FOCUS

Democratic Club of Sarasota

An Informed Member is Our Best Voter



FEBRUARY LUNCHEON PROGRAM

Kenneth Edelin MD: "Where Are You, Pro-Choice America?"

Dr. Kenneth Edelin has long been a champion for reproductive rights. In March, 2008, he shared the amazing story of his arrest for manslaughter in early 1970s Boston for performing legal abortions.

Some 40 years have passed, and many look back at those days with a sigh of relief that we've come so far. But Dr. Edelin suggests that now is <u>not</u> the time to relax. Last year, for example, the Florida Legislature filed 18 antiabortion bills, and we watched Republicans fight to take away funding from Planned Parenthood.

On Saturday, Feb. 11, we welcome Dr. Edelin back to ask the question, "Where are you, Pro-Choice America?" He will speak about Florida's anti-choice government, Vern Buchanan's Congressional anti-choice votes, and his own concerns about how the outcome of the 2012 presidential election will impact Supreme Court decisions on this topic.

Dr. Edelin is an Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Boston University School of Medicine. He was Chairman of the Board of Planned Parenthood in 1989–1992, and received the Margaret Sanger Award from them in 2008.

Now retired, he makes Sarasota his home, and is a member of the Democratic Club.

Please join us on February 11 at Laurel Oak Country Club to hear Dr. Edelin discuss the importance of the 2012 elections in preserving a woman's right to choose.

LUNCHEON DETAILS: See back page

NOTE: The luncheon is at the **Laurel Oak Country Club**. Drinks will be available for sale at a bar near the luncheon meeting room.

Last Month: Bob Buckhorn: "Don't Settle for Mediocrity"

Bob Buckhorn is a big city mayor. Consequently, attendees at the Club's January luncheon heard a different perspective on the mayor's job from Buckhorn, the mayor of Tampa.

Unlike the cities in Sarasota County, Tampa has a "strong mayor" form of government. There is no City Manager. So Buckhorn's vision guides city policies. Growth is part of that vision.

Buckhorn says that state and local governments have already cut everything possible from their budgets. They can't cut their way out of the current deficits; they have to grow the economy.

Continued focus on real estate and tourism are not the answer, in his opinion. "We should be ashamed of

ourselves if we don't make the city and state places where people can get middle class jobs in a growing economy."

For Tampa, Buckhorn sees economic growth in building upon its research universities so that private industry will develop out of local discoveries and inventions, much like Silicon Valley. But the city must streamline the regulatory process to make this growth profitable for business to pursue.

Buckhorn said that the best thing Democratic mayors can do for Florida Democrats is to be successful. Having a record of good management will lead to the Governor's office.

In campaigning for office, Buckhorn

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Focus Newsletter is a publication of the Democratic Club of Sarasota In print since May 1995

Newsletter Mission Statement

The mission of the newsletter of the Democratic Club of Sarasota (FOCUS) is to promote the growth of the Democratic Party in Sarasota County, to inform Club members about Club events and other local events of interest to Democrats, and to address local, state and national issues of interest to Party members.

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Mary Clupper (2012) - 359-0757 president@sarasotadems.com

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Vacant (2014)		

Contact President Mary Clupper if you wish to attend the meeting of the executive committee.

What do we include in the newsletter?

Democrats have a lot to say – and the Board encourages club members to say it with articles or letters to the editor for our newsletter! Unfortunately, there is limited space. Dealing with this dilemma, the Board adopted the following list of policies and procedures:

Articles and letters to the editor from club members will be accepted on a space available basis using the following priorities:

- 1. Local information of immediate importance to club members
- 2. Articles or letters from members who have not written recently
- Articles or letters relating to state issues. 3.
- Articles or letters relating to national issues.

Due to limited space, articles and letters should be written as concisely as possible (between 100 and 150 words) and once submitted, may be edited. Letters to the editor should contain statements of proposed action by the membership.

