

Program offers homeowners rebates for energy saving improvements

Homeowners can get rebates and low-interest loans to upgrade their properties with energy saving technologies under a new Get Energy Smart Retrofit rebate program. The program is being offered by Sarasota County and the cities of North Port, Venice and Sarasota.

People can sign up for the program at www.GetEnergySmart.net. The program provides a list of participating contractors who have been qualified to perform eligible home improvements that reduce energy consumption and save money. Once completed, homeowners can apply for rebates on specific energy saving home improvements. The Get Energy Smart Retrofit Program is a 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 campaign lowers community energy costs and greenhouse gas emissions while improving the economy through job creation and business opportunities.

For more information, contact the program administrator, Dwell Green at 800-863-1794 or visit www.GetEnergySmart.net.

New Fence Requirements for Sarasota County

Zoning Regulations, Section 7.8.1

Fences and Walls in Residential Districts as of August 3, 2010

Q. Is a permit for a fence required in Sarasota?

A. Yes, if the fence exceeds 4 feet in height.

Q. Is chain link fence allowed?

A. Chain link fences are prohibited in the required front yard and/or required yard facing a street or right-of-way.

Q. Is there a maximum height of a fence?

A. The maximum height along a side or rear lot line is eight feet. Ornamental decorations and/or light fixtures on the pillars or support posts are allowed and can be up to 18 inches above the maximum height.

Q. Does the good side of the fence have to face out?

A. Yes.

Q. What do I need to submit for a fence permit?

A. Two copies of a simple site-plan showing the property and all existing structures (hand drawn site-plans will suffice). Label the proposed fence location(s) and indicate height on the site-plan. Specify landscape area(s) and indicate how the requirement will be met.

Q. How much will a permit for a fence cost?

A. \$65.00 for Zoning Review & Records Management

Q. Who can I call for further information?

A. You can reach Sarasota County Zoning Department at 861-5000.

911 tips for seniors

Today's Seniors are more healthy and active than ever before, but like everyone, they need to pay attention to health and safety risks. Americans over the age of 65 have a fire death rate nearly twice the national average. For those over 75, the rate jumps to three times the national average.

Sarasota County urges seniors to take steps to remain safe, whether they live independently or in a care facility:

Invest in a touch-tone phone with large, easy-to-read numbers. Always make sure the phone is set to touch-tone dialing and not pulse dialing.

Call 9-1-1 right away in an emergency.

Dialing "0" will not always connect you with an operator nearby. It may connect you with an operator many hundreds of miles away. Always dial 9-1-1 for local police, fire or medical emergency assistance.

Call 9-1-1 before calling a family member. Once help is on the way, arrangements can be made to notify your family.

Stay on the line with the 9-1-1 call taker and answer all questions. The more information they have, the better able they are to help you.

Try to be patient and stay calm. The call taker and emergency dispatchers may need to ask additional questions while help is on the way.

The 9-1-1 system allows the call taker to "know" where you are calling from even if you cannot speak – for instance, if you are experiencing a stroke or if there is an intruder in your home. Just dial 9-1-1 and leave the phone off the hook. Do not hang up.

Post your address by your telephone. If you have just moved you may have a new address, but you may recite your old address in an emergency situation. You may have visitors who are not familiar with your address. Giving the wrong address makes it difficult for the call taker to verify the address that appears on the computer screen.

Emergency responders cannot help you if they cannot find you. Put your house number in large white numbers against a dark background outside your home so it can be seen from the road day or night.

Any calls to 9-1-1 are free, even from pay phones or cell phones.

911 is a 24-hour-a-day service. Call immediately when an emergency occurs, even if it is in the middle of the night.

Keep your medical history taped to the refrigerator in an envelope clearly marked with your doctor's phone numbers.

For more information or if you wish to have someone speak to a group on the proper use of 9-1-1, contact Sarasota County Public Safety Communications, 941-861-5000

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 on Hayden Blvd area, and the Winderwood Drive 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.



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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.

Holiday Party

Our annual Neighborhood Winter Holiday Party will be on December 7th, from 6:30 to 8:30 at Colonial Oaks Park, Room A.

The party is open to all residents of the Colonial Gables. You do not have to be a member of the association to attend the party.

Join us for fun and food. Start the holiday season off with peace and good will by coming and sharing the evening with friends and neighbors. We ask that each family attending to bring a covered disk (casseroles, meatballs, chicken, chili, scalloped potatoes, vegetables, salad, etc.) or a dessert (cake, pie, brownies, cookies, etc.) to share at the "Pot Luck Dinner".

The Association will provide some food, drinks, plates, eating utensils, cups and napkins. If you have any questions, call Carol Daniels at 371-3275.

Colonial Gables News

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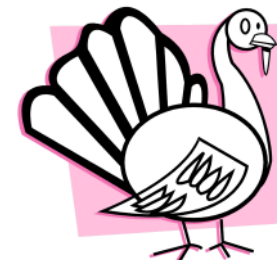
VETERANS' DAY

The City of Sarasota in conjunction with the Sarasota Patriotic Observance Committee will host the annual Veterans' Day parade and a special flagpole dedication in downtown Sarasota on Veterans' Day, Thursday, November 11, 2010 starting at 10:00 a.m. The combined events will pay tribute to Sarasota's longstanding history of honoring military personnel. The events are free and the public is encouraged to attend



Happy Thanksgiving

November 24-26 - Thanksgiving Holiday-No School for students



**Colonial Gables
Homeowners Association
Founded 1980**

GENERAL MEETINGS

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

**Dec 7, 2010
6:30 - 8:30 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