



ON THE RANCH NEWSLETTER – OCTOBER 26, 2018

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HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

We hope your Halloween is a spirited one! Please drive with care in neighborhoods with ghosts and goblins trick or treating.



News You Can Use

ROTARY CLUB OF SARASOTA SOUTHSIDE

The Rotary Club of Sarasota Southside is in your neighborhood! Guests are welcome to join them at their meetings on **Mondays from 5:30pm to 6:45pm** at Gecko's Signature Room, 5585 Palmer Crossing Cir. Complimentary appetizers & happy hour cash bar. Rotary International is an international service organization whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders to provide humanitarian service and to advance goodwill and peace around the world. Questions? Call Carol Auricchio at (941) 587-7742.

MULTI-COMMUNITY GARAGE SALE ON PALMER RANCH – SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 3RD

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



ISLES OF SARASOTA FALL FESTIVAL ARTS & CRAFTS SHOW

Mark your Calendar! Isles of Sarasota is holding an annual arts & crafts show **Saturday, November 3rd 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!

SANDHILL PRESERVE COMMUNITY YARD SALE

Stop by the Sandhill Preserve community, 11140 Sandhill Preserve Dr. on **Saturday, November 10th from 8:00am to 1:00pm** and spend your morning browsing through treasures at multiple family homes in one community. Kitchen items, mirrors, frames, paintings, lamps, auto supplies, kid stuff, garden supplies, handbags, accessories and more!



HONORING OUR VETERANS

Veterans Day is a time to thank those who are serving or have served and are still with us. Memorial Day is to reflect and remember those who lost their lives in service to their country. Confusing the two or combining the two diminishes the importance of both. As we approach the official Veterans Day, November 11th, we would like to honor our Palmer Ranch neighbors who are serving or have served in the armed forces. For this acknowledgement, we need your help. Please email Carrie (carrie@palmerranch.net) with the name, rank and branch of service of our Palmer Ranch veterans. We will feature their names in our annual Veterans Day Special Edition. Thank you.



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Palmer Ranch First Annual Environmental Fair

Thursday, November 8th from 9am to Noon

Covenant Life Church, 8490 McIntosh Road



Interested in finding out more information about our environment without attending yet another seminar? If so, our First Annual Environmental Fair is just for you! The Palmer Ranch Natural Assets Committee has put together a list of participants who'll be on hand for you to speak to directly. Stay for the entire time or simply come in for a few minutes...it's up to you! Some of our participants include: UF/IFAS Extension Service, Sarasota County Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team, Stoneybrook Golf & Country Club, Oscar Scherer State Park, Sarasota County Neighborhood Services, Butterfly Garden, Rethinking Plastic, Climate Leadership Coalition, Renewable Energy 100 and Florida House.

Here's a little more information on the participants you'll be able to visit with at the fair:

Sarasota Audubon Society:



Who They Are

They are the local chapter of the National Audubon Society, dedicated to the protection, conservation and enjoyment of birds, wildlife and the environment here in sunny Sarasota, Florida.

What They Do

Their mission is to conserve and restore natural ecosystems, focusing on birds, other wildlife, and their habitats for the benefit of humanity and the earth's biological diversity.

Visit their LEED GOLD certified Nature Center at the Celery Fields, 999 Center Rd, Sarasota, FL 34240.

Oscar Scherer State Park

Oscar Scherer State Park is a hidden gem showcasing natural Florida in the middle of the urban sprawl. The park features about 1400 acres of scrub and pine flat lands with two manmade lakes that provide opportunities for swimming and fishing. Whether you are interested in our 15 miles of hiking trails, picnicking at one of our pavilions or a family camping trip, we have something for you. A hike on our trails may transport you hundreds of years into the past giving you a firsthand experience into The Real Florida. Lake Osprey, located beside the nature center, offers a beach made available for swimming and is a perfect place for an afternoon picnic. Big lake, which features an observation deck perfect for bird watching, is located across Legacy Trail. Some birds you may expect to see in the park include the bald eagle, osprey, Florida scrub-jay, pileated woodpecker and many more. Big lake provides a wonderful spot to sit back and relax with a fishing rod as you enjoy the beauty of natural Florida and its variety of wildlife.