Submission Deadline:

Third Saturday of the month for the next issue Email submissions to Feedback@SarasotaDems.com

Federal Government Contact Information

White House Comment Line White House Switchboard 202-456-1414 (WEB) http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/ FAX: 202-456-2461

Bill Nelson (D) Toll free in Florida: 1-888-671-4091 United States Senator 202-224-5274 716 Hart Senate Office Bldg. FAX: 202-228-2183 Washington, DC 20510 (WEB) http://billnelson.senate.gov

Marco Rubio (R) Toll free in Florida: 1-866-630-7106 United States Senator 202-224-3041 B40A Dirksen Senate Office Bldg. FAX: 202-228-5171 Washington, DC 20510 (WEB) http://rubio.senate.gov

Vern Buchanan (R) 202-225-5015 United States Representative LOCAL: 941-951-6643 1516 Longworth House Office Bldg. (WEB) http://buchanan.house.gov Washington, DC 20515 DC FAX: 202-226-0828

Congress Switchboard 800-962-3524

U.S. Capitol Switchboard — 24 hours a day (800) 648-3516 or (800) 839-5276 or (877) 762-8762

State Government Contact Information

Governor Rick Scott (R) Office of the Governor The Capitol

Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001 (WEB) www.flgov.com

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House District 69

Ray Pilon, State Rep. (R) 941-955-8077 1660 Ringling Blvd, Ste 310-311 850-488-7754 Sarasota, FL 34236 (WEB) www.myfloridahouse.gov

House District 70

941-918-4028 Doug Holder, State Rep. (R) 8486 South Tamiami Trail 850-488-1171 Sarasota, FL 34238-2953 (WEB) www.myfloridahouse.gov

House District 71

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Democratic Party of Sarasota County

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President's Column

Dear Members and Friends,

The 2012 political year in Sarasota has gotten off to a busy start. Only 3 weeks into the year and the Club has already hosted two successful events.

We were inspired by Florida Democratic Chair, Rod Smith, at our Wine, Cheese & Politics meeting. He personally thanked the Club for funding the Vote by Mail campaign. It's a privilege for us to support an effort that could make all the difference in re-electing President Obama and the rest of the Democratic ticket in November. The mailing, combined with the phone and e-mail follow up that Democratic Party headquarters volunteers provide, is making the program effective. The data coming back to us from the Supervisor of Elections shows significant increases in Democrats signing up to receive their ballots by mail. Our hard work is paying off!

We exceeded 100 attendees at the January luncheon with our guest speaker Bob Buckhorn, Mayor of Tampa. One statement that he repeated a few times has really stuck with me; the example of good governing by Florida's Democratic Mayors in our major cities is something for Democrats to be aware of and to point out to our neighbors and friends. We wish Mayor Buckhorn the best as Tampa hosts the Republican National Convention in August. We can at least be happy that the region's economy will get a boost from the event.

Thank You to Departing Club Leaders

February marks our Club's annual elections. We will be saying good-bye to 4 people this year who will be greatly missed. They aren't retiring as Democrats, so we know we will continue to see them at events, but we will miss working with them on the board.

- Elaine Foster has been treasurer of the Club for several terms and also offers this service for other noteworthy organizations in Sarasota. Her contribution and dedication is unsurpassed and I can't thank her enough for her hard work.
- Jane Callahan is another board member who has served for many years. She has been an integral part of making sure our monthly luncheons are organized and well-executed.
- Kathy Cook has served one term on the board. During that time, she came up with great ways for us to make our processes better and always raised her hand to help out at every event.
- Last but not least, we will be saying good-bye to our Vice President, David Shapiro. David has always provided us with great encouragement and financial support and has stepped in for me when I've needed him. We hope to see David continue his political career by running for office again!

On behalf of the remaining board members, I extend a huge thank you to these dedicated Democrats for their service.

Go Fitz Go!

In closing, I want to congratulate Congressional Candidate Keith Fitzgerald for making it into the DCCC's Red to Blue program. With this backing of financial, communications, grass roots and strategic support, we have no reason to doubt that Keith can beat Vern Buchanan. Keith is one 18 congressional candidates that the DCCC will support in its Red To Blue program. This raises the visibility of his campaign to the national level. As Keith said when he addressed our Wine, Cheese & Politics meeting in November, this is a race he can win. So, as his web site says, "Go Fitz Go!" We are all behind you.

I look forward to seeing you at our February events! Come out and socialize with like-minded friends and support our work in the community in this all important election year.

