

## Students Strike for Climate Action

BY CHRISTINA GUAN

Over 650 students and adults alike gathered in front of the Unconditional Surrender statue as part of the global protest against the lack of action against climate change on September 20th. The event was hosted by Sarasota Students 4 Climate. The organization has been hosting weekly protests on Fridays since May, working to inspire activism and action. This protest was their biggest one yet.

The organization was first started by Ella Mirman, a junior at Booker High School, and Moriya White, a junior at Pine View School, and was created “to fight for a livable future for our loved ones and future generations”. Ella cites Greta Thunberg, a Swedish 16-year-old environmental activist, as one of her inspirations. In August 2018, Thunberg started a school strike for the climate outside the Swedish Parliament that has since spread all over the world. The movement is now called Fridays For Future.

Mirman, one of the Strike organizers, rallied those demonstrating with a series of chants. “What do we want? CLIMATE ACTION When do we want it? NOW”. Eighth grade environmentalist Sadie Chawkins talked about reducing the use of



Ella Mirman addresses the crowd at the Climate Rally.

plastics. Adult speakers included Ellen Joffe who discussed the environmental benefits of veganism and Sarasota Climate justice leader Sean Sellers who encouraged taking direct action. White says, “There was so much more support than I could have imagined.”

The local strike was one of more than 2000

events across the world and served as a source of inspiration, impacting students and adults alike in Sarasota.

Sarasota Students 4 Climate will be continuing their protests throughout the year, and students can get involved by contacting [sarasotastudents4climate@gmail.com](mailto:sarasotastudents4climate@gmail.com).

## Eat Local Week 2019 - Exploring Food Waste

BY REBECCA BREY

Registration is now OPEN for Eat Local Week 2019 events! Transition Sarasota, a non-profit that works to provide food and economic security by supporting sustainable local sources, organizes the festivities each year. Eat Local Week 2019 will be held from October 17 to November 2. The theme this year is "Exploring Food Waste", we're taking a dive into what it is, why it matters, and how our community is working towards solutions. The festival will feature more than 20 educational, delicious, and engaging events to showcase and build community around our region's local food economy.

Festivities begin October 17 with a Keynote presentation by Tracie Troxler of Sunshine Community Compost. She's tackling our “Exploring Food Waste” theme by sharing her expertise around composting, community, and more! In the weeks

that follow we have something for everyone in our diverse collection of events.

Want the behind-the-scenes on local, sustainable food? Check out tours at - Siesta Key Rum, Mote Aquaculture Research Park, Waste Pro Materials Recycling Facility, Bay Haven School's Food Forest, All Faiths Food Bank, and local compost sites on a bicycle tour!

Looking to eat local food? We have you covered with Big Mama's Collard Greens Fest, a local vendor fair at Lucky's Market, Ortygia Restaurant's ZERO WASTE dinner, and Operation Eco Vet's Farm-to-Table Fundraiser.

Hoping to learn something new? Register for a class on foraging, canning, fruit trees, composting, or medicinal plants.

“Tackling food waste doesn't have to be depressing... it's delicious!” Don't miss the film showing of WASTED! a story about food waste, featuring celebrity chefs and followed by a panel of Sarasota's local food experts to get you excited about tackling food waste.

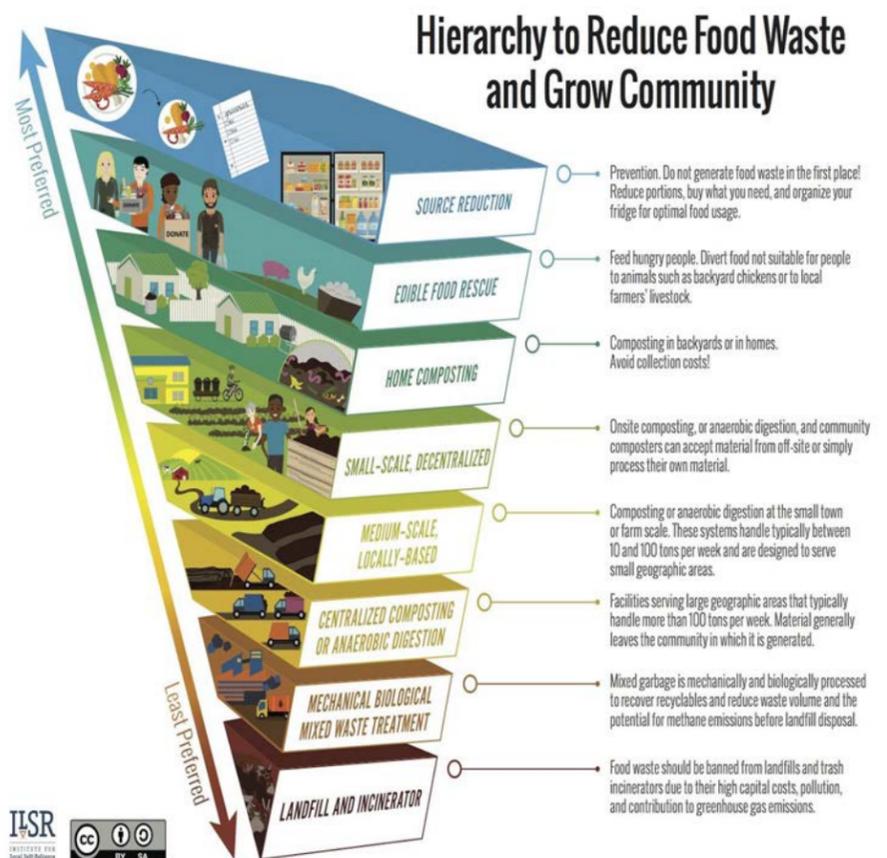
As you celebrate Eat Local Week 2019, you'll glean

how small changes can make a big impact here in Southwest Florida. We hope you'll be inspired to join us, making big strides to curb food waste.

Eat Local Week events are a mixture of free, donation based, and tickets for purchase. Most events have limited space so please reserve in advance. Full details about all the events and how to register can be found at [www.TransitionSRQ.org](http://www.TransitionSRQ.org).

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**LOOK INSIDE FOR UPCOMING FOGARTYVILLE EVENTS**

# NCF Connects Art + Humanities

New College of Florida is pleased to present its fourth season of Connecting Arts + Humanities on Florida's Creative Coast. The yearlong series of events, which kicked off in September, is supported by a five-year \$750,000 Andrew W. Mellon Foundation grant.

The 2019-20 season features two new lecture series: "Communities in Transit," which focuses on migration, deportation, and citizenship, and "Religion in Sarasota," which examines the role of religion in politics, community life, and emotional health. This season also celebrates the life and legacy of the provocative and prolific French writer Colette (1873-1954), a novelist, journalist, actress, and a liberated woman in a changing France. A series of multi-institutional events mark the centennial of her 1920 novel Chéri.

The Asian Film Series screens five films that address themes encompassing immigration, global migration, and cultural conflicts from a diverse range of Asian perspectives. Artist talks, exhibitions, and performances by New Music



*Finding Kukan* will be shown on Nov. 22 as part of The Asian Film & Talk Series. New College faculty in Economics, Geography, Islamic Studies, English, and Asian Studies will introduce the films and lead post-screening Discussions.

New College, along with collaborations with the Asolo Repertory Theatre, Westcoast Black Theatre Troupe, and Urbanite Theatre, showcase national and regional talent.

In partnership with the Sarasota Ballet, New College hosts a lecture and master class on the choreographic innovations of Paul Taylor. Collaborations with Sarasota Contemporary Dance include performances in the Ringling Museum Galleries along with the continuation of the popular Dance for Parkinson's series.

In February, New College celebrates Black History Month with a slate of events. Also, the third Thursday of every month feature a series of Campus Conversations that engage small group discussions around topics ranging from Medieval manuscripts to philosophical inquiries into our relationship with animals.

The entire 2019-2020 schedule can be viewed online at: <https://www.ncf.edu/about/news-and-events/events-and-conferences/mellon/>.



Critical Times is a publication of WSLR, Inc.

## MISSION:

WSLR+Fogartyville is a center for creative expression and community engagement that amplifies the voices of our diverse community and promotes peace, sustainability, democracy and economic and social justice.

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Share the Light

## SAVE THE DATE! Oct 17<sup>th</sup>

**What:** 24th Annual 'Share the Light' Luncheon  
**When:** Thursday, October 17th, 2019 at 11:30am  
**Where:** Michael's On East

### SHARE THE LIGHT HONOREES



Arlene Sweeting



Duhane Lindo

Join us in celebrating **SCLO's** successes and become a part of our exciting future at our **'SHARE THE LIGHT' Luncheon.**



**HOST**  
Justin Mosely  
SNN's Chief  
Meteorologist



April Glasco,  
CEO & FOUNDER  
Second Chance  
Last Opportunity, Inc.

