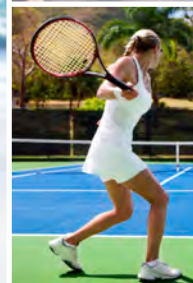


Your Guide to Living, Working & Playing ON FLORIDA'S GULF COAST



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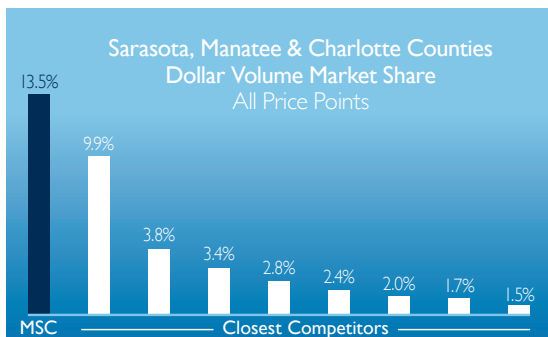
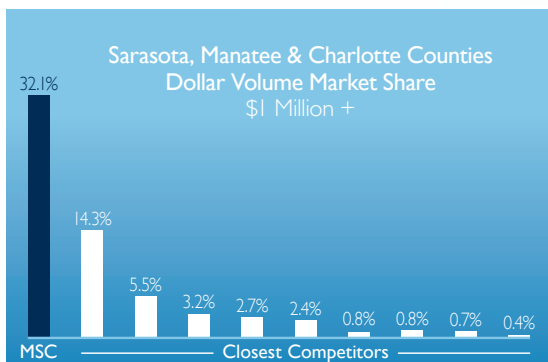
TRUST THE MARKET LEADER

As the preferred real estate company on Florida's Gulf Coast for nearly 40 years, Michael Saunders & Company—locally owned and independent—has grown to serve home buyers and sellers through 24 office locations positioned from Bradenton, through Sarasota, to Boca Grande and beyond.

Backed by professionally trained agents who specialize in all price ranges and lifestyle options, no other company can provide the vast local knowledge, comprehensive support services and steadfast values you experience when working with Michael Saunders & Company.

Our formal, longstanding affiliations with such industry leaders as Luxury Portfolio International and Leading Real Estate Companies of the World connect us to an influential global audience and help maintain our international presence as the regional leader in Florida's Gulf Coast real estate. By consistently out-performing all national brands in our market area in all price ranges, we have produced over \$20 billion in sales over the past decade—a commanding performance demonstrating our exceptional level of service and support.





January 2001 – August 2014 Market Share Report – Percentage of Sales by Dollar Volume – All Property Types – Source: ©Trendgraphix, Inc.

RELOCATION GUIDE

Welcome

Relocate With Ease.....	4
Florida's Gulf Coast: Steeped in History.....	4

Area Map

Michael Saunders & Company Office Locations.....	5
Climate Information	5

History

Sarasota Area History.....	6
Sarasota the Circus Town.....	6

County Information

Area Facts.....	6
Sarasota County	7
Manatee County.....	7
Charlotte County	7

World-Class Beaches

Sarasota County Beaches	8-9
Charlotte County Beaches.....	9-10
Manatee County Beaches.....	10

Recreation & Athletics

A Recreational Paradise.....	14
High Performance Athletic Accommodations	14
An Angler's Paradise.....	14
Cycling The Coast.....	14
A Nautical Playground	15
Kayaking Adventures.....	15
Championship Golf	15
Spring Training.....	15

Living on Florida's Gulf Coast

Attractions: See and Do.....	16
Parks.....	16
Raising a Family.....	16
Senior Living.....	16

Healthcare Information	17
Business on the Gulf Coast	17
Shopping.....	17
Annual Events and Festivals	17
Educational Opportunities.....	17

MSC Core Services

MSC Title	18
MSC Residential.....	18
MSC Relocation & Referral Services	18
MSC Solutions	19
MSC New Homes & Condominiums	19
MSC Commercial.....	19

Area Essentials

Florida Taxes.....	22
International Transition.....	22
Homestead Exemption.....	22
Local Airports.....	23
Florida Driver's License.....	23
Auto Registration	23

Reference Sections

Reference Section 1 – The Arts.....	24-26
Reference Section 2 – See And Do.....	27
Reference Section 3 – Parks	28-30
Reference Section 4 – Area Schools	31-32
Reference Section 5 – Healthcare	32
Reference Section 6 – Chambers Of Commerce.....	33
Reference Section 7 – Employment Services	33
Reference Section 8 – Government.....	33
Reference Section 9 – Annual Events	34-35
Reference Section 10 – Utilities	36
Reference Section 11 – Our Offices.....	37

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 a Michael Saunders & Company agent, you are taking the right steps towards a smooth transition to our beautiful coastal destination.