Democratically yours,

Mary

February Wine, Cheese & Politics

The Wine, Cheese & Politics evening meetings continue to grow in popularity in the Sarasota Democratic community. On February 22nd, we will welcome two local political journalists who will share their insights on the local, state and national political scenes.

Jeremy Wallace is the Sarasota Herald-Tribune's political writer. Jeremy follows Florida politics with his Monday column and Political Insider Blog. He has covered politics for 15 years, reporting from Florida, New York, and Washington, DC. He recently focused several articles on controversial issues surrounding U.S. Congressman Vern Buchanan. We look forward to hearing more from him on this topic.

Teaming up with Jeremy, will be Cooper Levey-Baker. Cooper is a familiar face to many Sarasota Democrats. A native of Sarasota, Cooper was recently the editor of Creative Loafing Magazine, an alternative weekly newspaper. He is now editor of the Florida Independent, an online news source that is published by The American Independent News Network, a 501(c)3 organization dedicated to investigating and disseminating news that impacts the public debate and advances the common good.

These two journalists eat, breathe, and sleep politics. You won't want to miss this political discussion.

Please make your reservations by e-mailing rsvp@sarasotadems.com or leaving a message at 404-4678. See the Calendar on page 7 for time, cost, and location details.

From Your Membership Chair

Dear Democratic Club of Sarasota Members and Friends,

Fulfilling the mission of the Democratic Club of Sarasota (DCS) would not be possible without our members and friends who truly care about the direction our country, state and county are taking. Working collaboratively with the Sarasota County Democratic Party (SCDP), Organizing for America (OFA) and the Longboat Key Democratic Club, we continue to make a difference in Sarasota County with our Outreach efforts and our Vote By Mail (VBM) program.

We appreciate your support by your continuing membership in the DCS as well as your extra donations. We encourage your attendance at our Wine, Cheese & Politics events which enable us to continue to do Outreach throughout Sarasota County. As we reach out to new people in the community we continue to build the DCS membership.

Please send in your renewals, consider becoming a Sustaining member (in this very important election year) and recruit your friends, relatives and neighbors to become

members and to get involved! We need and appreciate your continued support!

And, as always, if you have any membership or Outreach questions, suggestions or ideas, please do not hesitate to contact me at 320-8825 or joanne@sarasotadems.com.

IoAnne DeVries

New & Reinstated Club Members and Friends (in December)

Charles T. Flett, Elizabeth Malden, Laureen Martel, Jody McBrien, Thomas Meriwether, Joy Sica Naylor, Sergio Sanchez, Barbara Schur, Lee Starfield, Elizabeth Stevens, Betty Walz

MEMBERSH	ip ap	PLICA	ATION
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- ☐ I am registered as a Democrat in Florida.
- ☐ I am a Democrat but am registered in a state other than Florida, and I would like to become a Friend of the Democratic Club of Sarasota.

Enclosed is a check for \$_____ for a term of (circle) 1 yr \$20; 3 yrs \$52; 5 yrs \$80; 10 yrs \$150 or Sustaining Member @ \$200 or more per year

Date	Signed
Name	
Address	
City/Zip	
Phone	
E-mail	

□ Please contact me about volunteering.

Referred by ____

Send to: Democratic Club of Sarasota Membership Committee

PO Box 51076

Sarasota, FL 34232-0329

Last Month: Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn

(Continued from page 1)

ignored pundits who said he couldn't win. He ignored the summer heat and knocked on doors. He brought his message directly to the voters. ("Signs don't vote," he said.)

"As Democrats, we have an obligation to reach down and help others to succeed — to make it better for the next generation."

—Debbie Trice



Tampa Mayor Bob Buckhorn at the January luncheon

Club Elections Scheduled for the February 11 Luncheon

Club By-Laws call for club elections each February. The Nominating Committee presents a slate of candidates to fill each open position. If there is a quorum at the meeting, additional nominations will be accepted from the floor and members in attendance will vote. (If there is no quorum, the nominations and elections will occur at the next meeting with a quorum.)

The Nominating Committee has proposed the following slate:

President: Mary Clupper

Mary was elected Club President in 2010. In spite of being very busy with a full time job that requires extensive travel, she feels privileged at the opportunity to continue serving the Democratic Club of Sarasota as President for a second term.

