



CENTENNIAL *Journal*

Issue 8 • September - October 2021



Dr. Frank A. Cassell

*From
The
Chair*

A hundred years ago the founders of Sarasota County were no longer celebrating their hard-fought victory. Since July 1, 1921, the official beginning date of Sarasota County, our leaders had been entirely wrapped up in the business of governing Florida's newly established 62nd county.

And the challenges were enormous. Forming a government, filling offices, remodeling the space in the Hover Arcade to house the administrative staff and court personnel, and responding to citizen petitions for government actions in many areas were but some of the issues County Board Chair Frank Walpole and his colleagues had to confront. It didn't help that a hurricane hit the Bayfront in October, flooding some parts of the Hover Arcade and destroying miles of roads.

Despite everything, Walpole and his fellow leaders effectively moved the county forward. In less than a year Sarasota County cut taxes and began planning a vast expansion of its road system to accommodate new population growth. The decision to become a county was already yielding positive results.



I want to congratulate our friends in county government responsible for planning and executing the county's official program for celebrating the Centennial. Under the able leadership of Director of Library and Historical Resources Reneé DiPilato a whirl-wind of activities were mounted in the hundred days leading up to July 1. Some programs, such as One Book/One Community are continuing into the fall. Those interested should consult the library's website.

Those parts of the Centennial celebration organized by the Sarasota County Centennial 2021 Steering Committee also are continuing with an array of lectures, art shows, and the premiere of a Centennial play based on my book, *Creating Sarasota*, and written by Kathryn Chesley. Our Centennial website sarasotacountycentennial.com has a complete calendar of events and a wealth of information on the county's history including our very popular Centennial Auto Tours.

I close on a sad note. Dr. Thomas Jones of Longboat Key, a retired university professor and member of our Steering Committee, died recently. Tom was active in many community groups particular those involved with historic preservation. He was an able advocate and a good friend. He clearly will be missed by all who knew him.

Dr. Frank A. Cassell, Chair

Sarasota County Centennial 2021 Steering Committee

Why We Celebrate...

In our last issue we published a series of essays in which community members commented on why they thought the Centennial celebration was important. There were many favorable comments about the thoughtfulness displayed by the authors. In this issue we reprint one of the essays from which we had inadvertently omitted several key passages, for which we apologize. The author is Kim Patton Manning. The second essay, by Kathryn Chesley, arrived too late for inclusion in the July issue. I thank them both for their participation.



Kim Patton Manning
New View Services, Inc.

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

I love Sarasota. My family has been here for three generations.

I wasn't really sure why my maternal grandparents, George & Ethel Orr, chose to settle in Sarasota (Nokomis) in the 1930s having lived comfortably all over the country.

Maybe it was Sarasota's abundant natural resources, beauty and temperate weather that drew them.

Maybe they admired what Bertha Palmer had started in Sarasota: developing vast amounts of land, establishing roads for transporting materials and tourism, scientifically innovating agricultural processes, creating thriving communities where they could raise their children and her family started Palmer Bank.

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 & 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!



Kathryn Chesley

Member of the 2021 Centennial Steering Committee
Board Member of the Historical Society of Sarasota County
Actress portraying Historical Women

"We need to know who came before us . . ."

From the popularity of "Finding Your Roots" on television to gifting the ancestry DNA test "23 and me" to family members, we are suddenly interested in finding out about the generations before us. As members of the wider community of Sarasota County, that curiosity continues. We need to know who came before us, why did people settle here, what were their challenges and what were the events that shaped their days in early Florida.

My work in the theater sparked my need to tell stories as a performer, director and producer. Today, those stories come alive in the women I portray when I tell the stories of their life and times. The Centennial lead me to Rose Wilson, whose newspaper work played a huge part in the creation of Sarasota County and I have had the honor of sharing her story to the people of Sarasota County for the past year. Every time her story is told, we share in a community experience as we find out about our community was formed.

This is why we celebrate our Centennial. It gives a chance to explore our past generations and better understand the people, places and events that created the county that many of us now call home.

