

Top 10 Things To Do This Weekend in Sarasota-Bradenton-Venice, March 8-10

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Fun events in Sarasota and Manatee counties

1. Lakewood Ranch Irish Celtic Festival

This annual St. Patrick's Day celebration in Lakewood Ranch features Irish food, craft beers, hard ciders and lots of family-friendly activities including the Lucky Dog Parade, "Best Legs in a Kilt Contest," costume contest and more. 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday; Greenbrook Adventure Park, 13040 Adventure Way, Lakewood Ranch \$5 parking; 941-757-1530; lwrcac.com

2. Sarasota Jazz Festival

The 39th annual [Sarasota Jazz Festival](http://sarasotajazzfestival.org) continues today through Saturday on stages at the Hyatt Regency Sarasota (1000 Boulevard of the Arts) and other downtown locations nearby. Performers include Venice-based piano legend Dick Hyman and may other nationally acclaimed acts such as clarinetist Ken Peplowski and Tampa-based blue star Selwyn Birchwood kicking the festivities off today at noon. Full schedule and ticket information: sarasotajazzfestival.org; 941-366-1552.

3. Music in the Park

Realize Bradenton's free Music in the Park series on Riverwalk kicks off today with very special guest Johnny Rawls, a true soul-blues legend who plays major festivals nationwide. There will be craft beer, wine, and other beverages, food, and snacks

available for purchase. 6 to 8 p.m. today; Mosaic Amphitheater at Riverwalk, 606 Third Ave. W., Bradenton; free; realizebradenton.com

4. Circus Sarasota

It's the final weekend for Circus Sarasota's latest show featuring a juggler from Russia, a hand-balancing act from Italy, teeterboard acrobats from Sweden, a clown from Portugal and much more. Now entering its 22nd year, Circus Sarasota produces these exciting, family-friendly shows annually to help fund its outreach efforts. Various times today through Sunday; Circus Sarasota Big Top in Nathan Benderson Park, 5851 Nathan Benderson Circle, Sarasota; \$15-\$55, with children under age 2 free; 941-355-9805; circusarts.org

5. Music on May Lane

Shortly after announcing a new condominium development in the Rosemary District, The Bayside Club is launching its first neighborhood block party, Music on May Lane, featuring local businesses and vendors Spice Station, the Overton, Tsunami, Make it Swirl, Pura Vie, and The Yoga Shack, among others including Gold Coast Eagle Distributing with beer sales. Reverend Barry and the Funk headline the music lineup. 4 to 9 p.m. today; May Lane (between Cocoanut Avenue and Florida Avenue), Sarasota; free; 941-218-2022; thebaysideclub.com

6. Tommy Davidson at McCurdy's

A stand-up comedian since the mid-1980s, Tommy Davidson shot to stardom playing various roles on the groundbreaking comedy sketch series "In Living Color" in the 1990s. In recent years, Davidson has appeared on reality TV shows such as "Vacation Creation." 6:30 and 8:50 p.m. Today and Saturday; McCurdy's Comedy Theatre, 1923 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota; \$28; 941-925-3869; mccurdyscomedy.com

7. More than a Movie: 'Shrek'

The beloved 2001 computer-animated comedy "Shrek" will be projected on a large inflatable screen in the stately Ringling Museum of Art Courtyard. Before the movie, there will be music, activities, and decor inspired by the film; with popcorn, candy, and beverages available for purchase, including a cash bar. 5:0-9 p.m. today; The Ringling, 5401 Bay Shore Road, Sarasota; \$15, \$13.50 (members), \$10 children ages 7-17; 941-358-3180; ringling.org

8. Bradentucky Bombers

The Bradentucky Bombers' first home game of their 13th season, and first official one as a Women's Flat Track Derby Association league member, is Saturday against Tampa Roller Derby Bruise Crew. There's plenty of bleacher seating available, but for close-up action and track-side seating, bring a chair. Beer is available for purchase in the rink (cash only.) 5 p.m. Saturday; Ellenton Ice & Sports Complex, 5309 29th St E., Ellenton; \$12, \$10 (pre-sale), \$6 children ages 6-12); bradentuckybombers.com

9. Manatee Heritage Days

Manatee Heritage Days celebrates its 40th anniversary this month with a full schedule of events including recurring activities such as DeSoto National Memorial's Living History program at Camp Uzita (Thursdays-Sundays), Historic Valentine open house

at Robinson Preserve (Saturdays) and the Jiggs Landing open house (Saturdays). On Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Palmetto will celebrate its Heritage Festival at Palmetto Historical Park & Manatee County Agricultural Museum, 515 10th Ave. W. For more information, call 941-749-1800 or visit manateeclerk.com for complete schedule.

10. Embracing Our Differences

The beautiful grounds of Bayfront Park are again the place to see the Embracing Our Differences outdoor art exhibit celebrating diversity. For the 16th annual event, students from 239 schools around the world submitted artwork or quotes to the juried exhibit that includes 45 billboard-sized works of art, each accompanied by an inspirational quote. Hungry? Thirsty? Feel like listening to live music on the water? Stop by Oleary's Tiki Bar & Grill, which is also part of Bayfront Park. Today through March 15; 5 Bayfront Drive, Sarasota; embracingourdifferences.org
Find more featured events at ticketsarasota.com.