



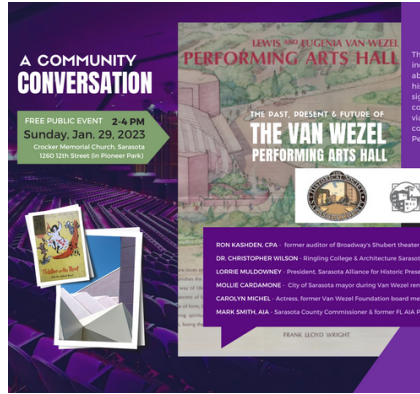
# SARASOTA ALLIANCE FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

QUARTERLY PRESERVATION NEWS FOR SARASOTA COUNTY

## A GLIMPSE INSIDE



**SAHP's Annual Meeting**  
*was buzzing*



**The Past, Present and Future of the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall**



**The Story Inside: Preservation and Revitalization in Newtown**

## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Lorrie Muldowney, *President*

Dear Members,

It's my pleasure to be writing you today as the President of the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation. To many of you my name may be familiar as a past president and former board member of this organization. To others, my name may be new. Whether familiar with me or not I would like to say that I look forward to meeting you and hearing your thoughts on how we can best use our energy and resources to fulfill the mission of the Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation to Preserve and Protect our Historic Places.

Sarasota is a very different community than it was when I moved here in 1970. In fact, it is a very different place than it was even 5 years ago. We have all watched our population grow and our city center become more urbanized with tall buildings and parking garages. Growth is a fact of life but how change is managed can make the difference between good cities and great ones. I often hear from both new and old residents of Sarasota that the rate of change here is alarming and threatens to undermine all that we love about this special place.

I believe that the most effective way to combat unwelcome changes to our community is to get involved, stay informed and elect leaders who represent our viewpoints. Members of the Alliance work to further our vision of Sarasota by meeting with city leaders, advocating for

legislative changes that protect significant historic resources and speaking out about threats to our landmark buildings. I welcome your involvement in the months ahead to strengthen and expand our activities.

Lorrie

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## A CRITICAL CONVERSATION:

### THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE OF THE VAN WEZEL PERFORMING ARTS HALL

Regardless of where you stand on the contentious SPAC debate, you need to have all the facts. A highly qualified panel of experts weigh in on the details you may not have heard yet.

If you weren't able to make the incredible gathering on Sunday, January 29th at the Crocker Church, don't fret. The event recording is available to view. Click below.



## WATCH NOW

View a copy of the slide show presentation [HERE](#).

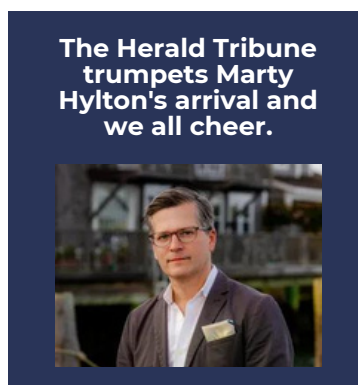


Learn why our beloved Purple Cow was chosen as one of Florida's 50 Flagship Structures:

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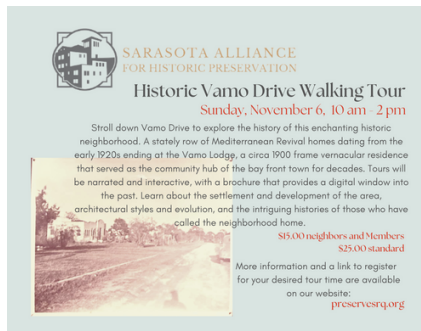
## RECOMMENDED READING

For more information, click to visit websites



# IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

## Historic Vamo Drive Walking Tour



Members of the SAHP and the community received a warm welcome on Vamo Drive for the historic walking tour on November 6th. The opportunity to view the historic photos of the buildings while standing in front of what they look like today gave insight into how a historic structure changes over time. This street is a unique treasure of intact boom era mediterranean revival style homes that are maintained by a strong community.



