



# CENTENNIAL

*Journal*

Issue 7 • July - August 2021

**SARASOTA  
BECOMES  
ITS OWN COUNTY**  
No Longer Part of  
Manatee County



*Enjoy  
a special section  
of essays from  
important, knowledgeable  
representatives of the  
Sarasota County community.*

# THE CREATION OF SARASOTA COUNTY WAS OFFICIAL ON JULY 1<sup>ST</sup> 1921!

## THE VICTORY CELEBRATION WAS LOUD AND COLORFUL. HORNS SOUNDED, WHISTLES BLEW, SIRENS WAILED.

Sarasotans turned out en masse to celebrate the split from Manatee County. Here, the parade leaves the temporary court house in the Hover Arcade and proceeds up lower Main Street – horns blaring and sirens wailing. Downtown Sarasota was filled with townsfolk, and a large American flag was hung from the center of the city hall building at the Hover arcade. A parade led by flag-draped cars and the Sarasota Brass Band marched up Lower Main Street toward Five Points and beyond.



## THE SARASOTA COUNTY TIMES

ESTABLISHED 1886—SUCCESSOR TO THE MANATEE COUNTY ADVOCATE AND THE SARASOTA TIMES

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF A SECTION OF BEAUTIFUL BAYS, PERFECT CLIMATE, UNEXCELLED SHORE LINE, AND UNLIMITED POSSIBILITIES

VOL. XXIII, No. 2

SARASOTA, FLORIDA, THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 1921

\$2.00 A YEAR

# Hurrah For Sarasota County!

**NEW COUNTY IS  
FAVORED; VOTE  
OVERWHELMING**

Sarasota Will Be  
Made From Lower  
Part Of Manatee.

**SARASOTA COUNTY IS  
RATIFIED BY VOTERS**

**CITIZENS SARASOTA COUNTY  
RATIFY LEGISLATIVE ACT**

(ASSOCIATED PRESS)  
Sarasota, June 16.—The legislative action creating Sarasota county out of the lower part of Manatee was ratified by the people of the district yesterday, 508 to 154. The county officers will be appointed by Governor Harde before July first and they will hold the first meeting on the first Tuesday in that month.

CHAPTER 8515—(No. 120).  
AN ACT Providing for the Creation of Sarasota County in the State of Florida, and for the Organization and Government Thereof.  
Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:  
Section 1. That the County of Sarasota be, and the same is hereby created and established.

**BECAME ACTIVE FACTOR  
JULY 1**

**Full List of County Officials  
Take Charge—Use City  
Hall as Court House**

# Why We Celebrate...

Welcome to this special section where knowledgeable representatives of the Sarasota County community reflect on the meaning and importance of the county's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration. The editors invited comments from civic leaders, historians, specialists in architectural and archaeological preservation, educators, historical society leaders, chamber of commerce officials, business people, and many others as well. Not all responded, but those who did took the opportunity seriously.

Taken together these articles demonstrate a profound interest in Sarasota County's past and the impact of that past on the future. Several of them raise interesting questions and many reflect strong personal feelings about their county. Some authors grew up here, while others have moved to Sarasota County in more recent times. Everyone, however, seems to feel that we are all influenced by the history of the area, that we need to understand and preserve that heritage, and that we have a responsibility to pass it along to future generations.

The hundredth birthday of the county for our authors is a unique opportunity to reflect on our origins as a community, our current successes and failures, and our hopes for an even better future for generations yet to come. It is not an opportunity that should be squandered.

If you have comments or questions, send them to [sarasota2021@gmail.com](mailto:sarasota2021@gmail.com).



## Alan Maio

Chairman, Sarasota County Board of Commissioners

*"It is a unique opportunity for us to . . . build a collective ambition for a flourishing future."*

This year marks a significant milestone for Sarasota County, namely, 100 years since its creation on July 1, 1921. As with any milestone, the Centennial is an occasion to reflect on events that were influential to our community's development. For Sarasota County, the last 100 years have been punctuated with significant achievements and a constant eye toward progress.

What we now call Sarasota County was largely uninhabited until the Whitaker family established a settlement at Yellow Bluff in 1852. However, the region began to prosper after Sir John Hamilton Gillespie arrived from Scotland with additional settlers and resources. It took grit and endurance to establish farms, ranches, and eventually a booming tourism industry in this region. Such steady determination, a focus on building community, and an inclination for innovation, imbue a pioneer spirit that can still be felt today.

Over the last century the population of Sarasota County has grown to approximately 435,000 residents. As Sarasota County Commission Chair, Alan Maio says, the Centennial can be a time not only to honor our common heritage but also to foster a "collective ambition" that we shall pass on to those who follow us an even more flourishing community. People from around the world are attracted to the diverse natural beauty and cultural and recreational experiences that abound. From the inspiring arts scene in Sarasota, to the military heritage of Venice, to the growth of our newest city, North Port, there is much to admire about our home. There is no doubt that Sarasota County is a vibrant and thriving community with a promising future and, to shape that future, it is critical to understand our past.

