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MEDIA NOTE: Correction to the list of AARP Tax Aide sites listed at the end of the release. Gulfcoast Legal Services is no longer a site.

AARP Tax Aide volunteers help tax filers with the economic stimulus payment and more

Residents who do not usually file tax returns may benefit from filing this year. Low-wage earners, low income retirees, and those who receive certain Social Security and Veterans benefits may be eligible to receive an economic stimulus payment from the government by filing a 2007 tax return. Payments will be mailed out beginning in May for those who file by April 15. For all other eligible tax payers, the process will be automatic. Visit the Internal Revenue Service website at www.IRS.gov for details.

Residents of all ages who need assistance in filing their 2007 tax return are encouraged to visit the AARP Tax Aide Sites in Sarasota, Venice, Englewood, and North Port during established times until April 15. This service will be available on Tuesday, April 15 at libraries in Sarasota. "The Fruitville Library at 100 Colburn Road usually has very little waiting time from 12 noon to 2 p.m. Monday through Thursday," said Sharon Davisson, AARP District Tax Aide Preparation Coordinator for northern Sarasota County. Trained IRS-certified tax-aide volunteers provide free tax preparation, and help residents in reporting and receiving the benefit of all available and eligible credits including the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit. Officials say that those with business returns or complex tax issues are **not** eligible to use this service.

The EITC allows eligible residents to receive refunds from the federal government to help with unplanned expenses, invest in skills training or start a business. The AARP Tax Aide E-file sites allow residents to electronically file their tax returns so they can receive any refund sooner. Generally, a refund can be posted to a person's bank account within nine to 16 days after the visit to the AARP Tax-Aide site. Residents eligible for the Earned Income Tax Credit or the Child Tax Credit are encouraged to avoid impulsive loan decisions by visiting the local AARP Tax-Aide sites.

Sarasota County officials say there are tangible benefits to connecting residents with the AARP Tax Aide sites to file for the economic stimulus payment and the Earned Income Tax Credit since both enable lower income working residents or those who have been laid off to make critical purchases or pay outstanding bills. Since the economic stimulus payment and the tax credits are generally spent locally, this also improves the county's economy. In addition, this is a valuable service to help older residents who either need help filing their taxes or who need to consult about a tax issue. The county has created an EITC Task Force to assist people become more aware of this opportunity and to help eligible residents in accessing quick filing (e-file) sites.

For more information including a link to on-line EITC filing, visit the Sarasota County Government website at www.scgov.net. If you do not have access to a computer, call United Way 2-1-1 of Manasota, Inc. by dialing 2-1-1 for more information. Those with mobile or pay phones should call 941-308-4357.

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**Local AARP Tax Aide E-File Sites and their hours are as follows:
*The last day for all library sites in Sarasota is Tuesday, April 15.**

***Fruitville Library**

100 Coburn Road, Sarasota 34240
Monday through Thursday
9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

***Gulf Gate Library**

7112 Curtiss Ave., Sarasota 34231
Monday; 4 to 8 p.m. and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

***Selby Public Library**

1331 First Street, second floor, Sarasota 34236
Monday and Tuesday, 3 to 7 p.m.
Wednesday and Thursday 1 to 5 p.m.

St. Thomas More Chelsea Center

2506 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota 34231
Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

St. Andrew United Church of Christ

6908 Beneva Road, Sarasota 34231
Tuesday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Venice sites

Bay Indies Park

950 Ridgewood Ave., Venice 34285
Wednesday only; 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Jacaranda Public Library

4143 Woodmere Blvd., Venice 34293
Monday and Wednesday
9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Venice Community Center

326 S. Nokomis Ave., Venice 34285
Wednesday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Thursday, 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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Englewood sites

Sun Trust Bank

333 South Indiana Ave., Englewood 34223

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

North Port sites

Holiday Park Recreation Center (Rec. Hall)

100 Holiday Park Blvd., North Port 34287

Monday only; 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

North Port Community Education Center (AKA North Port Senior Center)

4940 Pan American Blvd., North Port 34287

Wednesday and Friday, 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

North Port Library

13800 Tamiami Trail, North Port 34287

Thursday and Saturday, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

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