Vice President: JoAnne DeVries

JoAnne was elected to the Club's Board in 2008 and is excited to now take on the role of Vice President. JoAnne devotes her life to grass roots political organizing and community causes including serving as Vice Chair of the City of Sarasota Citizens With Disability Advisory Board and on the Advisory Board of the Hearing Loss Association of Sarasota.

Corresponding Secretary: Tom Cook

Tom was first elected Corresponding Secretary in 2008. He is responsible for e-mail communication to the membership, as well as keeping track of the many Democratic events that go on in our community. A retiree from the computer software field who moved to Sarasota from Maryland, this will be his third term.

Recording Secretary: Holly Treadway

A native of Michigan who moved to Sarasota over 30 years ago, Holly is a lifelong Democrat. After working tirelessly on the 2008 Obama campaign, she continued her involvement by volunteering for the Sarasota County Democratic Party. Holly was elected Recording Secretary of our club in 2010 and is running for re-election.



Director—3 Year Term: Georgia Blotzer

Georgia is a retired special education teacher and program developer from Pittsburgh where she served 2 four year terms as a Democratic Committee Woman and ran for Pittsburgh City Council. Since moving to Sarasota, she has been involved with the Sarasota County Democratic Party and the Venice Area Democratic Club. Georgia will be working with our Membership committee.

Director—3 Year Term: Jim Tate

Jim joined the Club's board in 2010. A Michigan transplant, Jim contributed to the development of the Club's web site and making it possible for the club to accept credit cards. He also participates in club outreach events, taking notable initiative to promote the Club's presence at Chamber of Commerce events. He is running for re-election.

Director—2 Year Term: Helen Magill

Helen was raised in Jacksonville, FL and lived for several years in the Boston area. She returned to Florida in 1998 and works in real estate. She serves on the Board of Riverview High School's International Baccalaureate Parents Organization, and is looking forward to managing the Club's Student Outreach Program.

Director—2 Year Term: Dick Stammer

This will be Dick's second time serving on our board. Elected in 2005, he chaired the outreach committee, and continued to serve on the FOCUS newsletter staff after leaving the Board. He is a Precinct Captain and Area Leader for the Sarasota County Democratic Party and also serves on the Campaign Team at Democratic Party Headquarters.





Florida Democratic Party Chair Rod Smith Energizes at January Wine, Cheese & Politics

When Democrats look for someone to "rally the troops," they need look no further than Florida Democratic Party Chair Rod Smith.

Smith delivered a "stem-winder" of a speech at the Club's Wine, Cheese & Politics evening meeting on January 10. In her introduction, Rita Ferrandino, Sarasota County Democratic Party Chair, pointed out that it was the opening day of the 2012 Florida Legislative Session. Normally the FDP Chair would be in Tallahassee, but Sarasota County is so important to Democrats' success in 2012 that Smith spent the entire day in our area.

Smith kept the crowd entertained and energized as he covered three serious topics: President Obama's accomplishments in office, Republican missteps, and what we can do — individually and collectively — to win in November.

Despite Republican rhetoric to the contrary, President Obama has stood by his promises. He brought the troops home from Iraq. He is committed to helping Israel reach a sustainable peace in the region, and his leadership has garnered the support of other nations. He turned the economy around, so that a 700,000 per month job loss when he took office was a 200,000 gain in the most recent report — that's now 15 consecutive months of adding jobs.

The Republicans said they'd focus on the economy in the 2012 election, but the President's success in that area is prompting them to introduce other issues. We've heard many of them during the Republican presidential debates — debates which Smith characterized as "the greatest thing for Democrats this year nationally." Of course, if Smith could give an award to the person who most advanced the Democratic Party in Florida, it would go to Governor Rick Scott.

All Photos this month are by Gerry Preston.

If you looked just at voter registration statistics, you'd say Florida is a Democratic state. So why are the Legislature and Cabinet overwhelmingly Republican?

Democrats win when they show up to vote. We need to show up and encourage others to show up. "Showing up" doesn't mean going to the polls on Election Day. This year, more than ever before, it means Voting by Mail. Republicans vote by mail in large numbers — significantly more than Democrats. So the Republican-dominated Florida Legislature passed a law in 2011 making it more difficult to vote in person.

