

President's Message

As I drove into Lake Sarasota yesterday, to check out a "Community Yard Sale" I noticed two people handing out maps. I thought, "How nice". It gave me a sense of friendliness. It also made me wonder, "Just how do you get people to volunteer to work for their community"? There are 620 houses in Colonial Gables. Just 183 of them sent in dues last year. That's just 29.5 percent. We are so lucky that our dues are "voluntary" and that it's only \$20 per year. Even in this economy, that is a bargain and shouldn't be impossible for *at least* the majority of people who live here.

Luckily there are those neighbors who pick up trash while they're out walking. Or bring in the trash cans of neighbors with difficulties. I'm sure there are countless stories of neighbors helping neighbors. But the community belongs to all of us. How we treat this development makes a statement about all of us.

We will be holding elections of officers at the next meeting. Does that mean that we can expect a good turnout? Probably not. Pretty much the same officers have been doing the same jobs for years. The same few people will be attending the 4 meetings that we have a year (reduced because of poor turnout and room rental fees) with the exception of a few new faces every now and then. Why is this? Is there something we could be doing better? I'm sure there is. This is your forum. If you have any ideas we'd love to hear them.

Florida Driver License are Required!

Issues have been raised concerning the various types of cycles being used in our neighborhood. Please review the license requirements below. Individuals that have their driver's license revoked for DUI would also not be eligible to ride mopeds or scooters on the streets.

Scooters

Depending on its makeup, a scooter could be classified as a motorcycle, moped, or even a bicycle/motorized scooter.

A motorized scooter is defined as a vehicle without a seat or saddle for the use of the rider, designed to travel on three or fewer wheels, and a maximum speed of 30 miles mph on level ground. *You are required to have at least a Class E driver's license and be 16 years old to ride a scooter.*

Mopeds

State legislators define a moped as a vehicle fitting all of the following criteria:

- Pedals that allow you to propel the vehicle
- A seat for the rider
- Three or fewer wheels
- Motor of two-brake horsepower or less
- Maximum speed of 30 mph on level ground
- Automatic power-drive system
- Displacement of 50 cc or less (for those with an internal combustion engine)

Moped drivers need to have at least a Class E driver's license, and be 16 or older to drive a moped on a public road. A motorcycle endorsement isn't required.

<http://www.flhsmv.gov/ddl/geninfo.html>

2009 How-to Guide for residential solid waste.

Trash Collection for Colonial Gables

Collection containers and other *items should be placed at the curb no earlier than Monday evening (5 p.m.) for the Tuesday collection day.* All items must be at the curb by 6 a.m. on Tuesday collection day. *Containers must be removed from the curb by 10 a.m. on Wednesday* and stored inside the garage, beside or behind the house.

Appliances and Electronics

Residents may call Waste Management at 493-4100 to schedule a pick-up for an appliance or an electronic item. Requests for pick-ups must be made 48 hours prior to your regular collection day. This service is included at no additional cost (item limits may apply).

Example items:

- Air Conditioners (window units only)
- Clothes dryers
- Refrigerators & Freezers(remove doors)
- Televisions
- Monitors

Electronics may also be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste collection center. Located at 8750 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota. Center is open Wednesday through Saturday, 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Appliances such as blenders, coffee makers, mixers, toasters, radios, stereos, VCR and DVD players can be placed in the garbage for disposal.

The popular **Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) Summer Youth Pass** is now available at five locations around the county. The \$10 pass allows youths up to 19 years old unlimited ridership on SCAT buses from June 1-Aug. 31. For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit the Web site, www.scgov.net/SCAT.

Take Pride

With the bottom dropping out of the real estate market there are probably many empty houses in our community. There are also lots of people struggling to keep their houses. Putting food on your table and keeping the electricity on are ultimately important but pride doesn't cost a thing.

Do you cut across the median to turn into your driveway rather than going down to a turnaround? How much time do you really save? The ruts and lack of grass doesn't look good. Challenge yourself to change the habit.

Take a look at your house from the curbside. Is there anything that you could do to clean up the appearance? Items on the side that you mean to throw out; garbage cans that could be taken around to the back, etc. A gallon of bleach is less than a \$1. Bleach, water and a scrub brush can make mildewed paint look almost new.

Let's not let ourselves down while the economy is struggling. Let's save our community by taking pride in it.

Rothenbach Park opens with family picnic

Sarasota County's latest park, Rothenbach Park, 8650 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota. Park is named in honor former Deputy County Administrator and Director of Parks and Recreation Walter J. Rothenbach Jr.

Site of a former county landfill, the 450-acre park now offers more than 4-miles of recreational trails, two playgrounds, picnic pavilion complete with grill and fireplace, restrooms, concession area and one of the state's largest solar arrays. For more information on Rothenbach Park contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit www.scgov.net.



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Register now for Parks and Recreation summer camps

Registration for Sarasota County Parks and Recreation summer camps began March 9. There are 12 weeks of Summer Vacation in the Parks summer camp programs lasting from three days to four weeks. Camps are available for children who will be entering grades 1-9. Program and registration information is available online at www.parksonline.scgov.net or in the printed Summer Camp Guide that is available at any Sarasota County recreation center, library or county building. Financial assistance is available to qualifying Sarasota County residents for day and adventure camps. Payment plans are available to all registrants. Volunteer opportunities are available for youth entering 10th grade to complete service hours needed for school while assisting counselors and enjoying camp activities. Following an interview, a limited number of volunteers will be used at locations throughout the county. For more information, visit www.parksonline.scgov.net, pick up a summer camp brochure at any recreation center, library or government building, or contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

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

Business Card \$ 10
Quarter page \$ 20
Half page \$ 30
Pre-printed Inserts \$ 75

C.G.H.A wants to promote as many Colonial Gables residents as possible. Email your advertisement today to djpat77@verizon.net

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

Colonial Gables News

May 2009 Edition



GENERAL MEETINGS
Colonial Oaks Park –
Room C
General Meeting –

Elections of the 2009/2010
Colonial Gables Homeowners
Association board

May 5, 2009
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Your Colonial Gables Homeowner's Association Board will conduct elections for the Association board for the Board year, July 1, 2009 thru June 30, 2010.

If you have the desire to be a board member, you must live in the neighborhood and be a paid member. Both homeowners and renters are welcome to join and/or be a board member.

Paid members, please come vote for the next board at the next general meeting on May 5th

Colonial Gables
Homeowners Association
Founded 1980

GENERAL MEETINGS
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Room C
General Meeting –
Elections:
May 5, 2009
7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

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