

“Democracy is not a spectator sport.”

Critical Times

Fostering
Community Dialogue
and Participation

Volume 8 Sarasota, Florida October-December, 2018 FREE

Eat Local This October

BY DARRYL MCCULLOUGH

Transition Sarasota, a non-profit that works to provide food and economic security by supporting sustainable local sources, has announced the schedule for its eighth annual Eat Local Week. More than twenty educational, informative, and fun events during the extended week of October 19-28 will showcase the diverse local food community in Sarasota and Manatee Counties.

The calendar includes a mix of farm-to-table dinners and tastings, tours, films and educational events. Two very popular returning events are the third annual Newtown Nation Big Mama’s Collard Fest, and the second annual Green Path Veterans Farm’s dinner and fundraiser for local veterans.

At the Big Mama’s Collard Green Fest from noon to 6:00 on Oct. 20, local chefs and cooks will compete for the honor of best collard green recipe. This family-friendly festival features vendors and entertainments reflecting the Cajun, Creole, Southern and Caribbean influences in historic Newtown.

The Green Path Veterans Farm To Table Dinner on Friday evening, Oct. 26 raises money for Green Path, a certified organic farm that is shared with Easter Seals Southwest Florida; it provides training to veterans in agricultural, landscaping and entrepreneurial skills. The evening event includes tours and an informal dinner made with local produce. Tickets can be purchased to attend or to sponsor a veteran’s attendance.

The 10-day Eat Local Week calendar starts on the evening of October 19 with a keynote talk by noted permaculture designer and educator Koreen Brennan, who will teach an introductory class on permaculture the following morning. New events feature partnerships with Grove Ladder Farm, Sarasota Honey, Siesta Key Rum, JDub’s Brewing and Sunshine Community Compost. Returning favorites include the annual kickoff of Transition Sarasota’s Suncoast Gleaning Project at Jessica’s Organic Farm, a farm-to-table dinner at Bradenton’s Ortygia Restaurant, and the always popular insider’s tour of



the Mote Aquaculture Research Park. New from Mote is an Ocean-to-Table Film Event & Panel Discussion: Stories of Sustainable US Seafood Farming. Also in the film department will be Green Movies That Matter’s screening of Food Choices, a documentary that explores the impact of our food on health and the environment. Several other educational events round out the program.

Many Eat Local Week events are offered free of charge. Some events with limited numbers of participants require pre-registration, and some require advance-purchase tickets. Check Transition Sarasota at www.transitionsrq.org or www.facebook.com/transitionsarasota for the full list of events and their details.

Trojan Horse Amendment?

BY CATHY ANTUNES

This November, Sarasota City voters will be deciding upon an amendment which would move City elections from the current March and May timing



to August and November, to coincide with congressional and other national and state races. At first glance, it seems like a good idea. Such a move would surely increase voter turnout for City elections. But if approved, what other changes will it bring? Who initiated this amendment and why? A closer look at the “Decide the Date” and “Change the Date” political action committees

and proponents of moving City elections raises important red flags.

Moving City elections from March and May to August and November will change important logistics and dynamics for City voters. Many City

Change the Date Contributions

	Argus Foundation	Chamber of Commerce	ACLU of Florida, Miami FL	Gulf Coast Builders Exchange	Realtors Political Advocacy Committee Orlando, FL	Total
5/28/2018	10,000	10,000				
6/28/2018			15,000			
7/20/2018				10,000	10,000	
Total	10,000	10,000	15,000	10,000	10,000	55,000

residents - snowbirds and year-round residents alike - aren’t here in August. Holding City Commission candidate debates at the same time as County, State and Federal races will place inevitable strain on many voters’ available time and attention for local races. There are many County government watchdogs (myself included) who would argue that November elections for the County Commission make those races an afterthought due to a bloated ballot. Heaping City elections upon already full August and November ballots will also make for longer voting prep time, voting times, and lines at polling stations, which in turn can have a negative impact on voter participation.

Most of the time there are more than two candidates for City Commission races. Currently our March/May elections allow for a candidate who gets more than 50% of the vote in March to win, eliminating the need for a May runoff. Makes sense. With the proposed change, even if a candidate wins the August election with 80% of the vote, that candidate must run against the runner-up. This election device - called a “blanket primary” is used in some states (like California) to allow all voters to participate in a primary regardless of party affiliation. But City elections are non-partisan already.

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A Watershed Moment for Progressives

BY DENNIS MALEY,
Editor, TheBradentonTimes.org

If political pundits were surprised by the incredible success of Senator Bernie Sanders' improbable insurgency during the 2016 Democratic presidential primary, they have been utterly awed by the progressive wave that's followed. From Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's stunning victory in New York to Andrew Gillum's shocking upset in Florida, far left candidates are using Sanders' blueprint to redefine the party heading into November's midterms. Jeff Weaver, the man behind the helm of Sanders' 2016 run, says we shouldn't be surprised.

Weaver, who was in Sarasota recently to promote his new book, *How Bernie Won: Inside the Revolution That's Taking Back Our Country--and Where We Go from Here*, said Bernie's success showed people that a progressive candidate was not doomed to failure.

"Progressives had been going with the mainstream establishment candidates for years, and they weren't delivering on issues that were important to them," said Weaver, who had also been the Senator's chief of staff. "Bernie ran on issues that they really cared about, and I think he proved that if someone talked about things like Medicare for All and a \$15 minimum wage, a lot of Americans would come to support it."

As proof, Weaver pointed to the dramatic change in perception from a policy that had once been held up as a socialist bogeyman and now



Jeff Weaver and Bernie Sanders

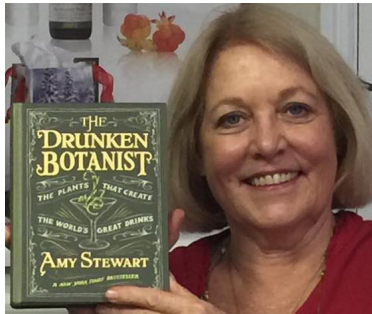
has support from more than half of Americans. "I think the latest poll showed that 52 percent of Americans favored Medicare for All," said Weaver. "I mean think about what a change that is from just a few years ago."

As for Florida's gubernatorial race, Weaver liked Tallahassee Mayor Andrew Gillum's chances. "He's an exciting candidate who's talking

about issues that are important to all Floridians, not just progressives, and he's up against an opponent who's basically embraced the policies of Donald Trump hook, line and sinker," said Weaver. "I think that voters in Florida are going to turn out for him on Election Day, and I think there are going to be some real surprises all over the country this November."

In Memoriam

We lost two dear members of the WSLR family over the summer. Eve Plews, host of No Nonsense Nutrition, passed away in early September and we lost Nano Rush, our volunteer data administrator, at the end of July. Eve was one of WSLR's 100



Eve Plews

Watt Members contributing \$1000 when the radio station was nothing but a dream and using her talents to produce a health and nutrition show to share her wealth of knowledge with the community. Eve lived life to the fullest – she loved music and was committed to the values we promote at WSLR. Nano was also a longtime supporter of

WSLR and Fogartyville – strong, opinionated, compassionate, dependable – we loved her and miss seeing her smiling face and her wonderful collection of hats. She was an inspiration – choosing death with dignity over treatment for late-stage cancer. We celebrated her life with a small circle of family and friends, just as she wanted it. There will be a celebration of life for Eve Plews on Friday, November 9 from 5-7pm at Selby Gardens. All that knew her are welcome to attend.



Nano Rush



Join the WSLR/Fogartyville TRIBE !

Fall Membership Drive - Wednesday, October 17 - Tuesday, October 23.
Call 941-894-6469 to become a member or donate online at www.wslr.org.



Critical Times is a publication of WSLR, Inc.

MISSION:

WSLR and Fogartyville feature locally produced programming and events that present cultural, artistic and political perspectives currently underrepresented in the media. Our goal is to inform and empower listeners to play an active role in WSLR and in their community. WSLR promotes equality, peace, sustainability, democracy, health, and social and economic justice.

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Creating Sustainable Communities

SUBMITTED BY: SARA KANE,
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Under the theme “Unique Perspectives for Community Solutions”, the 13th Annual Sustainable Communities Workshop will draw together residents, business owners and employees, non-profit leaders, and government officials to learn about the environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainability. Experts will discuss the latest strategies, resources and best practices, and offer hands-on learning sessions. The day-long event on November 29 will showcase solutions to creating and maintaining healthy, resilient, thriving communities.