Thus, we celebrate the Centennial to ensure that future generations understand the people and events that shaped this special community. The Centennial is an opportunity to study our history, celebrate our region's rich resources, and ponder our aspirations for the future. It is a unique opportunity for us to come together as neighbors, colleagues, and citizens to honor our

common heritage, share what we admire about our home, and build a collective ambition for a flourishing future.



## **Shannon Staub**

Founding President of the Library Foundation for Sarasota County

*“It is a time to revisit the founding of our County and the values on which it was founded.”*

Celebrating our Centennial marks an incredible milestone. It is a “once in a lifetime” celebration for us.

It is a time to revisit the founding of our County and the values on which it was founded. The groundwork of hard work, creativity, perseverance was laid and survives to this day.

It is a time to remember those who forged the way for our County to thrive, grow and endure. We imagine their contributions, often heroic and always memorable. We take time to thank them for their accomplishments and even the ideas that did not come to fruition.

It provides a time for recommitment to, not only those individuals, but also the historical architecture and mores that we still value and appreciate.

The Centennial is a time for us to imagine what it was like long ago. We are in awe of the many hardships that were overcome both environmentally and culturally. We continue to be overwhelmed with all that was accomplished. We relish in the dreams that were realized and sympathize with those that were unfinished.

It is truly a privilege to be able to celebrate how our County started, how it formed, with ups and downs, and to be thankful for what has survived. It may not be 100% what each of us might have envisioned, but it is an outstanding place to live.

Thank you Sarasota County. Let’s all join in the Centennial celebration.



## **Jon Thaxton**

Senior Vice-President for Community Leadership at Gulf Coast Community Foundation

*“Sarasota County’s Centennial Celebrates Our Natural Environment”*

In 1921 the newly created Sarasota County’s population was 5,000. The major economic industries were agriculture and commercial fishing. Today Sarasota County is home to over 420,000 residents, and tourism, real estate development, and banking are the dominate economic drivers. It’s hard to imagine a common denominator between Sarasota then and now, but our natural environment is one such commonality.

Beginning more than 12,000 years ago from its first human inhabitants who lived, worked, and played in what is now Sarasota County, to the early European settlers who began arriving in the 1840s, and right up to modern-day new arrivals from every continent on the planet, Sarasota’s natural environment has been a shared enticement for residency.

Native Americans left tangible evidence of the importance of Sarasota’s natural environment in

the many shell middens that were filled with native plant and animal relics. This archeological evidence attests to the fact that food, shelter, and social life were entirely dependent on Sarasota's wildlife, and the natural habitats where they resided.

Similarly, historic records from early European settlers are replete with detailed accounts of both the role that the sheer beauty of the natural environment played in their selecting Sarasota as home, as well as the essential role the bountiful land, clean air and water were to sustaining early pioneer life.

I have many memories from growing up in Sarasota, but the ones I cherish the most are those evoking visions of Sarasota's awe-inspiring natural environment. Such as my being able to hunt quail, turkey and hogs on what are now the communities of Palmer Ranch. And the generational stories passed on to me from my ancestors including pranks with young alligators, caught in the Myakka River, then brought into town and released in the horse watering trough at Five Points.

Today, one would be hard pressed to find any Sarasota promotional material that does not prominently feature our natural environment. From the chambers of commerce's, economic development promoters, to tourism, our natural environment is the single promotional theme that connects them all, and for good reason. Sarasota's natural environment and the countless features it offers to our residents and visitors is the single largest contributor to our local economy.

Time and again Sarasota voters have overwhelmingly approved referenda that have increased their own taxes to pay for the preservation of our natural environment. Protecting our natural environment, ensuring clean water and air, seem to know no political, age, gender, or ethnic boundaries. Indeed, Sarasota's heritage for protecting its natural environment has persisted throughout the history of the County, and if properly stewarded, will continue to reward us for another 100 years and beyond. Without an account of our natural environment, there is no complete Sarasota history or Centennial Celebration.



## **Uzi Baram**

Professor of Anthropology, New College of Florida

*"What kind of ancestors do we want to be?"*

Why We Celebrate the Centennial: An Archaeologist Looks at Creating Collective Memory. One hundred years ago, Sarasota County split from Manatee County. The political decision was part of a demographic expansion in Florida that witnessed more and more people moving to the Sunshine State. I do not know if Manatee County residents mourned the loss of their territory but part of the argument for separation was financial resources going to the northern part of the county while the southern part, what became Sarasota County, did not get road repairs, enough funds for schools, and other public laments. Having a county carved out of Manatee County expanded representation though not all residents could participate equally in civic life. One of the important stories of the past century is the ongoing, though bumpy, expansion of voting rights so that more and more of those in Sarasota can cast ballots and have meaningful input into regional decisions: the reason for creating the county a century ago.