Individual tickets are \$65  
Patron tickets are \$90

## For tickets and sponsorship opportunities

<https://secondchancelastopportunity.org/events/share-the-light-luncheon>

941-360-8600



# November Decision for the Celery Fields

BY TOM MATRULLO

sarasotavision@gmail.com

Imagine a town that out of the blue is gifted with a natural wonderland, nurturing to birds and human beings. People come to see the creatures in their wetlands, to explore a new feature of the land -- an eye-popping plateau. Soon, the new place is drawing visitors from out of town, curious to see this ecological marvel.

Now imagine that the town authorities' response to this is "meh." Indeed, when a developer wants to build a demolition waste facility next to this serendipitous sanctuary, he gets his skids greased by these authorities, who even change the Comprehensive Plan to legalize the site location after contracting to sell it to the waste developer.

What town would be so destructive to nature? To its community? To the very fabric of common sense? Sadly this is neither an imaginary tale, nor a rhetorical question.

If hundreds of residents hadn't rallied in 2017 to oppose James Gabbert's waste facility at the Celery Fields, he'd be pulverizing drywall and cement there right now with the Board Sarasota County's blessing.

And it ain't over. In November, Sarasota's elected officials will consider selling our public lands at the Celery Fields for industry.

To briefly recap:

After encountering initial community opposition, Gabbert persisted in seeking Board approval for his 16-acre open-air waste project. Perhaps he figured Sleepy Sarasota wouldn't notice. Maybe he had reason to think he had a sure thing. Gabbert cuts a substantial figure in Sarasota: from firefighter to banker, from waste facility developer to money lender, from generous backer of Commissioners Moran and Maio to elected member of the Sarasota County's Charter Review Board (first appointed by Gov. Rick Scott).

On Aug. 23, 2017, after a daylong hearing at which more than 70 speakers expressed grief, outrage, and a good deal of wisdom, the Board voted down Gabbert's proposal 3-2 (Maio and



Moran voted for Gabbert). More telling is what didn't happen: The Board didn't direct staff to take a fresh look at this area -- to explore the potential of a new amenity that meant so much to so many.

When our elected officials chose not to take a fresh look, the community volunteered to do so. In 2018 the Board kind of agreed, then pretty much ignored 10 months of coordinated community thinking, presented through a vetted and participatory consensus process.

The Board continued to do nothing until last January, when, to justify the sale and development of "the Quads" -- four parcels totaling 33 acres of public land near the Celery Fields -- it ordered staff to produce a new Critical Area Plan (CAP).

On Nov. 6, the Board is expected to discuss the plan and could decide the future of the Quads. A draft version of the CAP finds that industrial, office, or residential uses would be "suitable" on parcels #2 and #3, west of Apex Road. It suggests park-like or passive uses for parcels #1 and #4, east of Apex, and recommends sensible constraints to bar heavy industry on all four parcels. However, warehouses and other kinds of "light" industry are said to be "suitable" on #2 and #3.

Residents might not agree.

The CAP purports to describe a set of "suitable uses within an MEC-designated area." The area in question was designated MEC, Major Employment Center, in 1975 -- decades before the Celery Fields and thousands of homes to the east came into being. The cumulative effect of 340 acres of clean air, wetlands full of nesting creatures, a stunning plateau, recreational trails, the Audubon Nature Center -- a destination increasingly attractive to birds and human visitors from afar -- has irrevocably transformed the

character of this place. Why do our commissioners act as if this never happened?

With intelligent custodianship, the Celery Fields could become a more potent economic engine than any additional multi-family development, auto parts warehouse, or office park, many say. It's within walking distance to shops and restaurants. The County chose not to explore this potential in the scope of its plan.

Why not?

What happened here was quite unusual. Normally human construction constricts and dominates nature, but here the reverse happened: human intervention - driven by stormwater needs - resulted in giving Nature a new primacy. Thousands and thousands of birds noticed. The place took on a life of its own. Visually, aurally, ecologically and ornithologically, everything changed.

Mr. Gabbert is now building a waste transfer operation on land he owns adjacent to parcel #2. And Robert Waechter, former head of Sarasota's Republican Party, owns warehouses next to that parcel. Waechter repeatedly has pushed for more industry on the narrow roads there; even "light" industry can involve large trucks.

It seems fair to ask: When the Board considers the future of the Celery Fields and our public lands, what will it see? An unexpected gift of Nature? Or a chit in some petty political calculation?

This November, our elected officials need to open their eyes to the Celery Fields we know and love. If they do, they might actually see this gift -- all it can be -- for the first time.

**Tentative Meeting Date: Nov. 6 Time: TBA**

## Brady Sarasota Working for Sensible Gun Control

BY CAROL RESCIGNO

With all the mass shootings this summer, the single shootings on the streets and in our homes, all the suicides and the unintentional shootings, our legislators continue to stall on how they will keep us safer. To be fair, they have been on recess. To be fair to us, they could have returned to work to deal with this epidemic.

Brady Sarasota and its youth branch, Team Enough, held a rally on Aug. 25 that drew 150 people to Five Points Park downtown. The turnout of that many people in Florida in August shows how tired people are of the 40,000 gun deaths every year in this country. The event's co-sponsors were the Indivisible group Action Together Suncoast, Florida Veterans for Common Sense and Protect Our Public Schools. Speakers included youth and adult activists, a veteran, members of the Christian and Muslim faith communities and a song leader who engaged the crowd.

Brady believes that universal background checks, better extreme-risk (red-flag) laws and a ban on



*Brady supporters listen to speakers at the August Rally.*

assault weapons are mandatory. This is not about mental health, video games, parenting or too few "good guys with guns." It's about keeping guns out of the hands of those who are a threat to themselves or others.

Brady will hold its kickoff meeting **Thursday,**

**October 17** at 10:45 am at Gulf Gate Library, 7112 Curtiss Ave., Sarasota, to continue making plans for the next season. Current members and all those who are ready to join the fight for better gun laws and programs in Florida and nationally are urged to attend. The time is now!

# Community Partnership School to Open in Manatee County - Will Sarasota Public Schools be Next?

BY CAROL LERNER

Imagine students attending an elementary school where they learn academics through activities infused with the arts, in a school that is open from 7 am to 7 pm, and in a school with engaging recreational activities and quality learning opportunities available both before and after school.

Imagine classroom teachers having direct access to on-site professionals, including medical and mental health staff, who can take action if a student becomes ill or shows any troubling signs.

Imagine parents having access to family support staff right in the school who will provide guidance and support on any parental concern or need for assistance.

Imagine surrounding community residents being able to access medical and other services in their neighborhood school that serves as a hub for the community.

Imagine a school designed to overcome the disadvantages of poverty, where parents are empowered, and supports are available to meet the individualized needs of children.

This type of school is now being created in Manatee County at Manatee Elementary School as it transitions to becoming a full-fledged Community Partnership School (CPS) with an arts-integrated curriculum next August. Some of the services and programs are already in place and others will be phased in over this year as the planning cabinet and task forces formed to plan and implement the CPS model.

The CPS model is one of many community school models implemented in over 7500 community schools throughout the US. The Florida CPS was developed by the Children's Home Society of Florida, Orange County Public Schools and the University of Central Florida (UCF) and first implemented at Evans High School in Orlando in 2010. Formally a struggling school, Evans HS is now considered one of the top community schools in the country. There are now 16 Florida CPS-model schools, including Manatee Elementary, either established, emerging or in a planning stage, and 12 more will be added this year. The large expansion of Community Partnership Schools is due to a five-fold increase in state funding for the program in the 2019 Florida Legislative Session. This increase for CPS, one of only a few positive outcomes in this otherwise dreadful session, was contained in the same omnibus bill, SB 7070, that gave expanded the school voucher program. Had the CPS been a stand-alone bill, it would have received broad bipartisan support.

A Florida CPS consists of at least four core partners—school district, university, mental health nonprofit, and health care provider—that commit for 25-year to develop school-based wellness

services (medical, dental, vision and mental health services); afterschool recreational and expanded learning programs; and broad family support services. CPS mental health providers train all teachers and other staff in trauma-informed techniques in working with children and their families. Each CPS is uniquely crafted based on a thorough school/community needs assessment and with ongoing local community input. Funding for the partnership schools comes from district, public and private sources. The Center for Community Schools at UCF provides technical supports.

