



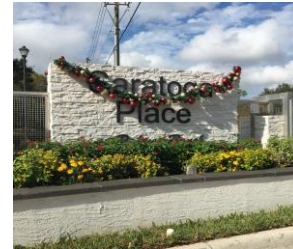
PALMER RANCH



ON THE RANCH NEWSLETTER –DECEMBER 18, 2015

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS AROUND PALMER RANCH

It is a treat to drive around Palmer Ranch and see the festive holiday decorations on community entrances. Here's a few more of some of the festive flavors seen throughout the property



News You Can Use



COVENANT LIFE CHURCH

Covenant Life Church, 8490 McIntosh Road, invites everyone to join them for their annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Services at **5:30pm or 7:30pm on Thursday, December 24**. Visit: <http://www.covenantlifepc.com> for more information.



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Sarasota County Information

CIVICS 101 – A CITIZEN'S ACADEMY

Sarasota County employs more than 2,000 people. Do you know what they do? Join in for a "backstage pass" to the workings of Sarasota County government. Ask questions – get answers. Tour facilities. Test your skills. Learn about county programs and resources, and make connections to further your own vision for our community. Civics 101 is offered in two modules (*Act I: Setting the Stage* and *Act II: VIP Service*). Classes are held on Thursday evenings from 6 p.m. - 8:15 p.m. in the spring and the fall. The program is free, and the application process is simple. Materials are provided. Applications are accepted by email, fax or mail; registration is limited to the first twenty-five applicants. *Act II: VIP Services* will begin on Thursday, Jan. 21 and run through Thursday, March 17. Inquire by email to check seating availability for individual class nights. If you have any questions, please contact the county at neighbor@scgov.net or call (941)861-5000.



SARASOTA COUNTY OFFERS UP TO \$10,000 IN ASSISTANCE TO NEIGHBORHOODS

Twice each year, area neighborhoods submit proposals to Sarasota County to fund the changes they wish to see in their community. The opportunity is available through the Neighborhood Grant Program, which has provided matching grants (currently up to \$10,000 per neighborhood) since 2002. The program requires neighborhoods to match at least 50 percent of project expenses. While some match funds through cash and donations, others opt for sweat equity - garnering credit of \$15 an hour through volunteer labor.

Neighborhoods are encouraged to be creative in addressing their needs; projects must fall within one of five themes:

1. Character: "Place-making" through the creation or enhancement of assets that are a source of pride and neighborhood identity
2. Leadership: Training neighborhood leaders or teams, and developing skills, for neighborhood governance or action
3. Safety: Equipping the neighborhood with knowledge or tools to prevent, prepare for, confront or respond to incidences of crime, danger or disaster
4. Environment: Protecting water and energy resources and native plants and animals
5. Health: Increasing access to nutritious diets, physical or mental fitness opportunities or health education

The next round of Neighborhood Grant Workshop dates has just been released and is available on the Neighborhood Services website (www.scgov.net, Keyword: Neighborhood Grant). Although workshop attendance is mandatory for grant applicants, there is no cost to register, and materials will be provided. Resident-based groups in Sarasota County may apply. The next deadline for grant applications is March 15, 2016.

If you have a project idea for your neighborhood, or simply want to learn more about the program, register for a workshop by calling (941) 861-5000 or emailing neighbor@scgov.net.

Community Spotlight

MARBELLA



Marbella is one of the original communities on Palmer Ranch with the development of the neighborhood beginning in 1989. The neighborhood is laced with mature trees and an abundance of lushly landscaped views. This gated community is located within the heart of Palmer Ranch and features 139 single-family and villa styled residences. The residents consider Marbella to be a very desirable place to live. Marbella's board encourages all residents to take excellent care of their homes

and landscaping. Dissemination of information is by means of a newsletter which is published four times a year. In addition they have a website with up to date information including minutes of board meetings, news, etc. They also post important information in the bulletin board at their guardhouse. Marbella is conveniently located on Palmer Ranch Parkway West, between McIntosh and Beneva Roads.



Grounds Corner

TURF REPLACEMENTS

Unseasonably warm temperatures have promoted turf weeds in median areas throughout the property. You'll note limited areas where turf is being replaced and/or other areas browned out in preparation for replacement.

Plant of the month

BURFORD HOLLY (ILEX CORNUTA 'BURFORDII')

Commonly called Chinese holly, Burford holly is an evergreen shrub. Although usually planted in a grouping as a hedge or border and sheared evenly, the lower branches on this versatile plant may be removed on large specimens to achieve a tree form. Burford hollies are quite distinguished with glossy, stiff leaves with a sharp point at the tip that often develop two spines on the side. Not requiring pollination, it produces long lasting large red berries every year. The Burford holly is rather hardy and can grow to be 20 feet tall.



For Your Calendar

- FLORIDA SCRUB JAY FESTIVAL – SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2016
- LEGACY TRAIL RUN – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2016