“We’ve all heard about the environmental issues we face, but we often don’t know what we can do to help,” said Sara Kane, sustainability outreach coordinator with the county’s UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability Department. “At this year’s workshop, speakers will give their unique perspectives on how we can improve the quality of life in our area.”

Florida and Sarasota County continue to experience rapid population growth and development, with no slowdown in sight. Against that backdrop, the annual workshop offers insight on

sustainable approaches to energy use, construction, healthy living, transportation, and more.

The 2018 workshop, to be held 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida Event and Conference Center, at 4740 Cattlemen Road in Sarasota, will tackle a suite of sustainability-related topics, including the “overview effect,” with “Artistic Astronaut” Nicole Stott, plastic pollution solutions, environmental communication, habitat restoration, transportation approaches, and food systems.

Nicole Stott (www.theartisticastronaut.com), who has explored from the heights of outer space to the depths of our oceans, will deliver the main keynote address. In awe of what she experienced from these very special vantage points, Stott has dedicated her life to sharing the beauty of Earth from space with others. She believes that sharing these orbital and inner-space perspectives has the power to increase everyone’s appreciation of, and obligation to care for, our home planet and each other.

Early-bird registration of \$35 is available through Oct. 29, and \$45 after. Students pay just \$25. All registrations include continental breakfast, lunch, and afternoon snack. Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities are also available.



Artist/Astronaut Nicole Stott will be the keynote speaker at this year’s Sustainability Conference.

To register and for more information, visit www.scgov.net/SustainableCommunities or call the Sarasota County Contact Center at 941-861-5000.

Newtown Nation News

BY VALERIE BUCHAND,
President of the Newtown Nation

The Newtown Nation envisions a clean, vibrant, healthy, and diverse community with livable wage jobs, training for high-demand jobs, and fully-supported entrepreneurs within the Newtown neighborhood.

Our community has faced many challenges with issues such as health disparities, economic disadvantages, and misrepresentation through the decades. However, we remained resilient through the challenges, and a strong force against naysayers. This year, we are looking forward to an amazing year working towards enhancing our community through collaborations, partnerships, and sponsorships. The Newtown Nation is excited to share two upcoming events that YOU can be apart of to help them be successful, and have fun along the way.

On October 20, 2018, the **3rd Annual Big Mama’s Collard Greens Fest** will help kick off Eat Local Week hosted by Transition Sarasota. The FREE ADMISSION event will take place at Robert L Taylor Community Complex (1845 34th Street, Sarasota, FL. 34234) beginning at 12:30pm. There are openings for vendors AND participants in the Collard Greens Contest. Bring your family and friends for some fun, music, and dancing! A variety of food will be for sale from different vendors, as well as event t-shirts to always remembers your great time with us!

On October 27, 2018, our **1st Annual Curb Appeal** community clean-up event will be taking place across the Newtown neighborhood. Within Washington Court, Old Bradenton Road, 17th Street, and Myrtle Avenue, we hope to beautify the community by helping those that need help in their yards. We’ll be helping out with edging, cutting grass, trimming branches back, and general waste clean-up along the streets. We understand that city has contracted with Waste-Pro, but more must be done as waste seems to be inconsistently attended to. This is the community taking the issue into our own hands.

In addition to waste, we’re experiencing other infrastructural issues; street lights that have been burned out should be replaced (which Amaryllis Park Neighborhood Association has been working on fixing), and electricity poles need to be repaired. We are asking Pastors and church members, local college students, citizens in the Newtown

OCTOBER 19TH-28TH

Full details at TransitionSRQ.org

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Day	Time	Event
FRIDAY OCT. 19	7:00pm	Keynote & Kick-Off with Permaculture Expert, Koreen Brennan
SATURDAY OCT. 20	9:00am	Permaculture Workshop with Koreen Brennan
	12n	Bay Haven School Food Forest Tour
	12n-6pm	Newtown Farmers Market presents Big Mama’s Collard Greens Fest
	5-10pm	JDub’s Food Truck Rally
SUNDAY OCT. 21	9:30am	Manatee Rare Fruit Council’s Tour of Palma Sola Botanical Park
	1:00pm	Medicinal & Edible Plants Walk with Bob Linde
	3:00pm	Growing and Using Medicinal & Edible Herbs in Florida with Bob Linde
MONDAY OCT. 22	9:00am	Transition Sarasota’s Suncoast Gleaning Project Season Kick-off
	5:30pm	Slow Food Greater Sarasota presents Ortygia Restaurant’s Farm-to-Table Dinner
TUESDAY OCT. 23	6:30pm	Tropical Fruit Society of Sarasota presents Fruit Tree Horticulture 101
	7:00pm	Mote presents Ocean to Table Film & Panel Discussion: Stories of Sustainable US Seafood Farming
WEDNESDAY OCT. 24	10:00am	Mote Aquaculture Research Park Tour
	10:00am	Foraging with Green Deane
THURSDAY OCT. 25	5:30pm	Sunshine Community Compost presents Closing The Loop On Food Waste
FRIDAY OCT. 26	6:00pm	Green Path Veterans Farm to Table Dinner
	6:00pm	Green Movies That Matter presents “Food Choices”
SATURDAY OCT. 27	9:30am	SweetSong Groves Fruit Tree Paradise Workshop
	11am-6pm	Sarasota Honey Co. presents The Local Buzz About Bees
	1:00pm	Transition US presents Unleashing the Collective Genius: 10 Years in Transition
	3:00pm	Siesta Key Rum Distillery Tour and Tasting
SUNDAY OCT. 28	10:30am	Grove Ladder Farm presents Brunch In The Pasture
	1:00pm	Florida Native Plants Nursery presents Edible & Medicinal Plant Walk with Caitlin McMullen

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Keep Kids Learning

BY MICHELLE MORTON, MMORTON@ACLUFL.ORG

October is Youth Justice Awareness month, a time when advocates highlight the plight of young people ensnared in our persistent school-to-prison pipeline.

Exclusionary school discipline, such as suspensions and expulsions, increases the likelihood a youth will drop or be arrested. It also isn't effective at addressing problem behaviors. While Sarasota has made progress, it still removed students through suspensions and disciplinary reassignments nearly 3,500 times in the 2016-17 school year. We also have higher than average racial disparities, with black students nearly four times as likely to be removed as white students. This trend is echoed in arrests. Of the 723 youth arrests that same year, 32% were black youth. Only 9% of Sarasota's youth population is black. Our black students are more than six times as likely to be arrested at school as our white students.

It doesn't have to be this way.

A group of local advocates supported by organizations including the ACLU of Florida and Protect Our Public Schools Manasota are joining forces to ensure school discipline policies are effective, fair and uniform and that law enforcement's role is one of protection, not discipline. While many consider school resource officers part of the school community and informal counselors, studies show their presence increases the rate of youth arrests for petty crimes like disorderly conduct. School climate is a key indicator of school violence, yet we are doubling down on hardening schools – which has been shown to harm school climate – kids don't feel safe.

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Focus on School Security is Myopic

BY TOM GABOR

While Floridians are understandably focused on the mass shooting in Parkland, American schools now experience one intentional shooting a week on school grounds. Among G-7 countries, the U.S. has experienced 288 school shootings since 2009, whereas none of the other six nations has experienced more than two of these incidents.

While enhancing school security is a legitimate short-term measure in keeping students safe, it falls seriously short of a comprehensive approach to the problem. School attacks were exceedingly rare prior to 1992 and armed security, active shooter drills, and lockdown procedures, routine in public schools today, were unheard of prior to the 1990s. Thus, security vulnerabilities alone cannot account for the surge in school shootings, as schools now adopt far more security measures than in the past.

Harvard sociologist Robert Putnam has shown that 18 to 29 year olds are becoming more disengaged from community life. Their church attendance, involvement in public meetings and political activities have all declined sharply from the 1970s. Young people spend more time alone than they did decades ago and more time using electronic devices than they do with family and peers. Those experiencing some form of crisis are less likely to lean on the family, place of worship, or social organizations as their ties to these institutions are weaker.