At Manatee Elementary School, the CPS model is currently being implemented by the CPS planning group. According to Manatee School Board member Charlie Kennedy in an interview that aired on WSLR's Peace and Justice Report on July 31 of this year, the CPS planning group has chosen MCR Health Services to provide wellness services and the United Community Center's 13th Avenue Dream Center to provide pre- and after-school recreational and expanded learning services. The University of South Florida (USF) will use education, art and health-related student interns to provide tutoring, homework groups, art programs and other educational and expanded learning activities. USF will also be involved in on-going research, evaluation and accountability projects. Children's Home Society of Florida will oversee mental health services.

Residents in the Manasota community became aware of the CPS-model through the work of Protect Our Public Schools (POPS), Manasota, an educational advocacy organization that was formed in spring of 2017 by mostly retired educators concerned with extreme school privatization in Florida. POPS was especially concerned with the Florida's legislature's punitive treatment of struggling schools, particularly Title 1 schools in low-income communities that are largely composed of students of color. When a so-called low-performing school gets three "D" or "F" grades (within 5 years), grades largely based on

high-stake standardized tests, the school is forced to either closed down or privatize. POPS members were troubled to learn that two Manatee County elementary schools were on the chopping block due to low grades.

POPS then learned about the Florida CPS-model and its success in improving educational and social/emotional outcomes and saw this program with extensive supports and services as a smart alternative to the "close down or privatize" approach. POPS leaders decided to hold education forums on this topic, first in Sarasota and then in



Manatee County, and arranged with staff from UCF's Center for Community Schools to address both forums. Major stakeholders and community leaders from both counties attended this well-received Sarasota forum in December 2018 at WSLR/Fogartyville, including a community leader from Manatee County with close ties to the Manatee Superintendent of Schools, Cynthia Saunders. In addition, a POPS leader had discussed the CPS-model with Manatee School Board member, Charlie Kennedy. Both school leaders came on board to implement a CPS in Manatee County. When POPS held its second forum at South Manatee Branch Library in March 2019, Kennedy announced at the forum that the District had officially signed on to become a Community Partnership School.

The POPS December forum also created an interest in developing a CPS in Sarasota. This interest has intensified recently with the release of school grades this past July that showed that the Emma E. Booker Elementary School had received a "D" grade. This prompted broad discussion in the community and within the Sarasota District on how to turn Booker Elementary School around. In this context, POPS members have approached leaders of the Sarasota District with information on Community Partnership Schools. POPS members believe that Sarasota Public Schools, which already implements some of the features of community schools at Booker and other Title 1 schools, is an excellent candidate for implementing a full-fledged CPS-model.

Meanwhile, key Sarasota community leaders and organizations are taking a close look at the CPS-model. For example, the recently formed organization, Sarasota Strong, which hopes to turn Sarasota into a trauma-informed county, likes the close alignment of its mission and that of the CPS's use

of trauma-informed approaches with children. Community leaders from the Newtown section of Sarasota, where Booker Elementary is located, are also supportive of a CPS, particularly liking the idea of having community input into the school's design.

"With its strong nonprofit sector, robust arts community, well-funded foundations and a population motivated to serve, Sarasota could develop an extraordinary Community Partnership School," education advocate and POPS member Geri Chaffee stated.



Manatee Elementary School is transitioning to a Community Partnership School.

# Sarasota Strong Addresses Community Trauma

BY ANDY BLANCH

Sarasota's "trauma-informed community" effort now has a name: Sarasota Strong. The group's vision is "To create a community that cares for itself," and the mission is "To empower people to thrive through trauma education, connection, and healing." The symbol is the banyan tree, which gains strength from aerial roots growing into the ground, creating a "community" of trees that can spread as far as an acre. The roots go deep into the earth and build intricate and beautiful patterns above ground, while the interconnected canopy provides shade from the burning tropical sun, sheltering many other species.

On the fourth Monday of every month, a growing number of community members meet to learn how toxic stress, violence, and trauma affect us, and to mobilize for effective response. Community forums alternate between north county (Community Bible Church in Newtown) and south county (UCC Church in Venice.) Speakers tell their personal stories and provide insights about healing and change. To date, topics have included racism and the trauma of incarceration, domestic violence, and sexual assault. The format encourages audience participation, which drives subsequent activities. Active working groups have formed to take the message to the larger community, to learn how to facilitate and support trauma healing among friends and neighbors, and to tackle the structural conditions that create trauma in our most vulnerable communities.

Sarasota Strong is one of many related efforts emerging across the county as public awareness

about the impact of trauma increases. A Circuit 12 trauma group, led by DCF, DOH and others, is raising public awareness about trauma in Sarasota, Manatee and Desoto counties, and is setting a policy context for trauma-informed approaches. They also host a Facebook page to provide information about trauma to the larger community <https://www.facebook.com/Peace4Manasota/>. Many behavioral health and social service providers have been effectively addressing the consequences of trauma for years, and others are following suit. First responders, teachers and staff are recognizing and responding to the trauma they experience in their daily work lives. Sarasota Strong brings a grassroots approach to this social transformation, working neighborhood by neighborhood. Over the past six months, trauma healing workshops have been offered in the Housing Authority and in two Sarasota church communities; more are being planned.

On **October 13th** from 3-5 pm, Sarasota Strong will host a showing and facilitated discussion of the film *Broken Places* at the Community Foundation of Sarasota County. The film takes its title from Ernest Hemingway in *A Farewell to Arms*: "The world breaks everyone, and afterward many are strong at the broken places." It illustrates how childhood adversity can alter life trajectories, and how people can thrive despite significant challenges. For more information, contact [SarasotaStrong@gmail.com](mailto:SarasotaStrong@gmail.com). Come join the effort to make Sarasota strong!



*Sarasota Strong community forum*



*Pastor Jo, Community Bible Church; Helen Neal-Ali, Sarasota Strong; and Lorrie Simmons, Victory over Violence - FL*

Content for the Critical Times is community-sourced. If you would like to submit an article for the January edition, please email [CriticalTimesSRQ@gmail.com](mailto:CriticalTimesSRQ@gmail.com). The deadline for the next edition will be December 10, 2019. Please submit events to our online Activist [Calendar at CriticalTimes.org](http://CriticalTimes.org).

## The Divine Feminine: Coming Into Balance

BY MITSU ITO

Throughout history, the dominant, or male principle (Divine Masculine) has been closely identified with the male gender, while feminine energy has been associated with that of the female. Unfortunately, as a result, both males and females have been boxed into culturally-defined and rigid gender roles. Masculine energy is known to be forward directed, active and logical, individually motivated, left-brained and aggressive. Feminine energy, which has been described as 'The Divine Feminine', on the other hand, is right-brained, nurturing, emotional and creative.

The widely-heralded 'rise' of the Divine Feminine is not intended to suppress the Masculine, rather it is meant to take its place alongside. There is growing awareness of the importance of incorporating traits of the Divine Feminine with those of the Divine Masculine, in order to achieve balance -- halting the global cycle of violence, inequality and hatred of 'the other'. We need to arrive at a sustainable world paradigm by uniting the two.

This six-week series of presentations, talks, exhibits and music about, and inspired by, the Divine Feminine will address this potential by exploring the characteristics, history and actuality

of the archetype of the Divine Feminine, as well as providing ways to begin to recognize and celebrate the Divine Feminine within.

Series dates: **the first Tuesday of each month, November-March** from 6:30-8:00pm. The last event, to be held in April, will take place on a date TBD.

**Tuesday, November 5th.** The Archetype of the Divine Feminine in relation to the Divine Masculine. A historical overview.

**Tuesday, December 3rd.** The Divine Feminine in Religions Past and Present. Panel Discussion.

**Tuesday, January 7th.** The Divine Feminine as Muse: Her Role in Shaping Culture. Talk and presentation.

**Tuesday, February 4th.** A Contemporary Spiritual Look at the Divine Feminine. What does DF and DM balance look like? Moderated open discussion.

**Tuesday, March 3rd.** DF principles in relation to the environment, politics, education, health and financial well-being. Panel discussion.

April. How to awaken your DF. Activities, performances and booths.

If you would like to be involved in the series, please contact Mitsi at [MitsiIto@yahoo.com](mailto:MitsiIto@yahoo.com).



