



Scenic Views



Newsletter of the
Tamiami Trail Scenic Highway Corridor Management Entity

Sarasota and Manatee Counties and the Cities of Bradenton, North Port, Palmetto, Sarasota and Venice

City of North Port... *A grand entrance*

Plans to build a striking gateway entry to the City of Northport certainly did take form for everyone to admire! The new structure sits at the southbound entry to the City on Tamiami Trail. The total cost of the structure was \$55,000 which came from County redevelopment funds.



The City chose magnetic induction lights to illuminate the feature. Induction lighting is 50-60% more energy-efficient than other similar technologies (e.g. metal halide, sodium vapor). Induction fixtures are rated at 100,000 hours plus, again probably double or triple that of other lighting technologies.

The City explored powering the lights with solar energy, but, unfortunately the cost proved to be prohibitive. For more information on this project, contact: Mr. Stan Frank, City of North Port, at:

sfrank@cityofnorthport.com

Spring 2010

- Member Highlights
- Chairman's Note
- Spotlight on Parks
- Events Calendar
- Coordinator News

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Chairman's Note



It seems a number of roadway improvement projects often face long delays due to long review and approval processes. We have all faced red tape, and know it is often unavoidable and well intentioned. However, when the "red tape" is based on individual interpretations and not steadfast rules, then the community's needs, character and desires have to take precedent.

In an attempt to identify reasonable solutions to mitigating these delays as they relate to road enhancements, the CME has written to the FDOT asking for them to consider allowing "test sites" for several road enhancement projects. We are encouraged and appreciative of the FDOT's agreement to meet and review their criteria and discuss how we can improve the process. The FDOT has a difficult job to perform and we are not looking to take safety "short cuts" but rather to get projects underway for the benefit of the communities we serve. More to come on this topic...

On another important note...

One of the highlights of our revised Newsletter banner is a *new* Scenic Highway logo. The CME members deserve a great big "Thank you" for their input, as does Virginia Haley and Nicole Pincus of The Visitor's Bureau for their contributions. It was truly a team effort.

The logo is much more than an appliqué for hats and shirts. It is meant to reflect the positive results of people working together to improve the communities of which they are a part, and to help increase awareness of the program. We hope to muster support from several business organizations and others interested in our efforts. We see 2010 as a time during which the CME will grow and its activities increase as its membership brings diverse interests and professional experience to the table.

Sincerely,
Hugo V. Mazzoli, CME Chairman

City of Sarasota... Improvements along the North Trail

Construction to improve pedestrian safety at two major intersections in Sarasota will begin in January 4, 2010.

The two intersections targeted for improvements are: U.S. 41 and 10th Street and U.S. 41 and Martin Luther King Jr. Way.

The work construction will occur at night during off-peak traffic hours, Monday through Friday from 10pm to 6am. Since the construction is limited to pedestrian access, road closures are not expected; however, lane closures will be necessary. The intersections will be worked on simultaneously.

The enhancements are scheduled to be completed by early March 2010.

The pedestrian safety improvements and will include making sidewalks, curbs and ramps compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Minor striping, gutter improvements and pedestrian signalization will also occur.

The improvements at 10th Street will remain in place until the long term changes associated with the City's Bayfront Connectivity study are designed and constructed.

This work was funded with a Florida Department of Transportation grant supported by the Tamiami Trail Scenic Highway City of Sarasota Subcommittee.

Form Based Codes

Introduction

Form-based codes have emerged as the preferred instrument for implementing new urbanist ideas of all scales and in all settings: greenfield, brownfield, infill, and both public and private projects. Many codes are already being written to secure the form and performance of municipalities and counties all over the United States.

Definition of a Form-Based Code

A *form-based* (also called *design-oriented* or *schedule-based*) code is a zoning code that is designed to regulate development to achieve a specific urban form. Form-based codes (FBCs) create a predictable public realm by controlling physical form primarily, with a lesser focus on land use, through city or county regulations.

Form-based codes address the relationship between building facades and the public realm, the form and mass of buildings in relation to one another, and the scale and types of streets and blocks.

Background

The City of Bradenton retains the "bones" of its original downtown – a tight grid of streets opening up to the riverfront faced by new and old civic and cultural venues, many historic buildings and close in neighborhoods. Bradenton is the largest city in Manatee County and serves as the County seat as well as the financial and cultural hub of the County. The City of Bradenton still retains its small-town, friendly feel and there are a growing number of residencies downtown.

We have amended our Comprehensive Plan and our Land Use regulations to accommodate the policy directives of the (2) Master Plans. We view form-based codes as a tool to help us "Place Make" and "Smart Growth" and Downtown and City.

Sarasota County

- The Corridor Management Entity is extremely appreciative of the warm reception by SCAT and MCAT to display the new logo on their Scenic Highway bus route signs. SCAT is also considering its use on bus shelters along the Tamiami Trail.
- We are engaged in facilitating a revised assessment by the FDOT of engineered plans for roadway improvements by USF's new campus. This area is the gateway to two counties, home to major cultural, historical and educational resources, and is in need of a road plan that recognizes those resources. A road that resembles a runway is not what his area needs.
- We continue to gather feedback on the use of a highly reflective, roadway material to identify helicopter safe emergency (police/medical) landing zones. If viable, we will seek grant funds to implement the concept.

