference and want to be a voice for our community, this is your opportunity to help the DSCA thrive.

The DSCA has several committees that cover a broad array of topics and interests such as Greenspace, Homelessness, Transportation, Zoning, Art, Health and Safety and Events.

To apply or learn more about joining one of our committees, please send an email to Downtown.Sarasota.Condo.Assoc@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you.

City News

New Mayor and Vice Mayor Elected in Sarasota City Commission



Photo Courtesy of City of Sarasota

As per the City of Sarasota Charter, the City Commission meets every November to elect a Mayor and a Vice Mayor among its members. This year, Liz Alpert, Sarasota City Commissioner-District 2, has been unanimously selected to serve as the Mayor for the upcoming year. Congratulations to Commissioner Alpert on this important role.

Additionally, At-Large Commissioner Jen Ahearn-Koch has been chosen to serve as the Vice Mayor. We extend our congratulations to Commissioner Ahearn-Koch on her new position.

City Zoning Text Amendments

City Commission Seeks Answers on What Makes a Bar a Nightclub: Zoning Text Amendments Under Consideration

Six months spent crafting what was presented as a clarification of definitions and regulations of bars and restaurants in the downtown area, plus multiple rounds of public engagement, weren't enough for city commissioners.

During their Nov. 6 meeting city commissioners agreed to instruct staff to schedule a City Commission workshop in an effort to clarify the proposed changes. This is now scheduled for **December 5, at 9:00 am**. During the first reading of the text amendment, the testimony of a dozen speakers convinced commissioners the amendment's details aren't ready yet.

Staff undertook the task because Sarasota's current definitions and standards for bars and nightclubs are tied to state licensing and seating requirements, which has resulted in establishments being classified as nightclubs that don't operate as such while others are classified as restaurants despite operating like nightclubs late into the night.

Read the full article from The Observer [here](#).

The Bay Park Conservancy

The Bay Park Master Plan Update

RECOMMENDED MASTER PLAN UPDATE
11.20.23



The City of Sarasota will be holding a City Commission meeting on November 20th, where the updated master plan for Bay Park will be on the agenda. You can find the agenda [here](#) and The Bay Park Updated Master [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](#)

Getting Around

Bay Runner - Introducing New Stops on the Bay Runner Route: Enhancing Convenience and Reducing Traffic



The City of Sarasota has recently announced the addition of two new stops to its popular Bay Runner route, effective from Wednesday, November 8th. These new stops aim to enhance convenience for passengers and contribute to the ongoing efforts in reducing traffic congestion.

The first new stop is located at Sunset Drive/Golden Gate Point. This stop has been reintroduced after undergoing construction by FDOT Southwest Florida. With the completion of the construction, the Sunset Drive/Golden Gate Point stop now offers a seamless and convenient experience for passengers.

The second new stop is situated near Bird Key Park at John Ringling Boulevard/Bird Key Drive. This additional stop provides greater accessibility for both residents and visitors in the area. Whether you're planning a visit to the park or exploring the beautiful surroundings, this new stop will be a valuable resource for your transportation needs.

These new stops on the Bay Runner route are part of the City of Sarasota's ongoing commitment to improving public transportation and reducing traffic congestion. By expanding the route and adding these new stops, the city aims to provide a more efficient and convenient travel experience for its residents and visitors.

10th Street Roundabout



Attention drivers! Brace yourselves for another extraordinary traffic encounter. After the uproar caused by Ziggy Zebra last month, his partner-in-crime, Ginny Giraffe, is making a grand entrance at the roundabout.

Gulfstream Roundabout



Exciting news! The Downtown roundabout is transforming with beautiful tree plantings. These trees will enhance the roundabout's appearance and benefit the environment. To see the progress and final result, click the link for the live webcam feed [here](#).

Condo Corner

Share Your Community Experiences!

We invite you to contribute to our new beloved segment in DSCA's newsletter, Condo Corner. This platform offers downtown residents a chance to share their stories and insights on the sense of community within their buildings.