*Painting of Baba Yaga by Maria La Placa, Barcelona*

*Baba Yaga symbolizes the immense power of Mother Nature - a force of nurture as well as destruction as in the recurring cycles of life and death. Her power does not come from beauty or her relationship to others. Rather, her strength comes from within. She represents the solitary, self-sufficient woman who does not need the approval of others to live a fulfilling life, in complete embodiment of her personal power.*

# Fogartyville

community media & arts center

Food and beverages are available  
**West Entrance at**  
**525 Kumquat Court, Sarasota**  
For Tickets Go online [www.WSLR.org](http://www.WSLR.org), or Call  
**1-800-838-3006**

7pm Sunday, October 6 \$12adv/\$15door



## KYSHONA ARMSTRONG

Her music taps into emotion with a common thread of overcoming, hope, + empowerment; creating a unique bluesy and soulful style of music.

8pm Saturday, October 19 \$15adv/\$18door

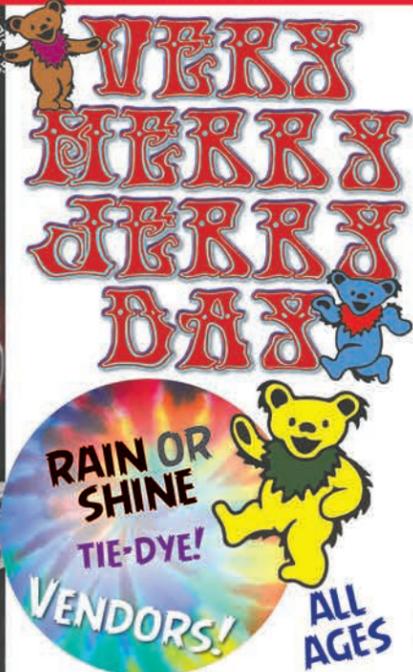
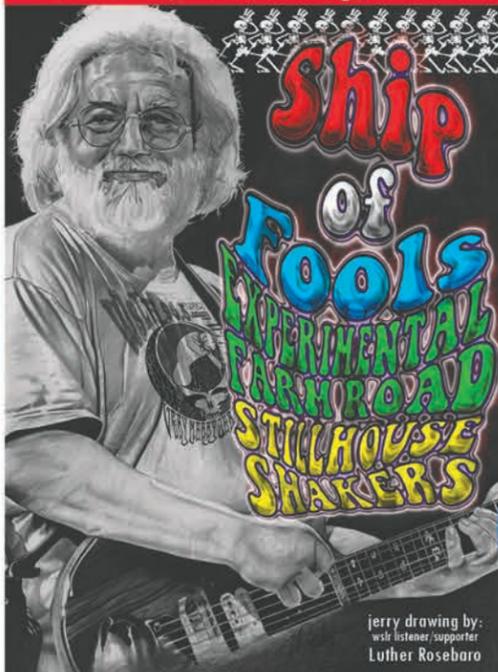
## The New 76ers + EXPERIMENTAL FARM ROAD

North Florida's acoustic folk "family" trio, their original songs are filled with lyrical harmony and expert playing. A FFF fave.

E.F.R. is a psychedelic folk band takes the 60's to heart with their vintage covers, eclectic songwriting and groovy originals



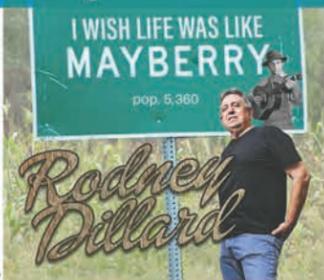
4:30-8:30pm Sunday, November 3, \$12adv/\$15door



8pm Friday, November 8 \$22members/\$25general

## The Dillard's featuring Rodney Dillard

A founding member, whose biggest claim to fame is performing musically as members of the fictional *Darling* family on *The Andy Griffith Show*, introducing bluegrass to many Americans who had never heard it. Rodney is a music history legend, recording artist, and speaking talent - and is credited as the "father of electrified bluegrass."



8pm Saturday, November 9 \$15members/\$18general

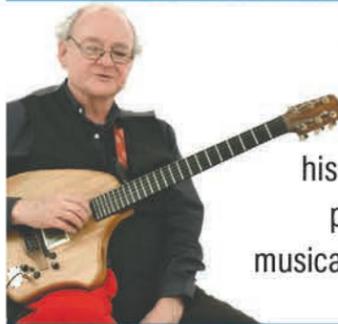


## WAHH! World Fusion

Rooted in India's rich traditional musical culture and enveloped in an artful weave of Jazz, Rock & Funk. They are a spectacular blend of 'East meets West' in true fusion-style. Led by tabla maestro, vocalist, multi-percussionist and composer: Shankh Lahiri; WAHH! features the amazing artists: Peter Mongaya on guitar, Rajib Karmakar on sitar, Michael Washington on drums, Guianna vocals and Seth Lynn on bass.

7pm Sunday, November 10, \$15members/\$18general

## ADRIAN LEGG FINGERSTYLE GUITAR



Globally acclaimed by critics and fans alike for his unique acoustic and electric fingerstyle guitar playing, Adrian Legg masterfully blends diverse musical styles, influences and inspirations to create a distinctive sound all his own.

8pm Friday, November 15 \$18members/\$22general

## François de Lima & O Som Do Jazz

Grooving samba, Bossa Nova and MPB with Brazilian valve trombonist François de Lima! featuring Rio de Janeiro singer Andrea Moraes Manson and a crew of skilled musicians from Brazil, Colombia and the U.S..



7pm Sunday, November 17 \$15members/\$20general

## CHARA IZZI

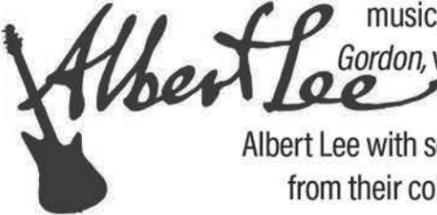


An award-winning singer-songwriter from Italy, whose sound is based on her own unique interpretation of a fusion of different genres, including trad-jazz, pop and Mediterranean sounds.

7pm Th & Fri, November 21-22 \* \$30members/\$35general

## Peter Asher

is a multi-Grammy Award winning music producer and was one half of *Peter & Gordon*, who had charted songs in the 60s, joins



Legendary 'session' guitarist Albert Lee with songs and stories, it's sure to be a blast from their colorful pasts in the music business.

8pm Saturday, November 23 \$15members/\$18general

## REMEDY TREE

This young, progressive, FL string band delivers , energy-filled lyric-driven songs in melodious harmony. They intertwine roots Americana music, bluegrass, and old-time music.



## PLUS THE WANDERING HOURS

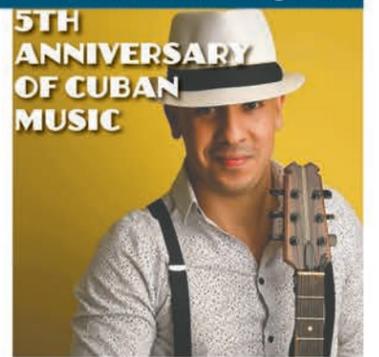


A rare group that is not only fun and engaging with the audience, but absolute tops on their instruments, drawing from folk traditions and intermingled metamodern thinking. Banjo, mandolin, guitar and percussion underscore the band's thoughtful lyrics and story telling.

8pm Saturday, November 30 \$20members/\$25general

## Renesito Avich

His compositions denote a broad conception of the sound of the Cuban Tres guitar, in which he uses expressive resources of Classical music, Jazz & World Music. Andy Fornet: percussions, Otto Duniel: vocals, Yassel Pupo: piano & Mauricio Rodriguez: bass.



7pm Th, Dec 5 \$18members/\$22general

# Amanda Platt and the Honeycutters

A storyteller by nature with an incredible band backing her. The Honeycutters are Matt Smith on pedal steel & guitar, Rick Cooper on bass, and Evan Martin on drums. Their songs are a lyrically driven blend old-school country roots with influences of rock & folk.



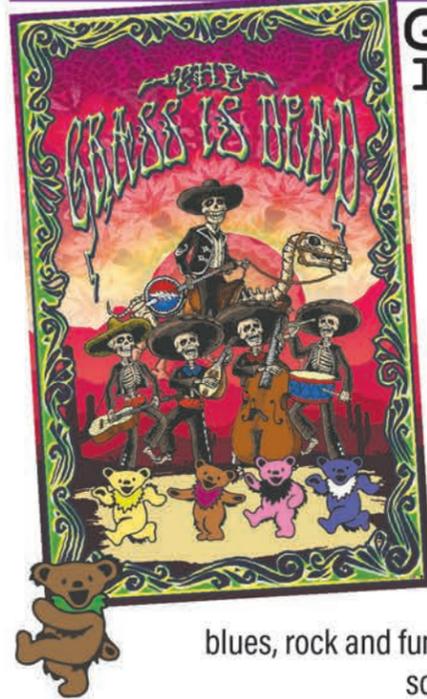
7pm Sun, Dec 8 \$12members/\$15general

# We are delighted to have PHOEBE HUNT



back! She is an accomplished Americana fiddler and singer/songwriter with foundations in world, jazz & swing music. '2017 "New" Country Artists you Need to Know' by Rolling Stone, she continues to impress.