Depression among the young has increased dramatically and there has been a 50 percent increase in suicide among 15 to 24 year olds from 1999-2014. This is the age group most at risk to commit school attacks. There is a significant pool of alienated and depressed young people who may experience despair and act out violently following a precipitating event, such as expulsion from school, loss of a relationship, ostracism by peers, or bullying.

Coinciding with this trend toward increasing social isolation, has been increasing access to

weapons designed for combat that can fire highly lethal, high velocity bullets rapidly and that, when equipped with high capacity magazines, can allow a shooter to discharge up to 100 rounds without reloading. The Parkland shooter



Tom Gabor

obtained his AR-15 legally when he was 18, despite numerous disturbing actions and calls to law enforcement.

The combination of a large pool of at-risk youth and easy access to highly lethal weapons is a recipe for the mass casualty shootings we have seen. Yet legislators, driven by short-term considerations, are often indifferent to the social factors driving this trend and unwilling to risk the political consequences associated with confronting an intransigent gun lobby that resists even the most popular and modest attempts at gun regulation. Following Parkland, Floridians are primarily offered enhanced school security on a low budget, along with the option of armed school personnel.

There are numerous "soft" targets for shooters, apart from schools, including theaters, shopping malls, clubs, airports, and stadiums. Thus, hardening schools alone fails to address the risks to which other citizens are exposed and may place other targets at increased risk as perpetrators seek less fortified targets. Many schools around the country already have adopted some basic security measures. In Florida, after

the Parkland mass shooting, just \$100 million has been allocated for school security, or about \$25,000 per public school — enough to install about a dozen security doors in classrooms.

A serious effort to enhance school security involves access control protocols (screening all who enter a school), surveillance through monitored cameras and patrols, adequate perimeter security, intrusion detection systems, security doors and bullet-resistant windows, adequately trained and properly armed security personnel; emergency communications, and lockdown procedures. Turning schools into prison-like facilities is prohibitively expensive, creates more fear and disruption for students and teachers, and fundamentally alters the learning environment.

In the unlikely event we went down this path, we would only mitigate risk of one type of soft target — schools. Until we address the factors that drive school shooters and the easy access to weapons capable of mass slaughter, the promise of a safer society will be unfulfilled.

Thomas Gabor is a criminologist and author of "Confronting Gun Violence in America."

"Confronting Gun Violence in America"

Book Signing - Sun Oct 28 2018
2:00 pm-4:00 pm @ Bookstore 1,
12 South Palm Avenue

Gun Violence: Trends & Solutions w/ Dr. Thomas Gabor

Mon Oct 29 2018
6:30 pm-8:00 pm @ Fogartyville,
525 Kumquat Court

TICKETS: \$5

Reserve @ rsvp@lwvsrq.org.

For the People, or For the Developers?

BY KINDRA MUNTZ, Founder,
Sarasota Alliance for Fair Elections

The choice in November in Sarasota County is clear. Voters will have a chance to vote on two county charter amendments that will significantly change our county election systems: one that benefits the people (Single Member Districts), and one that harms the people (the Process for Citizen Initiated Petitions).

The one FOR the people is the amendment titled “Sarasota Charter Amendment to Change County Commission Elections to Single-Member Districts.” This amendment will establish that County Commissioners are elected by the voters that reside in the district they seek to represent, rather than by voters county-wide, which is the “at-large” system we have now. Our County is just too large to continue to elect Commissioners countywide. We are the 14th largest county of the 67 in Florida. 90% of the counties that have countywide elections for County Commissioners are smaller than Sarasota County. All our state legislators are elected in single member districts—and we could fit almost THREE state legislative districts into our county!!

Currently Commissioners must live in their district, but they may be put into office by 80% of the people outside their district. Consequently residents of their district may have a hard time getting attention, because Commissioners may be beholden to campaign donors whose agendas defy the will of the people. In our current system it costs so much to campaign from the Airport to North Port, that only candidates bankrolled by big developers win. The result? Traffic gridlock. Nature bulldozed. Neighborhoods at risk. Uncontrolled development. And the cost of growth—the roads, the schools—are put on the backs of YOU, the taxpayers.

Single Member Districts will reduce the cost of campaigning up to 80% and give grassroots candidates a chance to compete and win. Single Member Districts will reduce the influence of Dark Money PACs, reduce the influence of large real estate developers, help get control of traffic and infrastructure, strengthen neighborhoods, protect our environment—and reduce your taxes!! Wouldn't it be great if County Commissioners had to listen to their constituents and not just their contributors?

County Charter Amendment

Sarasota County Charter Amendment to Change County Commission Elections to Single-Member Districts

Shall each member of the Board of the County Commissioners of Sarasota County, Florida be elected by only those voters residing in the same district in which the Commissioner resides, rather than having each member of the Board of County Commissioners elected by voters County-wide as presently exists in Article II, Section 2.1A of the Sarasota County Charter?

Yes, for the Charter amendment

No, against the Charter amendment

We encourage everyone to VOTE YES for Single Member Districts on the November ballot. It will be at the very end of the ballot in much of the county, and it will be second-to-last in the City of Sarasota and the City of North Port—because each of those cities has a local ballot issue as well.

The other charter amendment which works AGAINST the interests of the people is the amendment put on the November ballot by the County Commission on August 29 with the stroke of a pen. This amendment has two parts: it will DOUBLE petition requirements from 5% to 10%, meaning that voters will have to gather not the 15,096+ we gathered this year, but over 31,000 in the future. It will also cut the petition-gathering time to 1 ½ years, and require all petitions (all



Attorney Dan Lobeck speaks in support of Single Member Districts

31,000) to be turned in to the Supervisor of Elections at one time between January 1 and April 1 of the year the referendum is to go on the November ballot. The second part requires proposals by the Charter Review Board to be placed on the next General Election ballot rather than on the next countywide election ballot. This amendment would make it much more difficult for people to petition their government to change the charter for public benefit. We encourage everyone to VOTE NO on this proposed charter amendment.

NOTE: The amendment referred to in the last paragraph will actually appear as two separate amendments on the November ballot.

Process for Citizen Initiated Petitions for Charter Amendments to be Placed on the General Election

Shall Sarasota County Charter Section 7.1 be amended to place citizen-initiated Charter amendments on the next general election ballot upon receiving signatures from 10% of registered voters, provided that signatures are gathered within a set general election cycle timeframe, instead of having an unlimited time to obtain signatures of 5% of registered voters for placement of citizen-initiated amendments on a special election ballot that is held 60 days after certification of the signatures?

Yes, for the Charter amendment

No, against the Charter amendment

Charter Review Board Charter Amendment Proposals to be Placed on Next General Election Only

Shall Section 7.1 of the Sarasota County Charter be amended to allow Charter amendments proposed by the Charter Review Board to be voted upon only on the next general election, rather than on the next countywide election?

Yes, for the Charter amendment

No, against the Charter amendment

Keep Kids Learning *Continued from pg. 4*

As these advocates work in our local schools, a statewide coalition, No Place for a Child, is working in the Legislature to keep kids out of jails and prisons. Florida prosecutes more children as adults than any other state in the nation. This almost always happens at the sole discretion of the prosecutor through a process called ‘direct file’. There is no mechanism to appeal this decision and no way for a judge to send a child back to juvenile court. These kids are held in adult jail, often in isolation, with few education resources. These youth will rejoin society. When they do, they struggle to find connections in their communities and to complete their education. Prison is no place to grow up.

What can you do?

Join the local Keep Kids Learning Coalition of Manasota by e-mailing mmorton@aclufl.org.

Visit www.aclufl.org/keepkidslearning to learn more about the issues and download talking points and other materials to use in your advocacy.

Ask questions of your school administrators and school board members to get them thinking about the role of law enforcement in our schools – and whether their training equips them for that role.

Visit www.noplaceforachild.com to learn more about youth charged as adults.

Contact your legislators to support juvenile justice reforms, including direct file legislation.

Contact your local officials to ask for their public support, in the form of local resolutions, of direct file reform.

What you must not do is stand by while our children are policed at school and abandoned in prisons.