We want to know what activities and initiatives take place in your building to foster connections among residents. Do you agree that cultivating a strong community atmosphere matters? Why?

Please send us your thoughts, experiences, and anecdotes to the email address below:

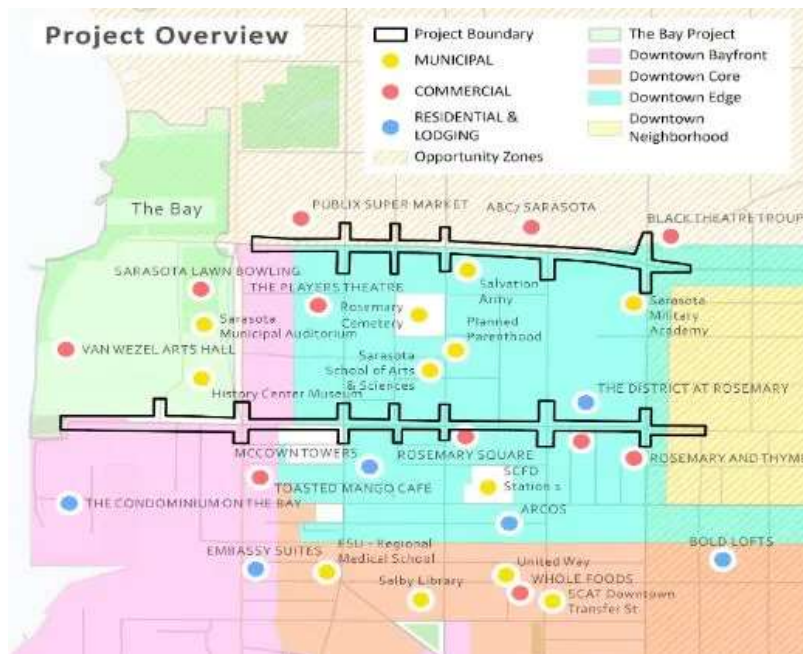
Email: downtownsarasotacondoassoc@gmail.com

Your contributions will be featured in the upcoming edition of Condo Corner, where we celebrate and explore the power of community within downtown Sarasota.

Rosemary District

Changes Are Headed to Two Downtown Sarasota Streets

Both 10th Street and Boulevard of the Arts are slated to be transformed to allow for safer walking and biking.



As downtown Sarasota expands with more demolition, more buildings and more roundabouts, the streets themselves are also changing. In Gillespie Park and the Rosemary District, the City of Sarasota is poised to transform 10th Street and Boulevard of the Arts (BoTA) into complete streets to allow safer ways to walk and cycle.

Through Sunday, Nov. 19, the public is invited to complete a short online survey to help guide the style and choose what design elements work best for the streets. Those items include lighting; shade-producing options, like trees vs. sail shades; bench styles, like wood slat vs. iron; paver materials, like concrete vs. brick; and bicycle lane barrier options, like planter boxes vs. flexible delineators. In addition to the online survey, the city sent mailers to residents and businesses within 300 feet of both projects. Arriaga and staff also canvassed area businesses and pedestrians to spread the word and gather feedback. [Read full article here.](#)

City of Sarasota 10th Street and Boulevard of the Arts Corridor Visual Preference Survey

Take Survey Here

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 11/1 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: Jennifer Jorgensen: City of Sarasota - Governmental Relations Manager

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

DSCA Upcoming Events

DSCA Board Meeting

DSCA Board Meeting - Wednesday, December 6, 2023

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM | @ Zoom & Broadway Promenade, 1064 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34236

Guest Speaker: Nik Walker, President of the Jazz Club of Sarasota

Walker will be speaking on the club's fascinating history which has grown into a thriving arts organization with 1,000 members. The Jazz Club presents a full season of jazz music, including a major festival in March, and provides jazz education programs and college scholarships.