8pm Sat, Dec 21, \$15members/\$18general



# GRASS IS DEAD

They are force-of-nature in bluegrass and Grateful Dead cover music. More than merely paying tribute to the Dead, these hot pickers seamlessly weaving bluegrass, blues, rock and funk into a unique sonic experience.

## wslr96.5lpfm

### WEEKLY PROGRAM GUIDE

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archive.wslr.org Music shows are archived for two weeks. News and public affairs are available for download, and expire later.

Americana · Folk · Cajun · Acoustic · Bluegrass
Blues · Roots · Jazz · R&B · Soul
Electronica · Dubstep · Club · Hip-hop
Freeform · Eclectic
Rock · Punk · Jam · Indie · Pop
News · Public Affairs
World · Spiritual

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
12 mid.		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.							New Radio
2 a.m.	Music Automated playlist	Midnight Special Syndicated	Strange Currency Syndicated	Upfront Soul Syndicated	Music Automated playlist		
3 a.m.		Letters to Washington Syndicated	Background Briefing Ian Masters (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.	Upfront Soul Syndicated	Generation X Alecia Harper	Eclectic Blender Dave Pedersen	Latin Explosion Juan Montenegro	Celtic Connection Syndicated	Wings of the Heart Salima Rael & Carol Rosenbaum
9 a.m.	Where to Next?/Shortwave Report	The Waterkeepers	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
10 a.m.	Critical Times Week in Review	Sea Change Radio					
11 a.m.	Music of the World Marco Ciceron	Nuestra Musica Mariano	Vibrational Journeys Perette Cannady	Metropics Carlos Pagan	Complex Waveforms Mark Zampella	Ralph Nader Radio Syndicated	Law and Disorder Syndicated
NOON		ALTERNATE WEEKS				The Detail (Rebroadcast) Cathy Antunes	Folk Alley Elena See Syndicated
1 p.m.	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)	BreakBeat Max	New Radio
2 p.m.	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	Thom Hartmann Show Syndicated	De Mush Doctor's Caribbean Rhythms De Mush Doctor	Dadee-O's Collector Corner Dadee-O
3 p.m.	Positive Friction John Haupt	Second Wind Seany G	Fur Peace Ranch Jorma Kaukonen	Dave's Day Off Dave Beaton (ALTERNATE WEEKS)	Basement Boxes Purple Mike	Eclectricity Susan Runyan	Jazz and Blues Donna B
4 p.m.			Global Village Syndicated				Everything But the Kitchen Sink Art S
5 p.m.	Music Museum Ed Foster	Tuesday Drive Home David Young	Hawaii Bob & Company Hawaii Bob	Hot Rod Rock Sven	Ted's Head Ted	Friday Happy Hour Bartender Tommy D.	Full Moon Hacksaw Syndicated
6 p.m.			ALTERNATE WEEKS				Velvet Hammer Blues Beth Hammer
7 p.m.	TownTalk TampaBay Sharon Folta	Background Briefing Ian Masters (Syndicated)	Talk Nation	Current Tides Betty & Friends	Critical Times Week in Review	All Mixed Up Syndicated	Sundazed Rachel
8 p.m.	Capitol Update State News		TUC Radio	Economic Update Richard Wolff	Counterspin/Cannabis Connection		
9 p.m.	Yesterday's Dead Today Mark Binder	The Root Cellar Roger & Peter	Acoustic Waves James Hawkins	Folk Show Syndicated	Retro Cocktail Hour Syndicated	Velvet Radio Elissa Bello	Ripper's Rarities Russ Yodice
10 p.m.	Indigenous Sounds White Horse	In Transition The B01	Radio RESET Sharon Folta	Progressive Palace Phil G	Music Lagnappe Syndicated	Mind.Your.Business. Ryan & Dana	Dirty Ice Cream Truck LoFi Luke Rosebaro
11 p.m.	Beats, Rhymes & Life DJ Cellus	Lumpytunes! The Head Lump, Rob Demperio	Music Automated playlist	New Radio	Open A.I.R. Matt Dakan & Jamiel Livingston		The Big Picture DJ Smooth E
12 mid.							DJ Mondavi DJ Mondavi

Streaming live 24/7/365 at [WSLR.org](http://WSLR.org) · Studio line 941-954-8636

# Calendar of Events

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 10, 7:30PM**

- **Socially Supportive Communities: Communication While Facing Upward and Downward Social Mobility.** A talk given by Angela Gist-Mackey, Ph.D., assistant professor and director of the Multicultural Scholars Program at the University of Kansas. Eckerd College, Triton Room, Dining Hall Way, St. Petersburg.

**FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11, 8:45-10AM -**

**Sarasota League of Women Voters: Food For Thought- Florida Medicaid.** Ruth Brandwein, LVW SRQ Health Care Committee chair, speaks about the hole in the safety net for Floridians who need Medicaid Health Care services. Email your reservation request to [rsvp@lwvsrq.org](mailto:rsvp@lwvsrq.org). Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 11:30AM -**

**Hot Topic Monday: The Immigration Crisis.** Speakers will include attorney Jim Delgado, of the Kallins Little Delgado firm, Luz Corcuera, Executive Director, Unidos Now, and University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee professor Jody McBrien. Bradenton Woman's Club, 1705 Manatee Ave. W, Bradenton.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 6:30PM - Debate**

**Watch Party.** Join us in watching the next Democratic Presidential Debate. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Ct, Sarasota.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 10:45AM -**

**Brady United Against Gun Violence,** First at-large membership meeting of the year. Gulf Gate Library, 7112 Curtiss Ave, Sarasota.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 17, 7:00 PM -**

**Eat Local Week: Exploring Food Waste;** Learn about food waste, composting, and community with keynote speaker Tracie Troxler of Sunshine Community Compost. Ringling College of Art and Design: Larry L. Thompson Academic Center, 2363 Bradenton Rd, Sarasota.

**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 12-6 PM -**

**Big Mama's Collard Greens Fest;** The fest is a celebration of community and culture, with influence from Cajun, Creole, Southern and Caribbean styles. This is a family-friendly, no-alcohol event. Robert L. Taylor Community Center, 1845 34th St, Sarasota.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 10AM-12PM**

- **Bay Haven Elementary Food Forest Tour-** This edible landscape provides our students, staff, and families with fresh fruits and other edibles such as moringa and perennial spinach in addition to serving as an outdoor learning space. Check out [www.TransitionSRQ.org/eatlocalweek](http://www.TransitionSRQ.org/eatlocalweek) for a full list of events. Bay Haven School of Basics Plus, 2901 W Tamiami Cir, Sarasota.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 6:30PM -**

**Film Screening: Free Trip To Egypt.** Free

Trip to Egypt is a journey into the unknown, a film about the transformational power of human connection, and a remarkable experiment in kindness and empathy. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Ct, Sarasota.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22, 7PM -**

**Venice General Election Forum -** The League of Women Voters of Sarasota will sponsor a Venice City Council and Mayoral Race forum. Venice Library, 300 Nokomis Ave S, Venice.

**THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 7PM -**

**Book Discussion: "You're More Powerful than you Think" by Eric Liu-** Presented by the League of Women Voters- Manatee. Read the book and attend for a lively discussion. Email [lwvmanatee@yahoo.com](mailto:lwvmanatee@yahoo.com) to let us know you're coming. Motorworks, 1014 9th St W, Bradenton.

**MONDAY, OCTOBER 28, 11:30AM -**

**League of Women Voters of Sarasota County.** Ron Turner, Sarasota Supervisor of Elections, will provide an update on the state of our elections. Marina Jack, 2 Marina Plaza, Sarasota.

**TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29, 6:30PM -**

**Russia Report Back.** Anti-war warrior Carolina Cositore joined nearly 50 other people from the US on a peace mission to Russia to listen and learn. Join Carolina as she shares what she learns from her trip. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Ct, Sarasota.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 7PM -** The

Florida Veterans for Common Sense present **Mel Goodman- American Carnage : The Wars of Donald Trump.** Mel will discuss national security topics dealing with diplomacy, intelligence, and war vs. peace. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Ct, Sarasota.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 11:30 AM-1PM**

- **Tiger Bay Forum: Women in Politics.** League of Women Voters SRQ Voter Services will sponsor a Tiger Bay forum on Women in Politics. Reservations are available at Tiger Bay Sarasota. Michael's on East Ballroom A, 1212 S East Ave, Sarasota.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 8:45-11AM -**

**League of Women Voters of Sarasota: Food for Thought: 100 Years of Women's Suffrage.** Learn about Florida Studio Theatre's 18-month long celebration of the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment which granted women the right to vote. \$10. Email your reservation request to [rsvp@lwvsrq.org](mailto:rsvp@lwvsrq.org). Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota, FL

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 11:30AM -**

**Hot Topic Monday: All About The Census and Why It's So Important.** Our speakers will include New College professor of Political Science, who will discuss what it is, why it was created, and the importance of the information

it gathers. Bradenton Woman's Club, 1705 Manatee Ave. W, Bradenton.

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 11:30AM-1PM**

- **League of Women Voters of Sarasota.** Jon Thaxton, former Sarasota county commissioner, talks about our waters and what we can do to preserve them. Email your reservation request to [rsvp@lwvsrq.org](mailto:rsvp@lwvsrq.org). Tickets are \$20 for members and \$25 for non-members. Community Foundation of Sarasota County, 2635 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota, FL

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 6:30PM -**

**Rethinking Plastic and Sarasota County Student Environmental Alliance.** Join Rethinking Plastic and SCSEA for an informational evening regarding the recycling (or lack of) in the Sarasota County School system and what the students are doing about it. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Ct, Sarasota.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 5:30-8PM.**

**Vigil for Gun Violence.** Brady Campaign's yearly vigil for victims of gun violence. Unitarian Universalist Church, 3975 Fruitville Rd, Sarasota, FL

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 6:30PM.** Protect

Our Public Schools Forum. Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court.

For a complete listing of events or to submit an event, visit [www.CriticalTimes.org](http://www.CriticalTimes.org).

## Recurring Events

**Coalition of City Neighborhood Associations (CCNA),** first Saturday of the month at 9am, Waldemere Fire Station, 2070 Waldemere Street. <http://sarasotaccna.org/>

**CONA Monthly Meeting,** second Monday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Boulevard of the Arts. <http://www.conasarasota.org/>

**Florida Veterans for Common Sense,** second Monday of the month, 7pm at Waldemere Fire Station, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Meeting Room.

**The Nation Group Monthly Meeting,** first Thursday of the month at 10:00 a.m. at the Selby Library, 1331 1st St.

**Protect our Public Schools Leadership Team Meeting,** fourth Tuesday of the month at 6:00 p.m. at the North Sarasota Public Library, 2801 Newtown Blvd.

**The Sierra Club,** second Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Sarasota Garden Club, 1131 Boulevard of the Arts.

# Redistricting: In the Public Interest?

BY PAT ROUNDS

The decision by the Sarasota County Commission to change District boundaries before the 2020 Census is controversial. But disregard for the public interest is not new for this Commission or the business groups that support them.

Our Home Rule Charter begins with “We the People”. This concept has been weakened by the actions of officials elected to abide and enforce it.

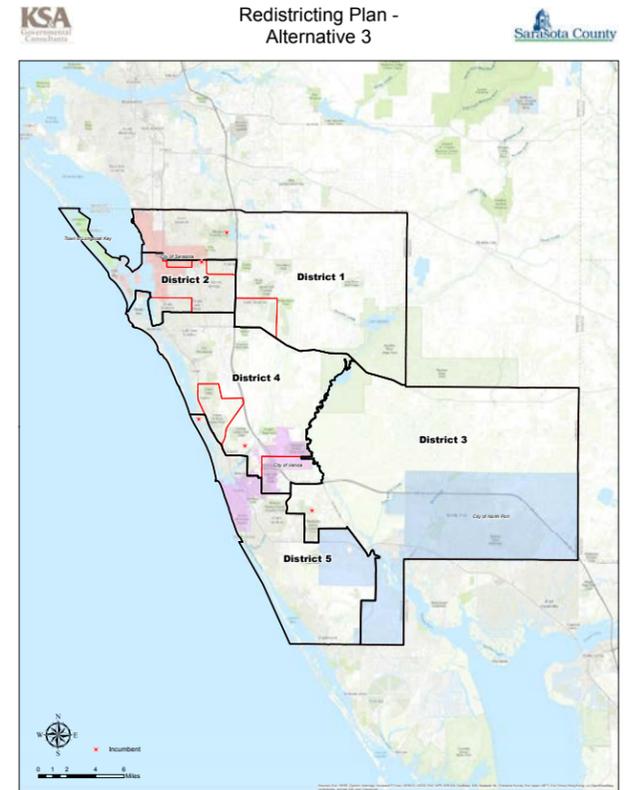
Let’s look at some history. Our County Charter

failed. Voters across party lines sent the Sarasota County power structure a clear message—No more over-development, sewage spills, Red Tide and misplaced priorities. Voters approved all three citizen-initiated ballot measures, two of which are now being challenged by---our County Commission!

And instead of heeding constituents’ voices, our Commissioners are on a tear to redraw District lines before the end of the year. Last May, County staff research didn’t justify the need to redistrict

Commissioner next year. In the end, with a past and recent history, this redistricting scheme may be figuratively rearranging the deck chairs on the Titanic. Moving the lines in search of preserving the status quo will not change the fact that all five Districts voted to change how this County operates.

After four community meetings in September to solicit input on the proposed maps, Commissioners will hold a meeting on **October 7** to review the public input on redistricting and discuss the maps further. At that meeting the board will select one



You can review the maps, get additional demographic information, and provide feedback online at <https://www.sgov.net/redistricting>.

contains a provision for citizens to use the petition process to put amendments on the ballot. This civic exercise has never been easy---requiring thousands of valid voter signatures. That’s how Sarasota County switched from touch screen voting to paper ballots in 2006. The paper ballot amendment passed with support from a broad voter spectrum, despite a failed suit by the County Commission to keep it from getting on the ballot at all. A year later, the petition process also produced a successful sensible growth amendment to the dismay of elected officials and developer interests.

Ten years pass---then in August of 2018, our County Commission was outraged that several new citizen petition amendments reached the ballot, including Single-Member Districts. So, they put a benignly worded, but misleading ordinance on the ballot to make it nearly impossible for citizens to ever use the petition process again.

This official ploy to stifle self-governance was followed by an effort intended to defeat Single-Member Districts. Some local business groups and developers richly funded a PAC (STOP! Stealing our Votes!) which distributed mailers to turn voters against more direct representation and accountability. Their deceptive tactics

early. Did the Commission listen? No.

Now the outside consultant they hired with a no-bid contract produced the desired population figures, and has solicited private input from Commissioners about new District boundaries. On Wednesday, September 11th, that consultant unveiled several “alternative District maps” (which Commissioners admitted were hard to read).

Commissioners consider this process fair, inclusive and transparent? Examples to the contrary notwithstanding, the County gave short notice about Wednesday’s meeting and sent the proposed maps to local media at the 11th hour.

By the end of this month, the County is supposed to hold five District-level public input meetings on the proposed boundary changes. But as of September 13th, the County’s website does not indicate the dates or locations of these meetings. County residents need to be given ample time and notice about these input sessions.

So, the Commission can change district boundaries, but they best not reconfigure the lines to advantage the incumbents, or move residents from Districts scheduled to vote for County

or more maps to advertise for a public hearing.

The board is scheduled to meet on **November 5** to hold a public hearing and select a final version of the map.

**REMINDER:**  
You must be registered by **February 18, 2020**



to vote in the **Presidential Preference Primary on March 17, 2020.** Florida is a closed primary state - so you must be registered as a member of the Democratic Party to vote in the Democratic Primary or as a member of the Republican Party to vote in the Republican Primary.

## Folk Music at Fogartyville

The Sarasota Folk Club has moved their monthly concert series to the Fogartyville! The series had previously been held at the Sarasota Sailing Squadron on the last Monday of the month. October’s featured performer will be Mike Worrall. The evening will start at 7pm with an open mic hosted by Mindy Simmons. Sign up for the open mic begins at 7pm...usually each act gets 2 songs.

Worrall’s music is an amalgam of folk, country and blues influences. His songs range from

poignant to ironic to darkly humorous. The open mic is a mix of local/traveling, amateur/pro, folk artists/song writers; always a surprise.

Worrall will perform at 8:30pm.