That's one reason why we are focusing on getting Democrats to request mail ballots. Your contributions fund our Club's direct mail campaign, and your volunteer time helps with follow-up phone calls.

Smith ended his talk likening the Republican and Democratic philosophies to two westward-bound wagon trains in the 1800s. One wagon train dropped off the weaker pioneers along the way as the terrain got difficult and food supplies ran low, figuring they wouldn't make it to the goal anyway. In the other wagon, the stronger pioneers walked so the weaker ones could ride and made other sacrifices so that everyone could make it. We want everyone to make it.

— Debbie Trice

Monthly Calendar

(Continued from page 7)

14 Feb (Tue): Longboat Key Democratic Club

Keith Fitzgerald will speak at the regular luncheon meeting which begins at 12:00 noon at the Harbourside Dining Room of the Longboat Key Club and Resort. Mail check for \$23 per person to LBK Democratic Club, PO Box 8025, Longboat Key 34228 for receipt by Feb. 9. Info: Jane Albaum at 652-0590

20 Feb (Mon): North Port Democratic Club

The February meeting will be held at 7:00–8:30 pm at Warm Mineral Springs, Ortiz Blvd in North Port. Info: 941-275-9195, contact@northportdems.org or www.northportdems.org

4 Mar (Sun): SCDP Kennedy-King Dinner

With a focus on "Civil Rights: The Struggle Continues," Kasim Reed, Mayor of Atlanta, and Nadine Smith, Executive Director of Equality Florida, will be the Keynote Speakers at the Democratic Party's annual fundraiser at Michael's On East. Cost: \$100. Reservations (due by Feb. 25) may be made online at www.sarasotadems.org/KK2012. Info: 330-9400

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

This information is presented as a guide only. While we do the best we can to present dates and times with accuracy, event times and venues do change. Please check with the event sponsor to confirm the details surrounding the event. Note: all telephone numbers are 941 Area Code, unless otherwise noted.

To request that your event be listed, email Tom Cook at willardcook@mac.com.

DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SARASOTA EVENTS

11 Feb (Sat): Democratic Club of Sarasota Luncheon

Dr. Kenneth Edelin, nationally-acclaimed advocate for women's reproductive rights, will speak on the topic "Where Are You, Pro-Choice America?" at the luncheon meeting which begins at 11:30 am at Laurel Oak Country Club, 2700 Gary Player Blvd in Sarasota. Cost: \$23 for members; \$25 for non-members and walk-ins. Reservations (due by Feb. 8): 379-9233 or reserve@sarasotadems.com

22 Feb (Wed): Wine, Cheese & Politics

Join us for an evening of political discussion with Cooper Levey-Baker, Editor of the *Florida Independent*, and Jeremy Wallace, *Sarasota Herald-Tribune* Political Writer. Doors open at 6:00 pm for the 6:30 program. Location: 1350 Main Street, 6th floor lounge, in Downtown Sarasota. Cost: \$15 for members; \$20 for non-members. Parking is available on the street and in the nearby Palm Avenue garage. RSVP: rsvp@sarasotadems.com or 404-4678 Walk-ins welcome, however attendees with reservations will be entered in a drawing for a Gift Bag valued at \$50.

22 Mar (Thur): Wine, Cheese & Politics

Jerry Springer, former political reporter, commentator, news anchor, political campaign adviser and Cincinnati Mayor, will speak at this special gathering. Cost: \$40. RSVP required: rsvp@sarasotadems.com or 404-4678

CLUB-SPONSORED OUTREACH EVENTS

6 Feb (Mon): West Coast Woman Expo

The newspaper's 5th Annual Women's Expo will be held at 5:00–7:00 pm at the Van Wezel Performing Arts Hall. Free. Visit the Democratic Club's booth. Info: JoAnne DeVries at jdv.devries8@gmail.com

16-25 Mar (Fri-Sun): Sarasota County Fair

Volunteer to staff the Democratic Party booth at the Sarasota County Fair. Sign up for a shift at www.sarasotadems.org/countyfair. Please indicate if you are certified to register voters with "VR" after your name. Info: jdv.devries8@gmail.com.