RELOCATE WITH EASE

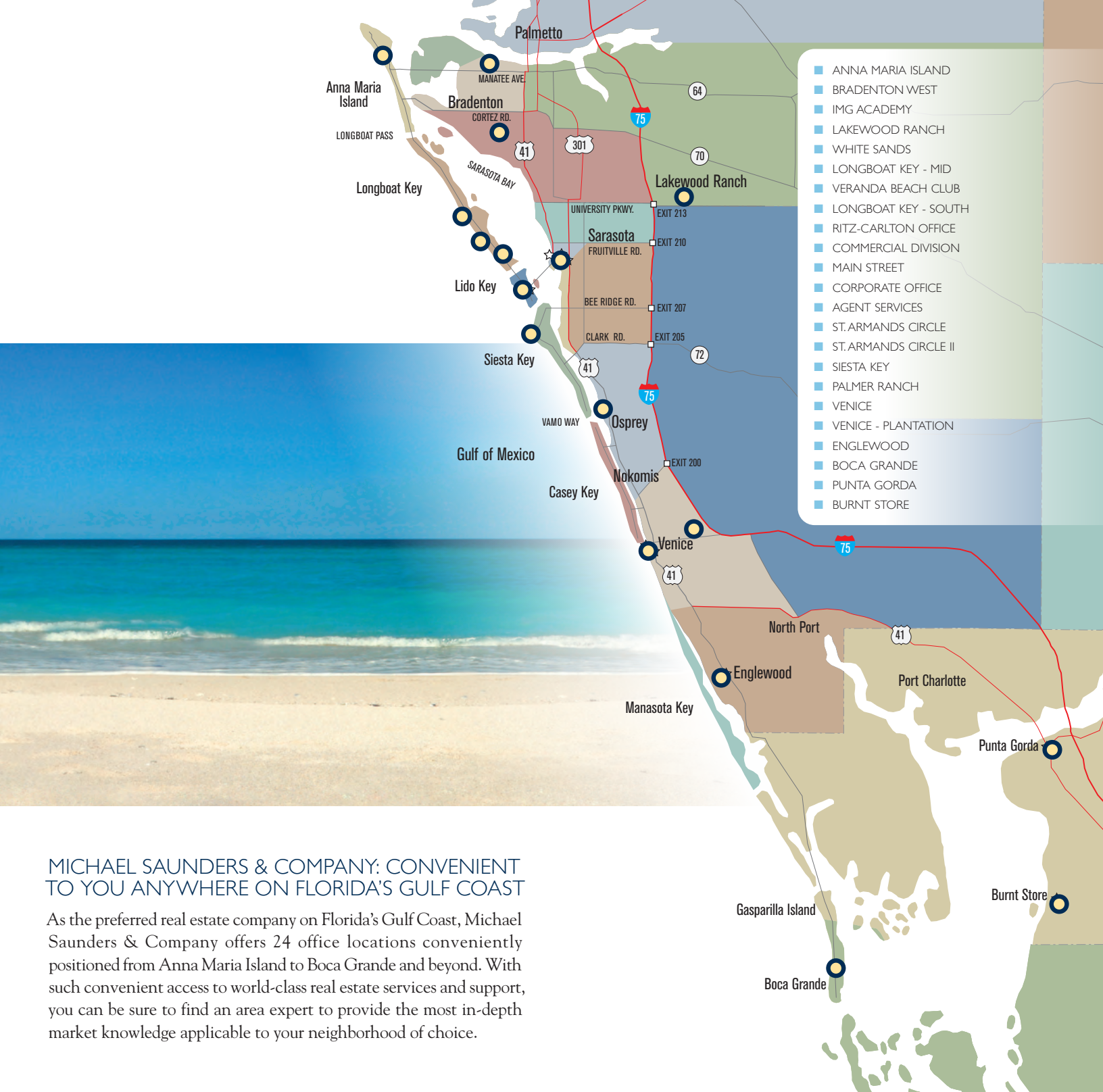
Relocating to Florida's Gulf Coast has never been easier. With our specialists standing by to help your transition, you have more time to discover your perfect place and enjoy the pleasant thoughts of a laidback lifestyle among our area's many charms.

The homes here 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, you can be confident in knowing the perfect lifestyle option awaits your arrival.

Our agents are proven area experts, who can provide valuable insight on neighborhoods, comparable properties and current market conditions, as well as guide you through the intricate negotiation and closing processes. With just one call, Michael Saunders & Company is ready to offer all the support services you need for a rewarding, stress-free real estate experience.

FLORIDA'S GULF COAST: A CHERISHED DESTINATION

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



MICHAEL SAUNDERS & COMPANY: CONVENIENT TO YOU ANYWHERE ON FLORIDA'S GULF COAST

As the preferred real estate company on Florida's Gulf Coast, Michael Saunders & Company offers 24 office locations conveniently positioned from Anna Maria Island to Boca Grande 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.

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. Few other places on earth 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"

FLORIDA'S GULF COAST: AN AREA STEEPED IN HISTORY

The presence of early human inhabitants along the west coast of Florida dates back to around 8,000 B.C., and there is evidence that Native Americans lived along the waterfront of Sarasota and southwest Florida more than 3,000 years ago. At this time, the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico was over 100 miles farther to the west. As the Pleistocene glaciers slowly melted, sea levels began rising, resulting in the Florida coastline of today. This new landscape provided attractive locations for human settlements.



AREA FACTS

Area People

Sarasota County population – 379,448
Population increase since 2000 – 16.41%

Manatee County Population – 322,833
Population increase since 2000 – 22.28%

Charlotte County Population – 159,978
Population increase since 2000 – 12.96%

Courtesy of usa.com

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

2014 YEAR-TO-DATE HOME SALES STATISTICS

Sarasota County

Median Price – All Properties\$172,000
Single-Family Homes Median Price\$189,500
Condominium Median Price\$180,000

Manatee County

Median Price – All Properties\$178,000
Single-Family Homes Median Price\$217,500
Condominium Median Price\$120,000

Charlotte County

Median Price – All Properties\$96,500
Single-Family Homes Median Price\$146,425
Condominium Median Price\$112,750

Courtesy of MFRMLS, city-data.com/city/Sarasota-Florida.