The remaining shows on the schedule for this year include The Dunn Deal on November 25th and the Holiday of Song featuring the 2PM band on December 16. Tickets for the Folk Club concerts are \$10 in advance and \$12 on the day of the show. Advance tickets can be purchased online at [wslr.org](http://wslr.org).



The Holiday of Song will feature the 2PM Band

# Ending US Forever Wars

BY JOHN FEAGAN, NATIONAL SECURITY WORKING GROUP, FLORIDA VETERANS FOR COMMON SENSE INC.

“Great nations do not fight endless wars.”  
President Donald J. Trump, Feb 5, 2019

Despite that dictum, the US will experience a grim anniversary on October 7 of this year: that will mark 18 full years since the US invaded Afghanistan. We still have an estimated 14,000 troops there. As unfortunate as that anniversary is on its own, in total, US troops remain actively involved in at least seven different wars where, in Pentagon-speak, the US “took or gave fire” in 2018 (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, and Libya). The costs of these wars to the US continue to accrue.

According to the prestigious Watson Institute for International Affairs at Brown University, the various wars in which the US participates have so far resulted in almost 7,000 US military deaths. Many other veterans are injured or wounded in mind or body, or both. Nearly 1 million disability claims have been filed with the Department of Veterans Affairs by Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. In addition, the US has spent or obligated some \$5.9 trillion on these conflicts with no end to the expenditure of blood and money in sight.

US personnel are not the only victims of these conflicts. According to a United Nations evaluation for the first half of 2019, the US and its allies were responsible for more civilian deaths in Afghanistan than were the Taliban and Islamic State forces.

It has been apparent for some time now that the US is engaged in what is increasingly identified and criticized as “Forever Wars.” Yet, there is significant and troubling evidence that, not only is there no credible plan to end our Forever Wars, further expansion of deadly US military entanglements has been under serious

consideration in such places as Venezuela and Iran. President Trump has said he wants to withdraw forces from Afghanistan and Syria, but to date no such withdrawals have occurred. Even bad wars are, of course, highly profitable for the military-industrial complex, which certainly does not favor any lessening of US commitments.

now, there has been bipartisan criticism of how the Executive Branch has utilized the AUMF, in large part based on separation of powers issues: Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution makes clear that the Legislative Branch, not the Executive Branch, is vested with the power to declare war.

The language of both the 2001 AUMF and its



How do the Pentagon and Congress juggle all the financial outlays our multiple military adventures require? In large measure, a budget gimmick is relied upon. That gimmick is called “Overseas Contingency Operations” (OCO) -- English translation: wars. These OCO funds allow Pentagon planners to circumvent budget caps otherwise applicable under the current Budget Control Act. For Fiscal Year 2019, the OCO war-fighting budget was reported to be some \$69 billion. Though Congress has yet to pass the 2020 defense budget, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Defense has just voted for a budget that would increase OCO funding to \$70.7 billion, while the House has called for OCO funding of \$68 billion.

These numbers reflect continued excessive OCO appropriations for undeclared wars. The time is overdue to restrict OCO funding in a meaningful way. This is especially so considering the shaky legal basis for our far-flung military adventures.

A little known Act of Congress (Pub. L. 107-40), called “Authorization for Use of Military Force” (AUMF), has been used to legally authorize every US military intervention in the past 18 years. This Act was hastily adopted one week after the 9/11 attacks in 2001 and expanded in 2002. For years

expanded version in 2002 expressly addresses Iraq, as well as nations “providing support” for terrorist organizations linked to the 9/11 attacks, generally considered to mean al Qaeda and the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. Yet despite the rather limited scope for justification of military force actually set out in the AUMF, the Executive Branch has in fact cited this limited language to validate US deployments in at least 19 countries, including such far-flung locales as Niger, Uganda, Yemen, Turkey, and Kosovo.

It is our assessment that these multiple engagements have constituted an unjustifiable abuse of the current AUMF. For too many years, the US military has been thrust into new conflicts with far too little Congressional oversight, no clear definitions of victory, and no exit strategies. This situation must end.

There are companion bills in Congress which would repeal the current AUMF: H. R. 1274, introduced by California Congresswoman Barbara Lee, and S.J. Res.13, introduced by Virginia Senator Tim Kaine. Polls have shown strong support for Congress to more fully reassert its authority over US military operations abroad. It is our position that it is time to end the abuse of our Forever Wars. Repeal of the current AUMF would be an important step toward that process.

## The Wars of Donald Trump

Melvin Goodman is a former Soviet analyst at the CIA and the Department of State, a Professor of International Relations at the National War College, and a Senior Fellow at the Center for International Policy in Washington, D.C. He will discuss his most recent book “American Carnage- The Wars of Donald Trump” at Fogartyville Community Media & Arts Center. Tickets are \$15 in advance, \$20 at the door, or may be purchased on the WSLR Web site.



Melvin Goodman, author of “American Carnage”

Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Ct., Sarasota  
Friday, November 1, 2019 □ 7:00PM

Sponsored by WSLR and Florida Veterans



Monthly meetings are second Mondays at 7:00PM at the Waldemere Firehouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor meeting room

Florida Veterans for Common Sense, Inc. is a non-partisan/non-profit 501(c)4 corporation. Dues are 45.00 annually. Contact FLVeterans@aol.com.



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# Venice City Elections in November

The City of Venice will hold elections to fill three council seats on **November 5th**. All of the candidates espouse the same priorities – protecting the environment, smart growth and fiscal responsibility. Voters are encouraged to attend local candidate forums to learn more about where each candidate stands on these important issues.



Bob Daniels, Ron Feinsod, Frankie Abbruzzino

Three candidates will be vying for the position of Mayor – **Bob Daniels, Ron Feinsod and Frankie Abbruzzino**. If elected, current Council Member Bob Daniels, a 76-year-old retired educator would be the first city elected official to serve more than nine consecutive years in office. Prior to a 2006 change in the City Charter, all city representatives that had served three terms had to sit out one year before running again. Frankie Abbruzzino, 52, has run a local news aggregator platform called *The Scoop* for almost 10 years. He previously ran for Mayor, losing to current Mayor John Holic. He is a Navy veteran and owns and operates Telfonix Medical Consulting. Ron Feinsod, 68, a retired camera store owner from New Jersey, is running for office for the first time. He is one of the founding members of Indivisible Venice and hosts a radio show, “Indivisible Radio,” that is broadcast weekly on WKDW-FM in North Port.

**Nick Pachota** will face **Debbie Sanacore** for Council Seat #5. Incumbent Jeanette Gates is prohibited from running again due to term limits. Pachota spent 17 years as an EMT and paramedic in Central Florida before moving back to Venice in



Nick Pachota



Debbie Sanacore

2015. His family owns the Venice Pier Group, which owns both Sharky’s on the Pier and Fins at Sharky’s and contracts with Sarasota County to operate Snook Haven on the Myakka River. At 36, Pachota, will be the youngest candidate in recent memory to seek office in Venice.

Calling herself ‘the People’s Candidate’, Sanacore, 54, has over 15 years of experience in public service, most recently with the City of Venice as a Code Enforcement Officer. She worked for almost a decade in the Town of Huntington in various positions, including Deputy Town Clerk and Legislative Secretary. She states, “From building, to spending, to the environment... It is time to pull back the reigns and make sure everything has a proper long range plan.”

**Tim Brady** and **Joe Neunder** are vying for Council Seat #6. A Pine View graduate, Neunder, 41, operates a solo chiropractic office - Sarasota Spinal Mechanics. He is a 30 year resident of Sarasota County and has served on the Sarasota Planning Commission. He has been endorsed by Sen. Joe Gruters and State Representatives James Buchanan and Tommy Gregory.

His opponent Tim Brady entered the race so voters would have a choice. He says, “In recent years the City Council has been dominated by candidates backed by special interests. They’ve

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Monday, October 7**  
Last day to register to vote

**Saturday, Oct 26**  
Last date to request a vote-by-mail ballot by mail for City of Venice election  
5p.m. deadline

**Monday, Oct 28 - Friday, Nov 1**  
Early Voting  
Supervisor of Elections Office, R.L.  
Anderson Admin Bldg, 4000 Tamiami Tr S  
8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. daily

**Tuesday, Nov 5** – Election Day - Polls open 7 a.m.-7 p.m.  
Vote-by-mail ballots may be returned by mail or in person and must reach the elections office by 7 p.m. on election day to count.



