

## ON THE RANCH NEWSLETTER – JULY 21, 2017

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### *News You Can Use*

#### ALERT TODAY – ALIVE TOMORROW – REMEMBER THE BASICS – **SEE ATTACHED**



We were all taught how to cross the road – stop and look both ways before crossing. If you're biking, go with the flow. Walking along the roadway, go against the grain. Always wear bright colors and never assume that a driver sees you. Those were the basics.

While our snowbirds are still enjoying cooler weather, we enjoy the heat, humidity and the ability to get into our favorite restaurants. We're also enjoying a little less traffic on the roadways. Unfortunately, this allows us to travel a little faster than normal and perhaps be a little more distracted.

Whether you're out for a leisurely walk, enjoying a bike ride on a sunny Florida morning, or going for a drive – **remember the basics!**

### *Did You Know?*

#### **Where can I find the Master Association documents?**

Master Association Documents and any Amendments thereto are recorded in the Public Records of Sarasota County, Florida. The following documents are among items available in the Documents Section above.

- Declaration of Protective Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions for Palmer Ranch
- Amendments to the Declaration of Protective Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions for Palmer Ranch
- Articles of Incorporation
- By-Laws
- Master Development Order Conceptual Plan

Arrangements can also be made to view documents during office hours at the Palmer Ranch Master Property Owners Association office, 6142 Clark Center Avenue, Sarasota, FL 34238. (941) 922-3866. Hard copies are available from the Master Association; please call in advance for copy.

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### ***Wildlife Neighbors of Palmer Ranch***



Bobcats are elusive and nocturnal, so they are rarely spotted by humans. Although they are seldom seen, they roam throughout much of North America and adapt well to such diverse habitats as forests, swamps, deserts, and even suburban areas. Pictured here are some Bobcats visiting Wellington Chase, The Hamptons and Stoneybrook Golf & Country Club.



Bobcats are named for their tail, which appears to be cut or “bobbed.” Fierce hunters, bobcats can kill prey much bigger than themselves, but usually eat rabbits, birds, mice, squirrels, and other smaller game. The creature hunts by stealth, but delivers a deathblow with a leaping pounce that can cover 10 feet.

As a top predator the bobcat is at, or near, the top of the food chain. This position is a critical one, because the bobcat exerts what is known as “top-down control” of ecosystems. Bobcats and other predators help to keep ecosystems balanced.



Sign Up For Our Newsletter

Do you want to hear about the news on Palmer Ranch first hand? If so, simply visit our website: [www.PalmerRanch.net](http://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!

# The Basics



## BE PREDICTABLE, USE SIDEWALKS WHENEVER POSSIBLE

Pedestrians are required by law to use sidewalks. If there is no sidewalk, or circumstances prevent the use of the sidewalk, walk facing traffic, along the shoulder, as far away from the travel lane as safely possible.



## PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC REGULATIONS

Pedestrians are required to obey traffic control devices, including crosswalk markings. Pay attention to your surroundings. Don't be distracted (above), especially when crossing the street. Cross only when drivers see you and are stopping, and continuously watch for oncoming or turning automobiles as you complete the cross.

## STATE LAW - STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS

Motorists and bicyclists are required to stop for pedestrians that are crossing in a crosswalk where pedestrians that are crossing in a crosswalk where this sign is posted.



Pedestrians, before entering the crosswalk, make sure the lane is clear or that motorists and/or bicyclists see you. Then proceed with caution.

## MEDIAN REFUGE ISLAND

At larger intersections some pedestrians may not have enough time to cross all travel lanes before the signal changes. Median refuge islands are the safest place for pedestrians to wait until it is safe to cross the second half of the intersection. Remember to continue to scan the road for traffic so you can determine if you have time to cross completely, or if you should wait on the median refuge island.



## TRUNCATED DOMES AND SIDEWALK CURB RAMPS

Truncated domes (textured surfaces) provide a detectable warning surface for people who are visually impaired. Pedestrians are not considered to be in the crosswalk and do not have the right of way until the proper walking signal is displayed.



For more information about pedestrian laws in the state of Florida and how to be safe when walking, please check out

Alert Today Florida at:

[www.AlertTodayFlorida.com](http://www.AlertTodayFlorida.com)

and

WalkWise Florida at:

[www.WalkWiseFlorida.com](http://www.WalkWiseFlorida.com)

Funded by FDOT



## FLORIDA PEDESTRIAN SIGNS, SIGNALS & MARKINGS



Follow the law; obey all signs and traffic signals.