Community Media & Arts Center
Fogartyville
West Entrance

Food and beverages are available

525 Kumquat Court, Sarasota
941-894-6469

8pm Friday, October 12 \$20adv/\$25door

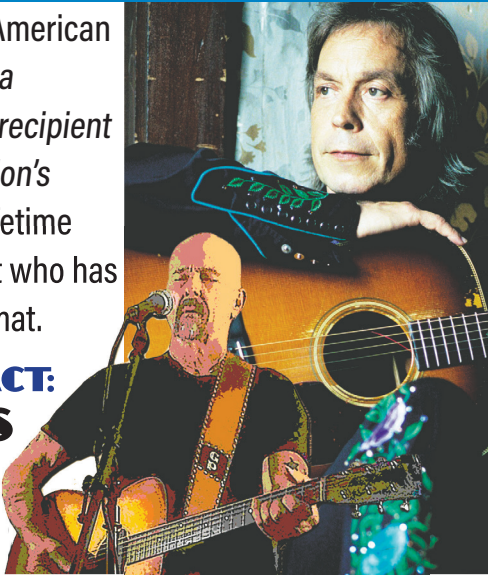
JIM LAUDERDALE

A multi-Grammy award winning American country, bluegrass and Americana singer-songwriter he was the '16 recipient of the Americana Music Association's Wagonmaster Award, a special lifetime achievement honor. He's an artist who has helped define the Americana format.

OPENING ACT:

GRANT PEEPLES
W/ PASSERINE'S FIDDLER
SARA STOVAL

Folk: fresh, honest, & incisive.



8pm Saturday November 3, \$18adv/\$23door

Renesito Avich
Acoustic Concert with
Special Guests

His music is packed with the power of traditional Cuban music, this '16 Latin Grammy winner says 'It will be a night full of energy, music, and love from Cuba.'



7pm Sunday, November 4, \$15adv/\$20door

Button accordion & melodeon player, An All-Ireland champion from Athlone now living in Ennis, County Clare. His album *Humdinger* was voted "Irish Music Album of the Year" by *The Irish Times*.

Joined by leading Irish musicians
Denis Carey (piano) &
Shane Farrell (multi-instrumentalist / singer)



8pm Friday October 19 \$20adv/\$25door

NEW ORLEANS JAZZ VIPERS



Their infectious rhythms, spirited horns, and a diverse line-up of vocals, have been an institution of Swing Jazz music for 18+ years. Current lineup includes some of the city's best trad-jazz talent, with Joe Braun (alto sax/vocals) at the helm: Craig Klein (trombone/vocals), Earl Bonie (tenor sax/clarinet), Steve Detory

(piano/vocals), Molly Reeves (guitar/vocals), & Mitchell Player (bass/vocals)

8pm Friday, November 9 \$18adv/\$22door

FRANK'S HOT JAZZ GUITAR TRIO



Perhaps the most entertaining guitar duos playing today, Frank Vignola and Vinny Raniolo, technically gifted guitarists with considerable on-stage charisma, both men are respected and versatile jazz players.

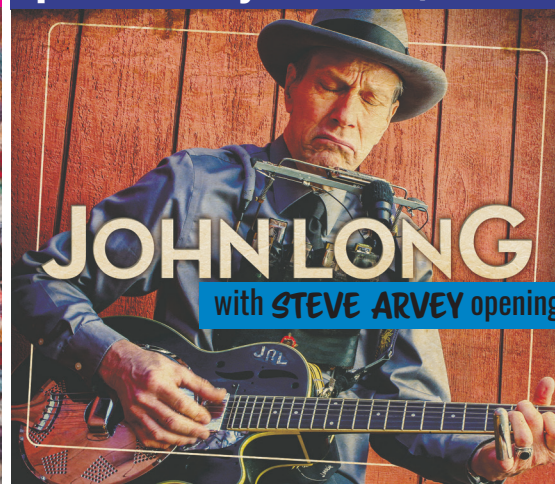
7pm Sunday, October 21, \$10adv/\$12door

VIOLET BELL

A wide range of influences - from Debussy to Nina Simone, D'angelo to Lou Reed, their unique sound blends folk, soul, bluegrass, blues, and classical. On stage, the energy is fiery, intimate and intuitive.



8pm Saturday Nov. 10th, \$12adv/\$15door



JOHNNY LONG
BLUES

He is a 100% pure, dyed-in-the-wool, no-BS bluesman for life. He was born, raised and bred on the blues. It's not a 'career choice' for Long, not just a type of music he plays,

or something he happened to be influenced by at some point. WSLR's very-own programmer/Bluesmaster Steve Arvey opens the show.

7pm Sunday, October 28, \$15adv/\$18door



DAYMARK

Trad-Irish music infused with infectious energy, raw power, and big Northern swagger. Fusing a classic blend of wind and string as driving flute meets virtuosic fiddle, underpinned by well-considered and expertly delivered guitar & voice.

8pm Friday, November 16 \$12adv/\$15door

Reckless Saints

CD RELEASE PARTY

A singer-songwriter steeped in Southern-influenced folk, blues, country, and rock. No Depression says "kick-me-in-the-ass roots music." Roy will be performing with his musical partner Kim Mayfield, providing vocals, and accompaniment.



7pm Sunday, November 18, \$10adv/\$12door

asolorep 2018 on tour

presents an FSU/Asolo Conservatory for Actor Training Production

THE TEMPEST

Directed by Celine Rosenthal
Adapted by Tyler Dobrowsky

By William Shakespeare

A supernatural tale of love, family, and revenge comes to surprising life in this boisterous, highly physical production. In a fast-paced adaptation both funny and ferocious, the next generation will have the chance to explore their own definition of justice and consider the responsibility of those who wield power.

7pm Wednesday Dec. 5th, \$15adv/\$18door



This super-entertaining Americana Quartet will sell-out our room quickly. Hailing from Up-State NY they are, at heart; a R'n'R band. Carving out a name for themselves with electrifying live performances, they bring one of the most unique, raw sounds.

It's Our General Membership Meeting 7pm Monday, October 15



Reporting to our members how we did over the past year and to get input on where we go in the future. We'll present a draft of our new strategic plan and ask for input on what you want from WSLR + Fogartyville.

