

Graffiti Prevention

"Tagging" is the permanent marking of public or private property with initials or an acronym to gain recognition and notoriety. The intent is to deface as many surfaces in the most notable way possible. When used by gangs, graffiti elevates violence and promotes gang membership. Graffiti also contributes to the overall decline of the neighborhood as it gives the impression that no one cares about the overall state of the community. However, there are things you can do to prevent such activity.

- Paint over graffiti immediately! A tagged wall is ten times more likely to be vandalized than a clean wall. A patched over wall is three times more likely to be vandalized than a completely painted wall.
- Plant Holly, Bougainvillea, or other plants that present a barrier in front of frequently tagged walls.
- Install motion activated lights in dark areas that may be prone to vandalism.
- Know your neighbors and be aware of activity in your neighborhood.
- Talk to your children about the consequences of vandalism and property damage. Remember that parents of children involved in graffiti can be held financially liable.
- Apply protection products to minimize potential damage done by graffiti.

What can the public do to help?

- In Progress Graffiti Calls

If you see graffiti/vandalism in progress, dial 911. Do NOT approach those involved in what you believe to be criminal activity. Stay on the line with 911.

Pre-existing Graffiti

- Anyone can report a graffiti location online through the Sheriff's Office web site. The electronic form is quick and easy to use. Simply type www.sarasotasheriff.org and click on the Graffiti link or email ssograffiti@scgov.net

Library hours are changing

Beginning Oct. 5, all eight Sarasota County libraries will begin opening at 10 a.m. One day a week, some of the eight libraries will close at 5 p.m. One day a week, they will close 8 p.m. Visit <http://www.sclibs.net/Libraries/Hours.aspx>. The new operating hours will provide consistent service throughout the system. Library officials adopted the new hours after studying patron counts, attendance patterns, circulation, program attendance, patterns of meeting room use and library location access.

The Sarasota County library system Web site, www.sclibs.net, continues to offer services 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so that patrons may reserve materials for pickup, read e-books, access databases or contact a librarian for additional assistance.

Sarasota County public school event & holidays

Oct 30th – Professional Day-No Classes

Nov 25-27th - Thanksgiving Holiday - No classes.

County School District Web site: www.sarasotacountyschools.net.

Please use caution within school zones and crossings!



Flu (influenza) is caused by a virus spread through the droplets from sneezes or coughs. These droplets land on surfaces, allowing the virus to spread to others when touched. Three simple steps (Washing hands, Covering coughs, and Staying home if sick) can help prevent you from contracting or spreading the flu.

Flu Prevention

In addition to getting a vaccination (flu shot), you can help protect yourself against the flu by following these simple steps:

- **Cover your coughs** and sneezes with your elbow or a tissue, not your bare hand.
- **Stay at home** when you are sick. Keep sick children home. Stay home until free from fever at least 24 hours (without the use of fever-reducing medicine).
- **Wash your hands** frequently with soap or sanitizer.

Call Sarasota County Health Department Flu Information Line at (941) 861-2800

Sarasota County Libraries Offer Audiobooks 24hours/7days*

Sarasota County residents with library cards now have around-the-clock access to audiobooks. The audiobooks can be downloaded free to media players including iPods and others using the WMA or MP3 format.

The Sarasota County library system is collaborating with OverDrive, a leading distributor of digital media, to offer audiobooks to library customers. OverDrive provides download services for thousands of libraries with support for PC, Mac and Sony Reader. "The OverDrive service offers yet another convenient way for Sarasota County library customers to enjoy books on their time," said Laurie Bates-Weir, Web Services Librarian. "Customers will love it because they get what they want, when they want it. We love it because it helps us reduce cost while continuing to offer superior service combined with state-of-the-art technology." Library cardholders can go to the library's download center at ecat.lib.overdrive.com to browse audiobook titles available and check out an audiobook with a simple click of the mouse. The system is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. For more information about the audiobook service, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit the library's Web site at www.sclibs.net.

County Road Projects / Construction Honore Avenue

Construction has begun on the Honore Avenue improvement project from Fruitville to Bee Ridge roads. Currently, utility lines and storm drainage structures are being installed between Phillippi Creek and Colonial Oaks Boulevard. There may be short periods (5-10 minutes) of a one-lane flagging operation at Honore Avenue and Colonial Oaks Boulevard to allow for drainage work behind the curb. Work on the bridge substructure is scheduled to begin on Oct. 19. Construction will be done in three phases, and is expected to be completed in March 2011.

Public Service Announcement

In response to an intensifying outbreak in the United States and internationally caused by the Swine Flu, the United States Government has declared a public health emergency in the United States. DeafMD and the Centers for Disease Control are working hard to bring you the most up to date information available and our response goals are to reduce the spread and severity of the illness, and to provide information to help health care providers, public health officials and the public address the challenges posed by this emergency. This information about this health emergency is very important, please visit www.sarasotahealth.org for more information.

Flu information lines:

Sarasota County - (941) 861-2800
Florida Department of Health - (877) 352-3581
[Hours 8 AM - 8 PM. AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH, SPANISH, AND HAITIAN CREOLE]

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.

WARNING . . .

Our GREAT SERVICE and LOW RATES have been known to cause:

- overwhelming joy
- shortness of breath
- "butterflies in stomach" feeling

Auto / Motorcycle / Flood / Homeowners / Condo



Steven Pajevic
Agency Principal



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

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 djpat77@verizon.net.



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FREE ESTIMATES

Colonial Gables News

October 2009 Edition



PRESIDENTS REPORT

Looking for volunteers to assist with our next community project. Will be working in three areas, Hayden and Woodmont entrance, and the tree area (with large wall) on Oct 24th, starting at 7 am until finished. Looking to complete mulching of the Woodmont entrance area, trim palms and planting at Hayden and weeding, and painting Woodmont tree wall. We are looking for all kids, moms, dads and any other residents of the community to lend a helping hand in making a difference to their community. Thank you for your continued support and assistance. I would like to also thank Dorothy Chidester for all the work she has done trimming the plants at Woodmont. THANKS DOROTHY!!!!!!!
Ken Jomisko

Vice -PRESIDENTS REPORT

Working with county staff to review sidewalks throughout Colonial Gables, that are in need of repair. If you have an area to report, please contact Robert with the location and type of necessary repair. Robert Summerall phone 234-3982 or send an email handyrobert@comcast.net

Sarasota County commissioners approve budget with no increase in millage

Sarasota County commissioners approved the proposed fiscal year 2010 budget and the countywide millage rate to fund that budget following a public hearing Monday evening, Sept. 28, at the Robert L. Anderson Administration Center.

The millage rate to fund the \$1 billion budget remains at 3.3384 mills, the same millage rate approved for fiscal year 2009. The millage rate approved by county commissioners funds only county services such as parks and libraries and the elected constitutional officers. It does not include the millage set by the Sarasota County School Board, other independent boards and the municipalities.

The county's fiscal year begins Oct. 1 and runs to Sept. 30, 2010. For more information about the fiscal year 2010 budget, call the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.

Colonial Gables
Homeowners Association
Founded 1980

GENERAL MEETINGS

Colonial Oaks Park –
5300 Colonial Oaks Blvd
Sarasota 34232

Room A

Holiday Party
December 1, 2009
6:30 - 8:30p.m.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

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~Vice President ~
Robert Summerall
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