



Michael Saunders & Company
Licensed Real Estate Broker

Our Guide to Living, Working and Playing on
FLORIDA'S GULF COAST





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Welcome!

Congratulations on choosing Florida's Gulf Coast for your next home, where beyond the powder white sands and glowing sunsets exists a world of celebrations through performance and visual arts, music, film, fine dining and fun. By working with the Relocation team of Michael Saunders & Company, you are taking the right steps towards a smooth, stress-free transition to our beautiful coastal destination.



RELOCATE WITH EASE

Relocating to Florida's Gulf Coast has never been easier. With our area specialists standing by to help you on your transition, you have more time to discover your perfect place and enjoy the pleasant thoughts of a laidback lifestyle among our area's many charms. The homes in the tri-county area are as varied as the communities in which they are found, from expansive waterfront estates to charming golf course villas and everything in between. With so many styles and options available in all price ranges, the perfect home for you exists here in the Sarasota-Manatee-Charlotte area.

If you are not yet working with a Michael Saunders & Company agent, our Relocation team can hand-select a sales associate who is the right fit for the location and type of property you seek. This agent will be able to provide valuable insight on neighborhoods, comparable properties, current market conditions, and guide you through the intricate negotiation process. Our exclusive affiliation with Leading Real Estate Companies of the World brings powerful connections to help transitions to Florida's Gulf Coast from anywhere in the world for both individuals or corporations.

FLORIDA'S GULF COAST A CHERISHED DESTINATION

Welcome to our exciting, luxurious tropical oasis of pristine beaches, turquoise waters and laidback island lifestyles. For new permanent and seasonal residents, fishing and boating on aquamarine water, playing championship golf courses year-round, collecting seashells along white sandy beaches, strolling through galleries and watching sensational sunsets are but some of the thrilling adventures ahead.





**MICHAEL SAUNDERS & COMPANY
CONVENIENT TO YOU, ANYWHERE
IN THE SARASOTA AREA**

As the preferred real estate company on Florida's Gulf Coast, Michael Saunders & Company offers 23 office locations conveniently positioned to from Bradenton to Punta Gorda and beyond. With such convenient access to world-class real estate services and support, you can be sure to find an area expert to provide the most in-depth market knowledge applicable to your neighborhood of choice. For more information on our list of offices, please refer to [Reference Section II](#) at the end of this guide.

GORGEOUS CLIMATE

Of all the reasons to visit or move to our area, the perfect climate might just be at the top of the list. There are few other places on earth that have the combination of world-class beaches, tropically warm weather and year-round sunshine like Southwest Florida.

SOUTHWEST FLORIDA WEATHER AVERAGES												
Averages	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
High	71°	72°	77°	81°	86°	88°	90°	90°	88°	84°	78°	74°
Low	48°	50°	55°	58°	64°	70°	71°	72°	71°	64°	57°	51°
Precip	2.5"	3.0"	3.3"	1.3"	2.8"	7.8"	8.9"	9.5"	8.0"	2.6"	2.1"	2.3"



AN AREA STEEPED IN HISTORY

Florida boasts a fascinating history dating back to the mid-16th century, when intrepid pioneers braved a most hostile environment to settle in what has become the Sunshine State. Sarasota first became a “modern” town in the 1880s after a promotion in Scotland by the Florida Mortgage and Investment Company in 1885. For many, it presented a breath of fresh air, promising an abundance of fertile land, plentiful citrus groves and affordable housing. Scottish families looking for a new start set sail for Sarasota, but found little more than a frontier camp upon their arrival. However, among those who stayed to complete their dream was John Hamilton Gillespie, a Scottish aristocrat, lawyer, and member of the Royal Company of Archers, Queen’s Bodyguard for Scotland.



It was Gillespie who is believed to have built America’s first golf course, right here in Sarasota. Quite the entrepreneur, Mr. Gillespie also built the upscale DeSoto Hotel on Main Street for tourists and prospective investors. In 1902, he was elected as Sarasota’s first mayor.

By the winter of 1910, Sarasota had a population of less than 1,000 when a visit from Bertha Honore Palmer, a wealthy Chicago civic and social leader, was the catalyst to help change the little town from a sleepy fishing village to a cosmopolitan village. Her declaration that Sarasota Bay was more beautiful than the Bay of Naples caught the attention of the press and visionaries who led residents to enjoy its tropical charms.

Today’s Historic Spanish Point was once the posh waterfront winter estate and gardens of Bertha Palmer, widow of Chicago developer Potter Palmer. That’s not all—what is now Myakka River State Park was once Palmer’s 30,000-acre ranch in eastern Sarasota, called Meadowsweet Pastures.

SARASOTA THE CIRCUS TOWN

John Ringling, of Ringling Brothers and Barnum & Bailey Circus, made his mark on the community with much more flair. Not only did he and his wife, Mable, build a magnificent Venetian-style mansion on Sarasota Bay—named Cà d’Zan (house of John)—but they went a few steps further in positioning Sarasota as “Florida’s Cultural Coast.”

John and Mable needed a place to house their ever-growing collection of works by Peter Paul Reubens and other masters of 17th-century Italian and Flemish art. We know that collection today as the John & Mable Ringling Museum of Art, one of America’s most celebrated art museums.

Ringling’s influence didn’t stop there. As a developer and dreamer, Ringling used his circus elephants to help build the first bridge from the mainland to St. Armands Key, where he went on to develop a commercial and residential center.

In 1927, the circus’ winter quarters were moved to Sarasota—branding the area as a “circus town.”

Historical information compiled from: “Sarasota Over My Shoulder,” by Janet Snyder Matthews, the Sarasota County Department of Historical Resources, and sarasotafl.org.



SARASOTA COUNTY

Spanning north from Longboat Key, Lido Key, Bird Key, Siesta Key, and south through Sarasota, Casey Key, Manasota Key, Venice, Englewood and to the tip of North Port, Sarasota County is distinguished by its diversity and unspoiled character and charm. Wonderful single-family residences nestled within idyllic golf course communities; bayfront, lakefront and canal-front homes and condominiums—the possibilities are endless. Sarasota is the hub of local cultural attractions, including the internationally famous Ringling Museum, the ballet, opera, theatre groups and a regular lineup of stars at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall. Shopping choices range from unique boutiques, antique shops and art galleries to Saks Fifth Avenue and more. For more information on our cultural attraction line-up, please refer to **Reference Section I** at the end of this guide.



MANATEE COUNTY

Bordering the Gulf of Mexico, Manatee River, and both Tampa Bay and Sarasota Bay, the areas that make up Manatee County offer some of the most beautiful, extraordinary destinations in all of Florida. Anna Maria Island and Holmes Beach offer a laidback, barefoot elegance befitting its quaint beach-town atmosphere. Along the revitalized riverfront and within the vibrant downtown, restaurants, boutiques, and a variety of science and natural history exhibits provide an exciting center of fun and discovery. The internationally acclaimed IMG Academies offers a multi-sport training facility and a range of residential options for some of the world's top athletes. Golf courses, polo grounds and a bustling Main Street greet the residents of Lakewood Ranch, an 8,500-acre master-planned community made up of seven

gorgeous villages. From charming Old Florida bungalows and magnificent waterfront estates to luxury condominiums and stately country club communities, Manatee County is sure to have the right home for every taste.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Situated along and around the sparkling Charlotte Harbor, the communities of Charlotte County—Port Charlotte, Englewood and Punta Gorda—reflect the unique ambiance of the area, graced with unspoiled beauty and favorable lifestyles perfect for both full-time residents and vacationers. Port Charlotte has more than 165 miles of waterways, many with access to Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf of Mexico. There are miles of natural shoreline bordering Charlotte Harbor and the Peace and Myakka Rivers. The City of Punta Gorda boasts a charming and historic waterfront town, while its residential areas feature brick-lined streets shaded by old royal. Straddling both Sarasota and Charlotte counties, Englewood residents delight in an array of recreational activities framed by some of the world's most beautiful tropical surrounds.



AREA FACTS

Area People

Population (town and surrounding area) 236,293
Population change over time
(increase since 1990) 23.50%

Sarasota Median age 45

Males: 25,291 (48.6%)
Females: 26,734 (51.4%)
Median resident age: 41.1 years
Florida median age: 38.7 year

2010 YEAR-TO-DATE HOME SALES STATISTICS

Sarasota County

Median price..... \$237,500
Single-Family Homes Median Price \$231,000
Condominium Median Price..... \$303,000

Manatee County

Median price..... \$215,000
Single-Family Homes Median Price \$249,500
Condominium Median Price..... \$157,000

Charlotte County

Median price..... \$142,000
Single-Family Homes Median Price \$144,000
Condominium Median Price..... \$161,500

Courtesy of Trendgraphix, city-data.com/city/Sarasota-Florida and homeinsight.com



World Class Beaches

While some areas are internationally recognized for their architecture or skyscrapers, Florida's Gulf Coast is most widely known for one thing: gorgeous beaches. For both residents and visitors from around the world, Florida's Gulf Coast beaches make spending time in our area truly special. With miles of soft, white sand lapped by gentle azure waters, each day is a tropical respite capped by a glorious sunset folding softly beyond the shimmering horizon.

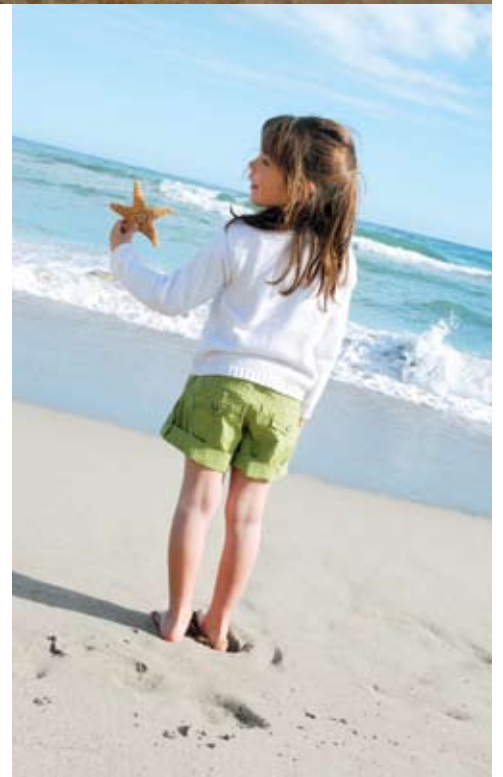
SARASOTA COUNTY

Blind Pass Beach - Blind Pass Beach is located on Manasota Key Road, one mile north of the Charlotte County Line on Manasota Key. Amenities include rest rooms, parking, playground equipment, canoe launch, nature trail, large picnic shelter, and dune wildflowers. Please note that no lifeguards are on duty.

