



## ON THE RANCH NEWSLETTER – MAY 2021

[WWW.PALMERRANCH.NET](http://WWW.PALMERRANCH.NET)

### News You Can Use

#### **CONDO DIRECTORS CERTIFICATION COURSE – BEING HELD VIRTUALLY THROUGH ZOOM**

*Your Community Partners* is offering a Condo Director Certification Course featuring guest speaker Kevin T. Wells Esq. via Zoom meetings on **Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 11:30am**. Please RSVP to [boardcertclass@gmail.com](mailto:boardcertclass@gmail.com) by noon the Monday before the event as space is limited.

#### **HOA DIRECTORS CERTIFICATION COURSE – BEING HELD VIRTUALLY THROUGH ZOOM**

*Your Community Partners* is offering a HOA Director Certification Course featuring guest speaker Kevin T. Wells Esq. via Zoom meetings on **Wednesday, May 19<sup>th</sup> from 8:30am to 11:30am**. Please RSVP to [boardcertclass@gmail.com](mailto:boardcertclass@gmail.com) by noon the Monday before the event as space is limited.

#### **CA DAY 2021 – COMMUNITY ASSOCIATIONS DAY**

Community Association Day educational expo and trade show is taking place on **Tuesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> from 8:00am – 5:00pm** at the Bradenton Area Convention Center, One Haben Blvd., Palmetto. Admission is free! There will also be free educational sessions, be sure to register early as class sizes are limited. To register visit [www.caiwestflorida.org](http://www.caiwestflorida.org) or call (941) 927-1910.

#### **SARASOTA COUNTY ENERGY & WATER SAVINGS & FERTILIZATION REDUCTION – SEE ATTACHED INFO**



Looking for ways to save money on your energy & water expenses for your home? If so, check out the attachment for some EASY-TO-FOLLOW ideas on how to save some green!



Did you know you may already be getting sufficient nutrients through irrigating your lawn with reclaimed water? Check out the attachment for a helpful fertilizer reduction tool to see how you can reduce your fertilizer use.



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### NATIONAL PEACE OFFICERS MEMORIAL DAY AND POLICE WEEK



In 1962, President Kennedy signed a bill proclaiming **May 15 as National Peace Officers Memorial Day** and the calendar week in which May 15 falls, as **National Police Week**. Established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962, National Police Week pays special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others. In 1994 an amendment was made to the bill directing that the United States flag be flown at half-staff on May 15.

### FLAGS WILL BE FLOWN AT HALF-STAFF ON PALMER RANCH – SATURDAY, MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> FROM SUNRISE TO SUNSET IN HONOR OF OUR FALLEN PEACE OFFICERS

We at Palmer Ranch cannot give enough thanks to our local law enforcement officers for putting their lives on the line every day, for each one of us.



### MEMORIAL DAY FLAGS AT HALF STAFF FROM SUNRISE TO NOON

On Palmer Ranch, smaller US flags have been set out to mark the Memorial Day period, with the flags lowered to half-staff on **Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>** from sunrise to noon. Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, was first observed on May 30, 1868, when flowers were placed on the graves of Union and Confederate soldiers at Arlington National Cemetery. It is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service.

### HOLIDAY HOURS FOR THE MASTER ASSOCIATION

The Master Association office will be closed **Monday, May 31<sup>st</sup>**, in honor of Memorial Day, reopening **Tuesday, June 1<sup>st</sup> at 8am.**



*Photo Credit: Ken Brinker – Stoneybrook Golf & Country Club*

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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!

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### 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.'*



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### THE EAGLET IN SCHERER-THAXTON PRESERVE HAS FLEDGED



The eaglet in Scherer-Thaxton Preserve fledged (flew from the nest to another tree) on or about Sunday, April 11<sup>th</sup>. As reported last month, the eaglet in Culverhouse Nature Park fledged on March 18<sup>th</sup>. This means that this season's nesting experiences in the eagle nests in both county parks within Palmer Ranch were successful. According to the Audubon Society's EagleWatch, the successful fledge rate in Florida was 90% for the 2019-2020 season, although it has been as high as 94%. Even after they fledge, eaglets remain dependent on the adults for food. After fledging, an eaglet normally remains in the vicinity of the nest for a few weeks.

Here are some interesting facts about eaglets from Audubon's EagleWatch:

- Eaglets are the fastest growing birds in North America. They increase from 100 grams to 5,000 grams in three months.
- The first-year eaglets' feathers are larger than those of their parents.
- Eaglets molt their feathers every year.
- The beak is made of the same substance as our hair. It keeps growing. The beak grows out from brown to yellow.