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Freeform · Eclectic

Rock · Punk · Jam · Indie · Pop

News · Public Affairs

World · Spiritual

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
12 mid.	Global Village Syndicated	Beats, Rhymes & Life Radio DJ Cellus	Lumpytunes! The Head Lump, Rob Demperio	Music Automated playlist	New Radio	Open A.I.R. Matt Dakan	
1 a.m.		Midnight Special Syndicated	Strange Currency Syndicated	Upfront Soul Syndicated	Music Automated playlist		New Radio
2 a.m.	Music Automated playlist						
3 a.m.		Letters to Washington Syndicated	Truthdig Radio Syndicated	A Way With Words Syndicated	Economic Update Richard Wolff		
4 a.m.					Latin Waves	Music Automated playlist	
5 a.m.	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated		Music Automated playlist
6 a.m.							
7 a.m.							
8 a.m.	Blues to Bluegrass John D.	Soul School Troy Nichols	Generation X Alecia Harper	Eclectic Blender Dave Pedersen	Latin Explosion Juan Montenegro	Celtic Dew Dave Wertman	Wings of the Heart Salima Rael & Carol Rosenbaum
9 a.m.			ALTERNATE WEEKS				
10 a.m.	Rootstock Radio	Background Briefing Ian Masters (Syndicated)	Peace & Justice Report Tom Walker & Bob Connors	The Detail Cathy Antunes	Surreal News Lew Lorini & Steve Norris	Juke In the Back Syndicated	Alternative Radio Syndicated
11 a.m.	Critical Time Week in Review	Latin Alternative Syndicated	Afro Cuban Jazz Frankie Piniero	Vibrational Journeys Perette Cannady	Metropics Carlos Pagan	Ralph Nader Radio Syndicated	Law and Disorder Syndicated
NOON	Democracy Now! Amy Goodman (Syndicated)	Democracy Now! Amy Goodman (Syndicated)	Democracy Now! Amy Goodman (Syndicated)	Democracy Now! Amy Goodman (Syndicated)	Democracy Now! Amy Goodman (Syndicated)	The Detail (Rebroadcast) Cathy Antunes	Folk Alley Elena See (Syndicated)
1 p.m.	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	BreakBeat Max	New Radio Laila
2 p.m.	Positive Friction John Haupt	Blues Show Syndicated	Progressive Palace Phil G	Music Show in transition	Blues Show Syndicated	De Mush Doctor's Caribbean Rhythms De Mush Doctor	Dadee-O's Collector Corner Dadee-O
3 p.m.		ALTERNATE WEEKS			ALTERNATE WEEKS		
4 p.m.	Music Museum Ed Foster	Tuesday Drive Home David Young	Hawaii Bob & Company Hawaii Bob	Hot Rod Rock Sven	Ted's Head Ted	Bop & Beyond Bill Ewell	Velvet Hammer Blues Beth Hammer
5 p.m.			ALTERNATE WEEKS		Friday Happy Hour Bartender Tommy D.		
6 p.m.	Capitol Update State News	Micro-Macro-Enviro-Radio	Talk Nation	Current Tides Betty & Friends	Critical Times Week in Review	All Mixed Up Syndicated	Louisiana Gumbo Show Kid Red
7 p.m.	Short Wave Report	Sea Change Radio	TUC Radio	Economic Update Richard Wolff	Counterspin		
8 p.m.	Yesterday's Dead Today Mark Binder	The Root Cellar Roger & Peter	Acoustic Waves James Hawkins	Folk Show Syndicated	Spirit of Punk Jill Hoffman-Kowal	Ripper's Rarities Russ Yodice	Ju Ju Jazz Dr. Nik
9 p.m.			ALTERNATE WEEKS	ALTERNATE WEEKS			
10 p.m.	Indigenous Sounds White Horse	Moptops and the King Syndicated	Radio RESET Sharon Folta	Indie Files Joel Jaffe	Music Show in Transition	Another Late Night Katy	Love Notes Jessica Nikole
11 p.m.		Music Lagniappe Syndicated		ALTERNATE WEEKS	ALTERNATE WEEKS	The Big Picture DJ Smooth E	
12 mid.	Beats, Rhymes & Life DJ Cellus	Lumpytunes! The Head Lump, Rob Demperio	Music Automated playlist	New Radio	Open A.I.R. Matt Dakan & Jamiel Livingston		Global Village Syndicated

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The Battle for Beach Road

STAFF REPORT

Sarasota County Commissioner’s decision to vacate a 373-foot segment of North Beach Road in May 2016 began a battle that will be coming to your ballot in November. The vacation of the right-of-way was requested by Dennis and Wendy Madden who plan to replace four older buildings on this stretch of road (constructed between 1935 and 1945) with one six-unit building - three stories high over a parking area. To make this possible under county density rules, the Maddens needed to absorb the roadway in front of their property to create a single, contiguous parcel that would include the three vacant lots the couple owns on the beachfront side of the road.



Beach road today with public access signs.
Photo: Arlene Sweeting

Supporters of the vacation see the Commission’s decision as a win-win. Beach Road has been closed to vehicular traffic since 1993 due to coastal erosion and lack of maintenance. With the vacation, the County is relieved of the obligation to maintain the road and the agreement includes a “perpetual” easement that maintains access for pedestrians, bicyclists and pets, as well as a path that provides a direct link to the beach itself.

Siesta Key resident Mike Cosentino and supporters of ReOpen Beach Road disagree. Cosentino filed a lawsuit against the County alleging the Board of County Commissioners had violated the County Comprehensive Plan* in

approving the Beach Road vacation on a 4-1 vote (Commissioner Christine Robinson was the sole vote against the vacation). Cosentino is adamant that Sarasota County should not lose the only stretch of road on Siesta Key that both provides direct beach access and is accessible to mobility-impaired residents.

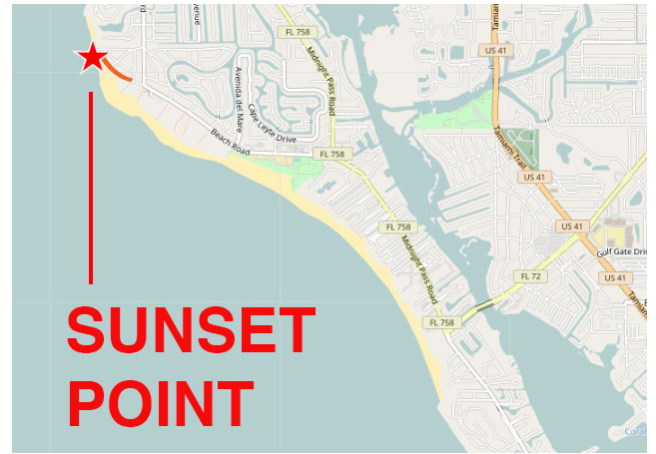
Along with filing a lawsuit to challenge the vacation, Cosentino also began a petition drive to get two Charter amendments on the 2018 ballot. The amendments would reverse the road vacation and ensure that no future County Commission would be able to vacate or sell road segments on rights of way along waterways (see approved amendment text to the right). His organization “Reopen Beach Road” was successful in collecting the number of signatures needed to get the proposed charter amendments on the ballot.

On August 29, 2018, the County Attorney outlined several legal issues raised by these amendments at the BOCC meeting including a potential conflict with State law should the amendments pass. The impact on the budget should the county have to re-acquire the road and upgrade it for vehicular use would also be substantial; as would be the legal battle that would ensue should this amendment pass.

***Current language in the Sarasota County Comprehensive Plan reads as follows:**

Parks Policy 1.1.6: Sarasota County will continue, whenever and wherever feasible, to expand its beach and waterfront acquisition efforts. Priority shall continue to be given to those parcels which will expand existing public beaches, increase the number of public access points to waterfront parks, and/or protect important native habitats.

Parks Policy 1.1.12: The County should not vacate road segments or access points on waterfronts along any beach, bay, creek, river, or lake, and should encourage public right-of way use of these areas for public shoreline and water access.



Map shows the location of Beach Road on the North end of Siesta Key

**Proposed County Charter Amendments
Charter Amendment to Reacquire and Retain
Siesta Key Beach Road as Public Right of Way**

The County vacated an approximately 373-foot-long portion of Beach Road on Siesta Key in 2016, which had been closed for some time. The vacated portion of Beach Road is accessible by all means, including pedestrian, but not including motorized vehicles. Shall the Charter be amended to require the County to reacquire this portion of Beach Road, and reopen it for vehicular traffic, as well as never vacate it in the future?

- Yes, for the Charter amendment
- No, against the Charter amendment

Charter Amendment to Preserve County-Owned Parks, Preserves, Beach and Water Access and Waterfront Vistas

Presently, the Board of County Commissioners, as provided by general law, has the authority to sell any County-owned property and to vacate roads and rights of way. Shall the Charter be amended to prohibit the County from selling or giving away County-owned parks and preserves, and to prevent the County from vacating any road segments or rights of way abutting any beach, river, creek, canal, lake, bay, gulf access or waterfront vista?

- Yes, for the Charter amendment
- No, against the Charter amendment

Support the Legacy Trail Extension

BY JOAN ATTENBERG

On November 6, voters will have an opportunity to approve a bond referendum to fund an extension of the Legacy Trail into the City of Sarasota and create a connector to the City of North Port. Around the country, these rails-to-trails initiatives enjoy immense success by developing commuting alternatives to school and work, connecting neighborhoods, providing safe travel away from cars and congested roadways, revitalizing business activity, and offering a peaceful and healthful place to enjoy time with friends and family.



Friends of the Legacy Trail

Should the referendum pass, the funds will extend the trail north from Clark Road to Payne Park in Sarasota and support a connector to North Port. The majority of funds will go toward the Sarasota extension, primarily because of the infrastructure required, including the purchasing and paving of the railway corridor, constructing bridges over Clark and

Bee Ridge roads, and adding trailheads, rest stops, and landscaping. The two prominent options under consideration for the North Port connector include enhancing a power line trail in the Carlton Reserve to the Myakkahatchee Creek Environmental Park or enhancing a route from Border Road along I-75 that intersects with West Price Boulevard. In both cases, the trail will pass through, or by, some of this region’s most beautiful natural areas, such as Deer Prairie Creek Preserve, Schewe Ranch, and the Carlton Reserve.