Brohard Beach - Brohard Beach is located in the southern most part of the City of Venice, on the Venice Airport property on Harbor Drive. This park is owned by the City of Venice and operated by Sarasota County. If you enjoy fishing for recreation, there is a 740-foot fishing pier on the property for public use. The pier contains rest rooms, a snack bar, and a bait shop.

Caspersen Beach - Caspersen Beach is located south of the Venice Airport on Harbor Drive. As you visit this beach, you will find that the southern two-thirds of beachfront have been left in their natural state. Many people describe it as uncultivated, windswept and secluded. A dune restoration system with walkovers has been implemented to preserve the shoreline. Restrooms, picnic tables, and showers are available, but no lifeguards are on duty.

Crescent Beach - Noted for its soft, white sand and crescent shape, Crescent Beach extends from the northern tip of Siesta Key and south past Siesta Beach to Point of Rocks. Relatively secluded and quiet, Crescent Beach has only one public access road.





Lido Beach - Located mid-island on Lido Key and only minutes from St. Armands Circle, the facilities here are outstanding. Besides the beautiful sand and sea, also provided are showers, lockers, dressing rooms, a 25-meter swimming pool, concession stand, public meeting rooms, beachwear souvenir boutique, and children's playground.

Longboat Key - Longboat Key is for those who prefer seclusion. These pristine beaches are a well-kept secret and public access is at a minimum. Undeveloped sandy beach extends from North Shore Road, south to county line and accessible only through residential street ends.

Manasota Beach - Manasota Beach is located at the west end of Manasota Beach Road. This is a wonderful place to spend your leisure time whether you are interested in taking a walk, collecting shells, or maybe flying a kite. This beach is situated between the Gulf and the Intracoastal Waterway. As a convenience on the Intracoastal side, a boat ramp and docking facilities are available allowing access to the Bays and Gulf. The 620 feet of dockage becomes a scenic boardwalk that meanders through the mangroves. Lifeguards on duty.

Nokomis Beaches - To find the Nokomis beaches, turn west on Albee Road off U.S. 41 and cross over the Nokomis Bridge. Straight ahead, you'll find Nokomis Beach, with ample parking in two lots, lifeguards, picnic tables, grills and bathrooms. To your right is Casey Key.

North Jetty Beach - North Jetty Beach is located on the southern tip of Casey Key. The jetties make this one of the most exciting surfing beaches on the west coast of Florida. It is a very popular picnicking spot for families and large groups, and the fishing is spectacular. If you enjoy watching boats, this is a good place to engage in that activity. Boats can be seen daily as they pass through the jetties from the Intracoastal Waterway to the Gulf of Mexico. Amenities include rest rooms, parking, bait shop, large and small picnic shelters, horseshoe courts, volleyball courts, concession, and dune walkovers. For your safety, lifeguards are on duty year round.

North Lido Beach - North Lido Beach is a gorgeous half-mile stretch of beach and is the area's most famous beach. 77 acres of land including over 3,000 feet of sandy beach located at the northern tip of Lido Key on the west side of Westway Drive.

Palmer Point Beach - Palmer Point Beach begins at the southern tip of Siesta Key and continues onto the north end of Casey Key. The northern portion of this beach was previously the home of Mote Marine Laboratory. The closing of Midnight Pass in January of 1984 has created one continuous beach from the northern portion to Casey Key. This beach will give you a feeling of privacy and seclusion. It is a beautiful, gently sloping beach with a pristine dune system. The beach is a popular spot for boaters and people who like to walk along the shore from Turtle Beach. Two things to make note of if you are visiting: there are no lifeguards on duty, and there are no facilities present.



Siesta Public Beach - Located mid-island off Midnight Pass is where the action is and where you'll find the world's finest, whitest sand. It's the widest beach in the county and certainly the most popular, continually ranked as one of Stephen Leatherman's (Dr. Beach) best beaches in the nation. On its busiest weekends you'll find more than 15,000 people there. Facilities include a concession stand, restrooms, volleyball nets, tennis courts and year-round lifeguards. Pine trees shade an area for picnicking, with grills for cooking out and a playground for the children. This sparkling white beach is also within walking distance to Siesta Village, a shopping and dining mecca with an island flair.

South Lido Beach - Located at the south end of Ben Franklin Drive, at the southern tip of Lido Key. A 100-acre park intersects with four significant bodies of water: The Gulf of Mexico, Big Pass, Sarasota Bay and Brushy Bayou. The southern beach portion of the park offers expansive views of downtown Sarasota and the Gulf of Mexico. Lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables and showers.

Turtle Beach - Turtle Beach is a tranquil spot located on the southernmost tip of Siesta Key on Midnight Pass Road, about two and one-half miles south of Stickney Point Road. Less crowded than Siesta Beach, it is a wonderful place to spend a few hours sunbathing, reading or picnicking under its covered shelter.

Venice Beaches - Fossilized sharks' teeth are the main attraction at Casperson Beach, near the airport off Harbor Drive in Venice. It also features a fishing pier, nature trail and a restaurant. If you want to sunbathe on smooth, white sand or enjoy crystal-blue waters, Venice Public Beach, at the end of W. Venice Ave. off Hwy 41, offers picnic benches, restrooms and outdoor showers.



CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Don Pedro Island - Located at the south end of Little Gasparilla Island, accessible via private boat. Restrooms and picnic tables are available.

Englewood Public Beach - Located at the Beach Road at Manasota Key Road in Englewood. Concessions, restrooms, picnic tables and showers are available.

Stump Pass Beach - Located at the south end of Manasota Key Road, on Manasota Key. Restrooms are available.

MANATEE COUNTY

Anna Maria Bayfront Park - On the northern end of Anna Maria Island is a secluded beach that fronts both the Intracoastal Waterway and the Gulf of Mexico. According to the locals, this is the best beach in the area for finding unbroken sand dollars and scalloped cockleshells. Sunbathers discover small sand dunes, sea oats and a great view of the Sunshine Skyway Bridge. Park-goers can enjoy amenities such as a barbecue pit, picnic shelters, a playground, restrooms, showers and lifeguards.

Coquina Beach - On Anna Maria's southern tip, is a lovely and popular public beach lined with towering Australian pines. Families can enjoy this park because of its full-service concession stand, ample parking, barbecue pits, picnic facilities, boat ramp, playground, restrooms, showers and lifeguards.

Cortez Beach - Also known as Bradenton Beach, is located just north of Coquina on Gulf Blvd., and boasts three-fourths of a mile of sugar-white sand. Restrooms, lifeguards, and free parking available. Also enjoy a restaurant and snack bar that even serves pancake breakfasts on weekends.

Greer Island (Beer Can Island) - Greer Island at the north end of Longboat Key is accessed by boat or North Shore Blvd., and is a beautiful, secluded peninsula with a wide beach and excellent shelling. No facilities or lifeguards are available.





CHAMPIONSHIP GOLF

Florida's Gulf Coast has long been associated with some of the country's most challenging, sophisticated golf courses ever since John Hamilton Gillespie brought the game to Sarasota back in 1886. Graced with such gorgeous year round weather and a beautiful backdrop of lush tropical foliage, our area attracts golfers of all skill levels from around the world to test their skills on over 100 professionally designed fairways and greens in the tri-county area.

A RECREATIONAL PARADISE

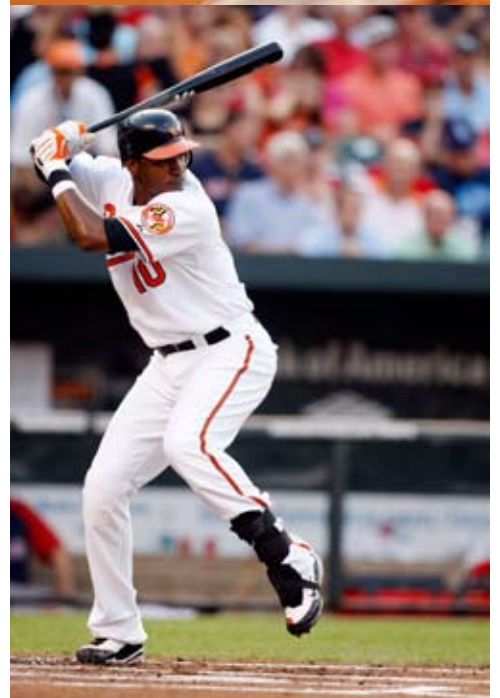
The lifestyles and leisure activities of the Gulf and bay, the beaches, and the diverse cultural amenities continue to welcome visitors and new residents to an exciting new chapter of their lives, bathed in sunshine and soothed by calming sea breezes. Both the active sport fanatic and casual sideline fan will revel in a range of recreational fun from fishing, golf, tennis, diving and more. Florida's Gulf Coast is a subtropical playground filled with year round challenges for the sport enthusiast.

HIGH PERFORMANCE ATHLETIC ACCOMMODATIONS

Southwest Florida is a great place for sports—not only for our great year-round weather, but also for the numerous amenities our community has to offer. We have many attractions and offer a wide variety of accommodations, anything from campgrounds to luxury resort hotels. Some of our best sporting venues include our many Sarasota County Parks, Ed Smith Stadium, Sarasota Polo Grounds, the world-famous IMG Academies, and Siesta Key Beach. No matter which sport you love, we are the place for you!

A WARM HOME FOR PROFESSIONALS

Since the early 1900s, Sarasota and professional baseball have been a great match. In 1923, John Ringling helped convince the owner of the New York Giants to come to Sarasota to practice during the spring months. Through public subscriptions, a stadium was built and the team came on February of 1924. Since then, Sarasota has been home to the Indianapolis Indians, Boston Red Sox, Los Angeles Dodgers, Chicago White Sox, Cincinnati Reds, and currently the Baltimore Orioles. Now, each spring season provides the opportunity to see some of baseball's best right here in Ed Smith Stadium. Sharing the Suncoast sunshine are the Pittsburgh Pirates, who play each spring just north in Bradenton.





A NAUTICAL PLAYGROUND
Sparkling, clear and beautiful, there are miles upon miles of Gulf, calm bays and pristine inland waterways inviting you to explore. Within a 20-minute boat ride from any Sarasota coastal destination you can watch dolphins play, dock at your favorite restaurant on the water, anchor and enjoy a small island, snorkel above an active reef whirling with sea life, or experience the thrill of a lifetime reeling in a trophy fish. Our waters are a limitless playground for nautical enthusiasts, enhanced by glowing evening sunsets across the beautiful Gulf of Mexico.



