

Get Energy Smart rebate program pays back to homeowners

Sarasota County homeowners who have made energy improvements to their homes have received more than \$440,000 in rebate checks through the Get Energy Smart Retrofit Program. Over \$690,000 in rebate funds remain available for homeowners, in addition to loans and free Do It Yourself Energy Saving Kits.

A total of 953 rebates averaging \$712 each have been distributed so far. Local homeowners have made energy-saving home improvements such as solar water heaters, insulation, duct repair, high-efficiency air conditioning systems and more. Homeowners in unincorporated Sarasota County and the cities of Sarasota, Venice and North Port are eligible to participate in the program.

Income-qualified homeowners also can apply for a no-interest, payment-deferred loan to pay for home improvements. Sarasota County has increased the maximum loan amount to \$10,000 for its low-income residents in order to allow more energy saving improvements for each home. Interested homeowners should visit the program website at www.getenergysmart.net to learn about eligibility requirements and how to be added to the loan program waiting list.

Rebate funds are limited and awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. There are still opportunities for residents of unincorporated Sarasota County and the cities of Sarasota, North Port and Venice to participate. To receive a rebate, homeowners must first apply for the program online at www.getenergysmart.net, or by calling 800-863-1794. Customer service is also available in person at the new location for program administration, the Florida House at 4454 Beneva Road, Sarasota. Rebates are not available for improvements done before an application is approved. Once an application is approved, a whole-house energy audit may be required, depending on the improvements planned.

“This program pushed me to do these projects quickly to be sure the funding was still available,” said Tony Romanus, a Sarasota County homeowner who benefited from the program. “The audit, for which the rebate covered almost all the cost, found that my ducts were leaking. If I didn’t have that report, I might have spent a lot of money on a new HVAC system and still had that significant inefficiency. If you are going to make improvements to your home eventually, why wouldn’t you do them now before the funding runs out?”

The Get Energy Smart Retrofit Program is part of the U.S. Department of Energy’s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act. The program lowers community energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions. It also boosts the local economy by creating jobs and business opportunities.

For more information, contact the program administrator, DwellGreen, at 800-863-1794 or 941-312-2654, or visit www.getenergysmart.net.

Help prevent home fires by cleaning your clothes dryer

While doing the laundry is a routine task in most households, taking care of the clothes dryer is an important element in home safety. According to the National Fire Prevention Association, one of the leading causes of home fires is the failure by homeowners to clean their clothes dryer. Sarasota County Fire Marshal Jane Ross-Herrin provides these safety tips to help people keep their homes and families safe:

- Have the dryer installed and serviced by a professional.
- Do not use the dryer without a lint filter.
- Make sure the air exhaust vent pipe is not restricted and the outdoor vent flap will open when the dryer is operation. If it takes longer than normal for clothes to dry, clean lint from the vent pipe.
- Make sure the right plug and outlet are used and that the machine is connected properly.
- Follow the manufacturer’s operating instructions and don’t overload the dryer.
- Turn the dryer off when leaving the house or going to bed.
- Keep the area around the dryer clear of things that can burn, such as boxes, cleaning supplies and clothing.
- If clothes have come in contact with flammable substances like gasoline, paint thinner or similar solvents, lay them outside to dry first, then wash and dry as usual.
- Ensure the dryer is property grounded to prevent electrocution.

For more information regarding dryer safety and keeping your family safe, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for the Fire Prevention Office or visit the county’s Emergency Services’ website at www.scgov.net.

Solid Waste – Residential Recycling Tips

- Most major grocery stores accept plastic grocery bags and newspaper wrappers. They usually have barrels near the entrance of the store for collection.
- Remove all caps from bottles and place the caps in the garbage.
- No window glass, mirrors, light bulbs, ovenware, ceramics, drinking glasses or eyeglasses are recyclable.
- Place the blue bin on top of the red bin for collection on rainy days to hold papers down and to minimize the amount of rain soaked paper materials or hold the red recycling bin until the next recycling day.
- Do not put recyclables in plastic bags.
- Place recycling bins and garbage on the same side of your driveway, opposite yard waste containers.
- Consider **composting** your yard waste and food waste.

