

Top 5 Things to Do this Weekend in Sarasota-Manatee: Sept. 24-30

Open-air events in Sarasota, North Port, Bradenton and Osprey.

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Sarasota Herald-Tribune

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1. Reverend Barry & The Funk at Sarasota Fairgrounds

Local funk and soul favorites Reverend Barry & The Funk will bring their horn-laced dance music to the Sarasota Fairgrounds for a socially distanced concert, with patrons purchasing seating areas sectioned into 8'x8' squares that can hold up to four guests. "You can sit, stand, dance, lie in the grass, do whatever you want, just stay in your square," reads the press release. "No congregating or gathering at the front of the stage, or anywhere else. Proper social distancing will be enforced by security." 6 p.m. doors open, 8 p.m. show, Saturday; Sarasota Fairgrounds, 3000 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota; \$40-\$60 per space general admission, \$80 VIP; reverendbarryandthefunk.com



2. Party on the Plaza at CoolToday Park

The band #NoFilter, described as offering "a one-of-a-kind, concert-style experience featuring four singer-musicians," returns to CoolToday Park to headline a socially distanced version of Party on the Plaza. The concert will be held outdoors on the palm-lined plaza in front of the stadium with 10'x10' spaces available to accommodate groups up to four. 6 p.m. gates open, 8 p.m. show, Saturday; CoolToday Park, 18800 W. Villages Parkway, North

Port; \$60 per space general admission, \$100 VIP; 941-413-5000; braves.com/springtraining



3. Mattison's Riverwalk Grille Blues Brunch Sunday

Boasting one of the best brunches in Sarasota-Manatee, Mattison's Riverwalk Grille makes the dining experience extra fun during its monthly Blues Brunch Sunday series. For September, Sarasota-based singer, songwriter and guitar slinger R.J. Howson will be joined by special guest Bobby Schneck. A gifted guitarist, and guitar tech to the stars, Schneck's performing credits include joining Aerosmith on stage for multiple shows in 2009 when Brad Whitford was injured and then about a year later Schneck joined Slash's solo band as the guitar hero's rhythm player. Schneck and Howson are also scheduled to

play Stottlemyer's Smokehouse at 7 p.m. Friday. 11 a.m. Sunday; Mattison's Riverwalk Grille Downtown Bradenton, 101 Riverfront Blvd., Bradenton; 941-896-9660 (reservations highly suggested); mattisons.com



4. 'Casting For The Kids'

A fishing tournament called "Casting For The Kids" takes place at Evie's at Spanish Point on Little Sarasota Bay this weekend to raise money to support local families currently going through hospital treatment. The cost to enter the tournament is \$400 a vessel with 100% of all proceeds going directly to the families. 2 p.m. Saturday; Evie's at Spanish Point Restaurant & Tiki, 135 Bayview Drive, Osprey. For more information, email castingforthekids@gmail.com and/or visit [the Facebook event page](#).



5. Half off admission to Mote

One of Sarasota's top family attractions is 50% cheaper during weekends this month, with Florida residents receiving half off admission to Mote Aquarium every Saturday and Sunday in September. Visitors to Mote will find a 135,000-gallon shark habitat, resident manatees, sea turtles, river otters and much more. 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday and Sundays in September for discount (open daily); Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium; 1600 Ken Thompson Parkway, Sarasota; 941-388-4441; mote.org



Looking for more fun options?

Check out our regularly updated list of 15 free things to do outdoors in Sarasota-Manatee at tinyurl.com/15freethingstodo.

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