In Memoriam

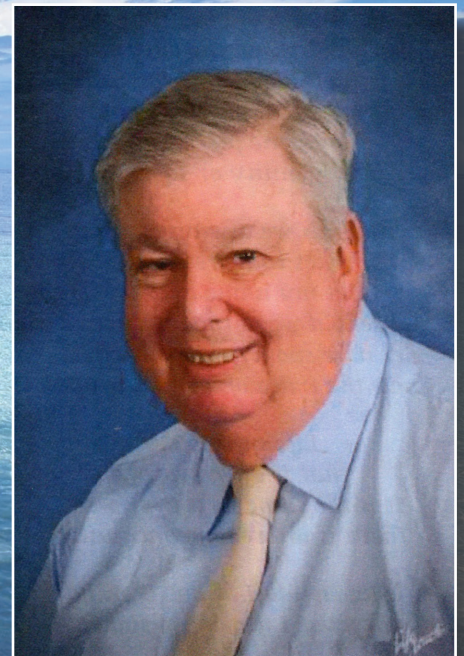
Thomas Jones

1943 ~ 2021

Tom was an all around good guy! He served on the Centennial 2021 Steering Committee until he had to deal with health problems.

Tom helped to bring Longboat Key in as a Centennial 2021 Partner as well as UNIDOS where Tom served as a mentor.

Tom served on the Sarasota County Historical Commission and on the Board of the Friends of the Sarasota County History Center. He was always thoughtful, friendly and very helpful. Those of us who were privileged to know Tom will miss him greatly.



We thank his wife Allison for sharing Tom with all of us in Sarasota County History circles.

**Sarasota County
Centennial 2021
Steering Committee**

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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, Venice, Downtown/5 Points and Courthouse Area!

WHY:

Celebrate the 100th 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.

PARTNER PROFILE

Sarasota Memorial Hospital-Venice is on track to welcome its first patients this fall! A full-service, acute care hospital, SMH-Venice was built to serve the growing south Sarasota County area and enhance healthcare across the region.

When it opens, SMH-Venice will offer a full slate of medical and surgical care — from cardiology, orthopedics and intensive care to surgery and comprehensive labor, delivery, recovery and post-partum care.

Seamlessly integrated with the resources, expertise and support of Sarasota Memorial Health Care System, SMH-Venice will deliver south county residents more convenient access to the top-ranked acute care and surgical treatment Sarasota Memorial is known for.

“We are excited to be transforming healthcare in south county,” said SMH-Venice President Sharon Roush said. “This is just the beginning.”

Coming Soon: Opening Fall 2021!



SMH-Venice Campus at a Glance

Located at the intersection of Laurel and Pinebrook roads near I-75 in Venice, FL, the 65-acre Sarasota Memorial Hospital-Venice campus will feature:

- ◆ A 365,000-square-foot, 5-story hospital with 110 private patient suites, a 28-bed emergency care center, 8 surgical suites and an inpatient rehabilitation / recovery gym.
- ◆ A negative-pressure ventilation system to convert all or part of the hospital's Critical Care Unit to a pandemic unit, if needed.
- ◆ A 2-story, 60,000-square-foot medical office building for physician and specialty care practices.
- ◆ An adjacent 400-space parking garage and ample surface parking providing convenient access to care.

SMH-Venice Clinical Services & Facilities

Networked information technology connects SMH-Venice and other Sarasota Memorial care centers, ensuring patients can receive an uninterrupted continuity of care across our locations.

The slate of healthcare services at SMH-Venice will include:

Emergency Care (ER) — With 28 beds, 2 trauma/resuscitation rooms, X-ray and a stroke care hub, the SMH-Venice ER will be open 24/7 to treat and diagnose injury, stroke, cardiac events, allergic reactions and other emergent conditions.



Radiology — The SMH-Venice Radiology Department will offer inpatient and outpatient imaging, including MRI, CT scans, fluoroscopy and X-rays. It also will feature 2 nuclear medicine suites, stress testing and a bi-plane interventional radiology suite. Our Venice Breast Care Center will be equipped with ultrasound and bone density testing, 3D mammography and a stereotactic biopsy suite.

