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**CORRECTION: An e-mail address, earned income limit, and days/times at two libraries were incorrectly stated. This version includes the updates which are noted in red.**

**MEDIA NOTE: A listing of AARP Foundation and Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Tax-Aide Sites is provided at the end of this release.**

## Free tax aide available

**Free** tax aide for quick filing of federal individual income tax returns will begin on Feb. 2 and continue through April 15, depending on the site. Low to moderate income individuals and families with an earned income of up to **\$41,646** in 2008 are advised to bring their tax documents to one of 13 sites in Sarasota, Venice, Englewood, and North Port, during established times. You may be eligible for up to \$4,824 in Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) OR Child Tax Credits (CTC). These refunds from the federal government can be used for unplanned expenses such as reliable transportation, safe and green housing, college funds or savings, skills training or to start a business.

The United Way of Sarasota County will operate two Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) sites as part of a coordinated effort between the United Way's Financial Stability Campaign and the Sarasota County Earned Income Tax Credit Task Force. The goal is to help ensure that residents who are eligible for the various tax credits receive their earned share. The other 11 tax aide sites will be operated by the AARP Foundation. There are no appointments at the AARP Foundation sites.

These Tax Aide E-file sites allow residents to electronically file their tax returns so they can receive any refund sooner. Generally, a refund can be posted to a person's bank account within nine to 16 days after the visit to one of the AARP Foundation or VITA Tax-Aide sites. Trained IRS-certified tax-aide volunteers will be at each location to provide free personal income tax assistance to EITC-eligible residents and older adults (some guidelines apply). Services include responding to questions, assisting eligible persons, including older adults in filing their taxes, reporting and receiving the benefit of all available and eligible credits including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit.

People are advised to bring these documents with you: 2007 tax return, social security cards for all family members, correct birth dates for all family members, all W-2 wage and tax statements for 2008, form 1098 mortgage interest and property taxes, Form 1099-DIV, C, INT, MISC, Q, R, RRB, SSA for 2008, a picture ID of you and your spouse if filing jointly (joint returns require that both filers be present to sign the form), and a voided check and/or savings account number for direct deposit (this is optional).

The Sarasota County Commission will issue a proclamation recognizing February as Sarasota County Tax Credit Awareness Month. Since these tax credits are also generally spent locally, this helps to improve the county's economy. In addition, this is a valuable service to help older residents who either need help filing their taxes or who need to consult about a tax issue.

For more information including a link to on-line EITC filing, visit the Sarasota County Government website at [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net). If you do not have computer access, call United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota, Inc. by dialing 2-1-1 for more information. Those with mobile or pay phones should call 941-308-4357.

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**Local AARP and VITA Tax Aide E-File Sites and their hours are as follows:**

**Sarasota sites**

**Fruitville Library**

100 Coburn Road, Sarasota 34240  
Monday through Thursday  
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
(Opens Feb. 2)

**Gulf Gate Library**

7112 Curtiss Ave., Sarasota 34231  
Monday; 4 to 8 p.m.  
Thursday, (**closed** first Thursday, **Feb. 5 and March 5**) 1 to 4 p.m.  
Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
(Opens Feb. 2)

**Selby Public Library**

1331 First St., Sarasota 34236  
Monday and Tuesday, **3 to 7 p.m.**  
Wednesday and Thursday 1 to **4** p.m.  
(Opens Feb. 2)

**Senior Friendship Center**

1888 Brother Geenen Way, Sarasota 34236  
Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
(Opens Feb. 3)

**North Sarasota County United Way Building (VITA Site)**

1445 Second St., Sarasota 34236  
Wednesday and Thursday 4 to 8 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
(Opens Feb. 4)

**Venice sites**

**Bay Indies Park**

950 Ridgewood Ave., Venice 34285  
Wednesday only; 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
(Opens Feb. 4)

**Jacaranda Public Library**

4143 Woodmere Blvd., Venice 34293  
Monday and Wednesday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
(Opens Feb. 2)

**South Sarasota County United Way Building (VITA Site) BY APPOINTMENT ONLY**

**Call 366-2686; ext. 316**

7810 S. Tamiami Trail, #A-4, Venice 34293  
Tuesday and Wednesday, 4 to 8 p.m.  
Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
(Opens Feb. 3)

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**AARP and VITA Tax Aide Sites – PAGE TWO**

**Venice Community Center**

326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice 34285  
Tuesday and Wednesday; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
(Opens Feb. 3)

**Englewood sites**

**Sun Trust Bank**

333 South Indiana Ave., Englewood 34223  
Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
(Opens Feb. 2)

**North Port sites**

**Holiday Park Recreation Center (Rec. Hall)**

5401 Holiday Park Blvd., North Port 34287  
Monday only; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
(Opens Feb. 2)

**North Port Community Education Center (AKA North Port Senior Center)**

4940 Pan American Blvd., North Port 34287  
Wednesday and Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
(Opens Feb. 4)

**North Port Library**

13800 Tamiami Trail, North Port 34287  
Thursday and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.  
(Opens Feb. 5)

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