



**City of North Port**  
**City Manager's Office**

**Interoffice Memorandum**

**To:** Pete Lear North Port City Manager

**From:** Josh Taylor Communications Manager/PIO

**Date:** May 8th, 2019

**RE:** History Timeline and Hall of Fame

Staff has researched examples of other local government history timelines and hall of fames presented in locations such as City Hall and Administration complexes. Attached you will find a few examples.

Obviously, a big part of this project will be the location of such a display. An opportunity may be available as Neighborhood Development Services is currently set to present a plan for remodeling the first floor of City Hall, for functional purposes, in their 2020 annual budget. Perhaps it is possible to implement the display into the new configuration. Staff recommends the Commission weigh in on this issue including, location, how a possible design would look, and be managed.

While a location and design style are chosen, it is staff's recommendation that the Commission task the City's newly formed Historic and Cultural Advisory Board to come up with way of identifying significant points in the City's history to be included in the wall. We also recommend that the advisory board come up with a Standard Operating Procedure for identifying and nominating individuals for the City of North Port Hall of Fame. The board may want to consider nominating a handful of individuals initially followed by an annual selection of one or two.



# HALL OF FAME EXAMPLES











WALL OF MEDICINE WALL OF FAM

James M. Smith, MD

Neil Wiggins Pether, M.D. c/o

Warren E. Ross, M.D. 73

Peter M. Small, MD, PhD

Kevin J. Soder, MSMD, FA, MPH

Robert B. Walker, M.D.

Robert T. Watson, M.D.

George



# 2010 BUSINESS, ARTS & DESIGN ALUMNI WALL OF FAME





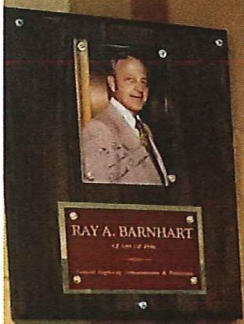








# ALUMNI HALL









# **TIMELINE EXAMPLES**





















# From The Hill To The World





# SARASOTA COUNTY EXAMPLE



The Labor Day Regatta, sponsored by the Sarasota Sailing Squadron, has been an annual event in Sarasota since 1946.



The Sarasota County Mosquito Control District began in late 1945 to help keep the mosquito population in check.

1947

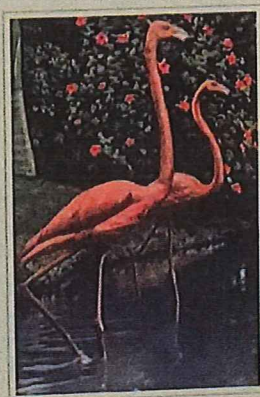


A new style of architecture was developed, which became known as the Sarasota School of Architecture.



The Sarasota Municipal Auditorium was used as an Army-Navy Club during World War II.

1944



Sarasota Jungle Gardens opened on New Year's Eve.

1940



The Florida West Coast Symphony Orchestra was organized by Robert C. Butler and other citizens who wanted Sarasota and Bradenton to have their own symphony orchestra.

1949



Sarasota Visitor's Guide



"Mack" and in the Fort Meade area supported citrus production that ranked Sarasota County among the top citrus producing counties in Florida.

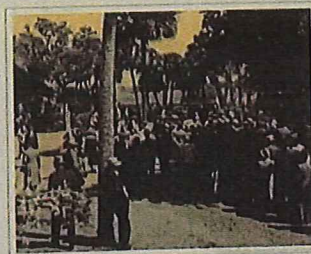
1946



The U.S. Army built the Sarasota Army Air Base and the Venice Army Air Base between 1942 and 1943. Today both bases are the sites of the Sarasota Bradenton International Airport and the Venice Municipal Airport.

1942

Started in 1934, Myakka River State Park was built by crews from the Civilian Conservation Corps; it was formally dedicated on February 18.



The City of Sarasota's first public library was built with funding from the Claborn family and the Sarasota Jaycees. This new facility housed the library that had been operated by the Sarasota Woman's Club since 1914.

1941



The 1940s brought great change to Sarasota County as the United States entered World War II. The U.S. Army established two air bases, which at the end of the war left Sarasota with two modern airfields. Also, the late 1940s brought a building boom not seen since the 1920s.

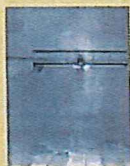
1940-49





The Santa Key Bridge was the first bridge built to a barrier island in Sarasota County.

1917



Three boats are kept in the first glass boat house.

1914



The first Union Train Station.

Everett Hanson Palmer arrived in Sarasota and eventually owned 30,000 acres of land in the Sarasota-Venice region. His main income was agriculture and cattle. At Palmer's urging, the Seaboard Airline Railway extended their tracks from Ft. Pierce to Venice.

1910



"Stone and Whittle" was the nickname for Sarasota's first railroad. It was constructed by John Hamilton Gillette to build the houses of the Florida Mortgage and Investment Company. The railroad only lasted a couple of years.

1892



William H. Whitaker arrived in 1843 as the first settler in Venice. (Photo from today's 12th Street and U.S. 41)

1843



This panoramic photograph was taken in front of the Bay Island Hotel on the north side of Venice Key.