The bond, in the amount of \$65 million, with \$2 million going to North Port for a connection to the Legacy Trail, will be paid back over 20 years through a county resident tax (approximately \$1.33 per month for a home assessed at \$200,000 or less). The amount cannot exceed \$65 million and any outside funding for the trail, from the state and other sources, may reduce the local expenditures. Funding received from this bond referendum may only be used for expenses associated with the extension, its amenities, and the connectors. Trails like this are part of a state priority for a regional trail system.

The Legacy Trail, as the name implies, embodies the heritage and history of Sarasota County. The railroad tracks on which most of the trail is built are rich in history and allowed this area to prosper. When the use of those railways declined, the county saw an opportunity to create a new type of prosperity. In 2004, after more than a decade of planning, the county purchased the scenic railroad corridor and the Legacy Trail was born. At nearly 11 miles long, the 10-foot-wide trail stretches from Clark Road in

Sarasota to the Venice Train Depot, where it connects with the Venetian Waterway Park. Since then, the Legacy Trail has enjoyed success from all corners of the county with over 225,000 annual users. It is often listed as one of the top things to do in Sarasota.

For more information, visit friendsofthelegacytrail.org and extendthelegacytrail.com.

Sarasota County General Obligation Bonds for Legacy Trail Extension with Enhanced Safety and Connections

To acquire and improve the Legacy Trail Extension railroad corridor as a safe trail for walking, running, and cycling with enhanced connectivity from North Port through Venice to downtown Sarasota, with additional improvements including safe crossings, overpasses, amenities, and increased accessibility, shall Sarasota County issue General Obligation bonds, not exceeding the maximum lawful interest rates, maturing within 20 years from each issuance, not exceeding \$65 million payable from ad valorem taxes restricted to these purposes?

- Yes, for Bonds
- No, against Bonds

Calendar of Events



THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 6PM - ACLU Florida Second Chances Panel Discussion. Betty Riddle, Keith Fitzgerald, and Kirk Bailey will speak on Amendment 4. Selby Library, 1331 1st Street, Sarasota, FL

MONDAY, OCTOBER 8, 7PM - Sarasota County Council of Neighborhood Associations (CONA) Meeting. General Election forum featuring single member districts and County Commission districts 2 and 4. Social at 6:30; meeting at 7pm with neighborhood updates. Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 6-8PM - League of Women Voters: Stop Ballot Confusion! Florida Constitutional Amendments –What They Really Say. This presentation will give you the details of each of the Florida Constitutional Amendments, tell what happens if that amendment passes and if it doesn't, and tells you who supports each amendment and who opposes it. Lakewood Ranch Branch YMCA, 5100 Lakewood Ranch Blvd, Bradenton, Florida

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 11, 7PM - Sierra Club General Meeting, Citizens Stand up to Preserve the Principles of the Sarasota 2050 Plan, Speaker: Ron Collins. 701 Plaza De Santo Domingo, Sarasota, FL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 16, 6-7:30 PM - Protect our Public Schools Leadership Team Meeting, North Sarasota Public Library, 2801 Newtown Blvd, Sarasota, FL

TUESDAY OCTOBER 16, 6- 7:15pm. Rethinking Plastics. Join us to learn about the alternatives to single use plastic when dining out. Selby Library Auditorium, 1331 First St., Sarasota Email: Info@rethinkingplastic.org

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 7-9PM - An Evening With Langston Hughes and Zora Neale Hurston- Part of the Race and Class in America: 50 Years Without King. Legendary writers Zora Neale Hurston and Langston Hughes will come alive in riveting performances by Phyllis McEwen and Bob Devin Jones. Eckerd College-Fox Hall, Dorm Dr, St. Petersburg, FL

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18- FRIDAY, OCTOBER 19 - Native Plant Show: An education event with exhibits featuring native plants and select green products and services. There will be a plant sale open to the public both days from 10:00am – 6:00pm. Bradenton Area Convention Center, 1 Haben Blvd, Palmetto, FL

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 20, 9:30 AM - Indivisible East Manatee Film Screening: Dark Money; Continental breakfast at

9:30 AM, Discussion Panel to follow film featuring Move To Amend and ACLU. \$12 in adv/\$17 at the door. Burns Court Cinema, 506 Burns Ct, Sarasota, FL

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 11:30 AM- 1PM - Hot Topic Luncheon- “Unpacking” the CRC Ballot Amendments”: Lisa Carlton and Barbara Ford-Coates will provide an overview of CRC amendments on November's ballot. \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Sarasota Community Foundation, 2635 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota

MONDAY, OCTOBER 22, 6:30-8:30pm - Sarasota Anti-Racism Coalition meeting. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court, Sarasota.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 7:30-9PM - A New and Unsettling Force: The Poor People's Campaign and the Fight to End Poverty. The Rev. Liz Theoharis, Ph.D. will speak on the long-term work of organizing a movement of the poor and dispossessed, the roles religion and a liberation theology have in advancing transformative change in this country, and the recent efforts of the Poor People's Campaign. Eckerd College-Fox Hall, Dorm Dr, St. Petersburg, FL

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 7pm. Preventing Gun Violence with Kyleanne Hunter, Vice President of Programs for the Brady Campaign. A former Marine, Hunter is an expert in international politics and diplomacy. She currently serves on the Defense Advisory Committee for Women in the Services, and was a co-founder of Vets for Gun Reform. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 25, 7-9PM - How to be Anti-Racist: Ibram Kendi, Ph.D. seeks to shift the discussion from how not to be racist to how to be an antiracist through a deeply personal and empowering lecture. Eckerd College-Fox Hall, Dorm Dr, St. Petersburg, FL

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 26, 6-9PM - Film Screening: The Food Choices; 6-7 PM Social/Food; 7-9 PM Movie/Discussion; Tickets are \$10 (proceeds benefit four local sustainability nonprofits). Unitarian Universalist Church, 3975 Fruitville Road, Sarasota

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 10:00 AM - The Nation Group Monthly Meeting. Selby Library, 1331 1st St, Sarasota

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6. 7-11PM - Election Night Watch Party, Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court, Sarasota

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 7-9PM - CONA meeting. Discussion of the general election results. Social at 6:30pm;

ELECTION DATES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9
Deadline to register to vote in the November Election

MONDAY, OCT 22 – SATURDAY, NOV. 3
Early Voting, 8:30am-6:30pm daily

SUNDAY, OCT. 28 –
Souls to the Polls

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 6,
7AM – 7PM
ELECTION DAY

More information at:
www.SarasotaVotes.com

Meeting at 7pm with neighborhood updates. Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 7:30-9:30 PM - The Five Percenters: Race, Religion, and American Islam; Michael Muhammed Knight will present the history of the Five Percenters, a religious group that emerged in 1960s Harlem during the schism between Malcolm X and Elijah Muhammad. Eckerd College-Fox Hall, Dorm Dr, St. Petersburg, FL

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 6:00-7:30 PM - Protect our Public Schools Leadership Team Meeting, North Sarasota Public Library, 2801 Newtown Blvd, Sarasota, FL

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 29, 8:00 AM- 4:30 PM - Sarasota County's 13th Annual Sustainable Communities Workshop; See related article. Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida Event and Conference Center, 4740 Cattlemen Rd, Sarasota, FL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 6, 10AM- 12PM - The Nation Group Monthly Meeting. Selby Library, 1331 1st St, Sarasota

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 11, 6:30pm. Community Schools - An Essential Equity Strategy. Sponsored by the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and Protect our Public Schools. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court.

For a complete listing of events or to submit an event, visit www.CriticalTimes.org.

Million Hoodies New College

BY GIULIA HEYWARD

In response to the death of Trayvon Martin in 2012, activists organized a #MillionHoodiesMarch. Participants of the march donned hoodies to demonstrate solidarity with the seventeen year old who had been fatally shot in Sanford, Florida. While the march may have ended, the movement for justice has not. Million Hoodies, a chapter-based organization that builds next generation leaders to end anti-black racism and system violence, formed to continue the work. New College students started a chapter in 2016.

“It gave me the opportunity to make a difference in my community,” Million Hoodies Co-Chair, Daje Austrie, who has been with the local chapter since its conception, said. “It’s exciting to be able to see the growth and continuity of this chapter.”

Austrie attributes the fact that Million Hoodies is a Black-led organization as part of its uniqueness.

