



SARASOTA ALLIANCE FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

QUARTERLY PRESERVATION NEWS FOR SARASOTA COUNTY

A GLIMPSE INSIDE



Field Trip: Reflections of Manatee



Newtown: a historical context for National Designation



Advocacy Updates: Unprotected from Ian, the Walter Farley House still stands

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Erin DiFazio, *President*

"When a city can carry on a love affair with its old and its new at once, it has terrific vitality".

Jane Jacobs. "City Building" Vital Little Plans. Published by the estate of Jane Jacobs. Random House. NY: 2016. p.58

Dear friends,

I hope you have all made it through another hurricane safely and with manageable aftermath. With every major storm, I am freshly awed at the resilience of Floridians: its people, fauna and flora, and historic buildings. Ian took quite a lot from our neighbors in Fort Meyers, Sanibel, Captiva, Naples, and the healing process will take time, but the swell of support from the surrounding communities is inspiring.

It is remarkable how our historic buildings withstood the full force of nature, and speaks clearly of the inherent sustainability in historic preservation. Detailed information and pictures about how our historic landmarks weathered the storm follow in the Advocacy Update.

Our friends in the Vamo neighborhood have been busy with cleanup to get ready for our Fall Walking Tour on November 6th. I hope you can join us...the tours will be formatted like they were previously, but this time we have access to a wealth of historical information and are incorporating some new technology for a richer experience. As we are venturing into new territory, outside our technological comfort zone shall we say, please be sure to provide your feedback (and patience) to

help us dial it in for future tours. And in the event that there are still a few piles of branches awaiting the claw truck, I am sure you will all be willing to look past them.

On the subject of new territory, I am pleased to announce that the Board of Directors has entrusted me with the new role of Program Director for the Sarasota Preservation Program. I am grateful for the experience of leadership over the past few years, for the guidance of our brilliant executive committee, and so proud of our dedicated members and volunteers. There is the sense that the organization has gained momentum, that there is now some hesitation before filing for a demolition permit, knowing that we will be there to defend the community. I am deeply honored to transition from my role as President to launch the SP2, and thrilled that I will also be able to continue to serve in a volunteer capacity producing this newsletter and assisting on various committees.

The success of these new programs is the blossoming of our goal to 'get out ahead of it' and I hope these tools will empower our community to protect what remains of our character and historic architecture, and to share with others the cultural, environmental, and economic wisdom of doing so. Preservation is not resisting, but managing change; not encapsulating the past, but evaluating the artifacts for meaning and applying that meaning with intention to the future.

"... the built environment is more than just a backdrop (...) against which we act out our lives, but is itself an active partner in our self-composition.

Seeing a building as an ongoing and developing narrative is to acknowledge the relevance of the community's story to date - the building's biography - but also invites us to wonder where the 'story' might go next.

Crucially we should not imagine that our 'chapter' will be the last, but instead we have a duty to our 'co-authors' to leave space for those who follow after us to write theirs."

*Nigel Walter, "From values to narrative: a new foundation for the conservation of historic buildings"
International Journal of Heritage Studies, 2014, Vol. 20, No. 6, 634-350,
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/13527258.2013.828649>*

A friendly reminder: Please be sure to VOTE so that we can be represented by individuals who will be good stewards of our historic buildings, our natural resources, and our human beings.

Thank you all for reading, for your support of our mission, and for helping to shape the future of Sarasota with the treasures of our past.

Fondly,

RECOMMENDED READING

For more information, click to visit websites



Fast Company: Tiny homes from recycled plastic bottles.

PRESERVESRQ.ORG


The Herald Tribune reflects on Sarasota's Modern Schools



ABC: Historic homes may prove to be more resilient against floods.

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DON'T MISS IT...




**SARASOTA ALLIANCE
FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION**

Historic Vamo Drive Walking Tour

Sunday, November 6, 10 am - 2 pm

Stroll down Vamo Drive to explore the history of this enchanting historic neighborhood. A stately row of Mediterranean Revival homes dating from the early 1920s ending at the Vamo Lodge, a circa 1900 frame vernacular residence that served as the community hub of the bay front town for decades. Tours will be narrated and interactive, with a brochure that provides a digital window into the past. Learn about the settlement and development of the area, architectural styles and evolution, and the intriguing histories of those who have called the neighborhood home.



**\$15.00 neighbors and Members
\$25.00 standard**

More information and a link to register for your desired tour time are available on our website:
preservesrq.org

There are still a couple tickets left...join us!