AN ANGLER'S PARADISE

For anyone who has ever dreamed of catching the big one, the water off Florida's Gulf Coast is the place to do it. A trip to the coast of Florida is not complete without an adventure into the backwaters and onto the beaches searching for some of the world's most sought-after sportfish. Along our coast, there is something for everyone all year long—whether you prefer fly fishing, offshore fishing, bay fishing or fishing from one of our piers. From the simplest pole with just a hook and line to the more sophisticated rod and reel, the fishing opportunities off Sarasota Bay, the Gulf of Mexico and the Intracoastal Waterway and beyond offer an exciting playground for anglers of all ages. Want to ensure a memorable catch? A number of area charters and guides are available to make your fishing trip an experience to remember.



KAYAKING ADVENTURES

Explore a world of natural beauty and venture through pristine habitats and natural ecosystems with a kayaking excursion through miles of waterways. A host of unique wildlife and fauna awaits along peaceful waterways and mangrove-lined channels lending a glimpse back in time to the serenity of Old Florida. Discover an astounding natural diversity of manatees, dolphins, fish and birds, along with the breathtaking environment that supports them.

CYCLING SARASOTA

An excellent source for exercise and adventure, a bike ride is so much better when the scenery is beautiful. Sarasota County has hundreds of miles of bike trails winding through wooded preserves, along the beaches and by the bay views. Whether you are a cycling pro or a novice, you will rediscover nature on Sarasota bike trails. Jump on the ten-mile Legacy Trail and travel from Sarasota to Venice through Oscar Scherer State Park. The paved trail is perfect for bicycling and rollerblading. Wildlife viewing along the trail is excellent and abundant with gopher tortoises, foxes, bobcats and scrub jays. The trail hosts plenty of areas to stop, rest, learn about its history or just enjoy the surrounding natural beauty.



RAISING A FAMILY ON FLORIDA'S GULF COAST

For obvious reasons, families want to raise their children somewhere safe, where they can attend good schools with favorable student-teacher ratios, above-average test scores and respectable budgets. They want to enjoy proximity to an array of cultural offerings, well-kept parks and places of recreation, and quality pediatricians to ensure a healthy upbringing. Florida's Gulf Coast offers all these values and more, creating a perfect environment for families of all ages and lifestyles to plant their roots.

ATTRACTIONS: SARASOTA SEE AND DO

Invigorate your senses and inspire your spirit with some of the Gulf Coast's most remarkable, sought-after attractions and activities, found right here in the Sarasota area.

Once named the "Best Small City in America," Sarasota and its surrounding area are brimming with an array of recreational, performance art, cultural and leisure attractions sure to satisfy any taste—young or old. Family, friends and guests will find an abundance of memorable pleasures from which to choose, from catching a stunning show at an internationally recognized theatre to experiencing the wonders of science hands-on, and much, much more.



Take a tour of paintings and sculptures by the great old masters at the John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art. View a living collection of more than 6,000 orchids at Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. Enjoy a unique, hands-on view of science at G.Wiz (Gulfcoast Wonder and Imagination Zone). Delight in music, dance, a theater performance or comedy show inside the landmark Van Wezel Performing

Arts Hall. Get up close to some exotic animals at Sarasota Jungle Gardens. Or, take a stroll in the trees along the jungle-esque canopy walkway at the Myakka River State Park. Your options for fun in Sarasota are as unique as they are plentiful. Refer to [Reference Section 2](#) at the end of this guide for a list of fun things to see and do.

PARKS

State and local parks invite you to enjoy the great outdoors. Beaches, lakes and wooded preserves provide the perfect venue to gather with friends or get away from the day-to-day grind to unwind. Filled with an assortment of recreational facilities to ensure a healthy, active lifestyle, the parks throughout Sarasota County serve as the perfect destinations for biking, hiking, canoeing, picnicking, camping and more. Please refer to [Reference Section 3](#) for full contact information for area parks.



SENIOR LIVING

As a preferred destination for retirees around the country, Florida's Gulf Coast takes great care in offering safe, secure environments for our senior residents. From privately owned and managed facilities to residential retirement and assisted living communities offering lifestyles of catered elegance and luxury resort comfort, our accommodations lend the ideal setting for retirees and those needing assistance to enjoy our gorgeous climate.

HEALTHCARE

Florida's Gulf Coast is home to a broad spectrum of highly regarded health care facilities. From convenient clinics to comprehensive medical centers, your health care is in good hands. Our medical facilities consistently rank among the top in the country for open heart surgery expertise, attracting some of the most advanced research and development capabilities available.

An abundance of medical practice in Sarasota County offers plenty of top-quality choices in healthcare. Acute facilities and nursing homes are plentiful, fully staffed and of exceptional quality, giving seniors a great selection. In addition, the area hosts a variety of rehabilitation systems including doctors, physical therapists, occupational and speech therapists and psychological resources to aid with a number of issues. Please refer to **Reference Section 5** for healthcare contact information.

BUSINESS ON THE GULF COAST

Whether you are starting a business, looking for new markets for your existing business, or interested in joining the ranks of a nationally recognized corporation, our downtown city centers offer the bustling activity to suit the commercial needs for companies of all sizes. Our ever-changing skyline and evolving infrastructure are a result of the substantial growth and interest our area has experienced within the last several years. Plus, Money Magazine consistently places Sarasota as one of the "Best Small Cities in America" citing our attractive location for business and retirees alike. Additionally, we have garnered recognition as being among the top in national destinations for companies relocating to communities. With so many exciting opportunities available and many more to come, business here is good! Please refer to **Reference Section 6** for employment services on Florida's Gulf Coast.



SHOPPING

Florida's Gulf Coast has the charm of a small community with the shopping power of a major cosmopolitan city. From a number of expansive shopping malls, outlet malls and specialty boutiques to casual strolls along the storefronts of St. Armands Circle, downtown Sarasota, Siesta Key Village, downtown Venice, and the waterfront hub Fisherman's Village

in Punta Gorda, shoppers of all ages and styles are sure to find the treasures that suit their taste. Sarasota's hub of fine dining and world-class shopping, St. Armands Circle attracts local visitors and international travelers to its casually elegant island location. A tradition since 1979, the Sarasota Farmers Market runs every week serving the community with local produce, plants, prepared foods, crafts and artwork.

ANNUAL EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

A sleepy beachside community? Not this area! Residents and frequent visitors know to keep their calendars marked and closely monitored to take advantage of all the exciting events and festivals found throughout the Sarasota area. From the locally cherished Sarasota Blues Festival and the downtown Sarasota Festival of the Arts to the internationally recognized Sarasota Film Festival and the thrilling Offshore Races, there is plenty to see and experience every month to fascinate, stun and delight all ages. Please refer to **Reference Section 7** for a list of Sarasota annual events.



EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING IN AREA SCHOOLS

The residents of Florida's Gulf Coast are strongly committed to quality education. In addition to highly rated elementary and high schools, notable colleges and universities highlight the area. No matter what your age, interest or level, our area has an educational facility to suit your needs.

The love of learning and the feeling of confidence and accomplishment are gifts every child deserves. Sarasota County wraps and presents these gifts to all public school children by providing one of the finest education packages in the state of Florida. Our public schools are equipped with the latest computer/audio-visual/learning technologies and benefit from active support from various parent, business and community groups who contribute to the pursuit of educational excellence. Please refer to **Reference Section 4** for school and family resource contact information.





CORE SERVICES

MSC MORTGAGE

**An Affiliate Of Wells Fargo Home Mortgage
Responsible Lending From The Most Reputable Sources**

MSC Mortgage, in partnering with Wells Fargo Home Mortgage, has teamed-up with one of the most outstanding and reputable institutions in the home lending industry. With full-time mortgage originators embedded in several of our branch offices, potential buyers for your home can be rapidly pre-qualified to make sure they will have no difficulty obtaining financing in route to a successful closing. **941-308-2222**

MSC TITLE

**Underwritten By First American Title Insurance Company
Happiness In Your New Home Begins With Peace Of Mind**

Perhaps the most critical phase of a successful real estate transaction takes place between signing the contract and closing on the property. Thus, with your successful closing in mind, we established MSC Title.

The expert team of title examiners, processors and closers at MSC Title handles every critical detail between contract and closing consistent with the level of service and accuracy our clients expect and deserve. Backed by the professional underwriting strength of First American Title and Chicago Title Insurance Companies we confirm that your home is completely free of liens and title defects before any unwanted surprises derail your closing. **941-552-5211**

MSC RELOCATION & REFERRAL SERVICES

**Helping Incoming Buyers
Purchase The Right Homes And
Re-Settle Quickly**

Still another way in which Michael Saunders & Company systematically imports qualified buyers into our Gulf Coast coverage area is through MSC Relocation & Referral Services Division.

Thanks to long-standing relationships with numerous relocation management companies and in-house corporate relocation departments, MSC Relocation & Referral Services has become an indispensable resource for companies needing to quickly and efficiently match incoming employees and top executives with the housing necessary to meet their needs and match their lifestyle preferences. One of those homes may be yours.

Additionally through our national and international broker-to-broker affiliations, Michael Saunders & Company is the first choice for referrals into Southwest Florida of incoming buyers from throughout the world. These include our exclusive affiliation with Leading Real Estate Companies of the World, whose extensive referral network is comprised of over 600 of the best-known local and regional real estate firms with nearly 5,000 offices and 150,000 associates throughout the U.S. and 30 countries abroad. **941-955-8200**



MSC RESIDENTIAL

Home buying and selling with confidence.

Michael Saunders & Company's 550-plus agents provide coverage of residential properties from a 100 mile swath of the Gulf Coast. They are the most highly trained and experienced professionals available to home buyers and sellers specializing in every type of lifestyle the area has available to enjoy. From classic Florida bungalows, luxurious waterfront estates and contemporary urban condominiums to golfing communities, equestrian estates and developable acreage, ours is the region's most all-encompassing portfolio of properties; spread equally across all price ranges, neighborhoods and lifestyles.



MSC COMMERCIAL

Serving The Market For Commercial Properties With Precision Marketing And Property Management Solutions

Dependable results are why so many business owners, developers, medical professionals, retailers, manufacturers and investors rely on the commercial property specialists at Michael Saunders & Company to handle their commercial property sales, marketing, leasing; and day-to-day property management. Among other major benefits that accrue to our commercial clients, we leverage our position as the market leader to provide the most current, accurate and thorough information necessary to make informed decisions and maximize financial returns. From determining your objectives to negotiating a complex lease, purchase or sale, our broad expertise helps you take command of new opportunities even as you achieve your commercial real estate goals.