“I wanted community in a way that was intentional and provided people a means to make a difference,”

Austrie said. “Million Hoodies not only did that, but was well-resourced. It provided community across the country. If you didn’t feel supported here, you could contact others from different chapters.”

Locally, the Million Hoodies chapter has worked with Say Yes to Second Chances, which is working to pass Amendment 4 and restore voting rights to thousands of formerly incarcerated citizens in the state. They recently

put on a production of *There Is A Field*, a play that featured a Palestinian protagonist, at the Fogartyville Community & Media Arts Center. Last year, in celebration of the organization’s National Week of Action, this local chapter hosted a screening of *Cop Watchers*, a documentary on police presence in the United States.

“Just being able to be involved, regardless of whether these issues have specifically affected me or not, has been incredibly empowering,” Million Hoodies Communications Co-Chair, Marcella Prado Zapata, said.

Students of color at NCF, a predominately White institution, form the core membership. There are currently six active members in the chapter. “Our Retention and Outreach Co-Chair has been taking several steps to reach out the greater community to recruit more members,” Million Hoodies Co-Chair Steven Kesheshian says. “The issues that we target deal specifically with communities of color as well as broader, socio-economic issues.”

This year, November 11 to 17 will mark Million Hoodies National Week of Action. A Facebook page to advertise any events by the local chapter is in the works. In the meanwhile, subscribing to the national chapter’s newsletter will give information on Million Hoodies sponsored events throughout the country.

“Now that I’ve grown so much,” Austrie said. “I want to see everyone experience the same activating moment that I had.”



Million Hoodies Representatives Cabrini Austin, Angelo Acebedo and Kristen Patterson in the WSLR Studio. Photo Courtesy of Tim Manning

Newtown Nation News

Continued from pg. 3

area, friends of members of the Newtown community, and ANYONE interested to serve with us. Come volunteer as an organization or come alone and meet someone new! If you specialize in landscaping and are interested in serving with us, please contact us at the email below for a special opportunity to be involved. There are 103 streets in the Newtown area that have been selected. If you’re interested in being a block or street captain, or need more information about these roles, please see our website. We can do this!

For more information, please visit our website at www.newtownnation.com to learn more about our organization, our upcoming events, or to donate to our general Newtown Nation or Big Mama’s Collard Greens Fest fundraising campaigns. Or call Newtown Nation President Val Buchand at 941-544-3262 or e-mail vbuchand@gmail.com.

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LANDSCAPERS PLEASE CALL FOR A SPECIAL OPPORTUNITY TO BE APART OF THIS EVENT!

Constitutional Amendments Update

BY LAURA SERBIN

Of the 13 constitutional amendments that have been placed on the ballot for the election in November, 7 of them have been challenged. The Florida State Supreme Court has ruled on 4 of these challenges. Amendment 8, which dealt with limiting school board terms and establishing charter schools was stricken from the ballot. The Southern Poverty Law Center filed a lawsuit on behalf of the League of Women Voters due to the omission of the word ‘charter’ from the amendment.

Amendment 6 would repeal a 1988 victim's rights law to replace it with an expanded version. This was challenged by several groups including the ACLU who stated “the chances that an innocent person could be convicted of a crime they did not commit could potentially increase.” The court ordered the amendment removed from the ballot. The state appealed to the Florida Supreme Court. Oral arguments were held for this case on September 5 and the courts voted to reverse the lower court ruling. This will stay on the ballot.

Amendment 10 requires all Florida counties to elect five public officials, and forbids them

from not doing so. Those offices include Sheriff, property appraiser, supervisor of elections, tax collector and clerk of court. Miami-Dade, Broward and Volusia County filed a lawsuit to stop the state from mandating that they create these elected positions. A Leon County circuit court judge ruled against the three counties. The counties' appeals were denied by the Florida Supreme Court. The court upheld the lower court ruling and it will remain on the ballot.

Amendment 13 would end betting on dog races in the state of Florida. The Florida Greyhound Association challenged the amendment and the circuit judge agreed with them based on the wording of the amendment itself as well as the title and summary. The state appealed and oral arguments for the case were heard on August 28. The court reversed the lower court's ruling and this amendment will remain on the ballot.

A former Florida Supreme Court judge and a co-defendant filed a lawsuit over 6 amendments they feel have unconstitutionally bundled completely separate issues together. A circuit judge would hear arguments on only three of

them- amendments 7, 9, and 11. Amendment 7 combines survivor benefits for military and first responders, college fees, and including state colleges in the Florida constitution. Amendment 9 combines the prohibition of off-shore drilling with a ban on indoor vaping. Amendment 11 includes the removal of obsolete language from the Constitution that may prohibit certain people from owning property as well as wording from the high-speed rail system with the clarification that a repealed criminal statute would not work retroactively. These three were ordered to be removed but the state has appealed. There has been no word on the appeal yet.

It is too late for most ballots to be changed before they go to print. If any other amendments are removed from the ballot, there will be signs posted at polling places.

In the last issue of the Critical Times we summarized all of the amendments. You can find complete information on our website www.CriticalTimes.org. Below we recap what each amendment will do and identify organizations that are supporting or opposing each amendment.

<p>AMENDMENT 1: Would increase homestead exemption by \$25,000 for homes valued at more than \$100,000.</p> <p>Opponents: Florida Association of Counties, Florida Education Association, Florida League of Cities, Florida Policy Institute, League of Women Voters of Florida; Progress Florida</p>	<p>AMENDMENT 2: Makes permanent what currently is a temporary cap of 10 percent on annual property value increases for vacation homes, apartments and commercial property, effectively limiting increases on tax bills.</p> <p>Supporters: Florida Association of Realtors; Florida Chamber of Commerce; Florida TaxWatch</p> <p>Opponents: Florida Education Association; League of Women Voters of Florida</p>	<p>AMENDMENT 3: Requires approval of any new casino gambling through a citizen-initiative constitutional amendment, effectively barring the Legislature from making those gambling decisions by passing laws.</p> <p>Supporters: Disney Worldwide Services; Florida Chamber of Commerce; Florida Restaurant and Lodging Association; League of Women Voters of Florida; No Casinos Inc.; Seminole Tribe of Florida</p> <p>Opponents: Florida Education Association</p>
<p>AMENDMENT 4: Allows those who have completed their entire sentence to earn the right to vote back except for those convicted of murder or felony sex offenses.</p> <p>Supporters: American Civil Liberties Union; Florida Rights Restoration Coalition; Floridians for a Fair Democracy; Florida Policy Institute; Florida Education Association; Florida National Organization for Women; League of Women Voters of Florida; Progress Florida</p> <p>Opponents: Floridians for a Sensible Voting Rights Policy</p>	<p>AMENDMENT 5: Requires a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to approve any new or increased taxes or fees, rather than a simple majority.</p> <p>Supporters: Florida TaxWatch; Florida Chamber of Commerce</p> <p>Opponents: Florida Education Association; Florida Policy Institute; League of Women Voters of Florida; Progress Florida</p>	<p>AMENDMENT 6: Vastly expands the scope of victims rights under the state Constitution; increases the mandatory retirement age for judges from 70 to 75; forces courts and judges to interpret laws and rules for themselves rather than rely on interpretations by government agencies.</p> <p>Supporters: 37 Florida sheriffs; Florida Smart Justice</p> <p>Opponents: ACLU of Florida; Florida Education Association; Florida Public Defender Association; League of Women Voters of Florida</p>
<p>AMENDMENT 7: Creates a supermajority requirement for universities to impose new or increase existing student fees; enshrines in the Constitution guidelines for the State College System; mandates that employers or the state pay a death benefit to first responders and members of the military killed in the line of duty.</p> <p>Supporters: Association of Florida Colleges</p> <p>Opponents: Florida Education Association; League of Women Voters of Florida</p>	<p>AMENDMENT 9: Prohibits oil drilling beneath waters controlled by Florida; prohibits the use of e-cigarettes, also known as vaping, at indoor workplaces.</p> <p>Supporters: Florida Wildlife Federation; Gulf Restoration Network; American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network; League of Women Voters of Florida; Florida Policy Institute; Progress Florida</p> <p>Opponents: Florida Petroleum Council; Associated Industries of Florida; Consumer Advocates for Smoke-Free Alternatives Association; Florida Education Association; Florida Chamber of Commerce</p>	<p>AMENDMENT 10: Requires the Legislature to hold its session in early January on even-numbered years; creates an Office of Domestic Security and Counterterrorism within the Florida Department of Law Enforcement; mandates the existence of a state Department of Veterans' Affairs; forces all counties to elect a sheriff, tax collector, property appraiser, supervisor of elections and Clerk of Circuit Court.</p> <p>Supporters: Unknown</p> <p>Opponents: Florida Education Association; League of Women Voters of Florida</p>
<p>AMENDMENT 11: Repeals the state's ability to prohibit non-citizens from buying, owning and selling property; deletes a provision that forces the state to prosecute criminal suspects under the law they were originally charged under, even if the Legislature changes that law; deletes obsolete language having to do with high-speed rail in Florida.</p> <p>Supporters: Florida Chamber of Commerce, ACLU</p> <p>Opponents: Florida Education Association</p>	<p>AMENDMENT 12: Expands ethics rules for elected officials and government employees, notably by expanding from two to six years the time that many officials would have to wait before they could lobby state government.</p> <p>Supporters: Common Cause; Florida Policy Institute; Integrity Florida</p> <p>Opponents: Florida Chamber of Commerce; Florida Education Association</p>	<p>AMENDMENT 13: Bans wagering on any type of dog racing, notably greyhounds, as of Dec. 31, 2020, while continuing to allow dog tracks to continue offering other types of gambling, including poker rooms.</p> <p>Supporters: Grey2K USA; League of Women Voters of Florida</p> <p>Opponents: Florida Greyhound Association; Florida Education Association; Florida Chamber of Commerce</p>

