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Siesta Key Village Beautification to be celebrated at July 6 community event

About a year after it began, Siesta Key Village residents and businesses, along with county officials and area utilities, are preparing to celebrate the successful completion of a major streetscape enhancement project that has brought a new look and ambiance to the village.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony will be held at 9 a.m. Monday, July 6, at the new gazebo at the corner of Ocean Boulevard and Canal Road, Siesta Key.

The project was completed through a partnership of Sarasota County, the Siesta Key Village Association (SKVA), Florida Power & Light Co., Comcast and Verizon Communications. The nearly \$3.6 million project was completed under budget and within the contract deadline.

Under Phase 1, which started in spring 2008, the overhead power, cable and telephone utility lines were relocated underground along Ocean Boulevard to the village. Phase 2, which began in late summer 2008, included all the streetscape enhancements.

The streetscape improvements to the village were made along Ocean Boulevard, from Beach Road to south of Treasure Boat Way. They included the design and construction of decorative brick roadway medallions and sidewalks, redesigned brick crosswalks, planting of shade trees and tropical landscaping, decorative streetscape furniture such as benches, trash receptacles, signage, decorative street lighting and a centrally located gazebo used as a gathering point for village residents.

Approximately 40 Shady Lady Black Olive trees, more than 50 coconut, sabal, silver and European fan palms, and various other types of trees and ground cover were added to supplement the more than 40,000 square feet of brick paver sidewalks and crosswalks installed throughout the village.

Florida Power & Light Co. and its contractor, Utility Lines Construction Services Inc., oversaw the construction of Phase 1. WilsonMiller Inc. and David Johnston & Associates Inc. designed the project and assisted with construction oversight. Halfacre Construction Co. of Sarasota was the contractor.

Funding was provided primarily by the penny surtax (1-cent sales tax).

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000.