

VOLUNTEER

I'm sure you've all heard the word before and I'm also sure that many of you already are volunteers. Maybe it's at a school, at a hospital or a community service like Red Cross or the Salvation Army. This month I'd like you to remember the "CGHA Volunteers". There are 4 members of the CGHA board who volunteer their service for the betterment of **our** community. Year after year, they get reelected because nobody else volunteers to take their place. They serve **you** because it's just what they know to do. When they need help for a particular job they have to depend on each other because there doesn't seem to be anyone else.

When you see one of your board members, a thank you would go a long way.

They wouldn't ask for themselves, but I can. Here's the list:

Ken Jomisko – President

Rob Summerall - Vice President

Dan Patterson – Treasurer (Dan is not only the treasurer but he also creates the newsletter and has it printed. A job performed by a board member because there are no volunteers.)

Lori Rinker –Secretary (Lori is not only the secretary, but she also coordinates our newsletter volunteers who deliver the newsletter. Yet another job that is done by a board member, because there are no volunteers.)

I would like take a moment to thank the few who do volunteer to deliver the newsletters to each of the homes within Colonial Gables, each and every month. Some have been doing it for many years. Again, a few of them are board members.

And finally there is Wayne and Carol Daniels. These two people have put in countless hours keeping the homeowners association together when there was nobody else to do it. We call them our "Historians" but they are so much more than that. They attend every board meeting, Wayne organizes the security patrol and together they put on our annual holiday party. We will never be able to repay them for all that they have done.

There are, I'm sure many reasons why people don't volunteer and I'm even sure that many of those reasons are valid. If you can't volunteer or just don't feel the need, you can still help with your gift of money. Our annual dues are only \$20. That's very little to have to pay for someone else to do the work. I know these are tough economic times but even if you send \$5 every third month, it would sure help with projects that need to get done to make our neighborhood look nice.

Written by Mary Jomisko

Sarasota County hosts 'virtual' Town Hall on budget

Sarasota County wants to hear from residents about the county budget. To obtain more involvement and consensus in the budget planning for next year, Sarasota County will hold a "virtual" Town Hall meeting before the county commissioners begin budget workshops in mid-June.

The Town Hall will be at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 8. in the Sarasota County Access TV television studio. The discussion will be broadcast with a studio audience on Comcast 19 and Verizon 32. The session also will be streamed on www.scgov.gov Web site. Citizens can participate in the discussion and ask questions three ways:

- e-mail: communityconnections@scgov.net
- Phone: 941-861-2255 (Active on June 8)
- Fax: 941-861-7354

"Changes in the economy and property values need to be balanced with community preferences for services," said County Administrator Jim Ley. "With more information about public preferences and priorities as we prepare the fiscal year 2010 budget, the county commission can make better policy decisions with more community consensus." For more information about the "virtual" Town Hall meeting, call the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

Sarasota County neighborhood leaders invited to conference



Neighborhood leaders, concerned citizens and organized neighborhood groups are invited to learn more about helping their communities at the 13th Annual Florida Neighborhoods Conference in St. Petersburg July 9-11 at the St. Petersburg Hilton Bayfront Hotel. Sarasota County [Neighborhood Services](#) is seeking advanced registration for a free shuttle bus to and from the conference on July 10 and 11.

The deadline for early registration at a discounted rate is June 12. Visit website

http://www.stpete.org/FNC/reg_form.cfm to register online at the St. Petersburg's Web site. Participants can attend workshops, tours and exhibits focusing on subjects such as neighborhood improvements, leadership training, citizen engagement, neighborhood legal issues, partnerships and more. Subject matter experts from across the state will provide advice on many subjects including foreclosures and how neighborhoods can take advantage of the state's new Neighborhood Stabilization Program, controlling traffic through neighborhoods, crime prevention, conservation and sustainability, and connecting with local governments. Participants in the conference will also have the opportunity to take part in bus tours of the historical sections of downtown St. Petersburg including Roser Park and the old northeast portion of the city as well as Main Street, Midtown and the Arts and Culture Center. For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about the 13th Annual Florida Neighborhoods Conference.

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Sarasota County Call Center

A one stop phone number connects you to Sarasota County for all your needs. **941-861-5000** or visit www.scgov.net and follow the link for an online service request.

Emergencies – 911

Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
Main Switch Board, open every day,
24 hours a day

For those questions that are considered non-emergency.
861-5800



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Sarasota County Library System success touted at statewide conference

In these days of dwindling budgets, reduced staff and fewer resources, libraries across the state are looking for ways to operate more efficiently while maintaining reasonable levels of service to patrons. While attending the 2009 Florida Library Association Conference in Orlando, the staff of the Sarasota County Library System presented a strategy that has proven successful.

Library Public Services Manager Andrea Ginsky and library staff presented their successful implementation of the floating library collection. The premise of a floating collection is that items checked out of a library can be returned to another library and will then remain at that library until requested by a patron at another library. Previously, an item returned to one of Sarasota County's eight libraries was shipped back to its home library, requiring additional handling and time. Reasons for floating the collection include decreased costs (fuel, labor, time), improved patron access to collections, and reduced risk of injury to staff.

"There was a significant reduction in direct costs as well as an enhancement to service, and that adds up to a winning combination" said Sarabeth Kalajian, library general manager. Ginsky noted that "conference attendees were seeking practical, replicable strategies and this one generated keen interest."

Sarasota County, with a population 387,461 has eight libraries in its system with collection of items totaling about 1 million. One of the busiest library systems in the state, it hosts nearly 2.8 million visitors annually.

For more information contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about the Sarasota County Library System floating collection or visit www.sclibs.net

Colonial Gables News

June 2009 Edition



Note from the Treasurer,

I would like to share why I took a position on the association board. I once served as president of the Community Association with the Norfolk Navy Housing. Now that I own my own home, I wanted to see the neighborhood remain a nice area to live. I did not want to see this area lose its appeal as a nice neighborhood. I too want to keep up my property value by helping the entire neighborhood. And I figured I could not complain, if I did not join and support the association.

Now, I am asking for your assistance. I would like for you to share your input, time and whatever you can contribute to your association.

Both 'homeowner' and 'renters' are welcomed, and can be a member of this association.

The association has sent the due request for the June 2009 to May 2010 membership year. When you send your membership, would you please include a comment, to what goals you would like your association board to address for this upcoming year.

Also, add a note to what projects you would like to donate your time or efforts. There are various projects that could enhance our neighborhood, but as a board, we need your help too!

If you have already sent your membership, I thank you for your contribution. If you have something to add, please contact any of the board members with the contact information listed for assistance. But be forewarned, one of the first questions we will ask, are you a member? Please join and help support your community.

Dan Patterson
RM1 U.S.Navy (ret)
& CGHA Treasurer

**Colonial Gables
Homeowners Association
Founded 1980**

GENERAL MEETINGS

Colonial Oaks Park –
5300 Colonial Oaks Blvd
Sarasota 34232

Room C

**Next General Meeting –
Sept 1, 2009
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.**

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

**~President ~
Ken Jomisko
371-2976**

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

**~Treasurer ~
Dan Patterson
djpat77@verizon.net**

**~Secretary ~
Lori Rinker
rinkld@aol.com**

**~Web site/Newsletter~
(contact Dan Patterson
to volunteer)**

**WEB SITE
(under construction)**