

ON THE RANCH NEWSLETTER – MAY 20, 2016

New Feature - Nature & Wildlife on Palmer Ranch

We are kicking off a Nature and Wildlife photo feature on the weekly *On the Ranch Newsletter*! We would like to encourage the residents of Palmer Ranch to send in photos capturing the nature and wildlife on Palmer Ranch. To participate, please email photos to Carrie at prma.carrie@verizon.net. Please include your name and location of where the photo was taken.



*Sandhill Crane pictured on South Honore Avenue
Photo Credit: Scott Ritter*



Great Blue Heron pictured on the grounds at Saratoga Place

News You Can Use

SARASOTA COUNTY NEIGHBORHOOD GRANT WORKSHOPS

Sarasota County's Neighborhood Initiative Grant Program is now accepting applications to fund changes that neighborhood groups wish to see in their communities. The program, which was enacted in 2002, provides up to \$10,000 per neighborhood in matching grants. Dates for the next round of Neighborhood Initiative Grant workshops are available at www.scgov.net (keywords neighborhood grants). Although workshop attendance is mandatory for grant applicants, there is no cost to register, and materials are provided. Deadline for the next round of grant applications is Wednesday, Sept. 7. To learn more about the program or register for a workshop, call the Sarasota County Contact Center at (941) 861-5000 or email neighbor@scgov.net.

SARASOTA COUNTY CIVICS 101 CLASS STARTING JULY 7

Sarasota County will continue offering a backstage pass to residents through the popular Civics 101 program, which returns 6:00 – 8:15pm on **Thursday, July 7**. Titled 'Act II: VIP Services,' the new course continues on Thursday evenings through September 1 and is an encore performance of the module that was offered in January. Class presentations are designed to enhance awareness and understanding of how Sarasota County works and what it has to offer residents. There is no cost to register for the course; materials and refreshments are provided. Anyone who lives or works in Sarasota County is eligible to participate, although module enrollment is limited to 25 students. For more information, or to register, call the Sarasota County Contact Center at (941) 861-5000 or email neighbor@scgov.net.

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Notice of Public Hearing

Notice of Public Hearing

Sarasota County Planning and Development Services wants you to know that the property owner near you has applied for: 1) **Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) No. 2015-C** to revise the Future Land Use designation on approximately 21 acres from MEC (Major Employment Center) and Moderate Density Residential to Medium Density Residential; 2) **Palmer Ranch Increment IV Notification of Proposed Change (NOPC) No. 4** to designate Parcels A8 and A9 as residential; and 3) **Rezone Petition No. 15-23** to rezone approximately 21 acres from PCD/ILW (Planned Commerce Development/Industrial, Light Manufacturing and Warehousing) to RMF-2/PUD (Residential, Multi-Family/Planned Unit Development, 9 units/acre) zone district, for the development of 140 multi-family homes.

The **Sarasota County Commission** will hold public hearings beginning at **9:00 a.m.**, or soon thereafter as possible on **May 25, 2016**, at the **Sarasota County Administration Center, County Commission Chamber, 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, Florida**.

You are invited to appear, be heard, and submit relevant evidence. A complete draft of the proposed ordinances are available during normal business hours in the Planning and Development Services Department at 1660 Ringling Blvd., Sarasota, Florida. Supporting documents will be available the Thursday prior to the public hearing at www.scgov.net, Meetings and Agendas (Meetings on Demand) to view or download.

You are invited to comment on the request by attending the public hearings or submitting your written comments to:

Planning and Development Services Department
1660 Ringling Blvd.
Sarasota, FL 34236
planner@scgov.net
941-861-5000, TTY 7-1-1 or 1-800-955-8771

**Palmer Ranch
Increment IV
RZ 15-23**



Plant of the Week

FLAX LILY (DIANELLA TASMANICA 'VARIEGATA')

This drought-resistant perennial produces late-summer flowers and is grown primarily for its variegated strappy foliage. Although the flax lily does well when planted in shady locations, the more sun the better for keeping the variegation at its peak. In early summer, it sends up branching clusters of white, light blue, or violet star-shaped flowers followed by shiny dark turquoise blue berries lasting from fall into winter, however, its handsome green leaves with contrasting yellow stripes will brighten the landscape year-round.



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News from the Science & Environmental Council of Southwest Florida

HISTORIC SEAGRASS RECOVERY IN SARASOTA BAY



Thanks to decades of community-wide investment and collaboration, seagrass coverage in Sarasota Bay has recovered and surpassed levels not seen since the 1950s!

The beautiful seagrass meadows found in our coastal waters are one of the most productive ecosystems in the world. Seagrasses provide food and shelter for 70% of our local fishery species. They trap sediments, stabilize bay bottoms and store carbon. Because they need sunlight for photosynthesis, seagrasses require clear water to survive and grow.

Summer rains wash fertilizers and pollutants from our yards into our creeks and bays. Stormwater runoff carries the nitrogen and phosphorus from fertilizers into our waterways causing harmful algal blooms, which cloud the water. Deprived of sunlight, seagrasses die. Then as algae blooms die out, their decay robs waters of life-sustaining oxygen, killing fish and other sea life.

To help maintain these historic gains in seagrass, we must all be vigilant in reducing nutrient pollution originating from our homes and businesses. That's why Sarasota County prohibits the use of fertilizer containing nitrogen and phosphorus during the summer rainy season, and why at least 50 percent slow-release fertilizer is required during the rest of the year. Join your neighbors in skipping the fertilizer this summer (June 1 – September 30) and be part of the seagrass revival in Sarasota Bay!

SUMMER LANDSCAPING TIPS (June 1 - Sept. 30)

- **Say no to nitrogen.** Sarasota County prohibits the use of any fertilizer containing nitrogen or phosphorus from June 1 through Sept. 30.
- **Green up with iron.** Iron products with micronutrients keep lawns green through summer.
 - **Get better dirt.** Add compost to improve your soil and give your garden a boost.
- **Use Florida-friendly plants.** Plants adapted to Florida need less fertilizer, water, pesticides and overall care.
 - **Keep the clippings.** Leave grass clippings on your lawn.
 - **Mow high for health.** Mowing short stresses grass and makes it vulnerable to disease, pests and drought.