Here is some additional information from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about eagles:

- Juvenile bald eagles have mottled brown and white plumage, gradually acquiring their dark brown body and distinctive white head and tail as they mature. Bald eagles generally attain adult plumage by 5 years of age. Most are capable of breeding at 4 or 5 years of age, but in healthy populations they may not start breeding until much older.
- Adults have wingspans of 5 to 8 feet.
- Bald eagles are opportunistic feeders. Fish comprise much of their diet, but they also eat waterfowl, shorebirds/colonial waterbirds, small mammals, turtles and carrion.
- During the breeding season, adults carry prey to the nest to feed the young. Adults feed their chicks by tearing off pieces of food and holding them to the beaks of the eaglets. After fledging, immature eagles are slow to develop hunting skills, and must learn to locate reliable food sources and master feeding techniques. Young eagles will congregate together, often feeding upon easily acquired food, such as carrion and fish found in abundance at the mouths of streams and shallow bays and at landfills.

Eagle nests are one of the many natural attractions in Palmer Ranch. For those who enjoy monitoring them, activity usually begins in the late fall. The period from laying of eggs to fledging usually ranges from December or January to March or April.

Do you want to get involved in next year's bald eagle monitoring program at Palmer Ranch? We need volunteers. Look for more information in the Palmer Ranch or your association's newsletter beginning next fall.





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### Sue's Grounds Corner

I was finally able to go on the Stoneybrook Nature Trail Tour on April 27<sup>th</sup> and – WOW - what an experience it was! I cannot stress enough how important it would be for everyone to see the great work that has been done in the Stoneybrook community. One of the things I found so interesting was that all of the homeowners within the community were on board for the changes that had to be made. Stoneybrook staff members Forest and Tony have done excellent work in relocating some of the Florida Native plants from one pond to another to help defray the costs of new plantings. Forest had mentioned that he most likely will be offering tours to Palmer Ranch groups. If your grounds and ponds committee would like to have a private group tour, please contact Forest at [fcrooke@stoneybrookgcc.com](mailto:fcrooke@stoneybrookgcc.com) and he'll get to work scheduling a tour just for your group!!!



Wildlife enjoying the benefit of a healthy stormwater system.....

# ENERGY SAVINGS



Sarasota County households spend an average of \$1,200 on energy annually.

## TURN IT OFF!

- Turn off lights, fans, and electronics when leaving the room. It adds up.
- Consider air drying your clothes.

## BUY SMART, USE SMART

- When replacing appliances and electronics, look for the **ENERGY STAR®** rating.
- Set your water heater to 120 degrees F for greater energy savings.

*Pro Tip: Replacing five lightbulbs with longer-lasting, higher-efficiency LED bulbs can save up to \$75 per year.*

## SEAL IT UP

- Sealing leaks and gaps throughout your home with caulk, tape, or other insulation can save up to \$180 a year.
- Close exterior doors.
- Check that your refrigerator has a tight seal.

## HEATING/COOLING

- 49% of home energy use goes to air conditioning and heating.
- Set your thermostat to 78-82 degrees F for summer and 65-68 degrees F for winter.
- Maintaining air conditioner filters regularly can lower your energy consumption by 5-15%.
- Close window coverings in the summer to block out heat.

## BEWARE VAMPIRE LOADS

- When replacing appliances and electronics, look for the **ENERGY STAR®** rating.
- Set your water heater to 120 degrees F for energy savings.



# WATER SAVINGS



Sarasota County residents spend an average of \$850 on their water annually.

## TAKE SHORTER SHOWERS

- Reducing your daily, 10-minute shower to just 5 minutes can save 7,300 gallons of water yearly.
- Use a low-flow showerhead for additional annual savings of 3,650 gallons!

## FIX LEAKY TOILETS

- Leaky toilets can waste up to 200 gallons a day.
- Is your toilet running? Put a dye tablet or food coloring in your tank and wait 30 minutes. If you see color in the bowl, you have a leak.

*Pro Tip: Replacing your toilet flapper is an easy fix for most leaks.*

## WAIT TO WASH DISHES

- Let your dishes soak in the sink or a dish tub to make cleaning easy and save 12,775 gallons annually.
- Using a dishwasher? Try running it every other day to save about 1,900 gallons a year.

