



ON THE RANCH NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 13, 2017

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News You Can Use

12TH ANNUAL UF/IFAS EXTENSION SARASOTA COUNTY MASTER GARDENER PLANT SALE

Enjoy your Saturday morning at the Plant Sale **October 14th from 8am – 1pm** at UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County Twin Lakes Park, 6700 Clark Road Sarasota. Free Admission (cash or checks only for plant sale.) For more information about this event visit <http://sarasota.ifas.ufl.edu/> or call (941) 861-5000.

WHITE CANE SAFETY DAY – OCTOBER 15TH

What is the white cane law? Whenever a pedestrian is crossing, or attempting to cross, a public street or highway, guided by a dog guide or carrying in a raised or extended position a cane or walking stick which is white in color or white tipped with red, the driver of every vehicle approaching the intersection or place where the pedestrian is attempting to cross shall bring his or her vehicle to a full stop before arriving at such intersection or place of crossing and, before proceeding, shall take such precautions as may be necessary to avoid injuring such pedestrian.

Tips for Motorists

- A person crossing the street using a guide dog or carrying a raised or extended white cane or walking stick tipped in red always has the right of way.
- Drivers are required to come to a complete stop at the stop bar, or if no stop bar exists, a minimum of five feet prior to the crosswalk or crossing location, Blind persons use audible cues, including the sound of vehicles to determine your presence at the intersection.
- Stopping within a crosswalk is illegal and it puts blind pedestrians at risk.
- When turning right, always assess the crosswalk on the side street to be sure blind pedestrians are not crossing even when you have the green signal.
- Never honk your horn or give blind pedestrians verbal cues.

HERON CLUB AT PRESTANCIA IS HOSTING AN ALZHEIMER'S SUPPORT GROUP

Heron Club, located at 3749 Sarasota Square Blvd., is hosting an Alzheimer's Support Group. Their next meeting will be on **Tuesday, October 17th at 10:30am**. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Laurie Blackwell at Heron Club (941) 922-1669.

HAUNTED TRAILS AT OSCAR SCHERER STATE PARK

Oscar Scherer State Park located at 1843 south Tamiami Trail, Osprey is hosting a frightfully fun family event **Friday, October 20th & Saturday, October 21st from 7:30pm to 10:00pm**. There will be a Trick or Treat Trail, Haunted Trail and Haunted House! Event also includes food, carnival games and more! Tickets sold online only, limited tickets available visit www.OSSPEvent.com. For more information call (941) 483-5956.

YMCA ANNUAL FALL FEST

Free and open to the public, Evalyn Sadlier Jones YMCA, will be hosting their annual Fall Fest on **Friday, October 27th from 5-8pm**. Trick-or-treat, pumpkins, family friendly activities. YMCA is located at 8301 Potter Park Drive, Sarasota. For more information visit www.sarasotaymca.org or call (941) 922-9622.





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MULTI-COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE ON PALMER RANCH – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH

Stonebridge, Hamptons and Wellington Chase will have their community garage sale on **Saturday, November 4th from 8am – 3pm**. Don't miss out on some great finds!!



ISLES OF SARASOTA FALL FESTIVAL FINE ARTS & CRAFTS FAIR

Mark your Calendar! Isles of Sarasota is holding an annual fine arts & crafts show **Saturday, November 4th from 9am – 1pm**. This event is open to the public and will be held at the Isles Town Center, 5901 Benevento Drive. Everyone is invited to come and shop!

BIRDIES FOR THE BRAVE

TPC Prestancia is hosting a charity golf tournament benefiting Birdies for the Brave® on **Monday, November 13th, 2017**.