By looking back one hundred years, we add events and processes, like voting, to collective memory. Collective memory is an academic term that recognizes that governments and other institutions create stories to tell of themselves. But collective memory, commemorations, can come from the grassroots as well. We can use the opportunity of the centennial to heighten our search for the past in our midst. There is a robust heritage going back tens of thousands

of years beneath our feet (my training is in archaeology, so I think about what's underground) and around us. Even if many of the material markers of the past are gone as Sarasota County continues its rapid growth over the century from 5,000 people on what was a frontier to an estimated half million annual and seasonal residents in 2021, we can highlight and share insights into the region's past. The newcomers and the long-time residents alike benefit from engaging the history for the most ancient of people who lived on this land and by learning from the societies that confronted rising sea levels thousands of years ago and adapted to coastal life successfully. The sagas of Cuban fishing ranchos and the marronage of Angola on the Manatee River as well as Anglo-American pioneering and the enduring traditions of the Seminole and Miccosukee peoples enrich our community when told well. Toward disseminating the insights from archaeology, Florida Humanities funded a website on the region's heritage. A Guided Tour of Archaeo-Past of Sarasota/Manatee <https://archaeologysrq.org/> uses Charles Ringling as a tour guide, pointing to the major events and significant places across what was then Manatee County. I hope you can take a look at the website and then at the places and histories all around us.

By delving into the past, a simple but profound question is possible: what kind of ancestors do we want to be? One hundred years ago, residents created a new county, and it has flourished. We can commemorate this centennial by thinking about how we want people in 2121 to remember what we did or did not do today, what we preserved and what we commemorated. The centennial is a great opportunity to look forward.



## Harry Klinkhamer

Historical Resources Manager, City of Venice

*"A sense of place provides a sense of belonging."*

Why I Care about Sarasota County's Centennial and Why You Should Too. Like most of you, I'm not from around here. I came from a museum that honored European and Native American history from 350 years ago. While there, the county I lived in celebrated its 175th anniversary. So what's the big deal about 100? It's just a number. But a number seen as a milestone imbued with collective purpose.

As a society, we look for reflective benchmarks that give us pause to cherish accomplishments, revisit the road traveled, and reassure ourselves that we are continuing on the right journey ahead. A 25th wedding anniversary, a structure becoming 50 years old, and the centennial of anything really, gives us enough context to make sense of who we are.

For communities, these milestones shine a light on just that—who we are. But what if you're not from around here? Does it matter that Sarasota County is turning 100? Absolutely. We moved here for jobs, retirement, or to just get away from colder weather. We picked Sarasota County for its beaches, arts & culture, and—for many—the interesting history. A visit as a child 50 years ago stayed with you, so you elected to return. What has happened in this county over a century has made it the desirable place you wanted to come to.

But there are more reasons why we should care. A sense of place provides a sense of belonging. Knowing a place's past can make you feel like a local, can help you understand why a road is where it is and why it's named what it is. These things are important because that knowledge builds understanding and empathy. Knowing that roads were a major reason for separation from Manatee County helps to see how roads and infrastructure are still vitally important. Like those folks who felt a lack of representation or understanding from those far away people in Bradentown, just ask a South County resident how they feel about Sarasota sometimes, and

you can understand the motivation to secede—and our current culture. Whether you get inspired to be more active in your community, feel like the smartest person in your HOA, or just enjoy going to places that preserve and make history every day, Sarasota County's Centennial is worth caring about. I know I do.



## **Marsha Fottler**

President, Historical Society of Sarasota County

*"Progress and preservation must move in tandem."*

Sarasota County is daily in our minds and mission, partly because of our name --Historical Society of Sarasota County (HSOSC). We were founded in 1927 as a non-governmental organization with encouragement from the Chamber of Commerce. Our citizens and civic leaders back then believed that as we developed into a county with better roads, bridges, schools, medical facilities, housing and tourist attractions, we should also be diligent about preserving and conserving historical features of our county that made it so special to early settlers and seasonal visitors.

Progress and preservation must move in tandem. Moving ahead, but looking back to our past is vital to understanding how and why we got to where we are today. This Centennial, which celebrates Sarasota becoming an independent county, reminds us of the necessity to honor our history, learn from it and to realize that we can always do better.



## **Betty Intagliata**

Secretary, Centennial 2021 Steering Committee

*"The deteriorated depot underwent a total restoration in 2003."*

I arrived in Venice (located in Sarasota County) in September 1981. Being a former history teacher from Connecticut, I joined as an appointee the newly formed Venice Historical Commission set up by the City in 1988. It was from the work on this Commission that I met Rollins Coakley.

Rollins was adamant that the County save the Venice Train Depot, the last remaining train depot in Sarasota County. Once the Venice Area Historic Preservation League was formed in 1990 with its first meetings in 1991, Rollins sought the league's help. We were a very small group then, so as its first President, I suggested to Rollins that he should also seek the help of Venice MainStreet as well as the Venice Chamber of Commerce and get some additional workers on his committee to save the Depot. David Pierce, Manager of Venice MainStreet helped, as did Phil Ellis & others from the Venice Chamber. Rollins and others began meeting with Sarasota County Commissioners and County Administration officials. They attended hundreds of committee meetings. Rollins became very well known by County Commissioners. After many meetings with CSX Railway officials and County officials to negotiate purchase of the Depot, it was finally achieved in 2002 and the deteriorated depot underwent a total restoration in 2003. County Commissioners felt that Rollins had done such a huge amount of work as J.Q. citizen that they named a park at the Depot after Rollins. Both the dedication of the renovated Venice Depot and that of the Rollins Coakley Park were large events and drew

large crowds!