## WATCH THE WEATHER, WAIT TO WATER

- Follow Sarasota County's irrigation restrictions and water your landscape only once per week, providing ½-¾ inch of water.
- Every week you do not irrigate your landscape will save you more than 300 gallons per 1,000 square feet.
- Skip weeks where there is a ½ inch or more of rain and during the cool weather months of January and February.

## DON'T SINK YOUR MONEY

- Shut off the tap when brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Every minute your tap runs, you could be wasting up to 2.5 gallons of water.
- A faucet aerator can cut your use in half.



## LEARN MORE

### UF/IFAS EXTENSION SARASOTA COUNTY

#### ATTEND OUR CLASSES

[tiny.cc/ufsaraext\\_events](http://tiny.cc/ufsaraext_events)

#### VISIT OUR WEBSITE

[energyupgradetoday.com](http://energyupgradetoday.com)

#### SCHEDULE A FREE 1:1 CONSULTATION

Call 941-861-9829

#### REGISTER FOR SELF-PACED CLASSES

[tiny.cc/ufsaraext\\_selfpace](http://tiny.cc/ufsaraext_selfpace)

## GET YOUR FREE ENERGY AND WATER CONSERVATION KIT

Kits include LED light bulbs, a smart power strip, faucet aerators, low-flow showerheads, dye tablets, and more!

Customize your kit here: [tiny.cc/ufsaraext\\_conservekit](http://tiny.cc/ufsaraext_conservekit).

Contact us: call 941-861-9829 or email [SustainableSarasota@scgov.net](mailto:SustainableSarasota@scgov.net)

# UTILITY BILL PAYMENT ASSISTANCE

## **2-1-1 Suncoast**

211  
Get in touch with a multilingual specialist who can direct you to local organizations that provide financial assistance.

## **Low Income Housing Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**

941-556-0234  
Federally funded program that helps low-income families pay home energy bills.

## **FPL Care to Share**

800-226-3545  
Receive up to \$500 total over 12 months to pay FPL bill.

## **FPL Budget Billing**

800-226-3545  
Pay the same amount every month.

## **Salvation Army**

941-556-0234  
Receive water service payment assistance, plus help with mortgage, rent, gas, and electric utilities.

## **Sarasota County Government**

utilitybill@scgov.net  
Get help paying overdue bills with a 6-month payment plan (while County is under a State of Emergency).

## **Jewish Family and Children's Services - Suncoast**

941-366-2224  
Utility deposit assistance for veterans.

## **St. Martha's / Caritas Ministry**

941-366-4210 / 941-366-5620  
Emergency assistance for those with acute financial needs.

## **Area Agency on Aging**

(60 or older)  
866-413-5337

## **Resurrection House**

941-365-3759

## **Senior Friendship Center**

941-955-2122

# OTHER FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

## **Weatherization Assistance Program**

941-827-8227

Free, low-income qualified energy upgrades up to \$5,000.

## **Office of Housing and Community Development Rehabilitation Program**

941-951-3640

Up to \$60,000 of 0% interest loans for owner-occupied rehabilitation program.

## **United Way**

941-366-2686

Get connected to financial assistance through a highly trained specialist.

## **Sarasota County Energy Upgrade**

941-861-5000

sustainablesarasota@scgov.net

Call for energy-saving help through in-home evaluations, energy audits, DIY kits, and classes!

## **The Glasser/Schoenbaum Human Services Center**

941-365-4545

Home to 18-plus nonprofit health and human services agencies that help low-income individuals and families.

## **Venice Trinity Presbyterian**

941-493-0018

## **Venice Goodwill**

941-441-0241

## **St. Vincent de Paul**

941-444-9343

## **St. Jude's Catholic Church**

941-955-3934

## **Lutheran Services**

941-358-6330

## UF/IFAS EXTENSION SARASOTA COUNTY

6700 Clark Road, Sarasota 34241 | 941-861-5000 | [sarasota.ifas.ufl.edu](http://sarasota.ifas.ufl.edu) | [sarasota@ifas.ufl.edu](mailto:sarasota@ifas.ufl.edu)



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# MANY RECLAIMED WATER USERS DO NOT NEED FERTILIZER

Do you live in a Sarasota County area that is already getting sufficient nutrients from its reclaimed water?

Check our fertilizer reduction tool to see if you can cut back on your fertilizer use: [bit.ly/bayfriendlyfertilizing\\_home](https://bit.ly/bayfriendlyfertilizing_home).



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