Maternity Services — The SMH-Venice Labor / Delivery / Recovery / Post-Partum Unit (LDRP) supports women and babies at every step of their journey. All 10 Birthing Suites are private, cozy and equipped with a laboring tub for patient comfort. The suites are designed so that laboring women, their support person/people and baby can stay together in the same room throughout the birth experience — from labor and delivery through recovery and post-partum.

Orthopedic / Surgical Unit — With 26 private patient suites, the SMH-Venice Ortho team provides the same nationally recognized excellence in orthopedic and surgical care that we've provided for decades at the SMH-Sarasota campus.

Cardiac Care — Equipped with 26 private patient suites, the specialized Cardiac Care Unit is designed to monitor and treat patients presenting with serious or acute heart problems.

Critical Care — Designed and built amid the COVID-19 pandemic, every ICU room can be converted to a negative pressure room, in the event of a COVID-19 resurgence or other pandemic involving highly infectious airborne disease.

Other Services — Other specialized services SMH-Venice will offer include Laboratory/Diagnostic Testing; Catheterization Lab; Respiratory Therapy; Endoscopy; Gastroenterology; Nephrology; Neurology/Neurosurgery; Oncology; Urology; and Interventional Radiology.

Ready to Grow with the Community

Plenty of space on campus means plenty of room to expand to meet the growing needs of the community for years to come.

SMH-Venice has the capacity to more than double in size, to 300 private patient suites, 16 surgical suites and a 50-bed ER. The expansion also will bring Sarasota Memorial's extensive physician base farther south and help build the medical staff for a future hospital in North Port.

Sarasota Memorial Hospital-Venice Campus • 2600 Laurel Road E., North Venice, FL 34275 • 941-261-9000



Become A Partner

We invite you to view "A Special Invitation" to join the celebration on our website: www.sarasotacountycentennial.com or on YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uo9U5fbm0PM>

Join Our Partners

In every issue we will feature some of our Partners.

Mabry Carlton Ranch



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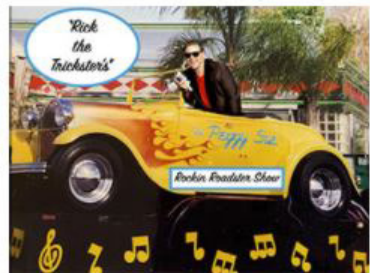
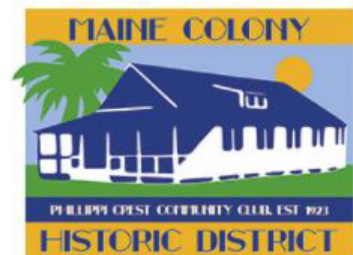
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PARTNER EVENTS

SURVIVING SARASOTA

Author and Poet, Clarissa Thomasson will be speaking at the Historic Green Street Church in Englewood as the Lemon Bay Historical Society again opens this historic building to the public.

Thomasson will showcase her book *Surviving Sarasota* which highlights the lives of Sarasota County's first American settlers from 1851 – 1865 as they endure the Third Seminole War, the American Civil War, and its aftermath. She has also written a poem for Sarasota County's Centennial which can be viewed [HERE](#).

Her first two novels, *Defending Hillsborough* and *Reconstructing Hillsborough* were chosen by the North Carolina Association of Public School Librarians for use in the high school study of the Civil War.



In 2000, Thomasson returned to Florida and now resides in Venice, FL where she has written five children's books in her Little Green Monkey series, four novels: *Florida Shadows*, *Florida Secrets*, *Florida Sunset* and *Surviving Sarasota* set in Southwest Florida, a World War II novel—*Over the Bridge*—and *Venice Dreamers*, which highlights Venice's original settlers.

Thomasson is also a freelance writer—having written for *GRAND* magazine, *Yesterday in Florida*—where she won a 2005 Florida Trust for Historic Preservation Award for her contributions to Florida history—and *Eastside Venice Neighbors*—where she wrote monthly articles on Florida history. She is also a contributor for the *Venice Gondolier*.

The Lemon Bay Historical Society is pleased to be resuming its monthly community programs and has additional speakers lined up for October and November plus the traditional Holiday Sing-Along in December. For more information visit: lemonbayhistory.com

JOIN US

Tuesday • September 28, 2021 • 7PM



PARTNER EVENTS

Upcoming in 2021...