Sarasota County Administration and County Commissioners need to be congratulated for saving the Venice Train Depot and, after purchasing the property from CSX Railway spending the dollars to “restore” the Depot. (Some of the dollars came from grants, some from the County and a small contribution from the City of Venice wherein the Depot resides.) Sarasota County also renovated & accepted ownership of the Caboose at the Depot. The Venice Historic Preservation League (today known as the Venice Area Historical Society) volunteered to begin tours of the Depot to the public in November 2003 and have been doing tours ever since. The Caboose became their office.

This successful public/private preservation project is just one reason why we should celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Sarasota becoming its own County.



## **Don Bayley**

Lemon Bay Historical Society

*“Pete Buchan, a pioneer instrumental in the creation of Sarasota County.”*

We celebrate the Centennial to commemorate the past and aim to inspire future generations to experience, connect with, and appreciate all that went into creating this special corner of the world.

In doing so, we recognize the efforts of our early settlers who helped make the formation of Sarasota County possible. One such pioneer was Pete Buchan.

Born in Plymouth, Florida in 1871, Pete Buchan arrived in Englewood in 1902. In 1908 he worked at Englewood’s only store (owned by the Nichols brothers who founded the town). In 1913 he purchased the store and relocated it and the Englewood Post Office to his new building at the end of today’s Dearborn Street. Soon other businesses appeared and, to this day, Dearborn Street is the commercial center of Englewood.

Active in the growing community, Pete was appointed Postmaster in 1912, was a School District Trustee and served on the General Committee on County Division. He helped fund the separation movement and was instrumental in constructing a paved road connecting Englewood to Sarasota.

In 1921 Pete was appointed by Governor Hardee to be the first Sarasota County Commissioner from Englewood.

Today’s Buchan Airport is on land which in the 1920s was planned to be a development named Hygeia. It was marketed to the rich and famous. Movie stars Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks planned to build huge homes there. When the Florida land boom crashed the developer went bankrupt. The land lay vacant for many years.

In 1949 Pete Buchan helped the County acquire 93 acres of the Hygeia land for just \$100 and they built an airport there to facilitate aerial mosquito spraying. Today the grass field airport is still in use, primarily by private planes. The County Commissioners named it Buchan Airport to honor Pete’s “long and efficient service to the county.”

As we celebrate the Centennial, we recall and recognize the accomplishments of Pete Buchan, a pioneer instrumental in the creation of Sarasota County.





## **Kim Patton Manning**

New View Services, Inc.

*"I am so proud to be part of Sarasota and its rich history . . ."*

Maybe it was the excitement that John Ringling brought with his entertainment, hotels and cultural developments.

Maybe it was all of it.

My mother graduated from the Out-of-Doors School. She met and married my father who was training as a fighter pilot stationed in Venice. His career took them north. When their marriage ended my mother chose to move back to Sarasota with me and my sisters in 1961.

She found that some things had changed and grown, but it was still Sarasota. She would say to us "I remember when this was ..." I find myself doing the same in 2021.

In 1986 I was part of the committee for the Sarasota Centennial celebration of when the Scots arrived in Sarasota in 1886. I also produced the 1986 Sarasota Trivia Calendar during that time. I am honored to be on the current 2021 Sarasota County Centennial Steering Committee. I've grown up and stayed in Sarasota. I've started businesses in Sarasota. I met and married my husband here. Knowing Sarasota's past makes me appreciate where we are today – and where we can go tomorrow.

I am so proud to be part of Sarasota and its rich history which I feel should be cherished during this 100th year celebration of our wonderful county!



## **Kim Parks**

Englewood Chamber of Commerce

*"What an amazing milestone for Sarasota County."*

Celebrating 100 years is not something we get to do every day. What an amazing milestone for Sarasota County. The Englewood Chamber sits on the Sarasota County side of our town and it is with great pleasure that we celebrate this anniversary! We pride ourselves on our history and beauty that make Englewood unique.

Whether it is historic Dearborn Street, Manasota Key Beach or the many nature trails, Sarasota County has much to offer visitors and residents alike. Once known solely for its fishing trade, Englewood has grown into so much more. There is a bustling art community and authentic beach town atmosphere that appeals to all. Sun soaked, sugar sands, and an abundance of aquatic activities make Englewood a clear top destination along the Gulf of Mexico.

To many, Sarasota County is a family tradition...whether as snowbirds or tourists . . . but there are just as many that call Sarasota County home. The beauty that is in our backyard is what makes this area so special. To be able to live where many vacation, should be appreciated. We invite you to experience the tradition that is Sarasota County. Come honor the past, celebrate the present and look forward to our future with preservation and pride.



