

# SARASOTA COUNTY NEWS AND UPDATES



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## NEWS AND UPDATES FOR JUNE 30, 2022

**On Nov. 8, Sarasota County voters will have the opportunity to continue the penny tax that helps fund local community projects.**

### **WHAT THE PENNY TAX FUNDS**

Projects such as public safety, environmental, water quality, libraries, parks, schools and roads.

### **WHO BENEFITS?**

Sarasota County, the cities of Sarasota, North Port and Venice, the Town of Longboat Key and the School Board.

### **WHAT TO REMEMBER**

- It will fund projects that, among others, will enhance water quality, public safety, and road improvement and widening, along with quality-of-life infrastructure projects, such as libraries, parks and schools. It would not fund the hiring of employees.
- The penny sales tax referendum does not raise taxes. Sarasota County voters first authorized this sale tax in 1989 and have extended it twice.
- Every dollar generated by the penny will be spent in Sarasota County. It will benefit the community and the residents who live here, and the bond referendum is intended to allow Sarasota County to make the best use of sales tax revenue by fast-tracking projects.
- Every penny of funds raised by the tax and bonds will be overseen by a Citizen Oversight Committee, which is made up of local residents who will review any changes made to the list of projects or to the allocation of proceeds.
- A substantial portion of funds from the penny sales tax is generated by non-residents, such as tourists. Sarasota County taxpayers would only pay \$1 in taxes for every \$100 they spend in Sarasota County.



**SARASOTA COUNTY COMMISSION CHAIRMAN EDITORIAL**  
[FOCUS REMAINS ON FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY](#)

## WHAT'S ON THE BALLOT?

**QUESTION NO. 1:** Continues funding for local improvements through renewal of the penny tax; maintains citizen oversight committees.

**QUESTION NO. 2:** Accelerates community projects through issuance of voter-approved penny tax bonds.

[Click here to view each of the two ballot questions in greater detail.](#)



[Explore community improvement projects by municipality.](#)



[Review individual project details.](#)



[Use our interactive map to search for projects near you.](#)

## OTHER IMPORTANT RESOURCES

All the following items may be downloaded from the resources page of the [penny tax website](#).

- [PowerPoint](#)
- [Facebook timeline graphic](#)
- [Twitter timeline graphic](#)
  
- **Postcards**
- [Generic](#)
- [Ballot](#)
- [Public Safety](#)
- [Parks](#)
- [Libraries](#)
- [Public Works](#)
- [Public Utilities](#)

To request materials or a speaker for a live presentation, please email [communications@scgov.net](mailto:communications@scgov.net).

**WATCH NOW:** How the penny sales tax will fund projects that, among others, will enhance water quality, public safety, and road improvement and widening, along with quality-of-life infrastructure projects, such as libraries, parks and schools.

## THESE ARE JUST A SAMPLE OF OUR PENNY TAX VIDEOS

[View the entire play list here.](#)

## In other county news this week...

### [County office closures for July 4](#)

Most Sarasota County Government offices will be closed Monday, July 4, in observance of Independence Day. Click this headline for a complete list of closings.

### [Rental assistance funds are still available](#)

Sarasota County continues to accept applications for emergency rental assistance. To see if you qualify, or to submit an application, visit [www.scgov.net/RENT](http://www.scgov.net/RENT), call 941-861-RENT or email

[erap@sarasotacountycares.net](mailto:erap@sarasotacountycares.net). ERAP Ambassadors continue to provide in-person assistance to renters and landlords in libraries and community spaces across the county.

### **Consumer confidence report is now available**

Sarasota County's Consumer Confidence Report for 2021 is now available online and in hard copy. This annual snapshot of local water quality contains information about where Sarasota County's water comes from, what it contains and how it compares to standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency

- Click here to [view the report online](#).
- For a hard copy, visit any public library or the Sarasota County Operations Center, at 1001 Sarasota Center Blvd.

### **Summer in Your Library program continues**

- Register through [Beanstack](#) online or at the library.
- Check out all our live and on-demand events.
- Curbside service is available for picking up your favorite books, DVDs and audiobooks.
- Sign up to [get a library card](#) online!



Sarasota County school students and staff can use their [ONEPass](#) to borrow books, receive free online tutoring, listen to music, start learning a new language and more.

### **Follow our county Podcast!**

SRQCountyCast, the county's official podcast, will release a new episode for the month of July on Friday, July 1.

Find out what's new with your local government as the Sarasota County Communications team chats with subject matter experts, introduces you to some fantastic county employees and fills you in on the latest county updates.

- Listen on [Spotify](#).
- Listen on [Apple Podcasts](#).



## **QUICK LINKS OF INTEREST**

[Calendar of Events](#)

[Current and Upcoming Road Closures](#)

[Advisory Councils and Appointed Boards](#)

[Jobs at Sarasota County Government](#)

[Sign up for Sarasota County Emergency Updates](#)

[Volunteer](#)

## **CONNECT WITH US**

### **Sarasota County Government**

1660 Ringling Blvd.,  
Sarasota, Florida 34236  
311  
TTY: 7-1-1 or 1-800-955-8771

[ContactCenter@scgov.net](mailto:ContactCenter@scgov.net)

Sarasota County prohibits discrimination in all services, programs or activities.  
View the complete policy at [www.scgov.net](http://www.scgov.net)



Sarasota County Government | 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34236

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