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Budget Task Force to meet Wednesday, Thursday

Members of the Budget Task Force will receive more information from Sarasota County staff this week and start work on their report to the county commission.

Task force members will meet at 6 p.m. Wednesday, July 29, in the third floor Think Tank of the County Administration Center, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota and again at 6 p.m. Thursday, July 30, in the first floor Press Room of the County Administration Center.

The Wednesday session will focus on the budgets for Construction Management Services, Emergency Services, Talent and Performance Management, Communications, Financial Planning and Enterprise Information Technology.

Thursday, task force members will begin drafting their report regarding the county budget, which they will deliver to the county commission on Sept. 8.

Both meetings are public but only the Wednesday meeting will be aired live over Access Sarasota TV on Comcast channel 19 and Verizon channel 32, and webcast over scgov.net.

Sarasota County commissioners appointed the 10-member task force to review the county's proposed fiscal year 2010 budget and make recommendations about priorities.

Residents can also provide feedback about county budget priorities through an online budget tool at www.scgov.net/CommunityConnections. This web-based survey allows property owners to enter their assessed property value and shows the amount of their property tax bill that pays for services such as fire and emergency medical service, libraries and parks. Property owners can select different levels of service for these areas and see how changing the level of service affects their property tax bill.

For additional information on the Citizens' Budget Task Force, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 or go to the county's Web site at www.scgov.net.

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