## Tom Bowers

Retired public school teacher/principal

*“students deserve to be engaged with this ‘once in a lifetime’ celebration.”*

Imagine a young person on a local street corner announcing:

EXTRA! EXTRA! EXTRA! READ ALL ABOUT IT— IT IS JULY 1, 1921  
AND SARASOTA COUNTY IS OFFICIALLY ESTABLISHED!

Fast forward 100 years and we are in the throes of our Sarasota County Centennial. All residents and especially our 40,000+ students deserve to be engaged with this “once in a lifetime” celebration.

Perhaps this calls for a CENTENNIAL PASS that highlights important landmarks and attractions. Visit two informative websites:

[www.sarasotacounty100.com](http://www.sarasotacounty100.com) and [www.sarasotacountycentennial.com](http://www.sarasotacountycentennial.com).

Check out their menus. Become a ‘Tourist for a Day’ in your own County. You can start by downloading the free SARASOTA COUNTY AUTO TOURS app. Additionally, historical venues will be reopening to the public and deserve our attendance. Now is the opportune time to let our young people know that you value the compelling events and personalities that helped with the establishment of our County. Benjamin Harrison, our 23rd. President of the United States, once said: “Great lives don’t go out, they go on. But it takes engaged citizens to keep the torch of good citizenship burning and ready to hand off to the next generation.”

Centennial Education will pay dividends and provide a great foundation that can be enhanced in the fall as students return to school.



## Jack Dean

Commercial and Residential Sales

*“I find the older I get the more important it is to me to look back and remember my experiences.”*

The Centennial is important because it encourages us to remember the past and look at the future and to celebrate our history. I find the older I get the more important it is to me to look back and remember my experiences. I have lived in Sarasota for 73 years and have seen a lot of changes. I loved going to the point of rocks on Crescent Beach as a child in the 1950’s. We would snorkel all day and see only 3 or 4 people all day long. In the 1960’s there was only one Sheriff’s deputy working at night covering the area from Bee Ridge road to Venice and as far East as Myakka State Park. Also in the 60’s we only had one volunteer fire department station on Stickney Point. Amid all the change I know it is important for me never to forget what the area was once like.



Dr. Frank A. Cassell

# From The Chair

July 1, 2021, the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of Sarasota County is upon us. On that day in 1921 the new government commenced functioning with county commissioners and other officials appointed by Governor Cary Hardee, pending the next general election.

Sarasotans now would have a much bigger say in how their future as a community would unfold. Their years-long fight with Manatee County was not yet over, however. More acrimony and a few lawsuits would extend matters a year or so. But the big victory had been won, and Florida's 62<sup>nd</sup> county wasted little time in reaping the benefits in lower taxes, more schools, improved law enforcement, and –above all—in an explosion of road building that knit the Sarasota community together and connected its economy to the rest of the state and the nation.

The Centennial celebration is a year-long observance with events and activities planned into December. But July 1 is certainly a singular moment, and this issue of Centennial Journal marks it with a special section called “Why We Celebrate.” The keynote theme of the Centennial 2021 Steering Committee is that the celebration had to encompass the entire county and involve as many residents as possible. In this special section a group of civic leaders from many fields offer their views on why this Centennial observance is important.

Their general conclusion is that we are celebrating for more than the successful struggle to become a county. We also celebrate the incredible growth and prosperity of the past century that has made Sarasota County so enormously attractive as a place to live and as a center of culture.

So on July 1 remember to drink a celebratory glass of orange juice, enjoy one of our popular Centennial auto tours, and think, at least little, about the men and women who created Sarasota County and thereby laid the foundation for future greatness.

*Dr. Frank A. Cassell, Chair*  
Sarasota County Centennial 2021 Steering Committee

## **Celebrate the 4th of JULY at the Historic VENICE Train Depot with the WORLD OF CHUCKO CHARACTERS • LIVE AND IN PERSON! • FAMILY FUN for EVERYONE! Starting at 3:00 pm!**

Over the past 20 years, our mission has been to serve the Senior care and Special needs communities and they are certainly invited to join us as well as all veterans and public servants.

The idea is to celebrate the 4th, say Happy Birthday to America, Happy Anniversary to the County, introduce Chucko the All American Clown and the World of Chucko, and share the History, Mystery, Magic, Music, Mirth and Memories about VENICE, the Train Depot, and the Circus!



**Sarasota County  
Centennial 2021  
Steering Committee**

*Executive Committee*

**Dr. Frank A. Cassell**  
*Chair*

**Dorothy Korwek**  
*Vice Chair, Treasurer*

**Betty Intagliata**  
*Secretary*

**Don Bayley**  
*Communications  
Coordinator*

**Marilyn Gerkin**  
*Chair of Events Committee*

**Harry Klinkhamer**  
*Chair, History &  
Preservation Coalition of  
Sarasota County*

**Dave Baber**  
*Director, Speakers Bureau*

**John McCarthy**  
*Vice President of Historic  
Spanish Point Campus,  
Selby Botanical Gardens*

**Kim Patton Manning**  
*Zoom Coordinator*

*Committee Members*

Rob Bendus  
Thomas Bowers  
Priscilla Brown  
Kathryn Chesley  
Walter Gilbert  
Olivia Haynes  
Ellen India  
Thomas Jones  
Cathy McGuire  
Betty Nugent  
Frank Ourednik  
Clifford Smith