And of course, we have many volunteer opportunities. Oscar Scherer would not be the beautiful oasis it is today without the help of our volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering we can offer opportunities to participate in exotic plant work days, park maintenance, and campground host positions, helping with kid's activities, or working at the nature center. Whatever your interests we can find an activity or volunteer opportunity for you!

Rethinking Plastic



Rethinking Plastic began June 2017 and has been connecting with organizations in Sarasota County and the US, researching, learning, and educating those looking for ways they can be more sustainable. While reducing the use of plastic, extra packaging and unnecessary waste, our aim is educate individuals and restaurants on the plastic alternatives while promoting the health of the environment and people.

The Rethinking Plastic logo represents the “bad five”; the (5) most common single-use plastic items that are discarded after a few minutes of use;

- Take out containers
- Cups, lids, straws
- Water bottles
- Bags and
- Utensils

The Problem?

- Since 1950, it is estimated that 9 billion tons of plastic has been produced.
- Only 9 to 12 percent has been recycled.
- Americans throw away 100 billion plastic grocery bags EVERY YEAR! A plastic bag takes up to 1,000 years to break up.
- Americans use 500 million plastic drinking straws EVERY DAY!
- The majority of plastic waste ends up in oceans at the rate of 9 million tons every year.
- Plastic bags and larger pieces of plastic floats on the surface and can be mistaken as food by turtles and other marine life.
- Plastic does NOT biodegrade - it never goes away! It only breaks down to micro plastics.

Learn how to rethink single use plastic and the options you have to live a healthier life while mitigating micro plastic pollution of our landfills and waterways.

Sarasota County Neighborhood Services

Sarasota County Neighborhood Services, housed within the county's Planning and Development Services department, aims to assist residents in creating the changes they wish to see in their neighborhoods. Two of their most popular programs are Civics 101 and the Neighborhood Initiative Grant Program. Participants in Civics 101

(a citizens' academy) hear from county decision-makers and staff about the roles, responsibilities, and resources of Sarasota County Government. Also included in the program are hands-on activities, facility tours, and time for Q&A. The objective of the Civics 101 program is to better equip residents to navigate and participate in local government. The Neighborhood Initiative Grant Program offers matching grants of up to \$10,000 (1:1 match) for improvement projects related to neighborhood character, leadership, health, safety and environment. In addition to their own funds, neighborhoods may apply volunteer hours and donations of in-kind materials or services toward their match. Projects such as the installation of Florida-Friendly landscaping, and shoreline plantings along storm water ponds, have been popular in the past.



UF/IFAS Sarasota County Extension



The national Cooperative Extension Service was established by the Smith-Lever Act of 1914. It is a partnership between state land grant universities, the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the county governments throughout the nation. All of these groups share in the planning, financing, and operation of extension programs. In Florida, the Cooperative Extension Service is administered by the University of Florida.



UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County translates research into community initiatives, classes, and volunteer opportunities related to six core areas: 4-H youth development; agriculture; gardening and landscaping; natural resources; nutrition and healthy living; and sustainability. We provide practical education to build a better future.

Florida House Institute

Florida House Institute (FHI) is working to promote and advance sustainable practices that improve the quality of life for people in Florida's Gulf Coast.

Because our choices and actions matter today and will for generations to come, we are committed to changing the way we understand, adapt, and create a desirable community.





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Sarasota County NEST Program



Sarasota County developed the Neighborhood Environmental Stewardship Team or NEST; recognizing that one way to achieve comprehensive watershed management is to involve the community or homeowners. To create awareness that what we do on the land impacts our water resources. To learn more about the NEST Program or to participate, visit the [Sarasota County Water Atlas' NEST](#) page.

The NEST program operates at the neighborhood-level to improve watershed-scale resources, and no matter where you are in Sarasota County, you are in one of the county's watersheds. Shoreline restorations will help to minimize bank erosion, improve water quality and provide wildlife, bird and fish habitat. Shoreline restoration is an easy way to add beauty to your yard and neighborhood and help improve the health of the water bodies your stormwater impacts. Remember that water from your pond may find its way downstream into our creeks, rivers, or bays so what you do can help to restore and protect our bays.



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. 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.'