

South County associations banding together

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How do you prepare for a disaster, and plan for its aftermath?

The question is probably always on the minds of individual homeowners. But how should it be answered by neighborhoods?

The South County Assembly of Neighborhoods will examine the question.

Disaster planning, condominium and homeowner insurance, deed restrictions, covenants and code enforcement are among the topics the newly formed organiza-

tion expects to consider in its first several months.

The assembly currently includes neighborhood and homeowner associations in Venice, North Port, Lemon Bay, Englewood. South Venice, Laurel, Osprey and Charlotte County.

Its officers are John Ask, president; Bruce Dillon, vice president; and Tom Minnich, treasurer. The first two are active in Nokomis in its civic association and the revitalization committee. Minnich is president of an alliance of 28 Englewood neighborhoods.

"Historically, the southern part of Sarasota County has not

had the advocacy or the organization of the north," Ask observed. "That makes sense. A larger population and greater affluence reside in the north. But current and future growth will continue to take place at our end of the county. We need to organize for it."

SCAN's geography will include communities from Osprey south to the Charlottee County line, together with the cities of Venice and North Port, according to Ask.

Directors of SCAN, in addition to Ask, Dillon and Minnich, include Ellen Hillstrom, South Venice Civic Association; Sam George,

Heron Creek homeowners association in North Port; Richard Holder, Chestnut Creek homeowners in Venice; and Sandra Terry, Laurel Civic Association.