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On the Ranch Newsletter February 2026

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Click [Here](#) for a Palmer Ranch
Community Map.





Palmer Ranch Master Association Notices Sign-up Form

If you aren't currently receiving the Palmer Ranch Master Association Newsletter and Notices directly to your in box and would like to, click [Here](#) for our Sign-up Form.

News You Can Use

Master Association Holiday Closure

The Master Association office will be closed on **Monday, February 16th** for the Presidents Day holiday. We will reopen at 8am on Tuesday, February 17th.



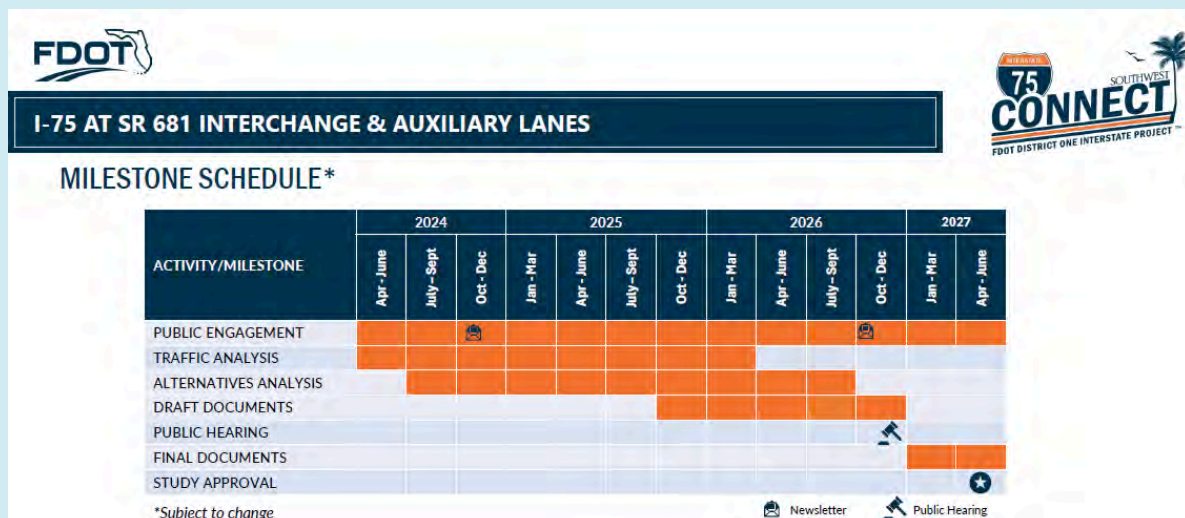
I-75 / SR681 Interchange (Project 454095-1) Sound Wall Evaluation

On January 21, 2026, the Palmer Ranch Master Association received the following project 454095-1 update and schedule from the Project Manager at the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT):

The I-75 at SR 681 project is still in the Project Development and Environment (PD&E) phase, which includes a noise assessment. This study will help us (FDOT) determine whether noise barriers, such as sound walls, are feasible and effective options for nearby communities. While specific barrier locations have not been confirmed yet, the study's results will guide these decisions. The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) follows established, statewide policies for evaluating traffic noise and deciding on sound wall placement, ensuring a consistent approach across Florida.

The noise study has not been conducted yet. Once it is complete, a Noise Study Report will be available for public review, with findings presented at a public hearing in fall 2026. The public hearing will give residents the opportunity to review the findings of the project's alternatives, ask questions, and provide feedback.

We will be sure to notify the residents of Palmer Ranch once a date for the public hearing is secured. For now, please check below for updates and more information on our project website: <https://www.swflinterstates.com/i75-north-corridor/454095-1/>.



Sarasota County Libraries launches “Culture Pass” to enhance access to local arts and culture

Sarasota County Libraries and Historical Resources has launched “Culture Pass,” a new initiative that provides free or discounted access to local theaters and museums for adult residents with a library card.

Library patrons can reserve a Culture Pass **online** by using their library card and pin number. Current Culture Pass venues include Asolo Repertory Theatre, the Bishop Museum of Science and Nature, Urbanite Theatre, Big Cat Habitat, Imagine Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts and more. New partners will be added in the future. Click [Here](#) for a complete list of offerings.

Most participating venues allow one pass per year, per patron. Patrons may also only have one active pass at a time. Passes may be digital or printable, depending on the venue, and typically must be redeemed in advance for ticketed performances.

Sue’s Grounds Corner



Crape Myrtle Tree Trimming

Please note: Our landscaping team will be working in the medians on Palmer Ranch the week of February 9th trimming the Crape Myrtle Trees.

Sandhill Crane Colt Season

As we prepare for the Sandhill Crane Colt season, I came across this post from the Sarasota Downtown Facebook page and thought it would be very appropriate to post for Palmer Ranch and surrounding communities.



“Cuteness overload. Sandhill Cranes are one of Sarasota’s most charming neighbors. These elegant, slate-gray birds with their bright red crowns have become unofficial mascots of the region, and if you’ve ever had to pause your car while a family of cranes takes their sweet time crossing the road, you know exactly why locals adore them.