Click to learn more about Vamo

## SAVE THE DATE

### History Day in the Park

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

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

## CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

Want to do something right now to save a piece of Sarasota's history?



Nominate a threatened building



Accepting nominations for the 2023 Sarasota Six to Save through May 31, 2023.



## ALL HANDS ON DECK: FUN-RAISING OPPORTUNITIES AT THE PHILLIPPI CREST COMMUNITY CLUBHOUSE

By Anja Palombo

**Friday, March 24, 7pm:** The amazing, magical "Pedro and Zoey" will be back! They will play a wonderful blend of World Music, Calypso and Delta Blues! These guys are amazing.

**April 1st:** we are hosting our second annual Maine Colony Community Day! There will be arts and crafts, vendors, circus activities for the kids, food and fun!! We are offering 4 different concerts that day:

Mark your calendars, bring your friends, spread the word and help us make these events a success!

We hope to see you there! As usual ALL of your contributions go towards the performers and the roof!

<https://www.phillippicrestclub.com/>

## WHAT WERE THEY THINKING?

By Barry Preston

The Collection at 1335 2nd Street between Coconut and Central, across from the Selby Library: Once again, our city commission has approved an undistinguished, monstrous, out of scale and out of context building in our downtown on what was formerly a quiet and well-designed street.

Our city commission gave the developer the right to build eight stories in a three- and four-story neighborhood and the right to push its building all the way to the edge of the sidewalk despite the fact that the properties on both sides are setback. This building at 8 stories towers over the lovely two story Library townhouses at 200 Coconut and the nicely designed 3 story office/spa at 1345 2nd Street.



*Note how the building pushes right up against the sidewalk.*

The building itself is common and undistinguished – just another new condo building. Our city commissioners clearly forgot the distinguished architectural history of Sarasota or think it unimportant.

The public got no benefit from the developer for these concessions – no distinguished design, no setback, no open space, no landscaping, no respect for the character of its neighbors.

What were they thinking?

## THE STORY INSIDE: PRESERVATION AND REVITALIZATION IN NEWTOWN

This article was supposed to air in February. February is Black History Month. Due to circumstances beyond the author’s control, it will run in March. Black History does not cease to be important when we turn the page on the calendar. Black History belongs in our consciousness every month.

The community of Newtown has important stories to tell, and these stories are crucial to our narrative as Sarasotans. An historic African American neighborhood to the north of the City of Sarasota, Newtown is home to generations of African American families who built the City, fought for our Country’s freedoms, raised the circus tents, and nurtured the dream of Sarasota. Newtown has sustained itself against tremendous odds and opposition, and now the community is actively working toward National Historic Designation to preserve the places which help tell the stories, even as toxic political forces seek to silence them.

Stepping into Jetson’s Gallery, located near the corner of N. Osprey and MLK, and you are immediately caught up in colors in motion, artwork lines the walls of the front room, and stepping through to the next room, you see the photos, newspapers, magazines...the evidence of so much life being lived, songs sung, battles fought, loves won, careers built. It is difficult to take it all in at one go. Generations of stories in one space. If you are lucky enough to have a guided tour by the master storytellers, Deacon Jetson Grimes and former Mayor Willie Shaw, you have to fight the temptation to close your eyes as you listen to their deep resonant voices.



*Artwork on display at Jetson's Creative Trends*



*Willie Shaw shares a story with Barry Preston*

In the words of Deacon Grimes, “So many African American neighborhoods and communities are gone, and it wasn't by chance. It was by choice. They run expressways through the community, they gentrify the community, they displace the people in the community, and this [Newtown] is one of the few communities that has been able to sustain itself. We’re still here.”

The challenge of igniting the spark to revive a community, is to draw the light out from within. Mayor Shaw speaks of Newtown’s vibrant commerce during segregation. Big businesses thrived during the 50s, 60s and 70s in this African American neighborhood, even while battling to have access to public beaches and schools to educate children.

