

Dec. 3, 2013

**The previously issued news release contained a typographical error, please disregard it.**

## **Green Business Partnership program to award certificate to S'macks Burgers & Shakes**

SARASOTA COUNTY — Sarasota County's Green Business Partnership (GBP) program will recognize the owners and staff of S'macks Burgers & Shakes for their economically friendly building and business practices Tuesday, Dec. 3, 3:30 p.m. at the restaurant located at 2407 Bee Ridge Road in Sarasota.

"S'macks Burgers & Shakes continues to demonstrate why it's considered a 'green gem' in the restaurant industry, with its concentrated focus on making a positive environmental impact in the community," said Tom Franklin, GBP program coordinator, who will present the "Certified Green Business Partner" certificate to the restaurant. GBP outreach specialists Danielle Troiano and Randy Penn will also be on hand for the presentation.

"S'macks Burgers & Shakes is honored to receive the GBP certification in recognition of the business' hard work to be environmentally friendly," said Michael Quillen, co-owner of Gecko's Hospitality Group. S'macks is a new addition to Gecko's Hospitality Group, a locally owned chain of area restaurants that, Quillen said, is committed to sourcing local fare, creating economic stimulus in a conscientious way, and giving back to the community through an established charitable giving program.

**WHAT:** GBP certification presentation

**WHEN:** Tuesday, Dec. 3, 3:30 p.m.

**WHERE:** 2407 Bee Ridge Road, Sarasota

**WHY/HOW:** The Green Business Partnership certification focuses on broad environmental and specific standards in solid waste and recycling, water conservation, and energy conservation. S'macks Burgers & Shakes meets verified program core and elected measures in all program areas.

S'macks has reincarnated a former neighborhood brownfield at the corner of Bee Ridge Road and Shade Avenue into a "fresh, vibrant community gathering spot," said Quillen.

The site and the restaurant have been redesigned to meet Florida Green Building Conference Commercial Green Building standards, featuring recycled and sustainable materials and native landscaping, as well as energy-efficient kitchen equipment and lighting throughout the space.

### **SARASOTA COUNTY MEDIA RELATIONS**

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GBP Presentation

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“With our hormone and steroid free Angus burgers, 100 percent grass-fed Bison burgers from a family-owned ranch in Punta Gorda, Fla., specially made S’macks “Top Dogs”, and locally sourced and sustainably farmed produce, S’macks sets a new standard for Sarasota by combining fast casual dining with the highest quality ingredients in a green building,” said Quillen.

**INTERVIEWS:**

Media are invited to tour the restaurant and interview the following individuals who will be present for the presentation:

Tom Franklin, GBP program coordinator

Michael Quillen and Mike Gowan, Gecko’s Hospitality Group co-owners

Alex Floethe, S’macks Burgers & Shakes managing partner

Paulo Tavares, Smacks Burgers & Shakes assistant manager

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