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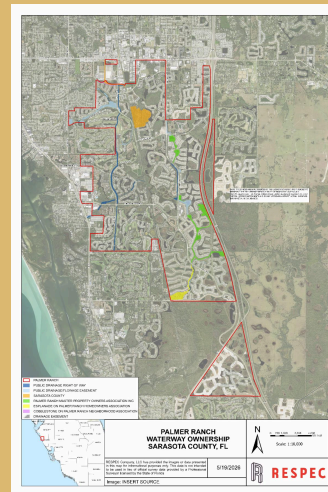
## On the Ranch Newsletter June 2026

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Click on the Map above or [Here](#) to View a List of Palmer Ranch Communities



Click on the Map above or [Here](#) to view a Palmer Ranch Waterways Ownership 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

#### Communication from the Master Association to our Members

##### Flag Day – Sunday, June 14th

People across the United States celebrate Flag Day on June 14th each year, to honor the United States flag and to commemorate the flag's adoption. On June 14, 1777, the Continental Congress replaced the British symbols of the Grand Union flag with a new design featuring 13 white stars in a circle on a field of blue and 13 red and white stripes – one for each state. The number of stars increased as the new states entered the Union. The flag of the United States represents freedom and has been an enduring symbol of the country's ideals since its early days. Many people in the United States honor this day by displaying the American flag at homes and public buildings.



##### Map of Palmer Ranch Waterways

The Master Association recently contracted for a map of the drainage ditches and creeks on Palmer Ranch. This map not only provides the location of these drainage areas, but it also identifies the entity that is ultimately responsible for the maintenance of those areas. Why did we do this? To identify the areas Sarasota County is responsible for maintaining and ensuring that those areas are on the County's maintenance schedule. To some this seems like a simple task – it was not. This involved scouring through plats, recorded documents, SWFWMD plans/permits and engineered drawings.

After looking at this map, one might wonder what's the difference between a public drainage right-of-way and a public drainage/flowage easement. With public drainage right-of-way, in the case of Palmer Ranch, Sarasota County is the legal owner who has the responsibility to maintain these waterways. In the case of the public drainage/flowage easement, Sarasota County has the right - but not the obligation - to maintain.

What if a ditch/creek is indicated to be owned by my association? If no public flowage/drainage easement or public drainage right-of-way exists, that association is likely solely responsible for the maintenance. Can this be changed? Yes. The Master Association is reaching out to those communities who are shown as being the entity responsible for the maintenance of certain drainage areas and advising them of the steps they can take to change this information.

This map will evolve as additional drainage easements/rights-of-ways are granted. You'll be able to find the latest version on our website ([www.PalmerRanch.net](http://www.PalmerRanch.net)) under the Resources, Documents tab. You may also click [Here](#) to view the current version of the waterways ownership map.

If you're interested in Sarasota County's Stormwater Maintenance schedule, you can view that information on their website: [Sarasota County Stormwater Maintenance Activity](#)

## **CIVICS 101**

### **Civics 101 is back in session starting Fall 2026**

In celebration of National County Government Month, now is the perfect time to learn more about how Sarasota County Government works behind the scenes.

This program offers a closer look at how county services operate and how decisions are made that shape our community through interactive experiences, facility tours and engaging presentations.

Sessions begin September 3rd and run through November 19th and will be held every Thursday from 6 to 8 pm.

Visit this link to learn more: [Civics 101 | Sarasota County, FL](#)

Click [Here](#) to be notified when registration opens.

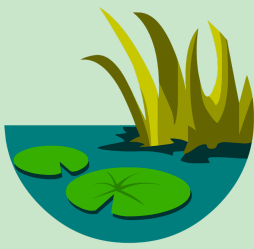
## **Sue's Grounds Corner**

### **Reclaim Water Treatment on Palmer Ranch**

Some of our communities who store reclaim water for irrigation purposes have been seeing blue/green algae growing in their holding ponds. So - my investigative antennae forced me to check with the Sarasota County's Central County Reclaim Treatment Plant on McIntosh Road. One of the Plant's supervisors who regularly inspects holding ponds all over Sarasota County informed me that only one customer, not on Palmer Ranch, had a similar complaint.

Sarasota County Public Utilities staff have advised me that nothing different is being done to the treated water. The process is: following treatment, water goes directly into one of two holding ponds on the property. At this time of year, the plant has no algae growing because the water is moving constantly – due to the drought. And for the naysayers, yes algae will grow in moving water, but it needs something to grow on - like a log, rocks or aquatic plants, none of which are found in the holding ponds at the treatment plant.





County staff also advised they are noticing contractors spraying, mowing and actively killing the natural vegetation that helps to keep the water clean around stormwater ponds within communities. Ponds that are sprayed/treated are not allowed to become a natural biome that would inherently be more resistant to fluctuations in the environment and drought conditions. Killing off the natural biome allows algae blooms to flourish since they don't have competition for the nutrients in the water.