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

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—The 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.

The Roaring Twenties ended early for Sarasota, as Florida was one of the first areas in the United States to be affected by the financial problems that led to the Great Depression. But, during the 1950s, Sarasota again began to grow and modernize, with a group of imaginative architects attracting national attention with their contemporary and environmentally oriented style, which became known as the Sarasota School of Architecture. While many of those homes have been removed, altered or compromised, there are a number which remain or are now being meticulously restored.

MANATEE COUNTY

There is much evidence to claim that Manatee County has been settled as far back as the year 1,000 A.D. The first visitors were so taken with the peace and beauty of the water, they named it La Bahia de Espiritu Santo, which means Bay of the Holy Spirit. When Spanish conquistador Hernando DeSoto landed at Shaw’s Point, near the mouth of Tampa Bay in 1539, what is now Manatee County was the southern boundary for the Tocobagan tribe.

In 1842, Josiah Gates settled the area, and two brothers named Hector and Joseph Braden became the major landowners and later the namesake of the town. The area to the south of the mouth of Tampa Bay would eventually become Manatee County in 1855—named after the sea cow that frequents area waters. By 1873, there were nine schools with 200 students enrolled. In May 1878, the first post office was officially established. The current city of Bradenton was formed in 1943, when the Florida legislature merged the cities of Manatee—incorporated in 1888—and Bradentown.

The De Soto National Memorial in Bradenton marks the spot where De Soto is believed to have landed. The South Florida Museum features Native American and natural history exhibits, as well as historical dioramas. For a glimpse of life in 19th century Bradenton, visitors can tour the renovated historic buildings of Manatee Village Historical Park.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

The name for Charlotte Harbor may originally be a corruption of Carlos or Calos, words associated with the Calusa, the Native American group in southwest Florida at the time of Spanish contact. In 1565, the Spanish named Charlotte Harbor “Carlos Bay,” followed by the English in 1775, who named the area Charlotte Harbor in tribute to the Queen Charlotte Sophia, wife of King George III.



In the 1950s, the now defunct General Development Corporation, led by the Mackle brothers, took advantage of the Florida land boom and developed land primarily on both of Florida’s coastlines. Among the areas they developed was the Port Charlotte area. Ultimately, Port Charlotte would become the most populated center in Charlotte County, although like most GDC developments, Port Charlotte remained unincorporated. Punta Gorda is the only incorporated city in Charlotte County.

GASPARILLA ISLAND

Gasparilla Island got its name from Jose Gaspar, a famous local pirate who had his base on the island and is said to have hidden his immense treasure there. Gasparilla Island became an important stop for phosphate shipping until the dredging of the Port of Tampa, and a major vacation destination for the wealthy from Tampa and Fort Myers. Shipping dramatically declined after the turn of the 20th century, but tourism remains very important to the island’s local economy.



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 restrooms, 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 restrooms, 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 the Sarasota 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 are 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 restrooms, parking, bait shop, large and small picnic shelters, horseshoe courts, volleyball courts, concession, and dune walkovers. For your safety, lifeguards are on duty.

North Lido Beach – North Lido Beach is a gorgeous half-mile stretch of beach encompassing 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—ranked the nation's number one beach in the 21st annual Top 10 Beach List,

produced by coastal expert Dr. Stephen P. Leatherman, Director of Florida International University's Laboratory for Coastal Research. 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 renowned shopping and dining destination with 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 interacts 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 are available.

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 Public Beaches – If you want to sunbathe on smooth, white sand or enjoy crystal-blue waters, Venice Public Beach, at the end of West Venice Avenue off Highway 41, offers picnic benches, restrooms and outdoor showers.

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Blind Pass Beach – Set on Manasota Key, Blind Pass Beach covers 66 acres of sand dunes, nature trails and shorelines on the Gulf of Mexico and Lemon Bay. Picnic shelters, restrooms and a playground make Blind Pass Beach an ideal retreat for families, couples or anyone looking for their own stretch of sand.

Don Pedro Island State Park – Located on a barrier island and accessible only by private boat or public ferry, Don Pedro Island Beach is a one-mile beach fronting the Gulf of Mexico and is perfect for sunbathing, fossil hunting, swimming and just getting away from civilization. Here, you will find the necessities of a wonderful day at the beach, including restrooms and outdoor showers to a picnic pavilion and barbecue grills.



Englewood Public Beach – Known for its wide shoreline perfect for sandcastle building, Englewood Public Beach is bordered by a long boardwalk providing extra amenities. The adjoining Chadwick Park has a playground area and public restrooms.

Port Charlotte Beach Park – Visitors enjoy the sandy beach at Port Charlotte Beach Park, but its main draw is the extensive recreational facilities, such as a heated swimming pool, five baseball fields, and basketball, tennis, beach volleyball, bocce and horseshoe courts. Canoers and kayakers can launch from the park, and a boat ramp and a fishing pier are also on the property.

Stump Pass Beach – Located at the south end of Manasota Key Road and known for its fossilized sharks' teeth, Stump Pass Beach State Park caters to environmentally minded beach-goers with its well-marked trail through five distinct habitats. During the summer, you can enjoy ranger-led turtle walks and beach nature hikes.



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, it 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 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.