Tim Brady



Joe Neunder

destroyed the previous Comprehensive Plan, made questionable fiscal decisions, approved one development after another, ignored environmental and water quality issues, rezoned tracts, issued variances and so much more... all *not* in the interest of the citizens.” Brady worked in technology sales and marketing for 25 years.

For more information on candidates, visit [VOTE411.org](http://VOTE411.org)

## Open Primaries and Ranked Choice Voting

### JOHN SEVERINI, DIRECTOR, RCV SRQ, AND STEVE HOUGH, DIRECTOR, FLORIDA FAIR AND OPEN PRIMARIES

Not only in Florida, but across the country, anywhere from 80-90% of elected seats are considered “safe”. This situation makes the primary, not the general election, the most important election. When one party is guaranteed victory in the general election, and as turnout for primaries is traditionally much lower than general elections, our representatives are in fact being selected by a very small percentage of the electorate. Opening the primaries to independents (NPA’s) will encourage higher voter turnout and, hopefully, produce candidates accountable to a broader swath of constituents. Currently, the most partisan (some say extreme) voters are choosing our representatives.

Additionally, many races (about half) are unopposed. This situation is comparable to races in safe districts, because the representatives continue to be elected without opposition unless their base runs an opponent in the closed primary. The net effect is the same- representatives must appease the most partisan members of their respective party in order to avoid a primary challenge.

Although many states have some form of “open” primary which allows independents to participate, extreme partisanship appears to be a concern in those states as well. The reasons

may vary, but one common component is the total domination of our political system by the two major parties. A political duopoly exists in which real competition is suppressed in order to maintain the status quo. The lack of competition is the subject of a study funded by the Harvard Business School which can be found here <http://www.hbs.edu/competitiveness/documents/why-competition-in-the-politics-industry-is-failing-america.pdf>.

In the primaries, multiple candidates can split the vote, thus producing a candidate who receives less than 50% of the vote. If the candidate is in a safe district, he/she will not only be unacceptable to members of the opposing party, they will likely be unacceptable to the majority of members of their own party. This is a problem that can be fixed by implementing ranked choice voting (RCV).

With ranked choice voting, voters rank the candidates in order of preference. When the votes are counted, if a candidate does not win at least 50% of the first preference votes, the candidate with the fewest first place votes is eliminated, and their second-choice votes are distributed among the remaining candidates. This process continues until a candidate has exceeded 50%. This voting method produces a winner more acceptable to a greater number of voters than those who win under our first-past-the-post method.

Such a system encourages more candidates to apply for the job and to campaign for second choice votes if they happen not to be a voter’s

first choice. There is no such thing as a “spoiler”. Voters can vote for an independent or minor party candidate without fearing their vote will be wasted. As more and more people continue registering to vote without a party affiliation, and they become aware that opening primaries to all voters and implementing ranked choice voting is being opposed most adamantly by the partisan establishment, the calls for reform will grow louder. Ultimately, the system will change only once those calling for reform organize and become visible enough to motivate and mobilize like-minded citizens to demand change.

RCV is currently used in 12 cities in the US and about a dozen more are working on implementing RCV. Maine uses it in all statewide elections and Utah just passed a “7-year pilot” program to allow any city in Utah to use RCV. In addition, the Democratic Party will use RCV in 6 states in the 2020 Democratic primaries. Iowa, and Nevada, will use RCV for early and absentee voters; Alaska, Hawaii, Kansas, Wyoming will use RCV in all primary voting, and Maine may be next. Massachusetts, Washington, Colorado and Michigan are all working towards Statewide adoption of RCV.

RCV SRQ will hold a public meeting on **Wednesday, December 11** at 5:30pm at Selby Library. Adam Friedman, Founder of Voter Choice Mass, and City Commissioner Jennifer Ahearn-Koch will be the speakers.

# Growing Greener Generations

Sarasota County's 14th Annual Sustainability workshop will be held **November 14th** 8- 4:30 at the Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida Event and Conference Center, 4740 Cattlemen Road, Sarasota.

The theme of the workshop, "Growing Greener Generations" will tackle resiliency, food production, social equity, biodiversity, green economy, and other topics through the multi-generational panels and three keynote speakers:

Those attending, including residents, business owners and employees, non-profit leaders, and government officials, will learn about the environmental, economic and social aspects of sustainability. Multi-generational panelists will discuss the latest sustainability strategies, resources and best practices, as well as opportunities for local involvement.

"While every generation has a unique perspective on what we should focus on, all of us are facing the same growing concerns," said Sara Kane, sustainability program coordinator with the county's UF/IFAS Extension and Sustainability Department.

The keynote speakers are:

- Josh Tickell, internationally recognized author, film director, speaker, and expert on



sustainability and the climate. Josh's most recent work, "The Revolution Generation: How Millennials Can Save America and the World (Before It's Too Late)," gives new tools to young people so they can reshape political power, change the climate conversation, and save Earth's ecosystems. Learn more at [joshtickell.com](http://joshtickell.com).

- Chris Castro, director of Orlando's Office of Sustainability & Resilience, advances the city's sustainability, clean energy, and climate action goals. Chris also founded Fleet Farming, an urban farming social enterprise that builds organic farms on residential lawns. In December 2018, Chris starred in "Paris to Pittsburgh," a National Geographic documentary.

- Syd Kitson, Chairman and CEO of Kitson & Partners, specializes in the creation and development of master-planned communities and commercial properties. In 2006, Kitson completed the purchase of Babcock Ranch in Southwest Florida, encompassing more than 91,000 acres some 73,000 acres within Charlotte and Lee counties, has been preserved, in the largest single land preservation agreement in the state's history.

Register at [www.scgov.net/SustainableCommunities](http://www.scgov.net/SustainableCommunities). The fee: Early-bird registration is \$35 available through October 14, after the fee is \$45; students \$25. All registrations include breakfast, lunch and afternoon snack provided by Sarasota County Green Business Partner.

Sponsorship and exhibitor opportunities also are available.

For more information and to register, visit [www.scgov.net/SustainableCommunities](http://www.scgov.net/SustainableCommunities) or call the Sarasota County Contact Center at 941-861-5000.

## New WSLR Season, New Member Benefits!

Starting with Very Merry Jerry Day on November 3 – WSLR+Fogartyville will be implementing an enhanced Membership Program. In previous years, your contribution to the radio station made you a member of our community and you got to feel good about supporting an independent media voice in Sarasota. Occasionally you may have received a thank you gift based on the level at which you donated. With WSLR taking over the ownership and operation of the Fogartyville Community Media and Arts Center, we are now integrating Fogartyville into our membership program. In the past we have had an advance price and a day of show price for ticketed events. We

will now have a member price and a price for the general public. As a member you will save \$2-3 on every ticket you purchase. As you increase the level of your membership contribution, your rewards will also increase.

Our new Membership Program will also offer local businesses and non-profits an opportunity to show their support for WSLR. Through the program, your business can gain significant exposure through our on-air, digital and print media channels. On top of that, you are also making the statement that you support independent media and a local space for arts and activism. More information about Business and Nonprofit

Membership can be found on our website under the Support Tab.

We'll be rolling out the new Membership program during our On-Air Fall Membership Drive from **October 23-29**. Current members will be transitioned to the new program. Membership provides over 38% of the income we need to operate WSLR+Fogartyville. Your support is critical for us to continue providing the programming you've come to expect. Thanks for listening to WSLR 96.5 and supporting events at Fogartyville.

You can review the new Membership structure below.

**Sarasota Community Radio 96.5 WSLR + Fogartyville** Our impressive concert schedule, educational events, and expanded art offerings inspire creativity, fellowship and engagement – all made possible through your membership support.

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS Valid for one year from date of gift	Student	Listener	Friend	Supporter	Advocate	Partner	Concert Lover	Steward
<b>All Members Receive:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Member Pricing on WSLR+Fogartyville events</li> <li>E-newsletter notification of upcoming events</li> <li>Eligibility to become a WSLR programmer</li> </ul>								
Contribution Amount	\$15	\$40	\$60	\$120	\$500	\$1,000	\$2,500	\$5,000
Member Pricing on Event Tickets	1	1	2	4	8	All	All	All
Free Admission to Fogartyville Events, Valued up to \$25/ticket, 2 tickets/show max.				2	12	24	All	All
WSLR+Fogartyville Support Sticker	🔊	🔊	🔊	🔊	🔊	🔊	🔊	🔊
WSLR+Fogartyville Tote				🔊	🔊	🔊	🔊	🔊
Personalized Brick in the WSLR People's Patio							4"x8"	8"x8"
Private Party at Fogartyville for up to 100 people with live music and coffee, tea and soft drinks								🔊