



ON THE RANCH NEWSLETTER – JULY 2024

www.PalmerRanch.net

News You Can Use

DEMONSTRATION GARDEN TOUR: TWIN LAKES PARK – MONDAY, JULY 15TH FROM 10AM TO NOON

Join Master Gardener volunteers on the third Monday of every month for a free tour of the demonstration garden at Twin Lakes Park in Sarasota. The garden integrates beautifully into the natural environment, using Florida-Friendly Landscaping techniques that you can adopt for your home or business landscape. There is no charge for this tour, but please register at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/demonstration-garden-tour-twin-lakes-park-tickets-877360287237?aff=ebdsoporgprofile> to RSVP and receive notice of any changes.



ARTISTS OF PALMER RANCH MEETING – MONDAY, AUGUST 5TH

If you draw, paint, sculpt or simply have an interest in the visual arts, please join the Artists of Palmer Ranch at their next meeting on **Monday, August 5th at 10:30 am**, at Gulf Gate Library, 7112 Curtiss Ave. Any Palmer Ranch resident is very welcome. If you like, bring your latest masterpiece, they'd love to see it!

Featured artist: Jim Pinorsky

THE MASTER GARDENER VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AND HOW TO APPLY FOR THE 2025 CLASS

Do you live in Sarasota County and enjoy growing plants, helping people, and supporting our community? Learn how to become a Master Gardener Volunteer!

A Master Gardener Volunteer (MGV) receives University of Florida-designed training to learn about gardening and landscaping in Florida. With this training, MGVs support UF/IFAS Extension's mission to make research-based knowledge available to our community by helping homeowners with landscape and garden challenges, giving presentations, working with youth, maintaining demonstration gardens and so much more! Join us for this presentation to discover how you can join the MGV Class of 2025 with UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County.

Register now ONLY at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/the-master-gardener-volunteer-program-and-how-to-apply-for-the-2025-class-registration-905434197057?aff=ebdsoporgprofile> to save your seat and receive notice of any changes. Please do not register through a third party which is not affiliated with UF/IFAS Extension. For questions or further information, please call 941-861-5000 or email sarasota@ifas.ufl.edu.



Do you want to hear about the news on Palmer Ranch first hand? If so, simply visit our website: www.PalmerRanch.net. At the bottom of the home page, simply click on 'Sign Up For Our Newsletter.' You'll then be asked to provide your email address and first name. It's that easy!

Palmer Ranch Master Association – Mission Statement

'Our mission is to enhance and maintain the aesthetic quality of Palmer Ranch and to preserve the overall unique identity and sense of community.'



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STREETLIGHTING ON HONORE AVENUE PHASE V & BAY STREET EXTENSION

Back in 2009, Palmer Ranch Holdings signed a Road Impact Fee Credit and Property Acquisition Agreement with Sarasota County for Honore Avenue Phase V and Bay Street Extension. Included in this agreement was a requirement for streetlights on both sides of the road to be installed. To date, the lights do not exist; however, bases of light fixtures are visible in the medians of Honore. The reasons for the fixtures not being complete vary from the fixtures noted on the specifications were no longer manufactured, to the lighting not being to code. Regardless, the Master Association office has been reaching out to the County to see what their plans are to bring lighting to this very dark area of Palmer Ranch.

The latest update from Donald DeBerry (Sarasota County Sr. Transportation Manger) relayed FPL will install lighting if the County can provide the photometric design. The County has contracted with Stantec Consulting for the necessary design work for the project which should be completed by year end and installation of the streetlights within two years.

Sue's Grounds Corner

LANDSCAPING ENHANCEMENT PLANS FOR HONORE AVENUE PHASE V & BAY STREET EXTENSION

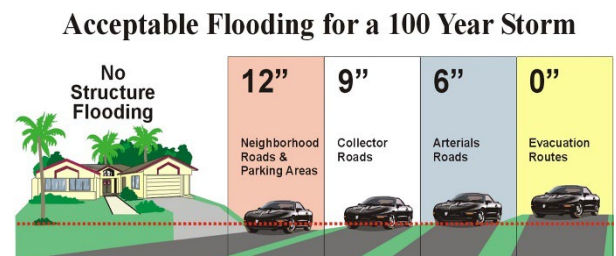
Our office is asked often about our plans to add landscaping along Honore Avenue, just south of Isles of Sarasota to Scherer Thaxton Preserve and Bay Street Extension (Legacy Trail to Honore Avenue). Suffice to say, the Master Association has been planning, for years, to enhance this area. After roadblock after roadblock with the County, we're nearing the point where we can start making visible progress. We've our irrigation pond in place and a pump installed; however, no electricity. While the necessary materials have been purchased from FPL and the Master Association has already authorized the electrician's contract, we're waiting for additional plans required by the County for the necessary permits before we can supply electric to the irrigation pump. Once the permits are issued, the electricians can begin their part of the project. After that, the landscaping will be installed in phases.