Holmes Beach – Found at the center of Anna Maria Island, Holmes Beach boasts over 14,400 feet of sandy Gulf of Mexico beach, as well as a full range of amenities including grills, a playground, showers and picnic area. Picnic tables shaded by majestic Australian pines are scattered near some of the entries.

Manatee County Beach – Located at the end of Manatee Avenue, the Manatee County Beach is a large public beach with free parking, concessions, lifeguards, restrooms, picnic tables and showers. An outdoor patio with umbrella-covered tables overlooks the volleyball courts, while a nearby playground accommodates the kids.



SIESTA KEY



LIDO KEY



BOCA GRANDE



LONGBOAT KEY



CASEY KEY



VENICE



SIESTA KEY



BIRD KEY



PALMETTO



SARASOTA



BURNT STORE



OSPREY



BRADENTON



LAKEWOOD RANCH



A RECREATIONAL PARADISE

The lifestyles and leisure activities of Florida's Gulf Coast 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 boast 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!

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 here 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 of Sarasota Bay, Charlotte Harbor, Manatee River, Gulf of Mexico, 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.

CYCLING THE COAST

An excellent source for exercise and adventure, a bike ride is so much better when the scenery is picturesque and the weather is gorgeous. Throughout Sarasota, Manatee and Charlotte counties are hundreds of miles of bike trails winding through wooded preserves, beside the sun-kissed beaches, and along the sparkling waters of the Manatee River, Sarasota Bay and Charlotte Harbor. Whether you are a cycling pro or a novice, you will delight in the magnificent pairing of the beauty of nature and the exhilaration of fitness on the bike trails throughout Florida's Gulf Coast. Jump on the ten-mile Legacy Trail and travel from Sarasota to Venice through Oscar Scherer State Park, where the paved trail is perfect for bicycling and rollerblading, and wildlife viewing is abundant. Invigorate your senses with the crisp sea breezes along the Gasparilla Island State Park bike trails, located on the south end of Gasparilla Island on the Boca Grande Causeway. From our splendid communities to the lengthy public trails, the cycling options of Florida's Gulf Coast are as varied as they are exciting.

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 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.



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.

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 from around the world to test their skills on over 100 professionally designed fairways and greens in the tri-county area.



SPRING TRAINING ON FLORIDA'S GULF COAST: A WARM HOME FOR PROFESSIONALS



ED SMITH STADIUM – SARASOTA BASEBALL

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 in 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.

CHARLOTTE SPORTS PARK

Located in Port Charlotte, the Charlotte County Stadium—now the Charlotte County Sports Park—served as the spring training and minor league home to the Texas Rangers from 1987–2002. In 2009, the stadium was renovated for the Tampa Bay Rays spring training season to the tune of \$28 million. Today, the beautifully refurbished Charlotte Sports Park is a state-of-the-art facility with a baseball boardwalk bordering the outfield, a family-friendly kids' play area, upgraded concession stands and a top-notch team store. Charlotte Sports Park is also home to the Charlotte Stone Crabs of the Florida State League.

PIRATE CITY

A great place to watch baseball, the Pittsburgh Pirates' spring training headquarters in Bradenton is known as Pirate City. Pirate City is a unique place because of its intimate proximity between the work-out fields and the fans. The Pittsburgh Pirate practice sessions are free and open to the public. While Pirate City is the site of the Pittsburgh Pirates' spring training workouts, McKechnie Field is the site of the games during spring training season. McKechnie Field and Pirate City have been the spring training home to the Pittsburgh Pirates since 1969. The field was built in 1923 and holds more than 6,500 fans. Up until renovations in 2008, night games had never been played at McKechnie Field during its more than 80-year history.



ATTRACTIONS: SEE AND DO

Invigorate your senses and inspire your spirit with remarkable, sought-after attractions and activities, found right here in the Sarasota area. From renowned museums to the best nature has to offer, the Gulf Coast has it all.

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. 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 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 Florida’s Gulf Coast serve as the ideal destinations for biking, hiking, canoeing, picnicking, camping and more. Please refer to **Reference Section 3** for full contact information for area parks.

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.

SENIOR LIVING

As a preferred destination for retirees around the country, Florida’s Gulf Coast takes great care in providing 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 healthcare facilities. From convenient clinics to comprehensive medical centers, your 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 practices in the area 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 businesses and retirees alike. Additionally, we have garnered recognition as being among the top in national destinations for companies relocating to new communities. With so many exciting opportunities available and many more to come, business here is good! Please refer to **Reference Section 7** for employment services on Florida's Gulf Coast.

SHOPPING

Florida's Gulf Coast has small-community charm 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. The fine dining and world-class



shopping of St. Armands Circle attract 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 tri-county 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 9** for a list of 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, middle and high schools, a number of notable colleges, universities and educational opportunities for adults 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

Our ever-evolving approach to market changes and unsurpassed commitment to the utmost in client satisfaction have enabled us to maintain successful relationships for over 30 years. With an array of divisions and affiliations, we provide a single source for every aspect and type of real estate transaction.

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 the closing.

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 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 longstanding 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 lifestyle preferences.

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 affiliation with Leading Real Estate Companies of the World, whose extensive referral network is comprised of over 550 of the best-known local and regional real estate firms with nearly 4,600 offices and 140,000 associates throughout the U.S. and 30 countries abroad.

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, which markets REO & bank owned properties—transactions once considered rare 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.

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 developments, 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, 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.

MSC COMMERCIAL

Serving The Market for Commercial Properties with Precision Marketing & 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.

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 has 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.