The Commercial Property Management Division of Michael Saunders & Company offers a long and reliable record of efficiently managing a variety of commercial property types—including office, retail and industrial. Our proactive approach to management ensures that your property is consistently maintained to keep tenancy high and vacancies at a minimum. Moreover, our exceptionally strong vendor relationships allow us to provide the highest quality services at the most competitive prices. **941-957-3730**

MSC INTERNATIONAL

Keeping Pace With Global Buyers

In our increasingly globalized society, the United States—and particularly Florida—is widely viewed as one of the safest, most reliable and most desirable places on earth for foreign nationals to purchase real estate. For this reason Michael Saunders & Company, through its International Division, maintains an extremely high profile on the worldwide brokerage stage.

Together our international property experts bring years of international business experience, fluency in 15 major world languages, and an intricate knowledge of the tax and legal implications governing property transactions involving foreign purchasers. Our affiliation with MoneyCorp, one of the world's foremost authorities in currency exchange and global payment services, helps buyers lock-in the best possible exchange rates at the most opportune times. **941-955-8200**





MSC NEW HOMES & CONDOMINIUMS

Southwest Florida's Pre-Eminent Provider Of New Homes And Condominiums Services

Since its inception in 1996, the New Homes & Condominiums Division has helped drive phenomenal property sales in all strata of new condominium and single-family market development; and has established Michael Saunders & Company as the Gulf Coast's pre-eminent provider of new homes and condominiums real estate services.

Bringing a product to market that meets and exceeds buyer expectation and demand, with prices and amenities that fulfill an unmet niche has been the formula for our success. We have worked diligently with nearly 100 developers to successfully create communities that meet the demand of the most discerning homebuyers enabling us to sell billions of dollars in new residential construction.

In troubled markets, the New Homes & Condominiums group works closely with lenders, equity partners and individual developers to seek creative solutions for financially challenged entities. Based upon the land use plan, entitlements, market studies, and current sales situation, the team from Michael Saunders & Company evaluates the community; and then recommends a plan that enables it to transition from financial uncertainty to economic viability. **941-951-6650**

MSC SOLUTIONS

Confronting Change With Change

It's a fact. Real estate markets can change rapidly, dramatically and unexpectedly. And your transactional needs are apt to change just as suddenly. That's why you can always depend on Michael Saunders & Company to remain nimble in our ability to respond quickly to changes in the marketplace with re-shaped divisional services to meet every new challenge the market sends your way.



In rapid succession, for example, we launched MSC Assets Management, REO & Bank Owned Properties and MSC Short Sale Divisions to acknowledge the sudden and troublesome trend in foreclosures and short sales—transactions once considered rare and archaic that are now common household words. We have experts to staff and manage these divisions; then thoroughly train

our agents in the intricacies of successfully maneuvering their clients through each of these complex transactions with dignity and understanding.

When you work with an agent from Michael Saunders & Company you can always be confident that the resources you need are in-house and at your agent's fingertips. **941-955-8200**

For more information on our list of offices, please refer to **Reference Section II** at the end of this guide.



MOVING TO FLORIDA'S GULF COAST

Moving is a multi-faceted process. To help, Michael Saunders & Company's Relocation team now offers referral services to assist with your moving needs. With our strategic affiliation with Leading Real Estate Companies of the World, is a global network of 600 premier real estate firms with 5,000 offices and 150,000 sales associates in more than 30 countries around the world, you are ensured the support of the world's most proven specialists in personal or corporate relocation. We can arrange to have a representative contact you directly within 24-hours to schedule a convenient time to meet and provide you with a moving estimate. You will also receive "corporate" rates and discounts. Whether you are moving domestically or internationally, we are here to help. Please refer to Reference Section 10 for utilities information.

MOVING GUIDE CHECKLIST BEFORE YOUR MOVE

One-two months before....

- Put together a 'moving book' to keep notes of what you need do, what you've done etc.
- Buy a file to store all the documentation and paperwork associated with the move.
- Find and book a moving company.
- If you need to use storage facilities look at your options and book it.
- Make a list of everyone you need to notify of your change of address.
- Contact key financial providers such as your bank or other institutions to have your details changed and to start up the process of cancelling/setting up automatic payments and/or accounts, etc.
- Notify schools and employers of change of address.
- Start packing non-essential stuff (it's never too soon to begin!) whenever you have some free time.
- If you have pets, Contact the State Veterinarian's Office or State Department of Agriculture requesting the pet laws and regulations of your destination state.
- If you have a pet carrier, get your pet accustomed to the carrier several days before a flight or car ride by using it as a bed.
- Buy, hire, beg, borrow or steal suitable boxes and containers to pack your stuff into.
- Talk to your doctor, dentist, veterinarian etc., to notify them of your change of address or to come off their books if necessary.
- Contact all of your insurers (home, vehicle, medical etc) to notify them of your move.
- Get a lockable box and start putting in important documents as you come across them.
- Give all service providers such as gardeners, domestic help and regular delivery services notice that you will be moving. Cancel or change any subscriptions or memberships you have.
- Send out change of address notices to friends and family if you have a firm moving date now. You'll have less time as the days pass so it's good to get this out of the way.
- Get a form from your local Post Office for their mail forwarding service, fill it in and send it off.



- Start making an inventory of your goods and take photos/videos of valuable items.
- Complete any repairs to your home that you are committed to.

Two-three weeks before.....

- Contact utility companies and service providers to arrange to have your appliances/services disconnected and, if necessary, reconnected in your new home.
- Move your packing up a gear. Take a room a day and start packing up stuff you don't use regularly.
- Request necessary documents from your veterinarian for your pet.
- Take back library books, pick up dry-cleaning and think about any other similar things you may have pending in the area.
- Have your car(s) serviced.
- Start living off your store cupboard and freezer and stop buying frozen or perishable food - you can't really take it with you and it'll make the move easier.
- Put aside a box/boxes for personal/essential items that you want to take with you yourself rather than have the movers take. Start putting stuff in it as you come across it. Mark it DO NOT MOVE so

- your movers don't load it by mistake.
- Pack up your garage and any stuff that is stored in your yard, garden or sheds.
- Empty your lawnmower and power tools of fuel etc.
- Dispose of anything that is flammable or hazardous.

One week before.....

- Call your mover and any other companies involved with the move (vehicle movers, storage facilities etc) and confirm all of your arrangements, times etc.
- Keep packing!
- Start taking apart furniture that needs to be disassembled.
- Make sure all your outstanding bills are paid.

One-two days before.....

- Defrost and clean your refrigerator/freezer and secure major appliances such as washing machines/cookers etc. Make sure that utility companies are confirmed to disconnect services/take meter readings etc.
- Finish taking apart furniture that needs to be disassembled.

- Sort out any plants you're taking with you.
- Check that all the paperwork related to your house sale/rental/purchase is complete.
- Close bank accounts if necessary.
- Finish your major packing.
- Pack up your PC and other electrical equipment. Write down the serial numbers in your moving book.
- Put together a box of essentials for the move such as tea, coffee, mugs, sugar, tools, paper and pen and cleaning materials.
- Make sure all boxes are clearly marked/labeled.
- Start cleaning the house as you go along.
- Make sure you have all the documents related to your move to hand.



DURING YOUR MOVE

Moving day at your old home.....

- Get up early and don't panic!
- Take bedding off beds and pack it up.
- Walk your movers through the house, tell them what you need them to do and take their advice on the actual loading.
- Give the house a final clean.
- Leave a note of your name, new address and contact number for the new residents of your home so they can forward any mail that slips through the cracks.
- Have a final walk round to check you've remembered everything - do this BEFORE the moving vehicle leaves!
- Make sure you have keys to your new home and drop off your

- current keys as you've arranged.
- Make sure you load everything you're taking yourself in the car and lock it!
- Switch everything off, lock up and leave!

Moving day at your new home.....

- Check everything is working such as power, gas, etc.
- Supervise the unloading process to get everything where you want it.
- Clean before you start unpacking.
- Start unpacking essentials.

After Your Move

- Unpack logically working down from essential to non-essential items.
- Reassemble your furniture when you have time.

- Don't worry about filling wardrobes immediately if you have hired/bought special wardrobe boxes. They can hang perfectly well in there until you have time to put them away properly.
- Get all of your major appliances ready for use again.
- Unpack all electrical items as quickly as possible and check for damage - you may have a limited window for insurance claims.
- Check your mail is being forwarded to your new address.
- Register with a doctor, dentist, veterinarian, etc.
- If necessary change your driver's license and car details, etc.

LOCAL AIRPORTS

The Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport serves over one million passengers a year as a gateway to Florida's southwest Gulf Coast. Conveniently sized, this airport offers a comfortable, secure and stress-free atmosphere, and airline ticketing, baggage claim, and other services are just steps away from the main concourse and commuter gates. With approximately ten airlines serving this facility to and from both domestic and international destinations, Sarasota Bradenton Airport is your local connection to the world.

Located just a 45-minute drive from Sarasota, Tampa International Airport serves as a major hub for outgoing and incoming international and national flights.

YOUR FLORIDA DRIVER'S LICENSE

The State of Florida requires newcomers who drive to apply for a Florida driver's license within 30 days of becoming a resident. Drivers who currently possess a valid out-of-state driver's license and have a driving record free of violations are only required to pass a vision test. Drivers who have offenses against their license or drivers attempting to acquire a license for the first time must also pass a written exam (based on the Florida Driver's Handbook) as well as a driving test.

For more information visit:

Sarasota - flhsmv.gov/offices/sarasota.html or (850) 617-2000

Manatee - flhsmv.gov/offices/manatee.html or (850) 617-2000

Charlotte - dmvflorida.org/charlotte.shtml or (866) Go-Renew

AUTO REGISTRATION

If you are moving to Florida, the state's law requires that you register a vehicle within 10 days after engaging in an occupation in Florida or enter a child in a Florida school. You need to first obtain a Florida driver's license. Next you need to obtain auto insurance from a company licensed in Florida. Many auto insurance companies licensed in Florida provide online services. At the DMV you'll also need your original out-of-state title and VIN verification.

When you are issued a motor vehicle registration you will receive a license plate, vehicle registration certificate and validation decal.

FLORIDA HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

A tax exemption is an important benefit that offers Florida residents the opportunity to save up to hundreds of dollars in property tax bills. The homestead exemption is the most common and valuable exemption, providing savings every year a homeowner owns and resides in their primary home.

Florida's constitution provides for a \$25,000 exemption, which is deducted from a property's assessed value if the owner qualifies. Every person who owns and resides on real property in Florida on January 1 and makes the property their permanent residence is eligible to receive a homestead exemption up to \$50,000. The first \$25,000 applies to all property taxes, including school district taxes. The additional exemption up to \$25,000, applies to the assessed value between \$50,000 and \$75,000 and only to non-school taxes. Applicants who timely file by March 1, possess title to the real property, and are Florida residents living in the dwelling and making it their permanent home as of January 1, qualify for the exemption.