To say we're frustrated by the ongoing delays in an understatement, but we're excited to begin enhancing this area for the residents of Palmer Ranch.

STANDING WATER ALONG ROADWAYS AFTER HEAVY RAINS

While the Master Association takes care of the landscaping along the County roadways throughout the Ranch, we are not responsible for the roads themselves, i.e., the storm drains. Sarasota County is responsible for the maintenance of the road infrastructure. If you've traveled along McIntosh Road & Sarasota Square Boulevard, you will have seen standing water in the road, simply from our afternoon summer storms. Sarasota County's Stormwater Department was notified of the issue and they're looking at all possible solutions. In the communication, the County relayed their adopted flood level of service (see graphic), which allows up to 12 inches of water on local roads (that aren't evacuation routes). Also, the County designs the stormwater system to accommodate the 100-year level storm (1% chance of occurring in any year) and since last September we've experienced several storms that exceeded that level of storm and overwhelmed the system.

As you're traveling, anywhere, if you see standing water,
TURN AROUND – DON'T DROWN!





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Everything You Need to Know About Palmer Ranch – Parks on Palmer Ranch

The local parks, trails and recreational facilities contribute to the active lifestyle and family-friendly communities that make up Palmer Ranch. Listed below are some of the available amenities.

LEGACY TRAIL



The Legacy Trail is the largest public recreation project ever constructed in the area. At 18.5 miles in length, the Trail runs from Sarasota to Venice. The Legacy Trail is the backbone of a network of trails planned in Sarasota County. Overpasses at Clark and Bee Ridge Roads are expected to be completed by FDOT in Winter 2024/2025. Legacy Trail is open from dawn to dusk with the rules for using the Trail posted at various locations.



POTTER PARK



Potter Park is a beautiful 37-acre neighborhood park conveniently located on Palmer Ranch. Potter Park is a neighbor to the Palmer Ranch YMCA and shares a unique partnership in that a variety of recreational opportunities are available in one location. Amenities include: a picnic pavilion with grill, large gazebo with grill, open-area picnic tables, shaded playground, outdoor basketball courts, 4 lighted tennis courts, open play field, as well as restrooms and nature trails. Pickleball courts are currently being constructed and should be ready for play this fall.



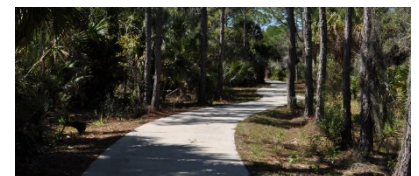
CULVERHOUSE NATURE PARK AND COMMUNITY GARDEN



Situated on McIntosh Road, just south of Palmer Ranch Parkway West, is the 82-acre nature park and community garden. Not only does the park provide parking for Legacy Trail users, but there are also nature trails, picnic areas as well as a new restroom facility.

STONEBROOK NATURE TRAIL

A one mile, eight-foot-wide, concrete trail that meanders through a natural Florida setting running parallel to Central Sarasota Parkway. The benches are great for bird watching plus easy to read, interpretive and informational signage.



Coexisting With Alligators

Palmer Ranch residents may sometimes see an alligator cruising in a pond or sunbathing on shore. Alligators, which descended from the same common ancestor as dinosaurs, are technically reptiles but are in fact more closely related to birds, according to the Florida Fish and Wildlife Commission. Alligators have existed for approximately 85 million years. They were here well before us. Early last century, humans hunted alligators nearly to extinction. They are now federally protected by the Endangered Species Act as a threatened species and as a Federally designated threatened species by Florida's Endangered and Threatened Species Rule. We now share our state with about 1.3 million alligators. In Florida, serious injuries from alligators are rare. Nevertheless, living safely with our ancient alligator neighbors relies on taking common-sense precautions:



- Don't feed them. In fact, it is illegal to do so. Alligators are generally afraid of people but feeding them can cause them to lose that important fear (and put them in danger of being "removed"; more about that below).
- Don't walk right at the edge of ponds when you can avoid it, and do not bring small children or dogs to ponds' edges. Keep pets on a leash. Watch for alligators relaxing nearby and give them plenty of space.
- Don't swim or wade in the ponds.
- Leave the alligators alone. Know that they are mostly active between dusk and dawn and during mating season typically April-June in Florida. When a resident asks to have an alligator removed, they are typically asked if the alligator is aggressive. Generally, a non-aggressive alligator can be left in peace.

If the resident still wants the alligator to be "removed," it is in fact killed and then sold for its meat and hide – it is not simply relocated. Please consider Palmer Ranch's alligators as wildlife to be admired and respected. If a problem arises, call your community manager or the person overseeing natural assets.

Article by Michelle van Schouwen
Co-Chair, Palmer Ranch Watershed and Natural
Assets Committee



Jean Beaufort has released this alligator image under Public Domain license.