

# SARASOTA MEMORIAL NEIGHBORS INVITED TO: ENERGY CENTER SOUND DEMO

SARASOTA  
MEMORIAL

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The Sarasota Memorial Health Care System has begun a five-to-seven year project to improve and rejuvenate its main campus. A key element of this undertaking is replacing the hospital's outmoded power-generating center that directly faces U.S. 41. A new energy center will be located on Waldemere Street, set back about 250 feet east of Osprey Avenue between the Bayside East outpatient building and the Waldemere Parking Garage.

Nearby residents have expressed concerns about the new plant's potential noise levels. Sarasota Memorial has scheduled the following demonstration to model what the proposed facility will sound like to those who live and work near it:

**WHEN:** 4:30 - 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, May 22.

**WHERE:** Sarasota Memorial's Waldemere Auditorium, First Floor, 1700 South Tamiami Trail (Free self-parking is available in the Waldemere Garage or you may use the valet service at the hospital's main entrance.)

**WHO:** University of Florida professor Gary Siebein, a noted acoustics expert, will host the demonstration.

**WHAT:** Professor Siebein has measured existing noise levels in neighborhoods surrounding the hospital. Using a state-of-the-art sound system, he will demonstrate base-line neighborhood noises, layering in sounds that will be emitted with the operation of the new energy center. The presentation will demonstrate the effectiveness of the center's proposed design and sound buffers, which include silencers for pipes, concrete casing, screen walls, baffles, equipment pads to inhibit vibration, acoustic louvers and oversized, variable-speed chiller fan blades. Attendees will listen to sounds that will be heard at various times of the day and week and at distances ranging from 500 to 1,000 feet from the facility. There will be time for questions and answers.

**SIMILAR FACILITIES:** Several neighbors have asked where they might travel to hear and see a facility like the one SMHCS is proposing to build.

Although they may share a number of components and technologies, power plants of the complexity of this one are almost never identical. In fact, the hospital's acoustical expert has not yet found an existing structure that goes to the lengths SMHCS is proposing for noise abatement. We will continue the search and keep neighbors updated on our progress.

**QUESTIONS?** Please call Leigh Wilcox at 917-6693 for more information. No RSVP necessary - Anyone interested is invited to attend.



*Updated concept for energy plant showing the latest noise mitigation design features (facing north from Waldemere Street). The cooling towers, which contain oversized, variable-speed chiller fan blades, will be enclosed on four sides at the top of the 90-foot-tall structure. The size of the fans and the enclosure adds height but reduces sound.*