




Sarasota County

From County Administrator Tom Harmer

Full Steam **AHEAD!**

OUR FIRST 100 DAYS

MAY 22, 2014

1. Conducted 14 regular Sarasota County Commission meetings, four commission workshops and two joint meetings with the City of Sarasota.
2. Conducted an analysis of all fund balances, generating a positive impact to the General Fund of over \$7M.
3. Released a new organizational structure to improve operations and make Sarasota County government more efficient.
4. Approved the 800 Megahertz Interlocal Agreement with Manatee County.
5. Approved refinancing of Utility bonds, saving more than \$4 million.
6. Standard & Poor's increased Sarasota County's Ad Valorem Tax Bond Rating from BBB+ to A-.
7. Ratified Teamster contract.
8. Successfully lobbied against a bill that would have preempted the county's commercial /vacation rental tax, saving Sarasota County \$400,000.
9. Helped defeat an effort to pre-empt a medical examiners' cremation approval fee, saving Sarasota County \$288,000.
10. Embarked on an ambitious plan to combat homelessness.
11. Handled 47,107 incoming telephone calls for service through the Call Center.
12. Broke ground on the Siesta Beach Park Improvements and went live with a website (www.siestabeachinfo.com) dedicated to construction updates.
13. Performed 14,518 building inspections.
14. Initiated construction of the Blackburn Point Park Improvement Project.
15. Completed new South Lido Beach restrooms.
16. Approved a Sarasota County Area Transit (SCAT) University Parkway route.
17. Successfully relocated Print/Mail Operations to the Sarasota Operations Center.
18. Approved a dispatch agreement with the City of Venice.
19. Completed Phillippi Creek Septic Sewer Replacement Program Area "N" Phase 2.
20. Met all National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
21. Was among 37 communities recognized as a "Healthy Weight Community Champion," which is part of the Healthiest Weight Florida program administered by the Florida Department of Health (FDOH).
22. Recognized by the Association of Equipment Management Professionals for having the nation's No. 1 Fleet Department.
23. Won an Alliance for Innovation Award for Nathan Benderson Park.
24. Completed the North County Deep Injection Well Phase 3.
25. Received an Individual Distinguished Service Award from the Florida Trust for Historic Preservation for Historical Resources' Jeff LaHurd.
26. Received the APWA State Project of the Year for the North Cattlemen Road project.
27. Adopted 66 major initiatives.
28. Completed improvements to the intersection of U.S. 41 and River Road.

29. The Legacy Trail was featured on “The Weather Channel.”
30. The Carlton Water Treatment Facility was named by the Florida Section of the American Water Works Association (FSAWWA) the best tasting drinking water, Region X.
31. Received the Keep America Beautiful’s President’s Circle Award for Keep Sarasota County Beautiful.
32. Completed Colonial Gables Stormwater improvements.
33. Named one of the Best Workplaces for Commuters by the National Center for Transit Research at the University of South Florida.
34. Received the Florida Stormwater Association’s Outstanding Achievement Award for the Celery Fields Regional Stormwater Facility Phase 3 Expansion.
35. The Celery Fields won awards for engineering excellence from the Florida Institute of Consulting Engineers.
36. Published a draft comprehensive Post-Disaster Redevelopment Plan for public comment.
37. Completed Snook Haven utility lines.
38. Held a successful County Day that showcased most of Sarasota County’s programs and services.
39. Hosted a successful Transit Day to encourage the use of public transportation and other alternative forms of transportation.
40. Celebrated a 300% increase in attendance at the 2014 Big Truck Day.
41. Hosted a number of Arbor Day and Earth Day events.
42. Expanded community outreach with additional social media accounts and campaigns.
43. Secured legislative support for \$650,000 for the Dona Bay Restoration Project.
44. Successfully pre-empted attempts to nullify the county’s Pain Clinic Ordinance.
45. Secured \$1.5 million in State Housing Initiatives Partnership (SHIP) funding (pending approval of 2015 state budget).
46. Helped defeat an effort to pre-empt local well regulation.
47. Partnered with the Sarasota County School Board to secure legislative support for \$3 million in funding for the Sarasota County Technical Institute.
48. Debuted new software (BidSync) to expand the county’s vendor pool.
49. Released the Sarasota County 2013 Annual Report.
50. Updated the county’s website, www.scgov.net, to increase functionality.
51. Partnered with the AARP and United Way to provide free tax preparation assistance.
52. Provided certified application counselors to assist the public in getting affordable health insurance through the new federal Health Insurance Marketplace.
53. Volunteered more than 75 hours to support this year’s “Toothpick Bridge Building Contest” as part of National Engineer’s Week.
54. Received the Top Producer Award from United Way.
55. Worked with the nonprofit Society of St. Andrew to help restock local food banks with fresh, locally grown oranges from trees that surround the county’s landfill in Nokomis.
56. Expanded registration of the free CodeRED alert notification system.
57. Tripled participation in this year’s Big League Reader Program.
58. Offered zero-percent deferred loans for home repairs to low-income families.
59. Began collecting public input on amendments to the Open Burning Ordinance.
60. Held our annual, free “Stand Down” event to connect veterans to vital services.
61. Provided free and low-cost health services throughout the county.
62. Opened the Scherer Thaxton Preserve in Nokomis (which honors former county Commissioner and environmentalist Jon Thaxton).
63. Launched a free music download program through the Libraries system called Freegal.