Birdies for the Brave was originally created in 2006 by PGA TOUR player, Phil Mickelson, and his wife, Amy, to support combat-wounded veterans. The PGA TOUR subsequently adopted the program, and expanded it to include a wide variety of military outreach and appreciation activities during PGA TOUR events, as well as a series of fundraising events conducted at the PGA TOUR's Tournament Players Clubs (TPCs) and Heritage Golf Group courses across the nation – an effort that has raised more than \$17 million for non-profit military home front groups that are supported by PGA TOUR players, which provide direct support to military members, veterans, and their families ranging from financial aid, rehabilitation services, counseling and housing to educational scholarships and career development. For more information, please contact Kevin Swan via email kswan@heritagegolfgroup.com or by phone (941) 922-2800 x 3228.

Community Center Update, by Garry Wharton, Vice President PRMA Board of Trustees

On October 20, 2015, Bob Mills, Tracy Smith and I conducted the first of several PowerPoint presentations for representatives from several Palmer Ranch communities. The purpose of the presentations was to provide information to the representatives about a proposed community center. The Board of Trustees did not want to authorize the construction of a community center, unless there was a need and desire for one on the part of the communities on Palmer Ranch.

At the conclusion of each presentation, we took an informal survey to determine whether the communities were in approval of the proposed community center. The approval was nearly unanimous. Accordingly, the Board of Trustees authorized the construction of a community center and the process of getting the necessary approvals from Sarasota County began.

After what seemed like an interminable length of time, on October 6, 2017, the Master Association received the final approval to proceed with the construction of the community center. We will have to do a thing called 'site



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and development' which involves getting permits and stuff like that. There is still a lot of work to be done, but we have completed the county approval phase.

I am not going to discuss the many informal meetings, the Advisory Committee meetings, the Community Center Committee meetings, the Board of Trustee meetings, the meetings held with various Sarasota County personnel, the meetings with the Association's attorney, the meetings with our neighbors to the south of our property, the meetings with our civil engineering firm, the meetings with architects, the meetings with construction managers, the conversations with banks, the conversations with landscape architects, the numerous e-mails and letters which were written and sent and the replies received, the Neighborhood Workshop, which provided an opportunity for the residents from the communities adjoining our property to voice their opinions about the construction of the community center, (I found this meeting to be very interesting.), the meeting before the Sarasota County Planning Commission, (That was an experience which I will never forget.) and the meeting before the Sarasota County Board of Commissioners. I am not going to write anything about any of the above because that is all behind us and, now, it is time to move forward.

Once we complete the site and development permitting phase, we will begin the construction of a building, which will provide office space for the Association's employees and meeting rooms for the use of the residents on Palmer Ranch. I am a resident of Silver Oak Estates. We do not have a community center. Our meetings are held at someone's home or at a room which we rent at a nearby church. As soon as the community center is finished, we will be able to have our meetings there.

The construction of the community center will not require an increase in the Palmer Ranch Master Association assessment. The Master Association will secure a long-term bank loan to finance the cost of construction of the building. There will be no charge for the use of the community center by Palmer Ranch residents and it will be used only by the Palmer Ranch Master Association and Palmer Ranch residents. We will be encouraging the communities on Palmer Ranch to use the community center for not only board and committee meetings, but, also, for card clubs, book clubs or any type of club which our new facility can accommodate. I have been told that the community center at Lakewood Ranch has 55 different organizations which use its facilities. It is our hope that many Palmer Ranch clubs/organizations will use our building. There will be no swimming pool, tennis courts, shuffle board courts or similar facilities. The building will house staff and accommodate the need for meeting rooms on the part of the residents of Palmer Ranch. That's it; however, that is a big "it". The building will be satisfying a need for the future.

When will the construction of the building be completed? I am not going to answer that question, because I don't know when it will be completed. During the process, which we went through to get to where we are today, I made a couple of statements which were based on information which I thought was reliable. In some strange and bizarre way, this information got changed and my statements were no longer true. I have learned my lesson. We will know when the building is finished, when it is finished.

We were told by professionals that a community center would add value to every home on Palmer Ranch. I am not sophisticated enough in such matters to know whether that is true or not, but I firmly believe that our beautiful building which will be situated in a beautiful setting, will become a valuable asset for the residents of Palmer Ranch. The day that the community center opens its doors for business will be a very special day in the history of Palmer Ranch.