OTHER EVENTS

Sarasota-Manatee Democratic Meetups

Info: visit http://democrat.meetup.com

27 Jan (Fri): Senate Field Hearing on FL Voting Laws

Sen. Dick Durbin (D-IL) will chair when his subcommittee of the US Senate Judiciary Committee hears citizen testimony at 1:00 pm at Hillsborough County Courthouse, Courtroom No. 1, 800 E. Twiggs St in Tampa. In a letter to Gov. Scott, Sen. Durbin wrote: The hearing is entitled, "New State Voting Laws II: Protecting the Right to Vote in the Sunshine State."...The hearing is to examine the compelling evidence that HB1355, which you signed into law last year, will make it harder for tens of thousands of Floridians to register and cast their vote." Sen. Bill Nelson had called for this investigation. Info: nicholas deml@judiciary-dem.senate.gov

4 Feb (Sat): North Port Newcomers Day

North Port Democrats will welcome new residents, register new voters, and recommend voting by mail at 10:00 am–12:00 pm at the North Port Library, 13800 Tamiami Trail in North Port. Info: 275-9195, contact@northportdems.org or www.northportdems.org

4 Feb. (Sat): Gulf Coast Humanists

Jennifer Hancock, columnist for the *Bradenton Herald*, speaks about her book *The Humanist Approach to Happiness: Practical Wisdom* at the February meeting at 11:30 am–1:30 pm at Pelican Pointe Country Club, 499 Derbyshire Drive in Venice.

Info: Meigs Glidewell at 927-5665

8 Feb (Wed): Sarasota County Democratic Party (SCDP)

This month's meeting is at the Waldemere Fire Station, 2070 Waldemere St in Sarasota. Come at 6:30 to socialize prior to the meeting at 7:00–8:30 pm. All Democrats are welcome. Info: 330-9400, info@sarasotadems.org, or www.sarasotadems.org

11 Feb (Sat): Dr. Terrence Roberts Luncheon

Dr. Terrence Roberts will talk about his experience integrating Little Rock Central High School in 1958 at 11:30 am at the Sarasota Hyatt Regency. Cost: \$100.00 (Gold Patron) or \$50.00. Make checks out to Alpha Phi Alpha Foundation and mail by Jan. 30 to: Carol Poteat-Buchanan, 5346 Everwood Run, Sarasota 34235. Info: C. Poteat-Buchanan at 379-0232



www.SarasotaDems.com PO BOX 51076

SARASOTA, FL 34232-0329

(941) 379-9233

SUSTAINING

Suzanne Atwell Alice & Murray Blueglass John Clay JoAnne DeVries Linda Holland Marcella & Art Levin Aileen & Bernard Schuman

MEMBERS

Joe Ziomek

DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SARASOTA

RESERVATIONS:

Call: 379-9233

Email: reserve@sarasotadems.com

Email reservations (only) will receive confirmation. If no reply, please re-send.

MENU CHOICES:

No Substitutions ***

- · Chicken Caesar Salad
- Grilled Corvina Buerre Blanc w/rice pilaf & vegetable
- Grilled Vegetable Wrap w/side of fruit

Dessert: Key lime pie

Menu choice NOT guaranteed past noon

DEADLINE:

Wednesday evening, Feb. 8

LATE FEE:

Late cancellations and no-shows will be billed. Late reservations, if accepted, will be charged \$25. Walk-ins will be charged \$25, if accommodated.

This Month's Luncheon Meeting

Kenneth Edelin, MD

"Where Are You, Pro-Choice America?"

Saturday, February 11, 2012 11:30 Social Hour — 12:00 Lunch and Program (check-in opens at 11:00)

> Members: \$23 Non-Members \$25

(Please make out check in advance to DCS and show last names of everyone included in the check)

> Laurel Oak Country Club 2700 Gary Player Blvd., Sarasota Phone: 378-3608

Travel Directions:

The entrance to Laurel Oaks is on Bee Ridge Road about 2 miles east of I-75 (across from Bent Tree). At the traffic light, turn left onto Gary Player Blvd. and stop at the guard gate. Then continue on Gary Player to the Country Club.

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