1916



Queen Beatrix came here on a fishing vacation and wanted to help turn Sarasota from a small fishing village into a resort. He became one of the largest landowners in Sarasota and built the Bay Court and the El Verano Hotel.



1915

The Sarasota Woman's Club was instrumental in bringing arts, social and cultural improvements to Sarasota.



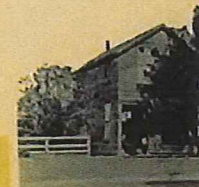
Sarasota's first newspaper, the Sarasota Herald, was founded in 1892. It was the nation's first paper published in Sarasota.

1912



John Hamilton Gillette built a nine-hole golf course on a 100-acre tract between today's Links Avenue and Ringling Shopping Center.

1905



C.V. Wilson published Sarasota's first weekly newspaper, the Sarasota Herald, in 1892.

1899



Sarasota's first reliable steamship, "Marlowe," made three trips a week from Tampa carrying passengers, supplies and mail.

1895

Lowell Cabot came to Sarasota Bay in 1893 as part of a surveying team that laid out the plan for the early town of Sarasota. He and his wife, Maria, helped found the Methodist Episcopal Church.



John Hamilton Gillette, representing the Florida Mortgage and Investment Company of New York, arrived in Sarasota. He later became Sarasota's first mayor and built out its first golf course. Gillette also built the De Soto Hotel to serve a wealthy group in Sarasota. It was later renamed the Ritz Hotel.

1886



John and Rebecca Knight settled the Venice-Palmer area. The Knight cattle ranch eventually grew to 20,000 head of cattle.

1868



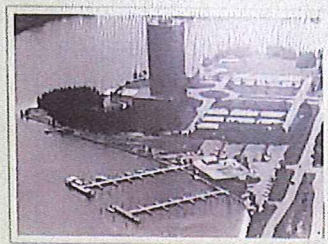
John and Eliza Webb and their family settled in Venice. They planted citrus groves and started shipping their produce to northern markets. They also ran the Webb Resort Hotel.

1867

Sarasota in the mid to late 1800s was a nearly empty wilderness area. At the conclusion of the Second Seminole War in 1842, the U.S. government opened Florida lands south of Gainesville to settlers. Beginning with William H. Whitaker in 1843, pioneers began to venture into untamed territories and make it their own. The Webbs, Higel and Knight families, along with many others, laid the foundation of what would become the Sarasota County of today.

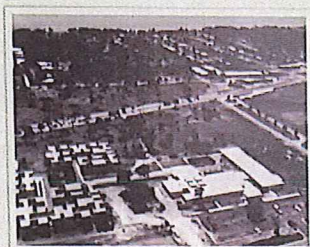


The new Sarasota Post Office, located on Ringling Boulevard, was dedicated on April 3. Designed by Bob Shaw, its style is an example of the Sarasota School of Architecture.



Plymouth Harbor, located on Coon Key, was sponsored by the First Congregational Church as a retirement community.

1965



The dormitories on the east side of New College were designed by famed architect I.M. Pei. His challenge was to create an environment for learning in an area largely known for its climate of leisure.



Florence Johnson was Englewood's longest serving postmaster, holding that post for 19 years. She brought modern mail service to Englewood with a home-delivery system.



1961

After New College was incorporated, the school purchased the Charles Ringling Mansion for classrooms and offices.



The Arrida Corporation enlarged Bird Key by dredging to allow for a new subdivision.

1960



1967



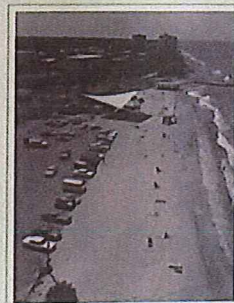
The Venice Public Library first started by the Venice-Nokomis Woman's Club in 1928, moved to its new home.



National Airlines inaugurated its New York-Sarasota jet service on February 15. It was the first jet service out of the Sarasota-Bradenton Airport.



FloridaLand, located just south of Blueberry Point Road on U.S. 41, was Sarasota County's new theme park with 10 different attractions.



The Venice Beach Pavilion was nicknamed the "flying handkerchief" because of its hyperbolic paraboloid roof.

1964

Sarasota County bought Santa Key Beach and built the Santa Key Pavilion to provide beach facilities for the public.



Opened to the public on October 23, Elsie Quirk Library was made possible by donation of land and building from Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Quirk. The Lemon Bay Woman's Club Library and Sarasota County Government also gave financial support to help build the library.

1962



Warm Mineral Springs Spa and Resort, located near the City of North Port, was hosted in the "World's Greatest Mineral Springs" with a temperature at 87 degrees.

Sarasota County continued its rapid growth during the 1960s decade. The population of the county jumped from 77,000 in 1960 to 120,000 in 1970. Educational opportunities grew with the establishment of New College in Sarasota and new libraries in Englewood and Venice. The landscape changed dramatically with the dredging of Bird Key in Sarasota Bay and the building of the West Coast Intercoastal Waterway in Venice.

1960-69