FLORIDA TAXES

Did you know Florida is one of only seven states that do not tax individual wage income? For more information on Florida tax laws and rules, visit the Florida department of revenue site at dor.myflorida.com/dor. <http://dor.myflorida.com/dor/>

INTERNATIONAL TRANSITION WELCOMING NEW RESIDENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

With beautiful year-round temperatures, relaxing beaches and picturesque tropical foliage, Florida's Gulf Coast has become an attractive destination for homebuyers around the world seeking a laidback lifestyle. By working with the Relocation Department of Michael Saunders & Company, international buyers can rely on our team of professionals to help guide them through the complex process of buying property in the U.S. with expertise, knowledge and experience.

Our dedicated staff can ensure seamless relocation services for you and your family, and we can also provide updated answers to all of your new resident concerns, including information about neighborhoods, schools, employment opportunities, recreational facilities and beaches, cultural attractions, shopping, restaurants, lifestyles and more. For more information on making your international transition to Florida's Gulf Coast as stress free as possible, contact a member of our Relocation team today at 1.888.552.5228 or visit michaelsaunders.com.



REFERENCE SECTION I

THE ARTS

Sarasota

Recognized as one of the nation's best small arts cities, Sarasota offers a wide array of cultural activities. Surrounding communities contribute their own unique arts destinations and events.

Anything Arts

PO Box 1646
Sarasota, FL 34230
941.374.5896
anythingarts.com

AnythingArts.com provides support to the arts utilizing the Internet. This support is provide based on a belief that a community is only as strong as sum of its parts. The arts have always been an integral part of the greater Sarasota community. The arts have contributed greatly to the strength, well-being and vigor of the Sarasota area. This site strives to provide a comprehensive guide to the local arts and entertainment scene.

Arts Council

1226 N. Tamiami Trail, Suite 300
Sarasota, FL 34236

941.365.5118

sarasotaarts.org

The Sarasota Arts Council promotes the arts in our area. The council distributes grants to local art organizations, produces Arts Day each year, assembles educational workshops and exhibitions, hosts an annual awards program to recognize local arts leaders, and provides information about local cultural events. The organization was instrumental in the effort to return art education programs to all Sarasota County public schools, and is hard at work to ensure a bright future for the arts in Sarasota.

Asolo Theatre Company

5555 N. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34243
941.351.8000
asolorep.org

Originally founded by Florida State University in 1960 as a summer theatre company, the Asolo Theatre Company became a year-round professional theatre in 1966. The Asolo provides new artists a vehicle to

produce their latest works, in addition to the classic revivals and perennial favorites performed throughout each season.

Florida Studio Theatre

1241 Palm Ave. N.
Sarasota, FL 34236
941.366.9000
floridastudiotheatre.org

Founded in 1973, the Florida Studio Theatre (FST) has evolved into a theatre with more than 20,000 subscribers, an audience larger than any similarly sized theatre in the country. FST focuses on world premieres and contemporary works produced on or off-Broadway within the last five years.

Florida West Coast Symphony

709 Tamiami Trail N.
Sarasota, FL 34236
941.953.3434
sarasotaorchestra.org



The prestigious Florida West Coast Symphony is the oldest continuing orchestra in the State of Florida. From its inception in 1949, the Florida West Coast Symphony performs at several Manatee and Sarasota County community venues.

Sarasota Ballet

5555 N. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34234
941..552.1032
sarasotaballet.org

Sarasota Ballet, a dance company in operation for over a decade, presents a wide array of dance in different styles. The company hosts



and provides an exciting program which offers a mixture of theater, music and dance performances.

Ringling Museum

5401 Bay Shore Road
Sarasota, FL 34243
941.359.5700
ringling.org

For a quiet afternoon of cultural appreciation, visit the historic Ringling Museum, and view the sculpture garden, art and heritage that created the cultural foundation of our area. The Ringling's brought much more than the circus to Sarasota -- they engendered a sense of appreciation for the arts, and the philosophy of preservation for paintings, sculpture, architecture, performance and much more. Also, enjoy the opportunity to explore The Gallery of the Circus and the Ca'd'Zan, the expansive Ringling mansion.



a range of special events each year in addition to its regularly featured programs.

Sarasota Film Festival

941.364.9514
sarasotafilmfestival.com

The Sarasota Film Society brings many brilliant films to local audiences, focusing its attention on less mainstream movies and foreign features. The annual film festival is a culmination of the group's efforts and has brought national exposure to our community.

Sarasota Opera

61 N. Pineapple Ave.
Sarasota, FL 34236
941.366.8450
sarasotaopera.org

Recognized by the State of Florida for its high caliber of artistry and fine performances, the

Sarasota Opera Association features four operas in February and March.

The Jazz Club of Sarasota

330 S. Pineapple Ave #11
Sarasota, FL 34236
941.366.1552
jazzclubsarasota.com

The Jazz Club of Sarasota, founded in 1980 with the goal of preserving, promoting and performing jazz, is one of the nation's largest jazz clubs, with 2,700 members. The organization offers approximately 100 events per year including monthly concerts, jazz jams, free concerts, a film/lecture series, educational programs and various community outreach programs.

Van Wezel

777 N. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34236
941.955.7676
vanwezel.org

The curtain is always going up to a resounding applause as patrons take in a night at the opera, the ballet, or a performance at the Van Wezel by one of the many favorite international stars featured. The Hall, which opened in 1970 and recently was renovated, hosts about 140 performances annually



South Florida Museum

201 10th St.W.
Bradenton, FL 34205
941.746.4131
southfloridamuseum.org

The museum's exhibits cover our local heritage from the Indians to De Soto to the Crackers who settled the region; the planetarium offers laser-lightshows and stargazing.



REFERENCE SECTION 2

SEE AND DO

Sarasota County

Sarasota-Manatee Bicycle Club
smbc.us

Siesta Beach
bestbeaches.org/siestabeach/

Mote Marine Laboratories
mote.org/

Sarasota Bay Explorers
sarasotabayexplorers.com/

Florida Ever-Glides
floridaever-glides.com/portal/

Sarasota Children's Garden
sarasotachildrensgarden.com/

Big Cat Habitat
bigcathabitat.org/

Island Style Water Sports
islandstyle.ws/

Selby Gardens
selby.org

Myakka Wildlife Tours
myakkawildlife.com/

Sarasota Jungle Gardens
sarasotajunglegardens.com

Smuggler's Cove Miniature Golf
smugglersgolf.com/

Enterprise Sailing Charters
sarasotasailing.com/

Fish'n Addiction
captainroysting.com/

Siesta Sports Rentals
siestasportsrentals.com/

Siesta Key Waters Sports
siestakeywatersports.com/

Florida Underwater Sports
floridaunderwatersports.com/

Cannon's Marina
cannons.com/

Daikin Dairy Farms
dakindairyfarms.com/

Play Golf Sarasota
playgolfsarasota.com/

Dome Flea Market
thedomefleamarket.com/

Historic Spanish Point
historicspanishpoint.org/

Manatee County

Anna Maria Island Power Squad (AMIPS)
manatee-boating.org

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation
Commission - myfwc.com

Manasota Track Club
manasotatrackclub.sports.officelive.com

DeSoto National Memorial
beachdirectory.com/desotomemorial/index.html

Mixon Fruit Farms
mixonevents.com/groupstoursparties.asp

Schomburg Farms - discoverourtown.com/FL/Palmetto/Recreation/21382.htm

Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch
islandturtles.com/

Zegway by the Bay
zegwaybythebay.com/

RUM International Rowing
rowvirusboats.com/

Palma Sola Botanical Park
palmasolabp.com/

Blue Water Explorers
bluewaterexplorers.com/

Beach Bums
beachbumsami.com/

Fun and Sail Parasail
annamariaparasail.com/

Ellenton Ice and Sports Complex
ellentonice.com/

Charlotte County

Warm Mineral Springs North Port
WarmMineralSprings.com

King Fisher Fleet
kingfisherfleet.com/

Grande Tours
grandetours.com/

Golf
charlotteharbortravel.com/

Babcock Wilderness Adventures
babcockwilderness.com/

Fantasea Scuba
fantaseascuba.com/

Historic Ghost Tours of Punta Gorda
ghosttourspg.com/

Island Jet Ski Rentals
islandjetski.com/

Kidstar Park
kidstarpark.com/home.htm

Paintball Partyz
paintballpartyz.com/

Southwest Florida Skydive Club
skydiveswflorida.com/

Treasure Lanes Bowling
treasurelanes.com/



REFERENCE SECTION 3 PARKS

MANATEE COUNTY

Palmetto

Skyway Pier State Park – Skyway Bridge on I-275, Palmetto
Blackstone Park – 2112 14th Avenue West, Palmetto
Lincoln Park – 715 17th Street East, Palmetto
Emerson Point Park – 5801 17th Street West, Palmetto
Buffalo Creek Park – 57550 69th Street East, Ellenton
Ola Mae Sims Park – 11800 Erie Road, Parrish
Rye Wilderness Park – 751 Rye Wilderness Trail, Parrish
East Bradenton Park – 1119 13th Street East, Bradenton
Botanical Garden Park – 9800 17th Avenue N.W., Bradenton
Braden River Park – 5201 51st Street East, Bradenton

Bradenton

G.T. Bray Park – 5502 33rd Avenue Drive West, Bradenton
Lake Manatee State Park – 15 miles east of
Bradenton of SR64, Bradenton
Lakewood Ranch Park – 5350 Lakewood Ranch Blvd., Bradenton
Manatee Palms Park – 6510 1st Avenue East, Bradenton
Palma Sola Causeway Park – Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton
Pride Park – 815 63rd Avenue East, Bradenton
Duette Preserve – 2649 Rawls Road, Duette
Myakka Community Park – 10060 Wachula Road, Myakka City
Crane Park – 37655 State Road 70, Myakka City

SARASOTA COUNTY

Sarasota

17th Street Park & 17th Street Paw Park – 4570 17th Street, Sarasota
35th Street Park – 3530 Old Bradenton Road, East Side, Sarasota
A.B. Smith Park – 241 Oak Street & Payne Parkway, Sarasota

