



Clerk COMMUNICATION

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Date: March 11, 2010

Contact: Alicia C. Accardi, Communications Manager aaccardi@scgov.net

From: Karen E. Rushing, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller

RE: **Clerk of Court and County Comptroller promotes Sunshine Week, March 14 – 20**

Dedicated to transparency, accountability to the people and the importance of open government with freedom of information, Karen E. Rushing, Clerk of the Circuit Court and County Comptroller for Sarasota County, FL, is joining organizations nationwide by promoting Sunshine Week, March 14 through 20, 2010.



What is Sunshine Week? Launched by The Florida Society of Newspaper Editors in 2002 as *Sunshine Sunday*, but now nationally recognized as *Sunshine Week*, this effort focuses on the importance of open government, freedom of information, and empowering citizens to play an active role in their government at all levels—giving them access to information that makes their lives

better, and their communities stronger. In support of Sunshine Week Clerk Rushing offers citizens accountability, efficiency and transparency through the following online resources:

- **Clerks in the Sunshine:** A one-stop resource for audit, performance measure and financial reporting, including Sarasota County's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR) and County Investment Portfolio. Go to www.SarasotaClerk.com, click on *Clerks In The Sunshine*.
- **Public Records:** The Clerk provides online access to Sarasota County public records—deeds, mortgages, deaths, etc—from 1990 to present. From www.SarasotaClerk.com, click on **Online Services**. Additional records information is available at the Clerk's Public Access department, located in Room 103 of the Sarasota County Historic Courthouse at 2000 Main Street, Sarasota FL. Official records from 1921 to present are available on microfilm and electronically, and while most court records are accessible on computer workstations in the office, inactive records may need to be obtained from storage for review.
- **Meetings on Demand:** Providing a video and document archive of Sarasota County Commission meetings, agendas and supporting documentation, *Meetings on Demand* lets you research and watch at your convenience. Go to www.SarasotaClerk.com, click on the **Meetings on Demand** icon.
- **MyFloridaClerks.com:** Find information about public records, the courts and more from the 67 Clerks of Court statewide. From www.SarasotaClerk.com, click on the **MyFloridaClerks** icon.
- **Sunshine Week Your Right To Know** Official Site www.SunshineWeek.org
- **First Amendment Center-Freedom of Information (FIO)** Official Site www.firstamendmentcenter.org
- **Online Sunshine** Official Site of the Florida Legislature www.leg.state.fl.us
- **State campaign disclosure information** <http://election.dos.state.fl.us/campaign-finance>

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