CASEY KEY



BOCA GRANDE



SARASOTA



SIESTA KEY



IMG ACADEMIES



MANASOTA KEY



BRADENTON



LONGBOAT KEY



FLORIDA TAXES

Did you know Florida is one of only seven states that do not tax individual wage income? Florida does not impose personal income, inheritance, gift taxes or intangible personal property taxes. However, there are other taxes and fees that, in certain counties or circumstances, Florida residents may be required to pay.

If you purchase a home in Florida, you will pay ad valorem or “property” tax based on the taxable value of the property. Ad valorem taxes are assessed by the county property appraiser and collected annually by the county tax collector’s office. Also, a \$25,000 homestead exemption and cap on assessed value is available to homeowners who meet certain requirements.

Visit the Florida Department of Revenue site at dor.myflorida.com for more tax information.

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.

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 1st 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 1st, possess title to the real property, and are Florida residents living in the dwelling and making it their permanent home as of January 1st, qualify for the exemption.

HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION CRITERIA

To prove a homestead exemption, you may be required to provide any of the following items:

- Previous residency outside Florida and date ended
- Florida driver’s license or identification card number
- Evidence of giving up driver’s license from other state
- Florida vehicle tag number
- Florida voter registration number (if US citizen)
- Declaration of domicile, residency date
- Current employer
- Address listed on your last IRS return
- School location of dependent children
- Bank statement and checking account mailing address
- Proof of payment of utilities at homestead address

Manatee County Property Appraiser

E-mail: manateepao@mymanatee.org

941.748.8208

941.742.5664 fax

Sarasota County Property Appraiser

E-mail: PA@SC-PA.com

941.861.8200

941.861.8260 fax

Charlotte County Property Appraiser

E-mail: rp@ccappraiser.com

941.743.1498

941.743.1499 fax

LOCAL AIRPORTS

The Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport (SRQ)

The Sarasota-Bradenton International Airport serves over one million passengers a year as a gateway to Florida's 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.

Tampa International Airport (TPA)

One of the most beautiful, functional international airports, a combination of terminal roof-top auto parking, escalators and a shuttle system insures passengers departing from Tampa International Airport that their airplane boarding gate is never far from their ground transportation. Tampa International Airport is served by most major airlines, which provide nonstop daily and connecting service to national and international destinations. The airport handles over 16 million passengers annually, making it the 30th busiest airport by passenger movements in North America. Located at 4100 George J. Bean Parkway, Tampa, Florida.



St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport (PIE)

The St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport (PIE) provides non-stop service between Tampa Bay and convenient destinations throughout the US and Canada. The airport also offers charter service to exciting domestic and international locations. St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport is located on State Route 686 - Roosevelt Blvd., just four miles north of St. Petersburg at 14700 Terminal Blvd., Clearwater, Florida.

Charlotte County Airport (PGD)

Charlotte County Airport has mainly been used for single engine and small jet aircraft, but has recently seen a heavy increase in schedule commercial airline service. Located in Punta Gorda, the airport occupies 1,934 acres east of I-75 and approximately two miles south of the Peace River. The Charlotte County Airport is host to the annual Florida International Air Show, a large regional event that draws thousands of spectators from throughout Southwest Florida. 28000 A-1 Airport Rd, Punta Gorda, Florida.

Southwest Florida International Airport (RSW)

Located in Fort Myers, the Southwest Florida International Airport is perfectly positioned to serve the greater Southwest Florida area, including Fort Myers, Cape Coral, Sanibel, Captiva, Greater Naples, Marco Island and the Everglades, Charlotte Harbor and the Gulf Islands, as well as other points along Florida's Gulf Coast. In response to over two decades of record-breaking growth, a bright, modern, state-of-the-art terminal opened in 2005. This airport serves more than 7.6 million passengers annually, and is one of the top 50 U.S. airports for passenger traffic. 11000 Terminal Access Road, Fort Myers, Florida.

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.





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 also 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 based on a belief that a community is only as strong as the sum of its parts. The arts have always been an integral part of the community, and 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 • 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.



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 hosts about 140 performances annually, provides an exciting program which offers a mixture of theater, music and dance performances.

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 celebrating over 20 seasons, presents a wide array of dance in different styles. The company hosts 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.

BANYAN THEATER COMPANY

941.358.5330 • banyantheatercompany.com

The Banyan Theater Company mounted its first productions in the summer of 2002—Harold Pinter's "Betrayal" followed by George Bernard Shaw's "Don Juan in Hell." The company made a strong first impression with audiences and critics alike, and was hailed as "the hottest item on the Sarasota menu." The theater is true to its mission of producing intelligent, significant plays in the summer, showcasing the works of both classic and contemporary playwrights.

THE JAZZ CLUB OF SARASOTA

330 S. Pineapple Ave. • 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.

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.

THE PLAYERS THEATRE

838 N Tamiami Trail • Sarasota FL 34236
theplayers.org

Although The Players Theatre is a non-professional community theatre, being located on the "Cultural Coast" gives them an incredible talent pool to work with. Many professional performers retire and are drawn to the area thanks to all of Sarasota's arts offerings. These professionals bring their experience, training, their families and often extensive resumes with them to the stage.

WEST COAST BLACK THEATRE TROUPE

1012 N. Orange Avenue • Sarasota, FL
941.366.1505 • wbttroupe.org

Celebrating over a decade as Florida's premier black theatre company, the West Coast Black Theatre Troupe is excited to continue their mission of diversifying Sarasota's cultural landscape with exciting theatre and musicals that celebrate African American artists giving voice to the African American experience.