Click on the image to visit the Eventbrite listing and reserve your spot.



SAVE THE DATE

History Day in the Park

March 25, 2023, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at Phillippi Estate Park, Sarasota.

This festival will highlight the amazing histories of the Sarasota region, while raising money to help finish the restoration of the 1916 farmhouse on the property, which is to be used as an Historical Interpretive Center. Learn more at: HistoryDayinthePark.com

SALVAGE OPPORTUNITY



This Sarasota School home, designed by Architect William Rupp, and featured in The American Home, is undergoing a rehabilitation project. The owners are not able to reuse the original kitchen cabinets and are hoping to put them to good use. Salvage assistance available if necessary. Contact us by email if you are interested. sahp.mailbox@gmail.com

FIELD TRIP: REFLECTIONS OF MANATEE

By Tom McArdle, *Treasurer & Secretary*



Members of the SAHP Board and volunteers visited the site of the oldest settlement in the City of Bradenton, Reflections of Manatee. Reflections is a museum situated at the Curry Houses Historic District. The non-profit's stated mission "is to inspire people to gain knowledge from the past to build a better future for our community."



We spent a very enjoyable couple of hours on a tour of this historic site, guided by Sherry Sevkis, its President and resident archeologist, and Jean Lammie, the Executive Director and an archeologist as well.

The Reflections site, located close to the shore of the Manatee River, encompasses three homes that are in varying stages of restoration. The homes date from the 1860s to the 1920s and were originally owned and built by three generations of the Curry family.

The site also encompasses the Manatee Mineral Springs and archeological site, including the Angola Settlement, which dates to the 1700s and was settled by escaped slaves. Angola also pre-dates original white settlements from the 1840s. The site was also a stop on the Underground railroad.

The Mineral Springs, which still has its barrel well, provided fresh water to Angola, the Curry homestead and this part of the Sun Coast for centuries, and is still functioning.

The Curry homestead was more extensive in its day and accommodated a large family, but through the years, many of the structures have been demolished to make way for new development. The family homes built on site did not have kitchens. Instead, the families dined at a central cook house and ate on an open its open porches. That building was demolished recently to make way for a fast-food restaurant.





Sherry and Jean shared the history of the site, as well as the tremendous efforts they and neighbors have expended over the years to protect this important historic resource. There are more homes that remain, some being restored by their current owners, and others which are still occupied and in private hands.

Reflections of Manatee is located just north of State Road 64 between 12th and 14th Streets in Bradenton. They are a 501(c)3 and are supported by donations. There are on-site gardens, tours and events throughout the year that highlight the history of the site.




They are open Thursday-Saturday from 10-3:30 pm. To learn more, get directions or donate, you can visit their web site at [Reflections of Manatee](https://www.reflectionsofmanatee.org).




SAVE THE DATES

Betty Intagliata
LECTURE SERIES
2022-2023
"HISTORICAL PERSONALITIES
OF SARASOTA COUNTY"
All programs begin at 7 pm
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Venice
1971 Pinebrook Rd., Venice, FL 34292




The Betty Intagliata Lecture Series is sponsored by the Venice Area Historical Society, with permanent funding provided by the Bill Jervey, Jr. Charitable Foundation. All programs are FREE and OPEN to the public.


OCTOBER 18, 2022
"Louella Albee"
Presenter: Tom Bowers, VAHS Member




November 15, 2022
"Rose Wilson"
Portrayal by: Kathryn Chesley
Sarasota County History Impersonator



January 17, 2023
"Dr. Furman Whitaker"
Presenter: Josh Goodman
Manager, Sarasota County
Division of Historical
Resources



February 21, 2023
"Leonard Reid"
Presenter: Representative of the African-American Arts, Cultural & History Center, Sarasota



March 21, 2023
"Marie Selby"
Portrayal by: Kate Holmes
Sarasota County
Historical Impersonator



April 18, 2023
"John Nolen: Olmsted Disciple"
Presenter: Professor Bruce Stephenson
Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida



May 16, 2023
"Bud Wimmers, Historical Figure of Venice"
Presenter: Gary Youngberg
VAHS Member



**The Historic Venice Train Depot,
Circus Train Car, and Caboose**





The 1927 Historic Venice Train Depot, 303 E. Venice Ave., Venice FL 34285, was renovated in 2003. Volunteer docents from VAHS provide free public tours of the Depot and surrounding campus. Exhibits illustrate key events in Venice's history and the Depot's history.

