

Free rain barrel workshop offered at Twin Lakes Park March 19, 2011

Sarasota County Extension Service will offer a free rain barrel workshop at Twin Lakes Park - 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota at **10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011**

Rainwater harvesting can reduce the use of potable water and yield cost savings on water and wastewater utility bills. Rain barrels help to reduce stormwater runoff by diverting and storing runoff from impervious areas such as roofs. This decreases the undesirable impacts of runoff that would otherwise flow into receiving waters. The use of rain barrels is a sustainable practice that also serves as an educational tool for water conservation.

The rainwater collected is considered non-potable, or not for drinking. Rainwater is naturally soft water devoid of minerals, chlorine and fluoride, and is ideal for uses such as irrigating plants in vegetable and flower beds, as well as indoor and outdoor container plants, and for cleaning household windows and washing cars.

Rain barrels will be available for purchase from Sarasota County Water Resources following the class. The cost is \$37 and includes a 55-gallon barrel, outlet spigot assembly and 7 percent sales tax. Payment for the barrels must be by cash or check payable to Sarasota County. To register for this workshop or upcoming classes, visit <http://sarasota.ifas.ufl.edu/>.

For more information contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000



Sarasota County is encouraging all property owners and occupants to submit their contact information into its CodeRED alert notification system. Submit contact information online at www.scgov.net, keyword search CodeRED. Registration is free, and Sarasota County does not share the information with private third-party vendors. This system is used for non-emergency events.

CodeRED issues an automated phone call to alert registered property owners and occupants in the event of an incident that could impact their daily activities.

Because CodeRED uses Verizon's land-based telephone numbers, it will not reach cellular telephones, or land-based telephones using other phone company services, unless those numbers are entered into the CodeRED system.

"The CodeRED notification system is one more way we can let the public know about incidents such as water main breaks, boil water notifications and other events," said Paula Parsons Grubb of Sarasota County Utilities. "By registering your contact information, you are ensuring that your family and you will be notified of events that could impact your household. Accurate, timely information is the key to protecting people and property, and the CodeRED system is a very reliable means of getting that information to the public." For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit www.scgov.net, keyword search CodeRED

Free tax aid offered to help people file for valuable tax credits

Free tax aid is available at locations throughout Sarasota County for quick filing of federal individual income tax returns at AARP tax aid sites and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites.

Residents who earned \$49,000 or less last year can use the VITA tax aid sites in Sarasota County. There are no income limits or age limits at the AARP sites. This service is not for business returns or complex tax issues.

The United Way of Sarasota County will operate eight VITA sites (six in Sarasota County) as part of a coordinated effort between the United Way's Financial Stability Partnership and the Sarasota County Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Task Force. The goal is to help ensure that residents who are eligible for the various tax credits receive their earned share. The other 10 tax aid sites will be operated by the AARP foundation. There are no appointments at the AARP or VITA sites.

Both the AARP and VITA free tax sites allow residents to electronically file their tax returns so they can receive refunds, if eligible, sooner. Generally, a refund can be posted to a person's bank account within seven to 10 days after the visit to one of the AARP or VITA sites. Trained IRS-certified volunteers will be at each location to provide free personal income tax assistance to EITC-eligible residents and older adults (some guidelines apply). Services include responding to questions; assisting eligible persons, including older adults, in filing their taxes; and support in reporting and receiving the benefit of all available and eligible credits, including the EITC and Child Tax Credit.

Many people will qualify for the EITC for the first time because their income declined, their marital status changed or they added children to their families. Families with three or more children also get an extra boost with a larger EITC this year. The EITC can make life a little easier for workers struggling to make ends meet in today's tight economy—up to \$5,600, or more. Yet, the Internal Revenue Service estimates one in four eligible taxpayers could miss out on this valuable tax credit.

Persons who earned \$49,000 or less from wages or self-employment in 2010 are encouraged to see if they qualify. Eligible taxpayers can get their EITC only if they file federal income tax returns – even if they are not otherwise required to file – and specifically claim the credit.

For more information, including a link to online EITC filing, visit the Sarasota County government website at www.scgov.net. If you do not have computer access, call United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota Inc. by dialing 211 for more information. Those with mobile or pay phones should call 941-308-4357.

Sarasota County Extension

<http://sarasota.ifas.ufl.edu/>

UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension -

6700 Clark Road, Twin Lakes Park, Sarasota, FL 34241-9328

Phone: (941) 861-5000 (Ask for the Sarasota County Extension)

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.



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A Colonial Gables resident since 1978. Realtor since 1987
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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

March 2011 Edition



Upcoming Yard Sale



Colonial Gables Homeowners Association will sponsor a community yard sale. This will include advertisement in various publications for **March 26, 2011** from 8 AM to 1 PM. **Rain date April 2nd.** A listing of those yard sales that have made a donation will be listed in a master yard sale listing that will be provided to guests as they arrive, along with a map. Please see the attached flyer for more information, or call Robert Summerall (Vice President) or email Lori Rinker (Treasurer/Secretary). Your information must be submitted by **March 14, 2011.**



Sarasota County School events –

March 7 - March 11, Spring Break. March 30th, End of the third grading period

Applications now being accepted*

Sarasota High is proud to announce that they will be offering the AICE Diploma at Sarasota High. Current 9th and 10th grade students will have the opportunity to attain the AICE Diploma through limited course offerings. Students who complete the AICE Diploma and complete 75 hours of community service are awarded the Florida Bright Futures Scholarship.

For more information, visit <http://www.sarasota.k12.fl.us/shs/> or contact Sarasota High School -1000 South School Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34237 | phone: 941-955-0181

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