

April 18, 2006

Project Contact: Hugh Henkel, (941) 861-5906, cell, 650-2754, hhenkel@scgov.net

Sarasota County is 2006 All-America City Award finalist

Sarasota County has been named one of 34 finalist communities for the 2006 All-America City Award program by the National Civic League. The All-America City Award final judging will occur in Anaheim, California on June 10 and 11.

The All-America City Award program is the nation's oldest community recognition effort. It recognizes communities of all sizes, including neighborhoods, towns, cities, counties and regions that have made major progress in meeting their most important needs.

The All-America City application focuses on identifying and addressing three community challenges, one of which must document how the lives of children and youth have been tangibly improved. Sarasota County's application recounted the impact of Home Computers for Sarasota County Students, a program that refurbishes, upgrades and distributes computers to students in households that don't have computers.

A second program recognized the need and impact of a community-based adult day respite program for caregivers. The program is provided by two organizations, A Special Time and Comfort Connection.

The third featured program is the Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team (NEST), a volunteer organization that increases awareness and advocates for native habitats and watersheds in the community.

Sarasota County has applied for the award the past three years, and last year was among the 30 finalists. This year's finalist communities are from across the country from Washington State to Florida and southern California to Maine. Miami is the only other Florida community in the list of finalists.

2006 All-America City Finalists

Community - Population

Lincoln, California – 33,000

Modesto, California – 207,634

Salinas, California – 151,060

Sierra Madre, California – 11,023

Golden, Colorado – 17,200

Longmont, Colorado – 82,798

Miami, Florida – 362,470

Sarasota County, Florida – 367,867

Braselton, Georgia – 1,206

Marietta, Georgia – 61,282

Hawarden, Iowa – 2,478

Elmhurst, Illinois – 42,762

Park Forest, Illinois – 23,462

Schaumburg, Illinois – 75,386

Madison, Indiana – 12,335

Lewiston, Maine – 35,690

Cape Girardeau, Missouri – 35,741

Kansas City, Missouri – 441,269

Greensboro, North Carolina – 223,891

Ogdensburg, New York – 12,364
Columbus, Ohio – 728,432
Fairview Park, Ohio – 12,572
Maumee, Ohio – 15,074
Durant, Oklahoma – 14,565
Harrisburg, Oregon – 3,275
Sherwood, Oregon – 14,540
Charleston, South Carolina – 96,650
North Augusta, South Carolina – 17,574
Richland County, South Carolina – 320,677
DeSoto, Texas – 45,500
Lancaster, Texas – 31,500
Pharr, Texas – 54,452
Layton City, Utah – 68,017
Pacific, Washington – 5,770

-end-