

LOCAL

Multicultural Health Institute to host 2-day environmental justice forum with film and panel

Sarasota Herald-Tribune

Published 5:30 a.m. ET April 22, 2023

Multicultural Health Institute to host environmental forum

The Multicultural Health Institute will host an environmental justice forum on April 24-25 at Fogartyville Community Media and Arts Center and at the Powel Crosley Estate.

The event will include a screening of "Dark Waters" on April 24 at Fogartyville, 525 Kumquat Court, Sarasota. The film highlights New College alum and attorney Rob Bilott's successful lawsuit against the chemical company DuPont. On April 25, MHI will present a panel discussion at the Powel Crosley Estate, 8374 N. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, focusing on environmental challenges on the Suncoast.

Panelists will include Suncoast Waterkeeper founder Justin Bloom; former Sarasota mayor Fredd Atkins; Kameron Partridge Hodgens of the Gulf Coast Community Foundation; Christine Quigley of the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program; and Tom Higginbotham, director of the Environmental Health, Emergency Preparedness, and Safety for the Sarasota Department of Health. For information and to register, visit the-mhi.org.

Ringling College of Art & Design names new VP for advancement

Sara Curtis Robinson, current executive director of advancement for The Van Wezel Foundation/Sarasota Performing Arts Foundation, will be joining Ringling College of Art and Design as vice president for advancement beginning May 15.

"Sara's background and experiences as a leader, fundraiser, and lover of visual and performing arts will continue the excellence of our advancement program," Ringling College

president Larry R. Thompson said. “Her leadership and skills will be essential as we move into the next phase of philanthropy to support Ringling College’s many aspirations.”

Robinson, former chief advancement officer at The Sarasota Ballet, will be working in all areas of the Ringling College community, including faculty, staff, the Sarasota Art Museum, the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, and Englewood Art Center. “This is an exciting time for Sarasota with great opportunity to grow our creative community,” Robinson said.

Suncoast Remake Learning Days at Sarasota National Cemetery

The Arts and Cultural Alliance of Sarasota County will host a family-friendly educational and patriotic event on April 22-23 at Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Road 72, as part of Suncoast Remake Learning Days.

The event at Patriot Plaza will run from 10 a.m.-noon today and from 2-4 p.m. on Sunday. The open house is full of activities that foster civic pride, including a tour of Patriot Plaza, proper flag folding, and several activity stations.

The 10-day Suncoast Remake Learning Days festival runs through April 30 and is presented by The Patterson Foundation. Remake Learning Days invites families to unlock worlds of knowledge and fun through dynamic learning experiences. For information, visit remakelearning.org.

Heritage Awards to honor 2023 winners at Van Wezel

The Sarasota Alliance for Historic Preservation and the History & Preservation Coalition of Sarasota County will present the 2023 Heritage Awards for Sarasota County on May 6 from 4-8 p.m. in the Grand Foyer of the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall.

The Heritage Awards program was developed in 2014 “to recognize individuals and organizations that have made outstanding contributions to the preservation and understanding of Sarasota County’s historical resources,” said Lorrie Muldowney, president of SAHP.

The awards presentation will be hosted by John McCarthy, vice president of regional history for Marie Selby Botanical Gardens. For information and to purchase tickets, visit PreserveSRQ.org or call 941-254-3002.

Englewood Hospital nursing units receive HCA distinction awards

HCA Florida Englewood Hospital's Medical Surgical and Surgical Services nursing units were recently honored as HCA Healthcare Unit of Distinction winners at an awards ceremony in Nashville.

"I'm very proud of our nurses who work on the frontline each day to deliver compassionate and high-quality care to patients and to support our community," said Andrea Truex, chief nursing officer. "I couldn't be prouder of their resiliency, dedication and commitment."

The Unit of Distinction designation recognizes the top 5% of the organization's nursing units in their category and celebrates exemplary performance in nursing practice and operations.

Around and about ...

Master Gardener Volunteers of Manatee County will hold their Spring Plant Sale on April 29 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Barbara Davis Educational Gardens, 1303 17th St. W., in Palmetto. The sale will feature wildflowers, Florida natives, pollinator plants and more, all grown by MGVs. All proceeds go to the operation of the Master Gardeners Educational Gardens and Greenhouse and to support Master Gardener educational and outreach programs. Register at [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com).

• **Gulf Cove United Methodist Church**, 1100 S. McCall Road in the Gulf Cove area of Port Charlotte, is holding a **Men's Club Barn Sale** today from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Info: 941-697-1747.

Submissions by Rebekah Prieto, Ringling College, Carrie Butler, Su Byron, Julie Beatty, Katie Granberg, Dana Hanson, Sharon Kunkel.