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.

MANATEE PLAYERS AT RIVERFRONT THEATRE

102 12th Street West • Bradenton, FL 34205
941.748.0111 • www.manateeplayers.com

Award-winning community theater company that presents six mainstage productions, including live musicals, theatrical plays, and children's programs during their season.

Located at the end of Old Main Street by the Manatee River, the Manatee Players Riverfront Theatre is a classic theatre set in historic surroundings. Actors from Lakeland to Sarasota come to Manatee Players for auditions, so the talent from each show is drawn from a wide pool. The theatre began selling tickets in 1967.

THE CHARLOTTE PLAYERS

1182 Market Cir. • Port Charlotte, FL 33953
941.255.1022 • www.charlotteplayers.org

The Charlotte Players were organized in 1961. Since that time, the not-for-profit 501C3 corporation has performed over 200 plays on stage. Presently, the organization produces 4 plays, one musical stage production and a Kidsonstage production yearly. In addition, their student programming includes a two-week summer drama workshop and an annual student musical.

CHARLOTTE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

223 Taylor St. • Punta Gorda, FL 33950
941.205.5996 • admin@charlottesymphony.com

The Charlotte Symphony Orchestra began in the fall of 1978 and gave its first concert in January 1979 as the Charlotte Chamber Orchestra. The group was formed by Fred Blake from string players of the Charlotte "Pops" Orchestra. Musicians were unpaid for many years, but financing for music and other expenses was raised by community garage sales.

JOHN & MABEL RINGLING MUSEUM OF ART

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 Ringlings 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.





MOTE MARINE AQUARIUM

Explore the secrets and mysteries of the sea by spending an educational, fun-filled day at the Mote Marine Aquarium. Located on the northern tip of Lido Key, Mote presents interesting exhibits sure to capture the interests of all ages. As the nation's only congressionally designated Center for Shark Research, you can expect a thrilling experience.

MARIE SELBY BOTANICAL GARDENS

Best known for its living collection of more than 6,000 orchids, Marie Selby Botanical Gardens offers visitors an intimate look into a beautiful garden of tropical flora. The 9.5-acre bayfront property is an open-air and under-glass museum of more than 20,000 colorful plants, many collected in the wild on over 150 scientific expeditions to tropical rain forests by Selby Gardens research staff. Spend your afternoon a world away.

REFERENCE SECTION 2 • SEE AND DO

SARASOTA COUNTY

Big Cat Habitat

bigcathabitat.org

Cannon's Marina

cannons.com

Dakin Dairy Farms

dakindairyfarms.com

Dome Flea Market

thedomefleamarket.com

Enterprise Sailing Charters

sarasotasailing.com

Fish'n Addiction

captainroysting.com

Florida Ever-Glides

floridaever-glides.com/portal

Florida Underwater Sports

floridaunderwatersports.com

Historic Spanish Point

historicspanishpoint.org

Island Style Water Sports

islandstyle.ws

Myakka Wildlife Tours

myakkawildlife.com

Nathan Benderson Park – Rowing

www.scgov.net/parks/Pages/NathanBenderson.aspx

Play Golf Sarasota

playgolf Sarasota.com

Sarasota Bay Explorers

sarasotabayexplorers.com

Sarasota Children's Garden

sarasotachildrengarden.com

Sarasota Jungle Gardens

sarasotajunglegardens.com

Sarasota-Manatee Bicycle Club

smbc.us

Siesta Beach

bestbeaches.org/siestabeach

Siesta Key Waters Sports

siestakeywatersports.com

Siesta Sports Rentals

siestasportsrentals.com

Smuggler's Cove Minature Golf

smugglersgolf.com

MANATEE COUNTY

Anna Maria Island Power Squad (AMIPS)