*Newsletter Staff*

**Editor**

*Betty Intagliata*

**Contributors**

*Don Bayley, Frank Cassell*

**Graphic Designer**

*Evelyn Nelson*

**SARASOTA COUNTY AUTO TOURS**



**SARASOTA COUNTY  
AUTO TOURS**

***Sarasota County Centennial App Now Has 8 Auto Tours!***

**WHAT:**

Celebrate the Centennial of Sarasota County with a FREE smartphone Auto Tour App for iPhones, Androids and iPads. 8 unique FREE auto tours can be accessed at the driver's leisure with expert historical narration and turn-by-turn directions.

**WHO:**

Created by the Sarasota County Centennial Committee, these tours are made possible and free to download thanks to several generous sponsors including: Williams Parker Attorneys, Mabry Carlton Ranch, Collins Interiors, Paver Development and Friends of the Sarasota County Parks.

**WHEN:**

The App and Tours can be accessed 24 hours a day, 7 days a week through the Apple App and Google Play Stores. Search: "Sarasota County Auto Tours"

**WHERE:**

8 Unique tours include: Bee Ridge, Vamo to Laurel, Phillippi, Englewood, Fruitville to Miakka, Bayfront, Downtown/5 Points, Courthouse Area! Coming soon: Venice

**WHY:**

Celebrate the 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Sarasota County in a COVID safe and convenient manner! Hear about the history and interesting stories about the amazing people who developed Sarasota County.

**HOW:**

Visit <https://www.sarasotacountycentennial.com> to learn more about the Auto Tours and learn how you can celebrate the Centennial of Sarasota County.

# Become A Partner

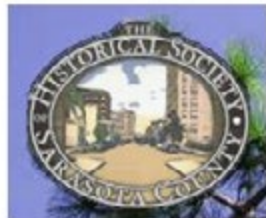
We invite you to view "A Special Invitation" to join the celebration on our website: [www.sarasotacountycentennial.com](http://www.sarasotacountycentennial.com) or on YouTube [youtu.be/uo9U5fbm0PM](http://youtu.be/uo9U5fbm0PM)

## Join Our Partners

*In every issue we will feature some of our Partners.*



**The Englewood REVIEW**  
Always Local ... Always Positive!



## PARTNER PROFILE

*Robert Vodnoy, Music Director and Conductor, the Chamber Orchestra of Sarasota included the following in the Program Notes for the performance of Celebrating America's Music on February 16, 2021 at the Church of the Redeemer:*



“This celebration of American music covers 125 years. I became aware of Arthur Foote’s Serenade when I was researching Bertha Honoré Palmer because of the Sarasota County Centennial. I was looking for a piece of music for our concert that would be somehow connected to that event, and learned what a large role Bertha had in the 1893 Columbian Exposition in Chicago. Dr. Frank Cassell, Chair of the Centennial Committee, encouraged me to find music by a woman composer because Palmer was such a champion of women’s causes. That led me to the music of Jessie Montgomery and her masterful fanfare Starburst.”

For more information on the Chamber Orchestra of Sarasota visit: <https://chamberorchestrasarasota.org>

## UNIDOSNOW

On May 27th our partner UnidosNow held “Decision Day.” On this very special occasion, they acknowledged the accomplishments and celebrated the hard work of their high school students and wished them well on their next step in life.

The Future Leaders Academy Class of 2021 Barancik Scholars shared their college acceptances and their experiences with UnidosNow as well as their plans for the future.

Our Chair Dr. Frank Cassell viewed the ceremony and commented, “As a former university president I was very impressed with this remarkable group of earnest young people who told their personal stories and spoke of their future plans with poise and passion. We can only hope that when finished with their degree programs they will return to serve and enrich this community. I am sure you and your colleagues are proud of each and every one of them. We at Sarasota County Centennial 2021 are certainly proud to be associated with you and UnidosNow.”

The mission of UnidosNow is “To elevate the quality of life of the growing Hispanic/Latino community through education, integration, and civic engagement.”

For more information visit <https://unidosnow.org/>



# PARTNER EVENTS

## Sarasota County Cattlemen's Association

On Saturday, May 8, 2021, the Sarasota County Cattlemen's Association held a meeting at the historic settlement of Utopia on the Hi Hat Ranch.

The keynote speaker was former Florida State Senator Lisa Carlton. Coming from a family with six generations in the Florida cattle business, Lisa is well versed in the local history. She explained to the nearly one hundred people in attendance the process used to establish the new county of Sarasota, and the separation from Manatee.

The 26,000 acre Hi Hat Ranch was purchased in 1943 by Herman Turner. Mr. Turner served as the first president of the Sarasota County Cattlemen's Association that was formed in 1945. The local association is affiliated with the Florida Cattlemen's Association that was established in 1934. Along with the Turner family, other prominent local names like Carlton, Hawkins, Longino, Albritton, and Downs have served in leadership positions over the years.