Sandhill Cranes thrive in Sarasota’s mix of wetlands, golf courses, retention ponds, and open fields. They’re surprisingly comfortable around people, often strolling through yards or foraging near sidewalks with calm confidence that suggests they know they’re protected—and they are! Florida’s resident Sandhill Cranes are a state-designated threatened species, so giving them space is more than courtesy; **it’s the law.**

Spring brings one of Sarasota's sweetest Sandhill moments: the arrival of baby Sandhill Cranes, known as colts. These fuzzy, golden-brown chicks look almost too adorable to be real. They're up and walking within hours of hatching, keeping pace with their parents on those long, spindly legs. You'll often see a family of three or four wandering together—two devoted adults and their curious, fluffy youngsters. Sandhill Cranes are more than beautiful birds; they're a reminder of the wild Florida that still thrives alongside our neighborhoods. If you spot a crane family, especially with colts in tow, admire them from a respectable distance. Never feed them and always give them the right of way—trust me, they'll take it anyway".

Please - obey the speed limits on our roadways while the colts are busy keeping up with mommy and daddy!



Natural Assets

Exploring the great outdoors in 2026

This year, why not explore some of the incredible natural spaces in and near Palmer Ranch? Palmer Ranch Watershed & Natural Assets Committee shares some favorite locations:

Click [Here](#) for an expanded list of Palmer Ranch area parks with Hours, Address, Acres, if Dog Friendly, and Amenities.

Legacy Trail

Meandering through Palmer Ranch, Legacy Trail is a 23-mile-long, multi-use trail extending from downtown Sarasota to Venice, with “spurs” for side trips. Ideal for biking or walking.



Legacy Trail



Turtle Rock residents Michelle van Schouwen and Don Robear tend their garden plot at Culverhouse

Culverhouse Park and Community Garden

Culverhouse Community Garden provides garden plots for \$40/year plus 16 hours of community work in the garden. Members grow vegetables and enjoy a group of experienced and novice gardeners. The park has hiking trails, too.



Potter Park

Potter Park is a beautiful 37-acre neighborhood park conveniently located on Palmer Ranch. Potter Park is a neighbor to Palmer Ranch YMCA, and shares a unique partnership in that a variety of recreational opportunities are available in one location. Picnic pavilion with grill Large gazebo with grill. Open-area picnic tables Shaded playground Outdoor basketball courts 4 lighted tennis courts Open play field Restrooms Nature & Recreation trails.

Stoneybrook Nature Trail

A one mile, eight foot wide, concrete trail that meanders through a natural Florida setting running parallel to Central Sarasota Parkway. The benches are great for bird watching plus easy to read, interpretive and informational signage.



Myakka River State Park

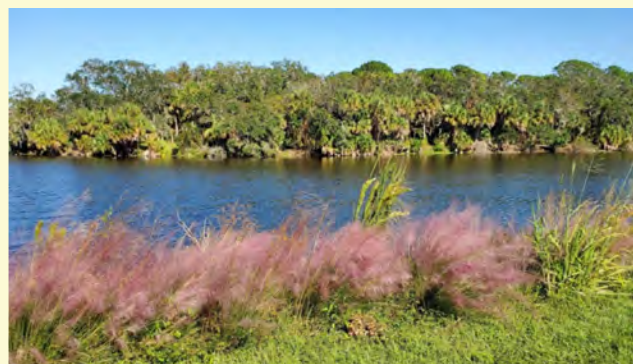
Myakka River State Park

One of Florida's largest state parks (37,000+ acres) is just 20 minutes away from Palmer Ranch.

Walk the trails, picnic, experience the treetop canopy walk, or simply drive through miles of scenic Florida wilderness. It's a "don't miss" opportunity.

Red Bug Slough Preserve

This 72-acre Sarasota County Park offers scenic trails, fishing, a playground, and picnic shelter. Dogs on leash are welcome.



Red Bug Slough Preserve



The Celery Fields

The Celery Fields

400 acres of public preserve, Sarasota's Celery Fields is recognized as a birding destination, with an Audubon Nature Center, a boardwalk, and an observation hill and short trails popular with runners and walkers. Arrive early for the best bird sightings.

T. Mabry Carlton Jr. Memorial Reserve

Nearly 25,000 acres of wilderness in Venice FL, the preserve boasts hiking, biking, and even horseback riding (bring your own horse!) through pine flatwoods, prairies, and wetlands.



Red-headed woodpecker, Carlton

Article by Michelle van Schouwen, Co-Chair, Palmer Ranch Watershed & Natural Assets Committee. Photos: Roseate spoonbills, Legacy Trail, Celery Fields, and Carlton Reserve by Ginny Cheatham. Coreopsis by Don Robear. Red Bug Slough courtesy Sarasota County. Gardeners by Susan Sprenger.

Images from Palmer Ranch

Photos of White Pelicans, Wood Storks, and Spoon Bills in Palmer Ranch were taken by VillageWalk resident Pat Donnelly.