SEPT 25
THRU
OCT 29
11AM-5PM
SAT

Building Sarasota's Stories...Art Uptown Gallery, 1367 Main Street, Sarasota

In conjunction with Sarasota County's Centennial celebration, Marlane Wurzbach's bold and colorful acrylic cityscapes and landscapes will be shown at Art Uptown Gallery this October in an exhibit entitled "Building Sarasota's Stories." Ms. Wurzbach's appreciation of Sarasota's history grows as she works to preserve some of our local architectural treasures on canvas. In addition to a public reception on First Friday, Oct. 1 from 6-9 PM, the gallery will host a public dialogue with local historian and author Dr. Frank A. Cassell on Sunday, Oct. 3 from 1-3 PM.

SEPT 28
7PM
TUE

Surviving Sarasota...Green Street Church, 510 Indiana Avenue, Englewood

See page 8 for details

OCT 3
1PM-3PM
SUN

Public Dialogue on Sarasota County's Centennial Celebration and Local Historic Architecture

Art Uptown Gallery 1367 Main Street, Sarasota

Art Uptown Gallery to Host Public Dialogue this October with Dr. Frank A. Cassell on Sarasota County's Centennial Celebration and Local Historic Architecture Paintings by Marlane Wurzbach.

OCT 21
9AM-12PM
THU

The Ringmaster's Wife.....Mable Ringling: Her Life and Times

Senior Friendship Centers, 1888 Brother Geenen Way, Sarasota

Free Event: Join us for a Sarasota County Centennial Celebration. SunCoast Blood Centers bus will be here for blood donations at your leisure. 9:15 - 9:45am Light refreshments and Meet & Greet former Sarasota Mayors. 9:45 - 10:30am In a costumed presentation of Mable Ringling our presenter will share the stories, in words and pictures of her life and times, in the early part of the 20th Century, when she was the woman behind the man who ran, "the greatest show on earth." Did you know she was the first president of the Sarasota Garden Club?

10:30am - 10:45 am Q&A with Mable, your chance to connect first-hand with the past.

10:45am Stroll the walking paths, view an historic marker as you walk to Lukewood Park all on the same campus, home to Mable Ringling Memorial Fountain. Built in memory of Mable Ringling, John Ringling's wife. Your opportunity to pose for photos with Mable & former Sarasota City Mayors. (Bring your camera or phone.)

Lukewood Park is owned and operated by the City of Sarasota Parks and Recreation District.

OCT 21
10AM-7PM
THU

Garden to Table Flower Show...1131 Boulevard of the Arts, Sarasota

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC: Sarasota Garden Club

NOV 9
7PM
TUE

The Road We Traveled to Sarasota County...Crocker Memorial Church, 1260 12th Street, Sarasota

Come meet the people who played a large part in the separation of Sarasota from Manatee County in this presentation of the play, *The Road We Traveled to Sarasota County*. Meet Mayor A.B. Edwards as he follows the inroads made by Bertha Palmer and subsequently, her family members, along with landowners, J.H. Lord and Owen Burns as they struggled with the social and political issues of the day.