The Circus Car is at the Venice Train Depot next to the caboose. Exhibits illustrate and celebrate Venice's circus history and circus legacy.

Check the website for tour information.
veniceareahistoricalsociety.org
information@veniceareahistoricalsociety.org
941-412-0151



PRESERVING NEWTOWN...
The creation of a national historic district

The City of Sarasota has contracted the services of Terracon, Inc. (the preservation consultant who also completed the City's 2019 update of the survey of historic structures) to create a National Register District Nomination for Newtown. Patricia Davenport Jacobs, Historic Preservation Group Manager, recently presented the historical context for the report to the City's Historic Preservation Board.

This project, which would eclipse Central Coconut as Sarasota's largest National Register Historic District, is scheduled to be completed by the close of 2023. Funded by the United States Department of

the Interior-National Park Service Underrepresented Community Grant Program and the City of Sarasota, the recognition of this historic African American neighborhood is long overdue, and with the rate of redevelopment, in the nick of time.

Terracon will be working closely with Newtown Alive, an organization dedicated to celebrating the history, community, and culture of Newtown as one of the City's oldest neighborhoods. [Learn more about the City's collaboration here.](#)

Read the Historical Context report [HERE](#).



SAVE THE DATE



The Sarasota County Heritage Awards will be held in the Van Wezel next Spring. Nominations will open soon, and sponsorship opportunities will be available. Watch your email for future communications or contact us directly (sahp.mailbox@gmail.com). This year we will celebrate the dedication of local history and preservation professionals at our beloved bay front performance hall, offering the unique opportunity to show the City and the SPAC Foundation how deeply this community values its architectural legacy and the iconic purple structure that puts Sarasota on the cultural map.

ADVOCACY UPDATES

The Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall is often in the news of late, as the City launches a Committee to select an architect for its replacement. The SAHP is working with the community to identify the best path to preservation, which will likely include nomination to the National Register of Historic Places. Read Carrie Seidman's article in the Herald Tribune [HERE](#). For additional information on why it is crucial to preserve the Van Wezel, check out Kelly Franklin's Herald Tribune Guest Editorial [HERE](#).



The SAHP continues to engage with Dr. Mark Kauffman and his structural engineering team to explore potential preservation strategies for the **Mira Mar** Apartments on Palm Avenue. At this point in time, Kauffman is still entertaining the idea of selling the property to a developer, which will likely mean another demolition permit going before the City in due time...unless we can locate a preservation minded developer looking for a huge project and a powerful legacy. Is it you?

The Concerned Citizens of **Venice** continue to collect signatures from Venice residents to halt the potential devastation of the newly passed revised land use regulations. Learn more at veniceunites.com. Larry Humes, a writer for the Venice Gondolier has recently published articles which tie Venice to the Sarasota School of Architecture and illuminate the inherent sustainability of preservation. Click on the images to read them.



The Walter Farley House is still standing after owners left it unprotected during Hurricane Ian. After spending extensive time and resources pursuing a fantastic restoration and addition, the owners have recently thrown up their hands and now intend to demolish.



LEAVE A LEGACY

The Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation is now offering Lifetime Legacy Memberships. You can also help preserve the past for the future by leaving a gift to the SAHP in your will. [Learn More](#)



SARASOTA PRESERVATION PROGRAM (SP²)

Mission:

The Sarasota Preservation Program of the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation provides the financial and strategic tools to protect the unique architectural legacy of Sarasota County.

The first of November marked the beginning of Erin DiFazio's contract as Program Director for the Sarasota Preservation Program. The SP Committee has been hard at work structuring the policies and procedures for these new preservation²tools. The documents for the Easement Program are currently being reviewed by the attorney. Shortly after this is concluded, the Easement Program will be publicly launched.

What is an easement?

A preservation easement is a voluntary legal agreement that protects the significant architectural features of a historic property, while allowing the owner to continue to occupy and use the building. Easements also limit future owners from demolishing or inappropriately altering the building.

Who should consider donating a preservation easement?

An owner of a historic property, such as those listed on the Local or National Register of Historic Places may wish to donate a preservation easement to ensure that the significant character-defining elements of their unique property are protected for future generations. Historic designation is not a requirement for easement donation, however additional tax benefits may be available to designated properties.

Interested?

Be the first to know!

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