Call Waste Management at 941-493-4100 or Sarasota County 861-5000 for assistance.

Our community website was developed to serve as an information portal for our neighborhood and our local community.

www.colonialgablesnews.net

Have you visited the new Colonial Gables website. Please let someone know your ideas of the website. If you have input for the website, please email them to colonialgables@yahoo.com

Newsletter Submissions

All articles, ads, and payments must be submitted by the 15th of each month. You can submit articles through the website or email rinkld@aol.com

Volunteering

Currently there is a need for newsletter delivery for the following areas, Hayden Blvd; Laurelwood Place; Winderwood and Sharondale Drive area. This is a once a month volunteer duty and requires about 45 minutes of your time each month. For a high school student, this could serve as required community service hours. Contact Lori Rinker.

Urgent Newsletter delivery assistance required.

Colonial Gables Homeowners Association newsletter was created as means to hopefully provide items of interest to all of the residents of this neighborhood. To the current volunteers who assist in delivering the Colonial Gables newsletter, both current board members, and other volunteers, a special thank you for providing a community service you have provided! Thank you for your time and effort!

However, a selected few cannot continue to deliver the newsletter to every street. There have been repeated requests for new volunteers to assist with Hayden Blvd; Laurelwood Place; Winderwood and Sharondale Drive.

If volunteers do not come forward to help deliver any of the four (4) streets above, these residents may not receive future CGHA newsletters. This is because of the increasing difficulty to ask the current volunteers to complete additional streets, since some of these volunteers are already doing two or three streets already.

This would be great way for someone to get to know their neighbors living on their street! Would you like to volunteer, contact Lori Rinker, or any of the board members for more information.



WAGNER REALTY
Bringing People Since Since 1938

Jack Whittington
REALTOR®
Direct: 941-374-7498

1440 First Street
Sarasota, FL 34236
Office: 941-955-1500
Fax: 941-955-1552
5455Whittington@comcast.net
www.WagnerRealty.com

A Colonial Gables resident since 1978. Realtor since 1987
The only Realtor you will ever need.

Newsletter Editor

Do you have an interest in working the Colonial Gables Homeowners Association Board to assist in creating the monthly newsletter?

This is a way for you to provide community service, working in the comfort of your own home. Contact Lori Rinker or any of the board members.

Colonial Gables News

April 2011 Edition



Upcoming Events and Items of interest

GENERAL MEETING – May 3, 2010 7:00 - 8:00p.m

Colonial Oaks Park – **Room C** -
5300 Colonial Oaks Blvd Sarasota 34232

Election for Board Members

Your time has arrived! Now is the time for new volunteer(s) to step up to take a position on the CGHA board.

There is a need for new folks to take the lead on the projects and improvements created by the current and past board members, to keep this a great neighborhood.

Will you attend the general meeting on May 3, 2011 to meet some of your neighbors and other interested folks. Share in the discussion concerning continued goals of the association. Come take a position on the board.

It is time to bring your ideas to continuing to keep Colonial Gables a wonderful place to live.

When can the CGHA board count on you being a member of the community?

**Colonial Gables
Homeowners Association
Founded 1980**

GENERAL MEETINGS

Colonial Oaks Park –
5300 Colonial Oaks Blvd
Sarasota 34232
Room C

**May 3, 2011
7:00 - 8:00 p.m.**

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

~President ~
Ken Jomisko
371-2976

~ Vice President ~
Robert Summerall
handyrobert@comcast.net
342-8671

~Treasurer ~
Lori Rinker
rinkld@aol.com

~Secretary ~
Lori Rinker
rinkld@aol.com

~Newsletter~
Needs a new volunteer

WEB SITE

www.colonialgablesnews.net
Ivonne and Sean Malo
colonialgables@yahoo.com