**PUSH** the crosswalk signal **BUTTON**. It's the only way you will get the signal to cross!



When sidewalks are not provided, walk towards the flow of traffic.



Look left, right and left again before crossing.



Always use sidewalks and crosswalks.



Be seen, Be safe! Wear bright clothing or reflective gear at night.



**Focus!** Avoid distractions like phone calls and texting.



Impaired walking can be dangerous.



# Signs



## STOP FOR PEDESTRIANS

This sign indicates a pedestrian crossing. Vehicles must stop at the stop bar associated with this sign and allow pedestrians to cross.

## SCHOOL CROSSING SIGNS

This five-sided sign means you are near a school and the arrow indicates a school crossing. Make sure that motorists and bicyclists on the road slow down and stop for you before crossing. Always follow officer and school crossing guard's instructions. They are there to keep you safe.



## SHARED-USE PATH RESTRICTION

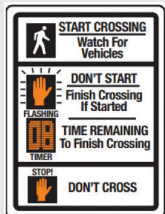
This sign is used where paths or trails are marked by a solid white pavement dividing line. Paths and trails are marked to keep bicycles on one side and pedestrians on the other to avoid crashes.

## ROUNABOUT SIGN

This sign indicates that you are approaching a roundabout. A roundabout is a circular intersection without traffic signal equipment in which traffic flows around a center island. Cross the road at the designated crosswalks. Always look twice for oncoming traffic before crossing.



# Signals



## PEDESTRIAN COUNTDOWN SIGNAL

The countdown time period is based on walking speed and crossing distance. For instance, an eight-lane highway would have a longer countdown period than a four-lane road. Pedestrians are only allowed to enter the crosswalk when a WALK or the Walking Person signal is displayed. Even when the signal is displayed for you to cross, always look for oncoming traffic that may not see you and continue to scan for traffic as you cross. If you are in the crosswalk when the flashing hand appears, quickly and safely complete your cross. If the flashing hand appears before you enter the crosswalk, stop, and wait for the next signal. Pedestrians can be cited for entering the crosswalk once this signal appears.

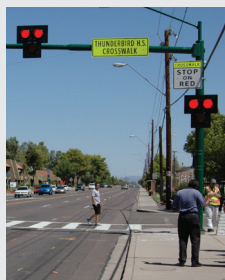
## RECTANGULAR RAPID FLASHING BEACONS (RRFB)



An RRFB supplements standard pedestrian safety and school crossing warning signs across uncontrolled approaches, such as mid-block crossings. Push the button to activate the beacon. Check that the lights are flashing, look both ways, and make sure that traffic has stopped before entering the crosswalk. Cross to the center, check the

next lane before entering the second half of the crosswalk, then continue if the way is clear. Multi-lane roads may have more than one RRFB. If a second signal is used, it will be in the medial. Press the signal and wait until the way is clear before completing the cross.

## ENHANCED FLASHING (HYBRID) BEACONS (AKA HAWKS)



A pedestrian hybrid beacon is a beacon used to warn and control traffic and to assist pedestrians who are crossing a street or highway at a marked crosswalk. PUSH the BUTTON to activate the signal. Wait for the lights to flash and make sure cars and bicyclists see you and are stopping before you cross.

# Markings



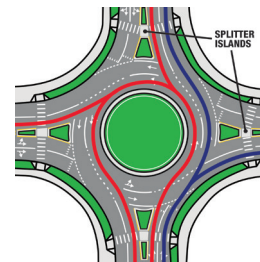
## PEDESTRIAN MIDBLOCK CROSSWALKS

Pedestrians have the right-of-way only when they are already in the crosswalk. Motorists and bicyclists are required to slow down and must stop before the crosswalk for pedestrians that are in the crosswalk to complete their cross. Always err on the side of caution and watch out to make sure motorists and bicyclists do what they are supposed to do. If they don't, you have the most to lose in a crash, so walk defensively.



## RIGHT TURN ON RED AT CROSSWALK

Vehicles are allowed to make a right turn on a red light after stopping at the stop line, before entering the crosswalk, and are required to yield the right of way to oncoming traffic, including pedestrians and bicyclists who have the green signal. Pedestrians should use caution, even when you have the signal to cross. Be sure that turning bicyclists and motorists see you and are stopping before stepping into the crosswalk.



## ROUNABOUT CROSSINGS

To cross a roundabout, stay on the walkways and cross at the designated crosswalks. Make sure that motorists and bicyclists see you and come to a complete stop before entering the crosswalk. Cross to the refuge island and stop there to make sure that traffic coming from your right also sees and stops for you before proceeding.