Ackerman Park – 6481 Interstate Blvd., Sarasota
Adult Recreation Center – 801 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
Arlington Park & Aquatic Center – 2650 Waldemere Street, Sarasota
Avion Park – 436 Pompano Avenue, Sarasota
Bay Island Park – 946 Siesta Drive, Sarasota
Bee Ridge Park – 4430 S. Lockwood Ridge Road, Sarasota
Bird Key Park – 200 John Ringling Causeway, Sarasota
Causeway Park – 420 John Ringling Causeway, Sarasota
Centennial Park – 1059 N. Tamiami Trail at 11th Street, Sarasota
Christopher Wheeler Park – East end of
Old Stickney Point Road, Sarasota
Cohen Park – 1845 34th Street, Sarasota
Colonial Oaks Park – 5300 Colonial Oaks Blvd., Sarasota
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Park – 2523 Coconut
Ave. at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Sarasota
Eastwood Park – 422 W. Cornelius Circle, Sarasota
Edwards Islands – Roberts Bay, Sarasota
Fairgrounds Park – 185 S. Pompano Avenue, Sarasota
Fredd Atkins Park – 2581 Washington Court, Sarasota
Fruitville Park – 5151 Richardson Road, Sarasota
Fruitville Road Park – Northeast of
Fruitville Road & Beneva, Sarasota
Gillespie Park – 710 N. Osprey Avenue, Sarasota
Hopewell Cemetery – 6730 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota
Lakeview Park – 7150 Lago Street, Sarasota
Lawn Bowling (Civic Center) – 809 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
Longwood Park – 6050 Longwood Blvd., Sarasota
Miss Sarasota Softball Complex – 1111 Gun Club Road, Sarasota
Neville Preserve – Little Sarasota Bay, Sarasota
New Pass Fishing Piers – 1700 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota
Newtown Community Center – 1845 34th Street, Sarasota
Newtown Estates Park – 2800 Newtown Blvd. &
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Sarasota



North Metro Park – 2500 Honore Avenue, Sarasota
North Water Tower Park – 4700 Rilma Avenue, Sarasota
Orange Avenue Park – 1822 N. Orange Avenue, Sarasota
Otter Key – Sarasota Bay, Sarasota
Payne Park – 2050 Adams Lane, Sarasota
Phillippi Estate Park – 5500 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
Phillippi Shores Park – 1863 Phillippi Shores Drive, Sarasota
Pinecraft Park – 1420 Gilbert Avenue, Sarasota
Pioneer Park – 1121 Cocoanut Avenue, Sarasota
Potter Park – 8587 Potter Park Drive, Sarasota
Red Rock Park – 3987 Camino Real, South of Bay Road, Sarasota
Riverview Tennis Courts – One Ram Way,
Riverview High School, Sarasota
Sevilla Park – 1506 Central Avenue, 15th & 16th Street, Sarasota
South Gate Circle – 3170 South Gate Circle, Sarasota
Tony Saprito Fishing Pier (Causeway Park) –
420 John Ringling Causeway, Sarasota
Twin Lakes Park Facility – 6700 Clark Road, Sarasota
Youth Athletic Complex – 2810 17th Street, Sarasota
North Lido Beach – 400 Ben Franklin Drive, Lido Key
South Lido Park – 190 Taft Drive & 2201 Ben Franklin, Lido Key
Boyd Park – 4300 Midnight Pass Road & Higel Avenue, Siesta Key
Glebe Park – 998 Glebe Lane, Siesta Key
Ocean Boulevard, Beach Access #5 – Ocean Blvd
& Beach Road Intersection, Siesta Key
North Jetty – 1000 Casey Key Road, Casey Key
Knights Trail Park – 3445 Rustic Road, Laurel
Laurel Park – 509 Collins Street, Laurel

Osprey

Bay Street Park – 300 Bay Street, Osprey
Blackburn Point Park – 800 Blackburn Point Road, Osprey
Osprey Fishing Pier – West end of Main Street, Osprey
Pine View Tennis Courts – One Python Pass, Osprey
Shoreland Park – Shoreland Drive, West of
Oscar Scherer State Park, Osprey
Ken Thompson Park/City Island – 1700 Ken
Thompson Parkway, State Road 789, Osprey
Nokomis Community Park – 234 Nippino Trail, Nokomis

Venice

By-Pass Park – 1101 Gulf Coast Blvd., Venice
Carlton Reserve – 1800 Mabry Carlton Parkway, Venice
Caspersen Beach – 4100 Harbor Drive South, Venice
Chuck Reiter Stadium – 250 Fort Street, Venice
Hecksher Park – 450 West Venice Avenue, Venice
Higel Park – 1330 Tarpon Center Drive, Venice
Marina Boat Ramp Park – 215 E. Venice Avenue, Venice



Nightingale Park – 675 Nightingale Road, Venice
Pinebrook Park – 1251 Pinebrook Road, Venice
Plantation Park – 1570 Center Road, Venice
Rattlesnake Island – Lyons Bay, Venice
Service Club Park – 1600 Harbor Drive South, Venice
Shamrock Park & Nature Center – 3900 W. Shamrock Drive, Venice
Venice Community Center – 326 S. Nokomis Avenue, Venice
Wellfield Park – 1300 Ridgewood, Venice
Woodmere Park & Woodmere Paw Park –
3951 Woodmere Park Blvd., Venice
Venetia Bay Park – 800 Venetia Bay Blvd., Venice & Nokomis
Challenger Park – 371 Olivia Street, S. Venice

North Port

Al Goll Recreation Center – 5930 Sam Shapos Drive, North Port
Blue Ridge Park – 2155 Ridgewood Drive, North Port
Butler Park – 6205 West Price Blvd., North Port
Dallas White Park – 5900 Greenwood Avenue, North Port
George Mullen Community Activity Center –
3025 North Port Blvd., North Port
Highlands Ridge Park – 6225 Kenwood Drive, North Port
Hope Park – 8161 Lombra Avenue, North Port
Kirk Park – 8305 Trionfo Avenue, North Port
LaBrea Park – 6340 LaBrea Street, North Port
Marina Park – 7030 Chancellor Blvd., North Port
McKibben Park – 5500 Trekeill Street, North Port
Myakkahatchee Park – 6968 Reisterstown Road, North Port
North Port Pool – 5925 Greenwood Avenue, North Port
Oaks Park – Mandrake Avenue, North Port
Pine Park – 4556 McKibben Drive, North Port
Youth Recreational Center – 5845 Greenwood Avenue, North Port



CHARLOTTE COUNTY

G.C. Herring Park – 3406 Indiana Road, Cape Haze
Gulfstream Park – 3406 Indiana Road, Cape Haze
Placida Park – 3499 Gasparilla Road, Placida
Placida Rotary Centennial Park – SR775/Placida Road, Placida
Boca Grande Fishing Pier Park – 5810
Gasparilla Road, Gasparilla Island

Englewood

Englewood Recreation Center – 101 N. Orange Street, Englewood
Englewood Sports Complex – 1300 S. River Road, Englewood
Indian Mound Park – 210 Winson Avenue, Englewood
Kiwanis/Buchan Park – 1390 Old Englewood Road, Englewood
Lemon Bay Park & Environmental Center
– 570 Bay Park Blvd., Englewood
Pine Street Park – 1300 S. River Road, Englewood

Rotonda

Rotonda Park – 100 Rotonda Blvd. East, Rotonda West
Amberjack Environmental Park – 6450
Gasparilla Pines Blvd., Rotonda
Cape Haze Pioneer Trail Park – 1688 Gasparilla Road, Rotonda

Punta Gorda

Allapatchee Shores Park – 3100 Hickory Court, Punta Gorda
Bissett Park – 12455 Path Avenue, Punta Gorda
Carmalita Athletic Park – 6905 Florida Street, Punta Gorda
Charlotte Flatwoods Environmental Park –
15801 Tamiami Trail, Punta Gorda
Clark Park – 3100 Patio Court, Punta Gorda
Darst Park – 537 Darst Avenue, Punta Gorda
Deep Creek Park – 25555 Sandhill Blvd., Punta Gorda
Riverside Park – 8320 Riverside Drive, Punta Gorda
Scotts Park – 6430 Scott Street, Punta Gorda
South Punta Gorda Heights Park – 11040
Pinetrail Road, Punta Gorda

Harbour Heights Park – 27420 Voyageur Drive, Punta Gorda
Hathaway Park – 35461 Washington Loop Road, Punta Gorda
Helen Wrobbles Park – US17 at Cleveland Drive, Punta Gorda

Port Charlotte

Audobon-Pennington Nature Park – 1153
Alton Road, Port Charlotte
Bayshore Live Oak Park – 23157 Bayshore Road, Port Charlotte
Butterford Waterway Park – 13555 Marathon Blvd., Port Charlotte
Charlotte Sports Park – 2300 El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte
Chester Roberts Park – 5084 Melbourne Street, Port Charlotte
Edgewater Park – 22410 Glass Lane, Port Charlotte
Franz Ross Park – 19355 Quesada Blvd., Port Charlotte
El Jobean Fishing Pier – Rt 776, Port Charlotte
El Jobean Park – 333 Kerrigan Circle – Port Charlotte
Harold Avenue Park – 23400 Harold Avenue, Port Charlotte
Hickory Bluff Park – 4399 Willow Street, Port Charlotte
Higgs Park – 21400 Higgs Court, Port Charlotte
Kiwanis Park – 3100 Donora Street, Port Charlotte
Lake Betty Park – 2215 Conway Blvd., Port Charlotte
Lincoln Park – 357 Spring Lake Blvd., Port Charlotte
Lister Park – 4301 Lister Street, Port Charlotte
Maracaibo Park / Kidspace – 1505 Maracaibo Street, Port Charlotte
McGuire Park – 21125 McGuire Avenue, Port Charlotte
Midway Park – 23023 Midway Blvd., Port Charlotte
Myakka Park – Gallagher Blvd at Spire Street, Port Charlotte
North Charlotte Regional Park – 1185
O'Donnell Blvd., Port Charlotte
Ollie's Pon Park – 18235 Avon Avenue, Port Charlotte
Ott Circle Park – 4320 Gardner, Port Charlotte
Port Charlotte Beach Park – 4500 Harbor Blvd., Port Charlotte
Price Circle Park – 1222 Price Circle, Port Charlotte
Salyers Park – 1341 Veronica Street, Port Charlotte
Severin Park – 171 Severin Road, Port Charlotte
Sharon Circle Park – 431 Sharon Circle, Port Charlotte
Shirley Park – 18090 Regan Avenue, Port Charlotte
South County Regional Park – 670 Cooper Street, Port Charlotte
South Gulf Cove Park – 10150 Amicola Street, Port Charlotte
Spring Lake Park – 3520 Lakeview Blvd., Port Charlotte
St. Paul Linear Park – 9000 St. Paul Drive, Port Charlotte
Sunrise Park – 20499 Edgewater Drive, Port Charlotte
The Learning Garden – 13577 Blake Drive, Port Charlotte
Tippecanoe Environmental Park – 2400
El Jobean Road, Port Charlotte