manatee-boating.org

Anna Maria Island Turtle Watch

islandturtles.com

Beach Bums

beachbumsami.com

Blue Water Explorers

bluewaterexplorers.com

DeSoto National Memorial

beachdirectory.com/desotomemorial/index.html

Ellenton Ice and Sports Complex

ellentonic.com

Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation

Commission - myfwc.com

Fun and Sail Parasail

annamariaparasail.com

Manasota Track Club

manasotatrackclub.sports.officelive.com

Mixon Fruit Farms

mixonevents.com/group tours parties.asp

Palma Sola Botanical Park

palmasolabp.com

RUM International Rowing

rowvirusboats.com

Schomburg Farms

discoverourtown.com/FL/Palmetto Recreation/21382.htm

Zegway by the Bay

zegwaybythebay.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

kidstartpark.com/home.htm

Paintball Partyz

paintballparty.com

Southwest Florida Skydive Club

skydiveswflorida.com

Treasure Lanes Bowling

treasurelanes.com



REFERENCE SECTION 3 • PARKS

MANATEE COUNTY

Palmetto/Ellenton/Parrish

Blackstone Park – 2112 14th Avenue West, Palmetto

Buffalo Creek Park – 57550 69th Street East, Ellenton

Emerson Point Park – 5801 17th Street West, Palmetto

Lincoln Park – 715 17th Street East, Palmetto

Ola Mae Sims Park – 11800 Erie Road, Parrish

Rye Wilderness Park – 751 Rye Wilderness Trail, Parrish

Skyway Pier State Park – Skyway Bridge on I-275, Palmetto

Bradenton

Botanical Garden Park – 9800 17th Avenue N.W., Bradenton

Braden River Park – 5201 51st Street East, Bradenton

Crane Park – 37655 State Road 70, Myakka City

Duette Preserve – 2649 Rawls Road, Duette

East Bradenton Park – 1119 13th Street East, Bradenton

G.T. Bray Park – 5502 33rd Avenue Drive West, Bradenton

Lake Manatee State Park – 15 miles east of Bradenton off SR64, Bradenton

Lakewood Ranch Park – 5350 Lakewood Ranch Blvd., Bradenton

Manatee Palms Park – 6510 1st Avenue East, Bradenton

Myakka Community Park – 10060 Wachula Rd., Myakka City

Palma Sola Causeway Park – Manatee Avenue West, Bradenton

Pride Park – 815 63rd Avenue East, Bradenton

Robertson Preserve – 1704 99th St NW, Bradenton

SARASOTA COUNTY

Sarasota/Lido, Siesta, Casey Keys

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 Cocoanut Ave. at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Way

Sarasota

Boyd Park – 4300 Midnight Pass Road & Higley Avenue, Siesta Key

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

Glebe Park – 998 Glebe Lane, Siesta Key

Hopewell Cemetery – 6730 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota

Knights Trail Park – 3445 Rustic Road, Laurel

Lakeview Park – 7150 Lago Street, Sarasota

Laurel Park – 509 Collins Street, Laurel

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 Jetty – 1000 Casey Key Road, Casey Key

North Lido Beach – 400 Ben Franklin Drive, Lido Key

North Metro Park – 2500 Honore Avenue, Sarasota

North Water Tower Park – 4700 Rilma Avenue, Sarasota

Ocean Boulevard, Beach Access #5 – Ocean Blvd & Beach Road Intersection, Siesta Key

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

South Lido Park – 190 Taft Drive & 2201 Ben Franklin, Lido Key

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

Osprey/Nokomis

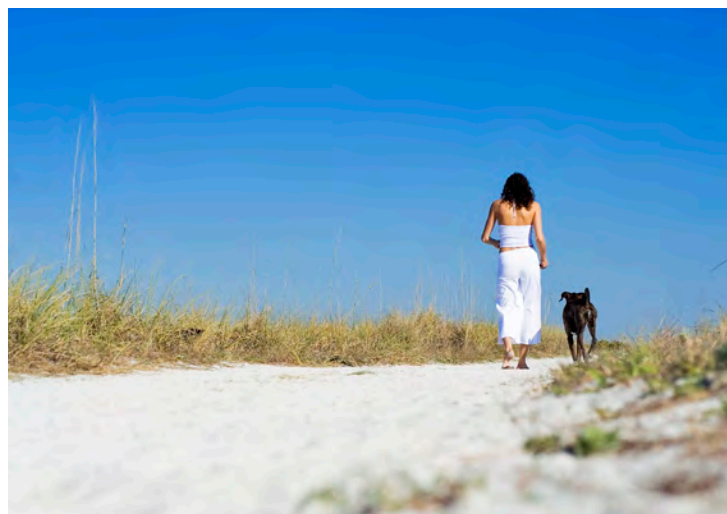
Bay Street Park – 300 Bay Street, Osprey

Blackburn Point Park – 800 Blackburn Point Road, Osprey

Ken Thompson Park/City Island – 1700 Ken Thompson Parkway, State Road 789, Osprey

Nokomis Community Park – 234 Nippino Trail, Nokomis

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

Venice

By-Pass Park – 1101 Gulf Coast Blvd., Venice

Carlton Reserve – 1800 Mabry Carlton Parkway, 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 Trekell 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

Cape Haze/Placida/Gasparilla/Island

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 Wobble 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 SCHOOLS

K-12 SCHOOLS

Sarasota County Public & Private Schools

sarasota.com/education.htm

sarasotacountyschools.com/schools.aspx

Manatee County School Resources

manateeschools.net/students/school_list.html

manatee-chamber.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 – centerforded.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 & 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

REFERENCE SECTION 4

AREA SCHOOLS

HIGHER EDUCATION

Sarasota County Colleges & Universities

Keiser University – keiseruniversity.edu/sarasota.php

New College of Florida – ncf.edu

University of Phoenix – phoenix.edu

Ringling College of Art & Design – ringling.edu – 941.351.5100

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

Webster University – webster.edu/sarasota

Manatee County Colleges & 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 & Education Center – grec.ifas.ufl.edu – 813.634.0000

Keiser University – keiseruniversity.edu – 941.907.3900

Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine – lecom.edu – 941.782.1552

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 – 941.554.2564

University of Miami at IMG Academies – miami.edu/img – 941.753.9957

University of South Florida – sarasota.usf.edu – 941.359.4200

Webster University – webster.edu/sarasota – 941.358.3840

Charlotte County Colleges & 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

FAMILY RESOURCES

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

Venice – 941.488.4009

DeSoto County – 863.494.3434

Englewood – 941.473.4003

Manatee County – 941.746.7000

North Port – 941.429.3727

Sarasota – 941.331.4376

Boys & Girls Clubs – boysandgirlsclubs.com

Women's Resource Center – thewomensresourcecenter.org



REFERENCE SECTION 5

HEALTHCARE ON FLORIDA'S GULF COAST

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 – firstphysiciansgroup.com

Sarasota Doctors Hospital – doctorsofsarasota.com

U.S. Health Works – ushealthworks.com

Gulf Coast Medical Group Urgent Care – gulfcoastmedicalgroup.net

Englewood Community Hospital – englewoodcommhospital.com

CHARLOTTE COUNTY

Fawcett Hospital – fawcetthospital.com

Peace River Regional Hospital – peacriverregional.com

Lee Memorial Hospital – leememorial.org

REFERENCE SECTION 6 • CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE

**Anna Maria-Holmes Beach
Chamber of Commerce**
annamariaislandchamber.com
5337 Gulf Drive North
Holmes Beach, FL 34217
941.778.1541