- We are pursuing establishing an educational initiative that will promote the historical, cultural resources along the Scenic Highway. We intend to reach out to, utilize and support the efforts of current programs and thus strengthen their efforts as well. One group we especially see the program being of interest and value to would be our local elementary and high school students.

-We are investigating the feasibility of enhancing the wide medians in the vicinity of the Sarasota Square Mall. This wide stretch of road needs help in projecting a customer friendly, inviting and safe appearance. There are benefits to both customers and businesses and County in making the area aesthetically pleasing and pedestrian safe as possible. We hope to engage the businesses in supporting this plan conceptually and financially.

-We are supporting Osprey Civic League in their desire to focus on medians in their community.

Welcoming all Vacationers.....

Calendar of Events

Visit these websites for the latest information on events in our region:

Sarasota Convention and Visitor's Bureau
<http://www.sarasotafl.org/events/>

Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
<http://www.sarasotachamber.com/events/>

Visit Florida
<http://www.visitflorida.com/events>

Anna Maria Island & Longboat Key
<http://www.annamariaisland-longboatkey.com/>

Manatee County and Bradenton Chamber of Commerce
<http://www.visitbradenton-manatee.com/>
<http://www.manatee-chamber.com/>

Venice Chamber of Commerce
<http://www.venicechamber.com>

North Port
<http://www.northportchamber.com>

More than just sand, sun and surf, Sarasota and Her Islands offers a variety of museums, artist galleries, theatres and stand-alone masterpieces. Whether it's on to tour the Ringling Museum of Art, the Sarasota Opera House, or the artists' colony at Towles Court, travelers discover a number of exceptional cultural outlets beyond the sands of Sarasota and Her Islands.

From perusing one-of-a-kind specialty shops to thriving in a major mall setting, Sarasota shopping provides everything from premier outlets and upscale shopping to beachfront boutiques. For those looking to sink their teeth into nature, there is a brand new website, www.DiscoverNaturalSarasota.com. Here, both brave and mild thrill-seekers will find adventures that await them. From kayaking through mangrove tunnels, to quietly observing birds from a tower, to taking an airboat ride in a river... the choices are endless!

Adding to Sarasota's appeal is an annual culinary event which helps to draw visitors looking for a great meal. This June 1st – 14th, Sarasota hosts its fifth annual Restaurant Week, "Savor Sarasota." The event is a 2 week-long celebration of Sarasota's renowned cuisine. Restaurant chefs design special multi-course menus priced at \$15 for lunch and \$25 for dinner, making even Sarasota's most expensive restaurants affordable to patrons. Savor Sarasota 2010's participating restaurants include Currents Restaurants at The Hyatt Regency, Euphemia Haye, Harry's Continental Kitchen, MacAllisters Grill & Tavern, Siesta Key Oyster Bar, The Colony, and Vernona at the Ritz-Carlton Sarasota to name just a few. To find out who else is participating and to sneak a peek at the prix-fixe menus, visit www.savorsarasota.com.

With accommodations ranging from beachfront bungalows to upscale resorts and a variety of special events year round, Sarasota and Her Islands offer travelers an ideal destination for romance, business, family fun and exploration. For more information on discovering Sarasota and Her Islands, visit www.sarasotafl.org or call (800) 522-9799.

Sarasota Parks Along the Trail.....By Millie Small

When driving along our Scenic Highway in Sarasota County, you will come across several major parks some having entrances directly on the Trail, and others, just a short distance away. Just south of the Manatee County line you will see a sign for the **North Water tower Park**, which has remarkable fun facilities for every family member. There is a disc golf course meandering thru a vast wooded area, a children's play area, grills in the picnic area, a paved trail and many places to spend a few quiet moments among nature.

About a mile further south, on Big Sarasota Bay, one gets the opportunity to see the "Windows to the Gulf Coast Waters" for the first time at **Whitaker Gateway Park**. Here, one also finds a gazebo, swinging benches along the water area, a busy fishing pier play areas, and, for your dining pleasure, an array of grills, and shaded picnic tables for that perfect lunch or sunset dinner!

Just east of the Highway is **Pioneer Park** which is home to an historic home and a church. As with many parks, one can find play areas nestled among large open spaces as well as tennis courts and paved trails for walking, rollerblading and jogging.

How can we not mention **Centennial Park**! This is among the largest boat launching areas surrounded by vast greenery and a magnificent view of the Bay. Across the nearby creek is the Van Wezel Performing Arts Center with a lengthy edge. The perfect spot for a relaxing or viewing a romantic sunset!

Still heading south you will cross the Ringling Bridge and enter **Lido Beach** and a variety of venues offering boat launching area, walking trails and a lake. Don't forget your binoculars. You'll need them to catch a glimpse up-close of a wide assortment of birds. Returning from Lido you will encounter **Bay Front Park** with several entrances including one on the Trail. A great walking park that includes a water craft rentals.

You've reached the "best of the best" when you arrive at **Siesta Key Beach** known for its soft, white powdery sand and inviting water. Go back to the Trail or head south on the Beach turning left at the bridge, and you experience Phillippi Estate Park with the Edison Keith Mansion on the bank of Phillippi Creek. Visit often to enjoy band concerts by the gazebo, and remember this facility is available for weddings and other special events.

So, take a ride along the Tamiami Trail and enjoy the natural and historic resources we are so lucky to have in our neighborhood...Sarasota County.