REFERENCE SECTION 4

AREA SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

Sarasota County Public and Private Schools

sarasota.com/education.htm

sarasotacountyschools.com/schools.aspx

Manatee County School Resources

- Manatee County Public Schools
manateeschools.net/students/school_list.html
- Manatee County Private Schools
manateechamber.com/manatee-county-private-schools.aspx

Private Schools – Manatee County

Bradenton Preparatory Academy – bradentonprep.org

Bradenton Christian Elementary School – bcspanthers.org

Bradenton Christian High School – bcspanthers.org

Center for Education – Montessori School – centerfored.org

Community Christian School – commbapt.com

Gulf Christian – 941-755-0332

IMG Academies – imgacademies.com

Moore School – 941-746-8594

Out of Door Academy – oda.edu/

Palmetto Christian – 941-723-3711

Pendleton School – pendletonschool.org

Providence Community School – 941-727-6860

St. Joseph Catholic School – sjsfl.org/

Saint Stephen's Episcopal School – saintstephens.org

Sunshine Academy – 941-794-3143

West Coast Christian Academy – 941-755-9667

Charlotte County Public and Private Schools

yourcharlotteschools.net/schools/schools.cfm

- Deep Creek Elementary
- East Elementary
- Kingsway Elementary
- Liberty Elementary
- Meadow Park Elementary
- Myakka River Elementary
- Neil Armstrong Elementary
- Peace River Elementary
- Sallie Jones Elementary
- Vineland Elementary
- L.A. Ainger Middle School
- Murdock Middle School
- Port Charlotte Middle School
- Punta Gorda Middle School
- Charlotte High School
- Lemon Bay High School
- Port Charlotte High School

HIGHER EDUCATION

Sarasota County Colleges and Universities

Keiser University – keiseruniversity.edu/sarasota.php

New College of Florida – ncf.edu

University of Phoenix – phoenix.edu/campus-locations/fl/west-florida-campus/sarasota-learning-center.html

Ringling College of Art & Design – ringling.edu

University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee – sarasota.usf.edu

Webster University – webster.edu/sarasota

Manatee County Colleges and Universities

Argosy University – argosy.sarasota.edu – 941-379-0404

Eckerd College – eckerd.edu/pel/ – 941-957-3397

Hodges University – hodges.edu/ – 800-466-8017

IFAS Gulf Coast Research and Education Center

grec.ifas.ufl.edu/ – 813-634-0000



Manatee Continued...

Keiser University – keiseruniversity.edu/ – 941-907-3900
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) – lecom.edu – 782-1552
National Louis University – nl.edu – 800-366-6581
New College of Florida – ncf.edu – 941-359-4312
State College of Florida – scf.edu – 941-752-5000
University of Phoenix – phoenix.edu – 941-5542564
Ringling School of Art & Design – ringling.edu – 941-351-5100
University of Miami at IMG Academies – miami.edu/img – 941-753-9957
University of South Florida Sarasota–Manatee – sarasota.usf.edu – 941-359-4200
Webster University – webster.edu/sarasota– 941-358-3840

Charlotte County Colleges and Universities

Hodges University – hodges.edu
Edison State College – edison.edu/charlotte
Florida Gulf Coast University – fgcu.edu
Impac University – impacu.edu
Southwest Florida College – swfc.edu
Manatee County Colleges and Universities
Argosy University – argosy.sarasota.edu
Eckerd College – eckerd.edu/pel/locations/sarasota.php
Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine (LECOM) – lecom.edu
State College of Florida – scf.edu
University of South Florida Sarasota–Manatee – sarasota.usf.edu



Family Resources

Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Sun Coast – bbbssun.org

- Venice – Corporate Office Island Plaza, 101 W.Venice Ave., Suite 34 Venice, Florida 34285 941-488-4009
- DeSoto County 1710 East Gibson Street Arcadia, Florida 34266 863-494-3434
- Englewood 2960 South McCall Road Suite 210 #9 Englewood, Florida 34224 941-473-4003
- Manatee County 1201 6th Avenue West, Suite 306 Bradenton, Florida 34205 941-746-7000
- North Port 6919 Outreach Way North Port, FL 34287 941-429-3727
- Sarasota 2831 Ringling Blvd,A–201 Sarasota, Florida 34237 941-331-4376

Gene Matthews Boys & Girls Clubs – boysandgirlsclubs.com
Lee Wetherington Boys & Girls Clubs 3100 Fruitville Road Sarasota, FL 34237 Randy Bouck, Unit Director 941-366-7940
Roy McBean Boys & Girls Clubs 1790 21st Street Sarasota, FL 34234 Fred Monix, Unit Director 941-953-9549
Gene Matthews Boys & Girls Clubs 6851 S. Biscayne Blvd. North Port, FL 34287 Dorothy St. Pierre, Unit Director 941-423-4405
Robert & Joan Lee Club 920 Gulf Coast Blvd.Venice, FL 34285 Roscelyn Guenther, Unit Director 941-485-7050
Women’s Resource Center – Sarasota – thewomensresourcecenter.org
340 South Tuttle Avenue Sarasota, FL 34237 941-366-1700
Women Helping Women to Become Emotionally and Financially Independent. thewomensresourcecenter.org
601 South Indiana Avenue Englewood, FL 34223 941-474-5511



REFERENCE SECTION 5

HEALTHCARE ON FLORIDA'S GULF COAST

HOSPITALS:

Manatee County

Blake Medical Center – blakemedicalcenter.com
Manatee Memorial Hospital – manateememorial.com
Lakewood Ranch Medical Center –
lakewoodranchmedicalcenter.com
Pinnacle Urgent Care Center – pmgpa.com
Bradenton Urgent Care Walk-In Clinic – bradentonurgentcare.com
Lakewood Ranch Urgent Care Walk-In Clinic – lwruc.com

Sarasota County

Sarasota Memorial Hospital – smh.com
St. Armand's Medical Center – starmandsmedicalcenter.com
First Physicians Group of Sarasota: Woman's Care
Specialist – firstphysiciansgroup.com
Sarasota Doctors Hospital – doctorsofsarasota.com
U.S. Health Works – ushealthworks.com
Gulf Coast Medical Group Urgent Care – gulfcoastmedicalgroup.net

Charlotte County

Fawcett Hospital – fawcethospital.com
Peace River Regional Hospital – peacriverregional.com
Lee Memorial Hospital – leememorial.org



REFERENCE SECTION 6

EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

State of Florida – Agency for Workforce

Innovation – floridajobs.org

Jobs Direct – myflorida.com/taxonomy/floridian/working-in-florida/

Florida Government Jobs – peoplefirst.myflorida.com

Manatee County

Ad-Vance – ad-vance.com

Employment Concepts – employmentconceptsonline.com

Express Employment Professionals – expresspros.com

Helping Hands Staffing Services – hhstaffingservices.com

Taylor White – hhstaffingservices.com

The Rivard Group – rivardgroup.com

TRC Staffing Services – trcstaffing.com

Spartan Staffing – spartanstaffing.com

Sarasota County

Adecco Staffing – adeccousa.com

TOPS Human Resource Solutions – topshr.com

Suncoast Workforce Board – swdb.org

Swanson staffing – swansonstaffing.com

Express Employment Professionals – expresspros.com

D&A Staffing – (941) 485-5548

Shaver Employment Agency – shaveremployment.com

Sarasota County Jobs – scgov.net/careers/

Kelly Services – kellyservices.com

Labor Finders – laborfinders.com

Quick Lease, Inc. – (941) 473-2702

Charlotte County

Career & Service Centers of Southwest

Florida – careerandservicecenter.org

CCI Executive Search LLC – ccisearch.net

Express Employment Professionals – expresspros.com



REFERENCE SECTION 7

ANNUAL EVENTS – SARASOTA COUNTY

Sarasota Blues Festival – Held each fall at Ed Smith Stadium grounds, this nationally recognized event brings some of the top national and local blues musicians to the stage.

Florida Winefest and Auction is held in April each year. The Winefest is a week-long food and wine extravaganza and auction that benefits many local charities.

Cine World Film Festival is a November event of the Sarasota Film Society and presents a kaleidoscope of cinematic colors with the best films of the Toronto, New York and Cannes Film Festivals.

Fiesta on Main draws several thousand people to Main Street in downtown Sarasota. Mexican fashion, games, great food, live Mexican entertainment are scheduled. The event is timed to be close to Cinco de Mayo. fiestaonmainsrq.com

Bowls of Hope is an annual community event benefiting the All Faiths Food Bank of Sarasota. It is held shortly before Thanksgiving each year. For a donation, all of which goes directly to the food bank, patrons choose from a variety of soups and stews donated by Sarasota's best restaurants.

Circus Ring of Fame – This January annual event recognizes those persons who have made a significant contribution to the circus.

Classic Corvettes on the Circle – Held in the beginning of May, this is the among the largest classic Corvette car shows in the state of Florida.

Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival – The annual Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival is the main fund raising vehicle for the Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage. This two-day event is held the third weekend of February every year. Cortez is located on the northern edge of Sarasota Bay. Live music, nautical arts and crafts, children's activities, environmental exhibits, tons of fresh seafood and, of course, beer.

Downtown Sarasota Festival of the Arts – Held in February each year the Annual Downtown Sarasota Festival of the Arts is one of the area's biggest art events. The event is held along Main Street in downtown Sarasota, spanning from Five Points-Selby Park to Orange Avenue.

Giving Hunger the Blues is an annual food and music event held in May on Hillview St. in Sarasota's Southside Village. The event raises money for the All Faiths Food Bank and other charities. Local restaurants offer a variety of foods and there is live music throughout the day.

St. Barbara Greek Glendi Festival Takes place each February on the grounds of St. Barbara Greek Orthodox Church, 7671 North Lockwood Ridge Rd. Featuring Greek food, live Greek music dancing and culture. Free on-site & off-site Parking.

Holiday Night of Lights – The official kick off to the Holiday season, the December evening begins with the lighting of St. Armands' four story tall Christmas tree and the arrival of Santa Claus.

Suncoast Super Boat Grand Prix is a powerboat event held around 4th of July every year to raise money for the Child Development Center. Over the years the event has raised millions to build facilities in Sarasota including a Special Olympic training facility in Venice, FL.

Sandy Claws Beach Run – This popular annual event is held on a Saturday in December with race day registration beginning at the Siesta Beach Pavilion. It includes a 1-mile fun run and a timed 5K run for the more serious runners.