Agriculture is rooted here. A total of 283 farms and ranches continue to operate in Sarasota County, contributing 25 million dollars a year to the local economy.

*Chuck Johnston, President, Sarasota County Cattlemen's Association*



*Lisa Carlton addressing a group of 90 people about the 100 year celebration of Sarasota. This was part of the cattlemen's association lunch at the Hi-Hat Ranch Saturday May 8th.*

**New Exhibit**  
**CELEBRATING A CENTENNIAL**  
*The Origins of Sarasota County*  
Runs from  
Jan. 19th, 2021 - Jan. 12th, 2022

**Sarasota County Centennial Celebration**  
1921 2021

**Venice MUSEUM & ARCHIVES**  
351 Nassau St. S.  
Venice, FL 34285  
941-486-2487

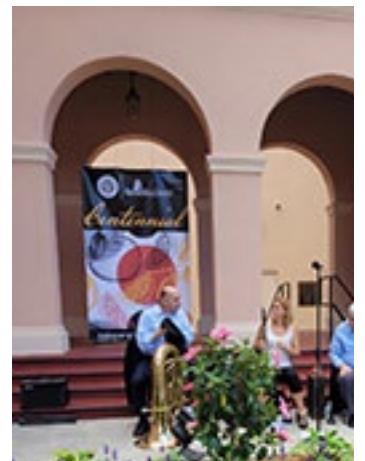
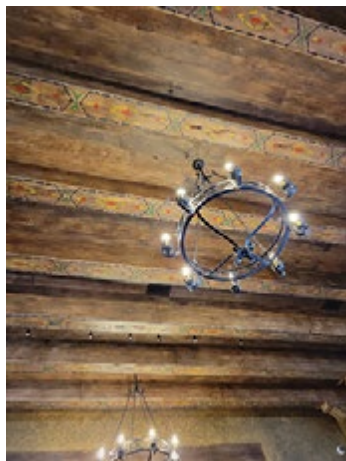
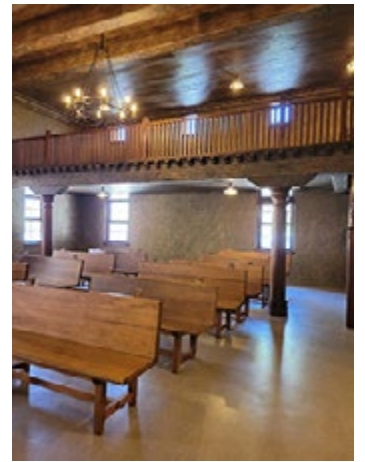
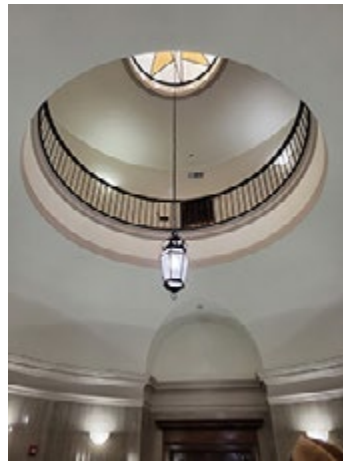
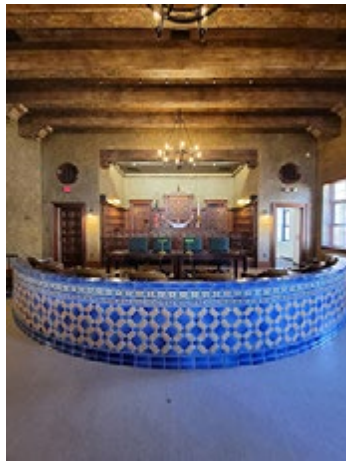
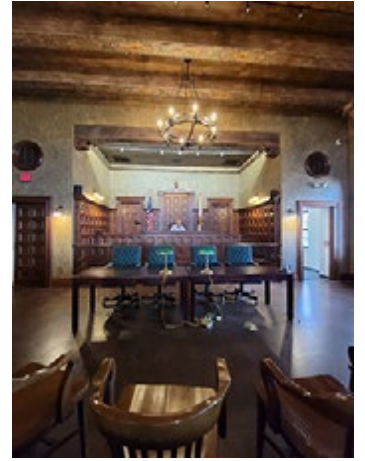
Open: Mon., Tues.,  
Wed., 10am-1pm  
VeniceMuseum.org  
Follow us on

**Venice, FL**  
City on the Gulf

# PARTNER EVENTS

## COURTHOUSE TOUR

*The Centennial Committee enjoyed a tour of the Historic Sarasota County Courthouse while Sarasota County Commissioners celebrated the 100th Anniversary with music, speeches and tours.*





# OUR SPONSORS

## PLATINUM \$5,000

*Digisphere Marketing  
Sarasota Scene Magazine  
Williams Parker Law*

## GOLD \$2,500

*Mabry Carlton Ranch*

## SILVER \$1,000

*Don Bayley  
Dr. Frank & Elizabeth Cassell  
Collins Interiors  
Friends of Sarasota County Parks  
Marilyn Gerkin  
Paver Development Corp.  
Sarasota Magazine*