After years of recession, how do you bring that dynamic energy back? Quoting Mayor Shaw, “Creating a destination, having a reason to come back in[to] the community, bring back some of the things that people were attracted to during that period, during segregation, like ethnic food, like music, like jazz, that is what is going to bring you back into the community. Not the fear, or the perception of the crime and the drugs, and all the stuff that they build up to keep people out of the community, to divide the community.”

And when you consider what a rich history of arts, food, music, triumphs, and heartbreaks Newtown has to share, there is a story that will resonate with everyone. It is our responsibility as residents of Sarasota to seek out these stories, and share these experiences. We must ask the difficult questions:

Why is the place named after a famous Black Opera Singer our landfill? Why was Overtown rebranded as the Rosemary District? When a place is zoned as an ‘opportunity zone’ who is that opportunity for?



*Artwork on display at Jetson's Creative Trends*

History is never simple or uncomplicated, and as humans, we must not shy away from discussing and addressing the uncomfortable parts of our past. All the luxury condos in the world will not make Sarasota wealthy if we turn our backs on the sacred value of the diversity of human experience. We must move forward from a place of compassion, one that empowers neighborhood residents, rather than displaces them, one that embraces all the beauty each individual has to offer. Because then, we as a community are truly rich.



*Jetson Grimes and Barry Preston in discussion at Jetson's Creative Trends, Inc.*

[Learn More](#)

**Jetson's Creative Trends**

**City of Sarasota: Preserving Newtown**

**Newtown Historical Gallery**

## SAVE THE DATE... TICKETS AVAILABLE SOON!

The 2023 Heritage Awards will be held at the iconic Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.  
An extraordinary event to spotlight a pivotal decision.



### Award Categories:

- Gregory A. and Eleana Najmy Hall Adaptive Use and Historic Preservation Awards (2)
- Lillian Burns Individual Achievement
  - Archaeological Conservancy
  - Historical Research
  - Organizational Achievement
  - Historical Collections Preservation
  - Student Scholar

Make a difference and show the community some  
Become a SPONSOR!



Here's how.

Opportunities for every giving level make participation easy.

## ANNUAL MEETING

[FULL RECAP](#)



## ADVOCACY UPDATES

Legendary Sarasota School architect Victor Lundy's birthday was celebrated at one of the most stunning examples of his work. St. Paul Lutheran Church--an awe-inspiring structure.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
ARTIST ARCHITECT  
VICTOR  
LUNDY**

February 1, 2023 - ST. Paul Lutheran Church

### St. Paul Lutheran Church Education Building Renovation Campaign

The campus of St. Paul Lutheran Church is graced with three majestic creations by Sarasota modernist architect **Victor A. Lundy**. In 1962, Lundy designed our Education Building. Today, this 60-year-old structure needs significant renovation to maintain Lundy's artistry and vision--**a cost this congregation can only afford with your generous support.**



Replacing the Education Building's soaring laminated timber beams and arched roof will keep Lundy's Sarasota legacy alive and add decades of useful life to the structure. The Sarasota School of Architecture movement considers St. Paul among Victor Lundy's most significant works, with visitors from around the world coming to Sarasota to view our iconic campus.

#### Valued Community Asset

The **St. Paul Education Building Renovation Campaign** is a strong commitment to the Sarasota community and our congregation's mission, the St. Paul Early Childhood Learning Center (ECLC). From its inception, the ECLC was designed for families to be able to afford daycare that included education for their children. Congregation-funded scholarships help close the opportunity gap for children in Sarasota who need it the most and set them on a path to success.

**When the teachers, students and families were asked if they'd like a new building rather than renovating the current one, the resounding answer was, "No, we love this building!"**

#### Cost Estimate: \$665,425

St. Paul was awarded a \$209,750 highly competitive Historical Structures Special Categories Grant by the State of Florida in 2022. The \$140,000 cost of the two glulam beams is the biggest expense of the project. The best news is that we're one-third on the way to our goal! Now we need to raise an additional \$455,675. **Your donation is critically important to protect and preserve this architectural treasure.**

► **Donate online:** [StPaulSarasota.org](http://StPaulSarasota.org)

► **Donate Via Venmo** @Education-Building

► **Mail checks** (payable to St. Paul Lutheran Church Ed Building Renovation Campaign) to: St. Paul Lutheran Church, 2256 Bahia Vista Street, Sarasota, FL 34239.