Sarasota Cnty Fair – Held in March every year the annual fair features 4H and agricultural exhibits, live entertainment, midway rides and games, lots of food, and more. More...

Taste of the Suncoast – Held in February is a fundraiser for the All Faiths Food Bank. Dozens of Sarasota's top restaurants and wine merchants donate their food and products to raise money to fight hunger in Sarasota.

Teddy Bear Run Annual Great Teddy Bear Run, sponsored by the Sarasota Florida HOG (Harley Owners Group) Chapter. This charity event is held in November and will benefit KIDS by the SEA, serving children with cancer.

Florida International Air Show is held each April at the Charlotte County Airport in Punta Gorda. Past performances have included the Navy Blue Angels team as well as a variety of vintage and modern aircraft such as a F-117 Stealth Fighter.

Venice Sharks Tooth Festival is held each April on the Venice Airport Festival Grounds. The event celebrates Venice's distinction as the shark's tooth capitol of the world and features entertainment, food as well as displays of shark's teeth and other prehistoric fossils.

The Venice Holiday Parade – Held at the end of November is the kickoff to the holiday season. The parade runs through downtown Venice and features floats and marching bands.

Say "I Do" Again – Renew your wedding vows each Valentine's Day at Siesta Beach main pavilion.

The Sarasota Christmas Boat Parade of Lights is held each December in Sarasota Bay and features a competition of decorated power and sailboats in several classes. Some of the efforts are quite impressive with many involving thousands of lights. Best viewing from Bayfront Park in downtown Sarasota, FL.



Sarasota Downtown Holiday Parade – Held each the first Saturday of December in downtown Sarasota and features floats, music, marching bands and lots of fun. A tradition since 1996, there are thousands of participants and brightly decorated floats, several live marching bands playing songs of the season and parade entries from school and community organizations as well as area businesses.

Sarasota Exotic Car Fest – The Ferrari Owners Club- Florida Region invite you to join them for the international "kick off" event for the Ferrari season! The annual Sarasota Exotic Car Fest takes

place in February in the picturesque Circle Park of St. Armands with over 80 exotic cars competing for the coveted "Best of Show".

Siesta Fiesta – Siesta Fiesta has been happening in the Village on Siesta Key for more than 30 years. The largest part of the event is the arts and craft vendors that line Beach Road in front of the many Siesta Key Village merchants. The bars and restaurants on Siesta Key take part in the festivities offering live entertainment and many have food booths in the arts festival on the street. Siesta Fiesta happens in April each year.

St. Armands Winter Art Festival Held in January, the show features more than 175 artists and craftsman displaying their original artwork.



Super Sunday Ford Mustang & Shelby Show – Held in November on St. Armands Circle the show features Mustang and Ford enthusiasts from throughout the region competing for awards. See outstanding examples of restored and preserved older and newer Mustangs.

Thunder by the Bay motorcycle oriented event held each January in Sarasota. It offers live music, poker runs, vendors and has activities over three days.

Venice Italian Feast and Carnival – This event, held in February, began 20 years ago as a way to bring to Florida the Italian street fairs that are common in New York and other parts of the Northeast - where many of the club's members are from.

Lido Tides Arts and Crafts Show – Just around the corner from St. Armand's Circle Exhibitors sell handmade arts and crafts.

Downtown Venice Art Classic – This March art festival features life-size sculptures, spectacular paintings, one-of-a-kind jewels, photography, ceramics, and much more.

Arcadia All-Florida Championship Rodeo – This annual event takes place the second weekend in March and features all the traditional rodeo activities and competition. Go back in time to old Arcadia, once known as Tater Hill Bluff, one of Florida's original small cow towns.

REFERENCE SECTION 8 CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

Manatee Chamber of Commerce - manateechamber.com
222 10th Street West Bradenton, FL 34205 941.748.3411

North Port Area Chamber of Commerce
northportareachamber.com
15141 Tamiami Trail North Port, FL 34287 941.423.5040

Incorporated in June 1959, North Port had 87,000 residentially platted lots, and 200-plus acres available for commercial development in their 76 square miles. Recent voluntarily annexed parcels raise our acreage to nearly 103 square miles, offering significantly more space for further residential and commercial development. The population today is just over 34,000. Population is expected to reach 56,287 by 2010, just a few short years away. North Port's median age has dropped from 48.7 to 40.8 in ten years, due in large part to our excellent school system

Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce
puntagordachamber.com
252 W. Marion Avenue Punta Gorda, FL 33950 941.639.3720

The Punta Gorda Chamber of Commerce invites you to explore our city and discover why Punta Gorda has continuously been chosen as one of the best places to live! "A friendly community with a remarkable past and an exciting future."

Greater Sarasota Chamber of Commerce
sarasotachamber.com
1945 Fruitville Road Sarasota, FL 34236 941.955.2508

The Sarasota Chamber of Commerce is a major force in the area's economic prosperity and the community's outstanding life.

Venice Area Chamber of Commerce - venicechamber.com
597 Tamiami Trail South Venice, FL 34285 941.488.2236

Whether you are seeking information on relocation, recreation, or tourism, the Venice Area Chamber of Commerce is available to answer all of your questions about the Venice area.



REFERENCE SECTION 9 GOVERNMENT

The links below will help you access the range of services available through the city and county governments of our area.

State of Florida - myflorida.com

State Legislature of Florida - leg.state.fl.us

Sarasota County - co.sarasota.fl.us

Sarasota City - sarsotagov.com

Venice City - venicegov.com

Englewood City - englewoodchamber.com

Manatee County - mymanatee.org

Bradenton City - cityofbradenton.org

Palmetto City - palmettofl.org

Charlotte County - co.charlotte.fl.us

Charlotte City - charlottecountyfl.com

North Port City - cityofnorthport.com

Punta Gorda - ci.punta-gorda.fl.us

REFERENCE SECTION 10 UTILITIES

Cable Service Providers

Sarasota
Comcast
5205 Fruitville Road
Sarasota, FL 34232
(941) 371-6700
comcast.com

Verizon Fios
1701 Ringling Boulevard,
Sarasota, FL
(941) 365-0054
22.verizon.com

Manatee
Bright House Networks
5413 E. State Road 64
Bradenton, FL 34208
(941) 748-1822
mybriighthouse.com

Venice
Comcast
214 West Miami Avenue
Venice, FL 34285
(941) 484-0602
comcast.com

Port Charlotte
Comcast
22266 Edgewater Drive
Port Charlotte, FL 33980
(941) 625-6000
comcast.net

Electric Services

North Bradenton / Palmetto
Peace River Electric Cooperative, Inc.
(800) 282-3824
preco.org

Bradenton / Sarasota / Venice
North Port / Englewood / Port Charlotte
Florida Power & Light
(941) 917-0708
fpl.com

Punta Gorda
Florida Power & Light
(941) 639-1106
fpl.com

Utility Services

Bradenton
Manatee County Government Utilities
Department Water Division
4410 66th Street West,
Bradenton, FL 34210
(941) 792-8811
mymanatee.org

City of Bradenton
Public Works & Utilities Department
City Hall
101 Old Main St. (12th St.W.), Bradenton, FL
(941) 932-9434
cityofbradenton.com

Palmetto
City of Palmetto
600 17th St.W., Palmetto, FL 34221
(941) 723-4580
palmettofl.org

Town of Longboat Key
Town Hall
501 Bay Isles Road, Longboat Key, FL 34228
(941) 316-1999
longboatkey.org

Sarasota County
Sarasota County Utilities
Customer Service Office
Po Box 2553, Sarasota, FL 34230
(941) 861-6790

scgov.net

City of Sarasota
1761 12th Street, Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 954-4196
sarasotagov.com

Sarasota (Myakka)
Aqua Utilities Florida, Inc.
6960 Professional Parkway,
Inc., Sarasota, FL 34240
(941) 907-7400
aquaamerica.com

City of Venice
401 W.Venice Avenue, Venice, FL 34285
(941) 486-2626
venicegov.com

North Port Public Works
City of North Port Utility
Billing & Collections
4970 City Hall Blvd., North Port, FL 34286
(941) 429-7122
cityofnorthport.com

Englewood Water District
201 Selma Avenue, Englewood, FL 34223
(941) 474-3217
englewoodwater.com

Charlotte County Utilities
25550 Harbor View Road, Unit
1, Port Charlotte, FL 33980
(941) 764-4300
charlottecountyfl.com

City of Punta Gorda
Utilities Administration
3132 Cooper Street, Punta Gorda, FL 33950
(941) 575-3339
ci.punta-gorda.fl.us



REFERENCE SECTION II

MSC OFFICES

Bradenton

4400 Manatee Ave. W.
Bradenton, FL 34209
941-748-6300

Bradenton, IMG Academies

5500 34th Street West
Bradenton, Florida 34210
941-752-2683

Englewood

1200 S. McCall Road
Englewood, FL 34223
941-473-7750

Lakewood Ranch

8325 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
941-907-9595

Longboat Key South

440 Gulf of Mexico Drive
Longboat Key, FL 34228
941-383-7591

Longboat Key South II

444 Gulf of Mexico Drive
Longboat Key, Florida 34228
941.383.7591

Main Street

1801 Main Street
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-951-6660

Mid Longboat Key

3174 Gulf of Mexico Drive
Longboat Key, FL 34228
941-383-5502

Palmer Ranch

8660 S. Tamiami Trail
Sarasota, FL 34238
941-966-8000

Plantation

490 Rockley Blvd.
Venice, FL 34293
941-493-2500

Punta Gorda

101 Taylor Street
Punta Gorda, Florida 33950
941-639-0000

Punta Gorda, Burnt Store

15500 Burnt Store Road, suite 101
Punta Gorda, FL 33955
941-505-5555

Ritz Carlton Sales

1111 Ritz Carlton Drive
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-364-8884

Siesta Key

5100 Ocean Boulevard
Sarasota, FL 34242
941-349-3444

St. Armands

61 S. Boulevard of Presidents
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-388-4447

St. Armands II

61 S. Boulevard of Presidents
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-388-4447

Venice

110 Nokomis Avenue North
Venice, FL 34285
941-485-5421

Commercial Group

32 N. Osprey Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-957-3730

The Colony

1620 Gulf of Mexico Drive
Longboat Key, FL 34228
941-383-3759

New Homes Division

100 S. Washington Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-951-6650

Commercial Division

32 N. Osprey Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
941.957.3730

Relocation Division

307 South Orange Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-955-8200

MSC Mortgage

307 South Orange Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
941.308.2222

MSC Title

100 South Washington Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-552-5211

Corporate Office

100 South Washington Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34236
941-953-7900