## FRIENDS \$100-\$225

*Lee & Mary Hasselbring  
Betty Intagliata  
John David & Kim Patton Manning  
Marian Shern*

## BRONZE \$500

*Florin/Roebig Attorneys  
Jasmine George  
Philip & Dorothy Korwek  
Rick Benitez Photography*

## INDIVIDUAL \$250

*Seaborn & Priscilla Brown  
Cardinal Digital Marketing  
Lawrence J. Magill  
Floyd "Stone" Rinehart*

*Thank You To All Our*

## CENTENNIAL SPONSORS



*Tampa Tribune  
June 16, 1921*

In 1921 the citizens of the Sarasota district won their battle for independence from Manatee County to become Florida's 62nd county. This year in 2021, the entire Sarasota County community including Sarasota, Venice, North Port, Longboat Key, Osprey, Nokomis, Englewood, Newtown, Miakka, and Laurel is celebrating our 100th birthday. Representatives of local historical organizations have formed the Sarasota County Centennial 2021 organization to plan events and raise awareness regarding this important anniversary.

Thanks to people like you, the Sarasota County Centennial will be a historic event to remember. We invite you to be a sponsor of this very important community initiative! Your contribution will help support the entire Centennial effort, including the community events, history programs and a website to share all of the various opportunities for the community to participate. You or your business will be promoted through our marketing efforts online and in print.

Please view our levels of sponsorship. Go to our website [sarasotacountycentennial.com](http://sarasotacountycentennial.com) or print and fill out the Application on the last page to secure your sponsorship. Friends of the Sarasota County History Center dba Sarasota County Centennial 2021 is a 501(c)3 charitable organization. Your contribution is tax-deductible to the extent provided by law.\*

Your support is critical to celebrating this once in a lifetime milestone!

## 100 DAYS FOR 100 YEARS



For its contribution to the Centennial Celebration Sarasota County government has turned to our public library system to coordinate a series of lectures, exhibits and events—some virtual, some hopefully in person—illuminating our county’s unique history, natural environment, architecture, even our archaeology. The Centennial initiative, dubbed “100 Days for 100 Years,” kicked off on March 23 at the county’s historic court-house with a ceremony adding the circa-1927 Mediterranean Revival building at the corner of Main Street and Washington Boulevard to the local Register of Historic Places.

*(Source: Sarasota Magazine)*

View photos of the event:

<https://www.sarasotacounty100.com/centennialkickoff>



## FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Watch two programs by two great re-enactors portraying two different women who both supported the split from Manatee County and creation of a Sarasota County during the 1920s. To see each video program you simply go to: [veniceareahistoricalsociety.org](http://veniceareahistoricalsociety.org). Click on “Education.” Video will pop up right away.

Re-enactor is Kathryn Chesley. She portrays an ardent supporter of the split from Manatee County and creation of a Sarasota County...this was Rose Wilson, who ran the only newspaper in Sarasota in the 1900’s. This video program began on April 20th and will continue for awhile.

Re-enactor Kate Holmes portrays “Bertha Palmer” and tells of Bertha and her family’s strong support for a split from Manatee County and creation of a Sarasota County. This video program begins on May 18th and will continue for awhile.

We hope you enjoy these wonderful re-enactors..while learning about two personalities involved in the creation of Sarasota County!

## How Sarasota County Came To Be

[SarasotaCountyCentennial.com](http://SarasotaCountyCentennial.com)

Be sure to visit our website to watch the video of Dr. Frank Cassell sharing the story of how Sarasota came to be, its break from Manatee County and the people involved.



## A Community Celebration of 100 Years of Sarasota County *Sponsorship Information*

\_\_\_\_\_ Presenting (\$10,000)    \_\_\_\_\_ Platinum (\$5,000)    \_\_\_\_\_ Gold (\$2,500)  
\_\_\_\_\_ Silver (\$1,000)    \_\_\_\_\_ Bronze (\$500)    \_\_\_\_\_ Individual (\$250)  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Other Donation Amount

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name for listing in event materials and website: \_\_\_\_\_

Link to your website: \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a logo for use in event materials and website: Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

*If yes, please also send a PDF or JPG file to [sarasota2021@gmail.com](mailto:sarasota2021@gmail.com)*

Please make your check out to "Sarasota County Centennial 2021" and mail to: SC Centennial 2021, P.O. Box 91, Venice, FL 34284. To pay via credit card, go to SPONSORS page on **[www.sarasotacountycentennial.com](http://www.sarasotacountycentennial.com)** for information.

If you have any questions, please call Marilyn Gerkin at 941-922-8730

Friends of the Sarasota County History Center DBA Sarasota County Centennial 2021 meets all requirements specified by the Florida Solicitation of Contributions Act. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE. 1-800-HELP-FLA (435-7352) [www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com](http://www.FloridaConsumerHelp.com) FLORIDA REGISTRATION #CH25821.