

Sept. 14, 2009

Media contact: Warren Richardson, 941-232-53888; wrichardson@scgov.net

Project contact: Demetra McBride, 941-232-6825; dmcbride@scgov.net

Teresa Mast, 941-861-5415; tmast@scgov.net

Kensington Park celebrates trees and more

Residents of Kensington Park will gather at Calvary Chapel Church, 3800 27th Parkway, Sarasota at 10 a.m., Saturday, Sept. 19, to cut the ribbon celebrating the introduction of nearly 800 trees to the neighborhood. Installation of the trees came through Sarasota County's street tree surtax project and the urban forest initiative.

The ribbon cutting ceremony will take place following remarks from County Commissioner Carolyn Mason and Jack Gurney, chair of the Sarasota Tree Advisory Council. Kathy Jones, president of the Kensington Park Civic Association and a representative of the Paver family, the developer of Kensington Park, will also speak.

"Kensington Park represents one of our older communities in Sarasota County, having started in 1956," said Jane Grogg, manager Sarasota County Neighborhood Services. "The planting of these trees serves our purpose in serving some of our underserved neighborhoods and enhancing the sense of place for the people who live there."

The trees were planted along Prudence Drive and 27th Parkway to create a future canopy road and at the terminus of Gold Avenue and 17th Street, creating a green portal to Kensington Park.

"This tree planting is part of our collective pact to serve citizens, sustain communities and link neighbors to the legacy of place making," said Demetra McBride, Natural Resources manager, Urban Forestry. "Fourteen years ago, Forestry planted canopy trees along the Strathmore enclave in Kensington Park and the results of that place making are evident today. The present tree planting takes that original place making another step forward."

-end-