64. Expanded county television programming and began technological improvements to the Access Sarasota control room and studio.
65. Began a technological upgrade of commission chambers.
66. Hired a new Chief Labor Negotiator.
67. Installed historic dedication markers at Centennial Park and the Kentucky Military Institute.
68. Developed a new online registration system for Parks and Recreation.
69. Constructed a new website for the Sarasota County Public Defender.
70. Entered into a partnership with local radio stations to air County Talk programming.
71. Finalized agreement to collaborate with Ringling School on branding for the county's television station.
72. Developed a comprehensive guide, "Doing Business with Sarasota County," that explains how new and local vendors can do business in Sarasota County and with Sarasota County Government.
73. Hosted public input meetings to solicit feedback for the 10-year Transit Development Plan.
74. Held a contractor and business community forum.
75. Secured FDOT funding for a pedestrian overpass of the Laurel Road on The Legacy Trail.
76. Completed the Central County deep injection well pumping system.
77. Met level of service standards in 96% of acres mowed.
78. Completed odor control upgrades to the Linwood Master Lift Station.
79. Completed a health insurance employee dependent audit.
80. Removed 2,659 signs from the county's right-of-way.
81. Began construction of restrooms at the Celery Fields.
82. Completed firewall installation to connect the Advanced Traffic Management System (ATMS) to the county's IT network.
83. Approved the Synthetic Drug Ordinance.
84. Re-opened the historic trolley-car concession at the North Jetty Fish Camp.
85. Created the "I-Brief," a monthly status update on major programs, services and initiatives.
86. Facilitated a Developer's Roundtable.
87. Submitted an application to rezone a portion of Fruitville Road for economic development.
88. Developed a new budget process.
89. Approved an operating agreement with the Suncoast Aquatic Nature Center Associates (SANCA).
90. Adopted Phase 2 of Sarasota 2050, which works with the Comprehensive Plan Future Land Use Map of Sarasota County.
91. Brought county-wide canal and drainage system maintenance and clearing contract services back on schedule.
92. Began rehabilitation of 22 lift stations.
93. Issued 8,752 permits (including 834 single-family, 103 townhouses and all new homes, condominiums, commercial projects and pools, sheds and signs).
94. Investigated 1,497 code enforcement cases.
95. Received the Award for Excellence from the American Institute of Architects for the recently completed beach park pavilions at Manasota, North Jetty, Caspersen and South Lido beaches.
96. Completed the roadway extension connecting Center Road and Laurel Road.
97. Completed 250 public records requests.
98. The First Amendment Foundation named Sarasota County's website, www.scgovnet as the No. 1 government website in Florida.
99. Secured a short-term operator agreement (and advertised a long-term license agreement) for Warm Mineral Springs.
100. Named the official North American host for World Environment Day by the United Nations Environment Programme's Regional Office for North America (UNEP RONA).