Ed Kinder, a Sarasota jazz pianist, will lead a trio of musicians following the presentation. Ed has been playing professionally since he was 14 years old and studied at Berkley College of Music in Boston.

[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: Repair & Maintenance Obligation: Notice of Turnover...Now What?

December 14 | 11:00 am - 12:00 pm | Zoom Webinar

During the sales period, condo and homeowner associations are administered by a board of directors appointed by the developer. Eventually, a board of directors elected by the association membership takes control, a process known as “turnover” or “transition”. This newly-elected owner board, which often times has a dearth of property management experience, is then thrust into the position of having to manage property potentially worth millions of dollars. In this Smart Board session, firm attorneys will address the various challenges confronting a newly-elected owner board and provide tips for getting the associations house in order as painlessly as possible.

Event Organizer: Michelle Colburn | mcolburn@tlhlegal.com

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

[CLICK HERE TO SUBMIT YOUR EVENT](#)

Upcoming Community Events



**DOWNTOWN CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING | FIVE POINTS PARK
November 30th | 6-8 PM**

Are you ready to step into a winter wonderland of holiday enchantment? Look no further than Downtown Sarasota's annual Christmas Tree Lighting, a heartwarming celebration that promises to kindle the holiday spirit and create cherished memories.

The annual tree lighting event will take place Thursday, November 30th, from 6 – 8 PM in Selby Five Points Park, located across the street from the Selby Public Library. Enjoy refreshments, music, and photos with Santa! The Christmas Tree will be lit at 7 PM where photos can be taken. Downtown Sarasota's Christmas Tree is the perfect backdrop for your holiday snapshot!

Hosted by the Downtown Sarasota Enrichment Association (DSEA) with grant assistance provided by the DID. [Click here](#) for more information.




27th ANNUAL SARASOTA HOLIDAY PARADE
Saturday December 2nd | 12 - 5 PM

The theme for the 27th Annual Sarasota Holiday Parade taking place on Saturday, December 2, 2023, is Holidays Around The World. We anticipate registration opening on July 1, 2023. Before registering, Please read the [How To Enter](#) page and send any and all questions to admin@sarasotaholidayparade.com.

Keep the Parade Alive! - For 27 years, volunteers have worked tirelessly to bring you Sarasota's premier holiday celebration. We've relied upon the generosity of our sponsors and our volunteers, but rising costs, including insurance, have made this local treasure harder to sustain. Please consider a donation of any amount!

Donation Information Visit: <https://sarasotaholidayparade.com/>





2024 SRQ NYE PINEAPPLE DROP BLOCK PARTY
December 31st | 1 PM - 1 AM | MAIN STREET

Experience the ultimate New Year's Eve celebration at the highly anticipated Sarasota Pineapple Drop Block Party! This exciting event takes place at the intersection of Lemon Avenue and Main Street and offers a captivating stage for an unforgettable experience. From 1 pm to 1 am, immerse yourself in live music, delectable cuisine, exhilarating rides, and entertaining games. As midnight approaches, prepare to be amazed as a giant glowing pineapple descends from the sky, accompanied by a mesmerizing fireworks extravaganza. Don't miss out on this remarkable celebration at the iconic downtown location in Sarasota. Visit [here](#) to learn more.

Fresh Fridays

FIRST FRIDAY SIP AND SHOP
December 1st | 5 - 8 pm | MAIN STREET

Enjoy live music along Palm Ave, 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!

Discover and support these fantastic local merchants who help make our community vibrant!



FRESH FROSTY | December 1st | 7-10 PM | SELBY FIVE POINTS PARK

Fresh Fridays celebrates the season at Selby Five Points Park with a night of cheer! Experience a holiday showcase featuring local talent and professional carolers while dancing to festive favorites under lights that gleam and glisten. Indulge in seasonal sweets and treats, and get a picture taken for this year's family holiday card in our snow globe photobooth! 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.

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!

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