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**Media contact:** Curt Preisser, 941-861-5884; cell 941-650-2883; [cpreisser@scgov.net](mailto:cpreisser@scgov.net)  
Jan Thornburg, 941-954-2613; cell 941-650-9693;

[jan.thornburg@sarasotagov.com](mailto:jan.thornburg@sarasotagov.com)

**Project contact:** Teresa Mast, 941-861-5415; [tmast@scgov.net](mailto:tmast@scgov.net)

## **Sarasota region wins national award for ‘Night Out’ program**

Sarasota County and the city of Sarasota have been jointly honored as a National Award Winner for outstanding participation in the 26<sup>th</sup> annual National Night Out program to prevent crime.

The award is presented by the National Association of Town Watch, which oversees America’s Night Out Against Crime. This is the second consecutive year the Greater Sarasota “National Night Out Against Crime” program has been recognized with the award.

The Sarasota County region is being recognized for organizational structure, neighborhood participation, media and promotional coverage and special events. An estimated 2,000 residents gathered in Payne Park in downtown Sarasota with the united purpose of keeping their community safe.

“This event has grown in popularity each year,” said Teresa Mast of Sarasota County Neighborhood Services. “It’s all about residents getting to know their neighbors, watching out for each other and building relationships across the community that focus on improving the quality of life through a zero tolerance for crime.”

Nationwide, last year's National Night Out campaign involved citizens, law enforcement agencies, civic groups, businesses, neighborhood organizations and local officials from over 10,000 communities from all 50 states, U.S. territories, Canadian cities and military bases worldwide.

For more information, contact the Sarasota County Call Center at 941-861-5000 and ask about National Night Out.

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