

April 17, 2009

Media contact: Crystal Pruitt, 941-861-5900; cell 941-650-0695; cpruitt@scgov.net

Project contact: Laird Wreford, 941-861-6231; cell 941-8097491; lwreford@scgov.net

Public invited to post-disaster planning forum

How would Sarasota County coastal communities recover from a disaster like a major hurricane? Residents are invited to an open forum to discuss ideas for rebuilding. The public forum is at 4:30 p.m. Monday, April 27, at Twin Lakes Park, 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota.

Sarasota County faces ongoing threats from hurricanes and continuing beach erosion that affects established neighborhoods and tourism. The county is planning for disaster recovery by creating a Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan (PDRP).

A PDRP identifies policies, operational strategies, and roles and responsibilities that will guide decisions, long-term recovery and redevelopment after a disaster. The plan emphasizes opportunities to mitigate hazards and make community improvements consistent with the comprehensive plan and with citizen participation. Recovery topics will include:

- Business resumption and economic redevelopment.
- Housing repair and reconstruction.
- Infrastructure restoration.
- Short-term recovery that affects long-term redevelopment.
- Sustainable land use.
- Environmental restoration.

Sarasota County is one of five Florida counties creating a PDRP in a pilot project for the Florida Department of Community Affairs and Florida Division of Emergency Management. The experience of Hillsborough, Polk, Manatee, Nassau and Sarasota counties will guide the state in planning other PDRPs. Sarasota County will be featured as a pioneering case study in the State's Post-Disaster Redevelopment Planning guidebook.

For more information contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or visit www.scgov.net and ask about the Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan forum

-end-