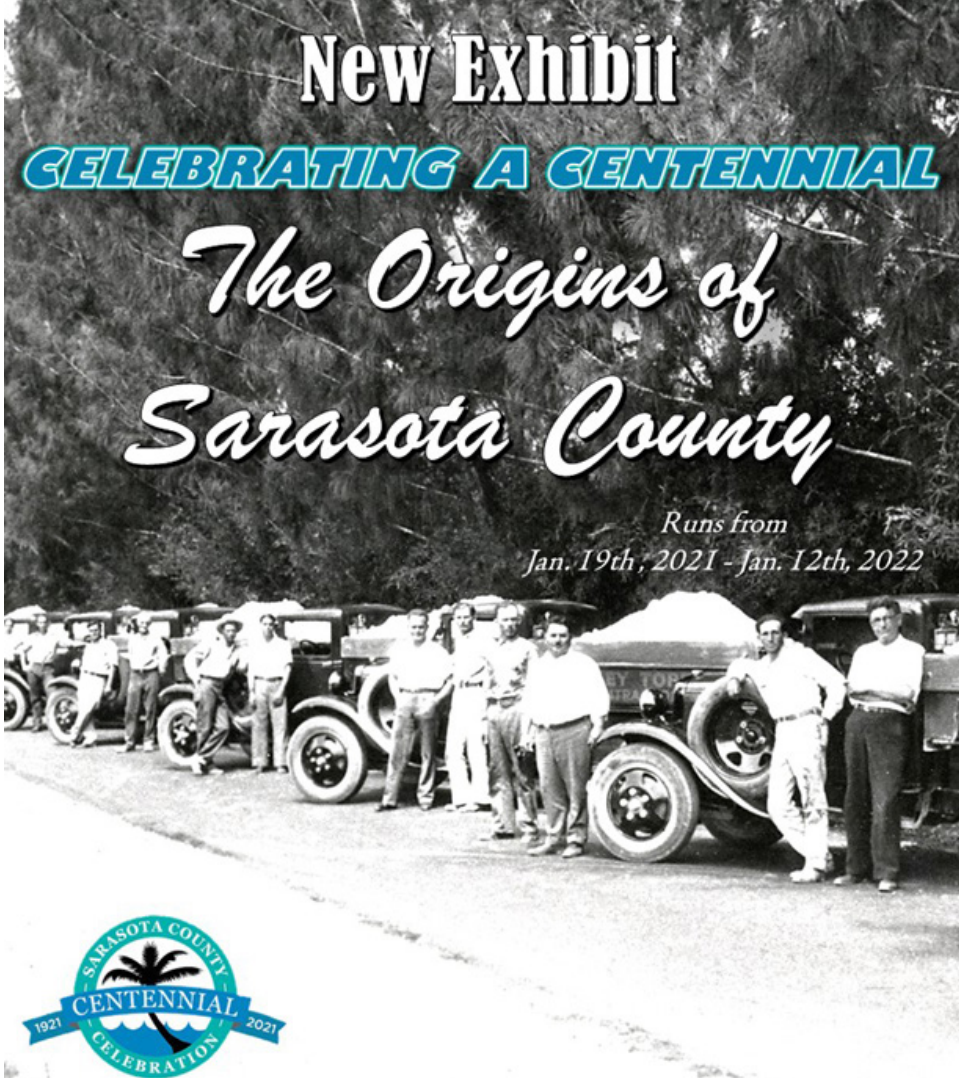
Follow the journey of the workers of the town as they maneuver over the ruts and pathways to get products to markets. Listen to the concerns of the citizens as they ponder editorials in *Rose Wilson's Sarasota Times* newspaper over the issues of maneuvering out of Manatee County and carving out a new County called Sarasota.

NOV 20
10AM-5PM
SAT


Sarasota Open Air Fine Art Show...Phillippi Estates Park, 5500 S. Tamiami Trl, Sarasota

High quality fine art and fine craft shows where all work is original and personally handmade by the artist present at the show. Juried by art professionals based on originality, technique/execution and booth appearance. Hot Works fine art and fine craft shows are voted in the top 100 art shows in America!


PARTNER EVENTS




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



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

Open: Mon., Tues.,
Wed., 10am-1pm
VeniceMuseum.org
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FREE TO ALL



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. 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!

OUR SPONSORS

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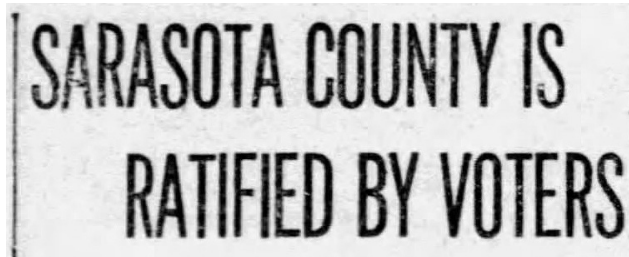
*Florin/Roebig Attorneys
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Thank You To All Our

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 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!



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

_____ Presenting (\$10,000) _____ Platinum (\$5,000) _____ Gold (\$2,500)
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Preferred Telephone #: _____ Email: _____

Name for listing in event materials and website: _____

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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

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 for information.

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

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