Photo of sunrise over pond 7 in Promenade Estates was taken by Michael Ansel.



Photos from Jean Miller taken on the TPC golf course.



Local Happenings

Community Garage/Yard Sales at Sandhill Preserve and Turtle Rock

Sandhill Preserve and **Turtle Rock** are hosting community-wide garage/yard sales on **Saturday, February 28th!**

Sandhill Preserve from **8 am - 1 pm** (Located off of Honore)

Turtle Rock from **8 am - 2 pm** (Located off of Palmer Ranch Parkway East and Central Sarasota Parkway-both gates between McIntosh and Honore)

On Saturday, February 28th, these communities' gates will be open beginning at 8am.

Sandhill Preserve gates will close at 1 pm and Turtle Rock gates will close at 1:45 pm.

Sales take place at various homes throughout the communities. Maps of participating homes will be available at the Turtle Rock gate and Sandhill Preserve will designate participating homes using Balloons.

Please see below for Community fliers.



TURTLE ROCK ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

**Saturday, February 28th
8 AM–2 PM**

Sale takes place at various homes throughout the community.

Both gates will allow access from 8am to 1:45pm.

Gates are located off Palmer Ranch Pkwy East and Central
Sarasota Pkwy (both between McIntosh and Honore).

Maps of participating homes will be handed out at the gates.



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
AND SPREAD THE WORD!**

Artists of Palmer Ranch Monthly Meeting

If you draw, paint, sculpt, or simply have an interest in the visual arts, please join the *Artists of Palmer Ranch* at their next meeting on **Monday, March 2nd** at **10:30 am** at Gulf Gate Library, 7112 Curtiss Ave., Sarasota.

Any Palmer Ranch resident is very welcome. If you like, bring your latest masterpiece!
They'd love to see it!

Featured Artist: Lynn Levine -- **Title:** Shy Crane



PALMER RANCH
SINGERS

Palmer Ranch Singers

~Save The Date ~

The Palmer Ranch Singers Spring Concert will be held on **Sunday, March 8th** beginning at **4 pm!**

The Palmer Ranch Singers have prepared a special program to celebrate the 250th birthday of our Nation, guaranteed to have toes tapping, and the audience gets to sing along! Tickets are \$15 per person, payable at the door on the day of the concert.

Ticket sales, along with group dues and donations, cover music purchases, use of the facility, and a professional director and musicians.

Join the Singers and their friends at St. Andrew United Church of Christ, 6908 Beneva Road (Gulf Gate area) for an afternoon of inspiring and uplifting music. Doors open at 3:30 p.m.

The Palmer Ranch Singers are now a 501c3 organization; donations are tax deductible and may be sent to Palmer Ranch Singers, PO Box 52013, Sarasota, FL 34232.

Check out the Singers' website at palmerranchsingers.com for information about the group.



From the Friends of Legacy Trail ~ Save the Date ~

This popular Tour de Parks fundraiser will take place on **Sunday, March 22, 2026**. Starting and ending at the Historic Venice Train Depot, enjoy 21-, 35-, and 69-mile ride options through many of Sarasota County's beautiful parks.

Click [Here](#) for more information and to register.

Join Us for Tour de Parks Sunday, March 22, 2026



An Annual Fundraising Event for Friends of The Legacy Trail Registration Now Open

Sarasota Sharks Summer Camps

The Sarasota Sharks swim club is located at Potter Park (8501 Potter Park Dr., Sarasota)

This summer, from **June 1st** through **July 24th**, the Sarasota Sharks are offering eight themed weekly camps for ages 4–12, each designed to build confidence, spark curiosity, and keep kids active in and around the water.



Campers kick off the season with Swim Camp to develop technique and endurance, followed by Lifeguard Camp, where they learn junior lifeguard skills such as scanning, rescue simulations, first aid, and teamwork. Adventure grows during Ocean Explorer Camp and Snorkeling Camp, where hands on marine discovery and underwater skills bring the ocean world to life.

The excitement continues with Paddleboard & Kayak Camp, building balance, coordination, and confidence through fun on the water challenges. A second Swim Camp reinforces skills and celebrates progress, while Sports Camp ramps up the energy with water basketball, volleyball, relays, and spirited team games.

The summer wraps with Water Olympics Camp, transforming the pool into a playful arena of friendly competition, technique stations, and Olympic style events.

Operated by Sarasota Sharks, Inc., a 501(c)(3) non profit, these camps offer eight unforgettable weeks where kids build friendships, grow new skills, and discover the joy of being active, creative, and confident in the water.

Register online at www.SarasotaSharks.org under the Youth Programs tab.

**Palmer Ranch Master
Association
Hours of Operation**

Monday - Thursday: 8:00 am - 5:00 pm

Friday: 8:00 am - 4:30 pm



Would you like to submit an article for consideration in a future newsletter?

Click **Here** for our article submission guidelines and form.

Email completed form to: **Info@palmerranch.net**

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.