

# SCGOV EVENT

Sarasota County Communications [scgov.net](http://scgov.net) | 941.861.5000 | TV

**March 27, 2009**

**Media contact:** Curt Preisser, 941-861-5884; cell 941-650-2883; [cpreisse@scgov.net](mailto:cpreisse@scgov.net)

**Project contacts:** Carolyn Brown, 941-861-9866; cell 941-650-5549;

[cnbrown@scgov.net](mailto:cnbrown@scgov.net)

Mary Sassi Furtado, 941-232-6516; [msassi@scgov.net](mailto:msassi@scgov.net)

Jenny Yarabek, 941-232-4050; [jyarabek@scgov.net](mailto:jyarabek@scgov.net)

## **'MEET HERE! PLAY HERE!' Sarasota County has something for everyone**

The price to enjoy many Sarasota County events and activities continues to be affordable or even free for families. "MEET HERE! PLAY HERE! Sarasota County – Something for everyone!" is a new initiative to encourage residents from Englewood to North Port to come out and play, reconnect with friends and neighbors or form new relationships.

Early April finds Easter egg hunts for kids cropping up in parks across the county – check the calendar at [http://www.sarasotafl.org/things\\_to\\_do/events/](http://www.sarasotafl.org/things_to_do/events/) to find one close in North or South County and see the many other events taking place this month.

Enjoy a beach nature walk on one of Sarasota County's beautiful beaches, hike through a preserve, attend one of many outdoor concerts, swim in the masters program at a pool, join a yoga class, attend a literature discussion or learn to dance.

The county offers an amazing array of opportunities to become revitalized, rejuvenated and inspired. Here are some of the featured events taking place in April:

### **Wednesday, April 1**

**What:** T-REC Beach Party 2009

**When:** 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

**Where:** Siesta Key Beach (at the large pavilion on the south side of the picnic area), 948 Beach Road, Sarasota

**Description:** Party on the beach with music by "Wired for Sound." Bring a lunch and sunscreen. Water and some healthy snacks will be provided. Event is free for all teens and adults with disabilities. Please R.S.V.P. by March 30

**Contact for public:** For more information, call the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for information about the T-REC Beach Party at Siesta Key Beach.

Information is also available at <http://www.parksonline.scgov.net>

**Media Contact:** Andrea King, 941-486-2781, [alking@scgov.net](mailto:alking@scgov.net)

### **Saturday, April 4**

**What:** 9-1-1 Open House and YMCA Healthy Kids Day

**When:** 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Where:** Sarasota County Administration Center, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota

**Description:** The annual 911 Open House and YMCA Healthy Kids Day is a free family health and safety event held in honor of National Public Safety Telecommunications Week — which honors first responders — and the National YMCA Healthy Kids Day, which encourages children and families to adopt behaviors that support a healthy lifestyle. The event will feature games for children, including the popular Firefighter's Challenge and Safety City, as well as a Nintendo Wii Tournament, YMCA summer camp experience centers, and tours of the 9-1-1 Call Center. The first 500 families to arrive will receive a free family fitness kit filled with fitness equipment, outdoor toys and healthy living information. Safety characters Terry the Talking Telephone and Red E. Fox will be making appearances along with wellness character, Y Guy. Health food and refreshments will be served while supplies last. Prizes will be given away hourly.

**Contact for public:** For more information, call the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about the 9-1-1 Open House and YMCA Healthy Kids Day.

**Media Contact:** Grant Rinaca, 941-861-5571, [grinaca@scgov.net](mailto:grinaca@scgov.net)

### **Saturday, April 18**

**What:** Fido Fest

**When:** 9 a.m. – noon

**Where:** 17<sup>th</sup> Street Paw Park, 4570 17<sup>th</sup> St., Sarasota

**Description:** Bring your pooch to this free event and enjoy a day of fun, excitement and education inside the gated 17<sup>th</sup> Street Paw Park. Events include a dog costume contest, best tricks contest, owner/dog lookalike contest and a dog jog for dogs and their owners. Prizes awarded. Demonstrations include grooming tips, dog tricks, obedience training and health screenings. There will also be pet adoptions, a vendor showcase and giveaways.

**Contact for public:** For more information contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about Fido Fest at the 17<sup>th</sup> Street Paw Park. More information is available at <http://www.parksonline.scgov.net>

**Media Contact:** Jonathan Poyner, 941-861-9853, [jpoyner@scgov.net](mailto:jpoyner@scgov.net)  
Carissa Potts, 941-358-2855, [cpotts@scgov.net](mailto:cpotts@scgov.net)

### **Monday, April 20**

**What:** Celebrating the Earth – Preserves Protecting the Watershed

**When:** 9 – 11 a.m.

**Where:** South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve, at the intersection of Ocelot and Phorus Roads, Venice

**Description:** Join Sarasota Bay Estuary Program Public Outreach Coordinator Julia Burch for an eco-nature walk. Learn how protected places like South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve help safeguard local waterways from pollution, how different habitats help safeguard communities and waterways from natural and man-made damage, plus receive tips on how to create a bay-friendly yard. In addition to the numerous subtropical plants, the preserve supports nesting bald eagles, Florida scrub-jays and gopher tortoises (all protected animal species). Space is limited; registration available online at [www.scgov.net/calendar](http://www.scgov.net/calendar).

**Contact for public:** For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask for Natural Resources.

**Media Contact:** Debby Zeilman, 941-861-6222, [dzeilman@scgov.net](mailto:dzeilman@scgov.net)