If you're curious about steps you can take to better the environment around your stormwater ponds, click [Here](#) to view a brochure on Pond Buffer Zones.

## Natural Assets

### Palmer Ranch Drought FAQ

#### How serious is the current drought?

As of this writing, Palmer Ranch (and all of Sarasota County) is experiencing extreme drought conditions, known as D3, the third of four severity levels as measured by the U.S. Drought Monitor. Palmer Ranch has an over 10-inch rain deficit as compared with average years. National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) states that this is the most severe Sarasota County drought in 25 years. Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFMWD) cautions that local aquifers, lakes, and rivers are severely low. Even alligator holes are drying up!

#### Why do we have a drought now?

The dry winter and spring, plus the quiet 2025 hurricane season, have created the extremely dry conditions.

#### Can I water my lawn?

Sarasota County regulates irrigation scheduling, which affects homes *except those irrigating with reclaimed water*.

At least until July 1, property owners with less than one acre of land are permitted to water from 12:01 to 4:00 a.m. or 8:00 to 11:59 p.m. on their designated day of the week.

Designated days are determined by the last digit of the house number: 0 or 1 Monday, 2 or 3 Tuesday, 4 or 5 Wednesday, 6 or 7: Thursday, and 8 or 9: Friday.

These restrictions apply to wells, surface water, and public water. While reclaimed water is exempt from the restrictions, residents are asked to avoid watering between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and must continue to follow their community's guidance.

#### What if I have new sods or plantings?

Currently, owners may water new plants daily for the first 30 days to help assure their survival. For the following 30 days, you may water them three days a week. Hand-watering is allowed on any day before 8:00 a.m. or after 6:00 p.m. Keep a written record of any new plantings.

#### Do golf courses have irrigation restrictions, too?

Golf courses in Sarasota County can water fairways and driving ranges once a week, and tees and greens up to three times a week. Roughts may not be watered during the drought.

#### Can I wash my car?

Using a commercial car wash is the best way to conserve water, because these companies recycle and clean their water. Alternately, you may wash your car at home during your designated irrigation times, using a hose with a shutoff nozzle.

#### Is a burn ban in effect?

Yes. While you can still use a closed grill for cooking, open burning (such as campfires) is prohibited until the county announces a change.

With many wildfires occurring across the state, use special caution in all activities that could inadvertently start or spread a fire.

### **Is this why the ponds look so low?**

Yes. The ponds depend both on groundwater and rainfall. Hopefully, as summer arrives, it will bring more frequent rainfall and relief from drought conditions.

### **When will the drought end?**

While summer rains may start as soon as early June, local meteorologists say that it may take several months for the water supply to recover completely. However, we will all breathe a sigh of relief when summer thunderstorms pour down on Palmer Ranch.

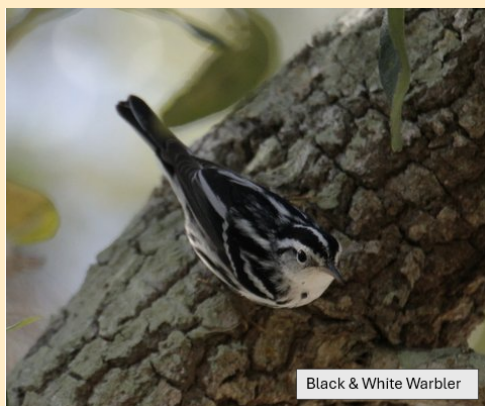
*Article by Michelle van Schouwen, Co-Chair, Palmer Ranch Natural Assets Committee. Graphic courtesy U.S. Drought Monitor*

Restoration Area F (South Creek) off of Palmer Ranch Parkway showing the effects of the drought on Palmer Ranch



## **Images from Palmer Ranch**

Pat Donnelly has shared some wonderful bird photos she took around Palmer Ranch





Immature Bald Eagle



Cardinal

Pat Donnelly



Osprey Fishing

Pat Donnelly

## Local Happenings

### Covenant Life Church Announcements



#### Little Explorer's Preschool Registration

Little Explorer's Preschool at Covenant Life Church (8490 McIntosh Road in Palmer Ranch) has open registration for the 2026-2027 school year.

They have openings for 2's, 3's and VPK (4's). The children must be the appropriate age by September 1, 2026.

For more information or to schedule a tour, contact Rocky Shiffner at 941-926-4777 or at [rocky@covenantlifepc.com](mailto:rocky@covenantlifepc.com)

### Covenant Life Church Sunday Summer Worship Schedule

Christian Education begins at 9:00 am  
Church Service begins at 10:00 am



## 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](http://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](mailto: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.*