*Your donation is tax deductible under IRS guidelines.*

#### For more information, please contact

Reverend Ashley Nicolls, Pastor  
prashley1010@gmail.com  
2256 Bahia Vista Street  
Sarasota FL 34239  
941.955.6479  
Fax 941.955.8600; Preschool 941.955.6480



#### Cost Estimate: \$665,425

Roof Covering	\$ 136,160
Roof Decking	\$ 109,208
Glulam Roof Beams	\$ 140,178
Masonry Walls	\$ 40,625
Glazing	\$ 101,850
Miscellaneous	\$ 137,404
Cost Estimate	\$ 665,425
State of Florida Grant	\$(209,750)
<b>Fundraising Goal</b>	<b>\$455,675</b>

#### Education Building Renovation Team

Historic Preservation Architect,  
Hall Darling Design Studio  
Contractor, Kimco Construction

Pastor Nicolls and the congregation have been awarded a Grant from the State of Florida to aid the restoration of this structure, but due to rapidly rising costs of construction (and the snail pace of grant funding) it will only make a dent.

We encourage you to take a tour of these incredible buildings, and contribute toward their restoration if you are able. Great art benefits the whole community and the preservation of that art must be shouldered by the whole community as well.

For more information, please click on the graphic above to visit St. Paul's website.

## LEAVE A LEGACY

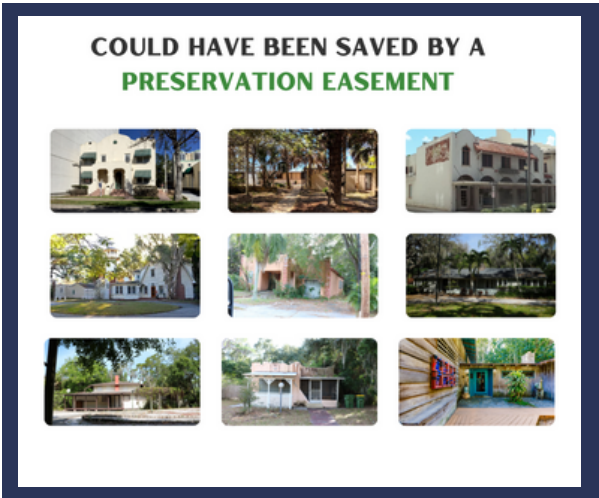
The Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation is now offering Lifetime Legacy Memberships. You can also help preserve the past for the future by leaving a gift to the SAHP in your will. [Learn More](#)





# SARASOTA PRESERVATION PROGRAM (SP<sup>2</sup>)

Now accepting Preservation Easements



### Who should consider donating a preservation easement?

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

Leveraging the owner's private property rights, an easement does not require Commission or Council approval, cannot be appealed by determined builders, and enlists the SAHP as a partner in good stewardship of the property forever.

[Learn more on our website.](#)

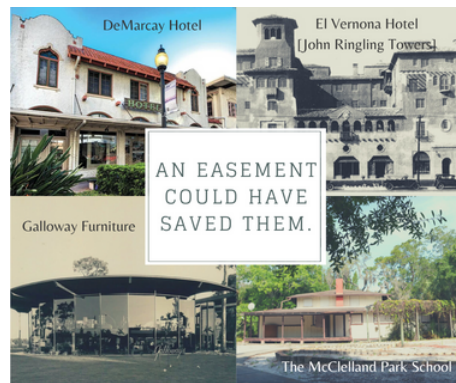
### What is an easement?

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

### Why are easements an important tool?

Local legislation can only do so much to protect the historic fabric of a community. Even the strongest preservation ordinances are still vulnerable to up-zoning, the political goals of specific leaders, and the financial incentives of developers with other plans for the land.

**An easement is the only way to legally protect a historic property forever.**



Call today to discuss how an easement might be a good preservation tool for your property.

**preservesrq@gmail.com**  
**941-529-1833**

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