**Boca Grande
Chamber of Commerce**
bocagrandechamber.com
P.O. Box 704
Boca Grande, FL 33921
941.964.0568

**Bradenton
Chamber of Commerce**
manateechamber.com
222 10th Street W., PO Box 321
Bradenton, FL 34206,
941.748.3411

**Charlotte County
Chamber of Commerce**
charlottecountychamber.org
2702 Tamiami Trail
Port Charlotte, FL 33952
941.627.2222

**Englewood, Florida
Chamber of Commerce**
englewoodchamber.com
601 S. Indiana Ave.
Englewood, FL 34223
941.474.5511

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

**Longboat Key
Chamber of Commerce**
longboatkeychamber.com
6854 Gulf of Mexico Drive
Longboat Key, FL 34228
941.383.2466

**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

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

**Siesta Key
Chamber of Commerce**
siestakeychamber.com
5100-B Ocean Boulevard
Siesta Key, FL 34242
941.349.3800

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

REFERENCE SECTION 7 • EMPLOYMENT SERVICES

STATE OF FLORIDA

**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 8 • 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



SUNCOAST SUPER BOAT GRAND PRIX

This powerboat event is held around the 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.

REFERENCE SECTION 9 • ANNUAL AREA EVENTS

Sarasota Blues Festival – Held each fall on the 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 weeklong 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.

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 among the largest classic Corvette car shows in Florida.

Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival – The annual Cortez Commercial Fishing Festival is the main fundraising vehicle for the Florida Institute for Saltwater Heritage. This two-day event is held the third weekend of February every year with live music, nautical arts and crafts, children's activities, environmental exhibits and tons of fresh seafood.

Downtown Sarasota Festival of the Arts is one of the area's biggest art events, and 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.

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

Taste of the Suncoast – Held in February, this 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.

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

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 capital of the world and features entertainment, food as well as displays of sharks' teeth and other prehistoric fossils.



HOLIDAY NIGHT OF LIGHTS

The official kickoff 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.

The Venice Holiday Parade – Held at the end of November, The Venice Holiday Parade 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 on 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 is from Bayfront Park in downtown Sarasota.

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 invites you to join them for the international “kickoff” event for the Ferrari season! This annual event 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 in April for more than 30 years. The largest part of the event is the arts and crafts 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.

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 is a motorcycle-oriented event held each January in Sarasota. It offers live music, poker runs, vendors and has activities for over three days.



FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW

This event 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 an F-117 Stealth Fighter.

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.

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 competitions. Go back in time to old Arcadia, once known as Tater Hill Bluff, one of Florida’s original small cow towns.

Manatee Heritage Days kick off in springtime with a month-long celebration featuring historic walking tours, entertainment, arts and crafts, and a grand parade.

Lakewood Ranch – Music on Main (First Fridays – Monthly). Concerts are free to the public and held on the first Friday of each month from 6 to 9 p.m. Each concert features a different style of music and benefits a local non-profit organization.

Taste of Manatee is a 2-day celebration in November featuring great food and entertainment. Sample the cuisines from local restaurants while enjoying entertainment and activities for the entire family. Enjoy a refreshing cold drink while strolling along the riverfront or watching a football game on the large screen TV.

Downtown Gallery Walk, Punta Gorda – Held monthly on the third Thursday, 5-8 p.m. Visit any of the downtown merchants, restaurants and galleries for your game card. As always, there will be live entertainment, food and drink samplings, art, beauty and health demonstrations, a free trolley, and an evening of fun. Free; free parking.

Artists Guild of Manatee – Visit the various galleries, studios, restaurants and other small businesses in the arts district on the first Friday of every month from 6-9:30 p.m., and the first Saturday of every month from 11-4 p.m. Located in the Village of the Arts neighborhood, just south of downtown Bradenton. For more information, visit www.villageofthearts.com.

MANATEE COUNTY FAIR

A showcase for the best of Manatee County featuring exciting exhibits and vendors, livestock shows and auctions, competitions, a thrill-packed midway, a variety of great entertainment and, of course, fair food — all packed into ten days and nights in January.





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
mybrighthouse.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

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 • OUR BRANCH OFFICES

ANNA MARIA ISLAND

6000 Marina Drive 113
Holmes Beach, FL 34217
941.896.9981

BOCA GRANDE

The Galleria at Boca Grande
420 East Railroad Avenue
Boca Grande, Florida 33921
941.964.2000

BRADENTON

4400 Manatee Ave. W.
Bradenton, FL 34209
941.748.6300

BRADENTON, IMG ACADEMY

5500 34th Street West
Bradenton, Florida 34210
941.752.2683

BURNT STORE, PUNTA GORDA

16480 Burnt Store Road - 101
Punta Gorda, FL 33955
941.505.5555

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

MAIN STREET

1605 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

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Punta Gorda, Florida 33950
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941.388.4447

ST. ARMANDS II

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