Amendment 8: Removed from ballot

Trojan Horse Amendment? Continued from pg. 1

There's no partisan problem to "fix" with a blanket primary. This is an artifice to ensure a November election, which brings us to another interesting question: Who wants this?

The two political actions committees who are working to move our City elections to November are "Decide the Date" and "Change the Date". Public Defender Larry Eger and Chamber of Commerce President Kevin Cooper are the chair and treasurer, respectively, of these PACs. Paid political consultants for Decide the Date include Christian Ziegler, Mary Anne Grgic (who also works for Neal Communities, or Pat Neal) and Edward James III.

Decide the Date Major, Elected Official Contributions

	Argus Foundation	Chamber of Commerce	Gulf Coast Builders Exchange	Paul Caragiulo	Realtors Political Advocacy Committee Orlando, FL	Manatee Sarasota Building Industry Association Lakewood Ranch	Willis A Smith Construction	Total
11/22/2017	15,000	15,000						
1/30/2018			10,000					
3/5/2018				250.00				
3/5/2018					5,000			
3/30/2018						1,500		
3/30/2018							500.00	
5/4/2018	3,012							
5/4/2018		3,012						
Total	18,012	18,012	10,000	250.00	5,000	1,500	500	53274

A review of the PAC financials offers voters insight into who wants to ensure "voter participation" and minority voter participation (claims made by these groups) by moving the election. Decide the Date collected \$18,000 from the Argus Foundation, \$18,000 from the Chamber of Commerce, \$10,000 from the Gulf Coast Builders Exchange (GCBX), \$5,000 from a Realtors Political Advocacy Committee in Orlando, FL and \$1,500 from the Manatee Sarasota Building Industry. Change the Date collected \$10,000 each from Argus, the Chamber, GCBX and the Realtors Political Advisory Committee in Orlando FL. That's a total of \$52,500 from business and development interests for Decide the Date, and another \$40,000 from the same groups for Change the Date. You don't usually see these business and development groups opening their purses to support voting rights. Could they have another agenda?

An additional \$15,000 donation to Change the Date comes from the ACLU of Florida out of Miami. Local paralegal Michael Barfield is President of the ACLU of Florida, and was recently in the news for filing sunshine lawsuits on behalf of Transparency for Florida, Inc. against school board members and then-candidates Shirley Brown and Jane Goodwin. Shortly after the suit was filed, the Board of Directors of Transparency for Florida, Inc. filed an affidavit asking the judge to dismiss the lawsuit. Their sworn affidavit describes a series of actions by Mr. Barfield which intimidated the board members, making them fearful, and also describes how the lawsuit was not properly authorized. It would be interesting to know if the ACLU of Florida received any unusual donations prior to their donation to the Change the Date PAC, and if so, who those donations were from. In any case, given the recent report regarding Mr. Barfield's legal actions against political candidates, voters may be wise to pause before putting their faith in the endorsement of the ACLU of Florida.

Here's another possible motivation: by ensuring a November City election positioned at the end of a lengthy Federal, State and County ballot, all the special interest PAC money which flows so freely in Sarasota will be much more potent in City races. Springtime City elections blunt the impact of special interest money because people have the time and energy to focus on local issues. As one local political leader told me, money and signs don't win City races. As noted, the Argus Foundation has donated \$36,000 to this effort, and Executive Director Christine Robinson is married to Eric Robinson who administers millions in PAC dollars and serves on the school board. By the way, Robinson has been known to cross swords with his fellow school board members Brown and Goodwin (the targets of the illicitly filed sunshine suit initiated by Mr. Barfield) from time to time.

Perhaps most concerning, if City elections are moved to August and November to coincide with County, State and Federal elections, then the City of Sarasota will lose its election Canvassing Board, and the County Canvassing Board will take over. City voters must carefully consider if they want their local elections supervised by the County Canvassing Board. Given events in our recent past - the Jennings/Buchanan race in 2006, the County litigating against the Sarasota Alliance for Fair Elections paper ballot initiative, is it wise to surrender the City's Canvassing Board? Canvassing Boards are responsible for testing voting equipment, canvassing provisional ballots, tabulating the vote, certifying the results, and all manner of ensuring the integrity of the elections process. Under our system of home rule, do City voters want the County taking over that job for them?

Let's look at minority representation in the City. Is the current election

timing working for minority voters? The current City Commission has three female Commissioners and two African American Commissioners. It's a diverse group which represents the City's diversity well. Older voters may recall the 1979 lawsuit, James vs. City of Sarasota, which resulted in three districts being created in Sarasota to ensure Newtown residents were represented on the City Commission. The claim that minority voters are "disenfranchised" doesn't ring true when you look at our City Commission.

Is there another agenda at work here? It's interesting to note how many "Decide the Date" and "Change the Date" proponents have also worked diligently (but unsuccessfully) in the past to install a strong mayor system of government in our City. These proponents include Matthew Woodall, Linda Holland, Diana Hamilton, Paul Caragiulo, Michael Barfield, and Mary Dougherty-Slapp (of the GCBX). After numerous failed attempts, their strategy may be to move City elections to November and see if the special interest money behind their strong mayor efforts becomes more effective.

There's a lot to consider when it comes to moving our City elections to November. But perhaps the most important question we all should be asking - why do these business interests want this so badly that they are pumping over \$90,000 into the effort? When it comes to voting rights and minority disenfranchisement, the Chamber of Commerce, Argus and the Gulf Coast Builders Exchange are certainly odd groups to be leading the charge.

Cathy Antunes is host of The Detail on WSLR 96.5 every Thursday morning at 9am. You can find her blog at <https://thedetail.net>.

City of Sarasota Charter Amendment

Charter Amendment: Change in Date of Election of City Commissioners

Changes City Commission elections from March and May in odd numbered years to August and November in even numbered years to coincide with federal, state and county elections. No candidate shall be elected in the August election. The August election shall occur only when required by the number of qualifying candidates. Otherwise, the November election shall be the only election. Changes Commission appointment of Mayor and Vice Mayor to coincide with election dates.

- Yes, for the Charter amendment
- No, against the Charter amendment

2018 HONOREES



SARAH KUPEC



ROCHELLE TAYLOR CURLEY



What: 23rd Annual 'SHARE THE LIGHT' Luncheon
When: Thursday, October 25th, 2018 at 11:30am
Where: Michael's On East



Join us in celebrating SCLO's successes and become a part of our exciting future at our 'SHARE THE LIGHT' Luncheon. Individual tickets are \$65, Patron tickets are \$90. Underwriting and sponsorship opportunities are available. Call 360-8660.



www.SecondChanceLastOpportunity.org

Share the Light