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On the Ranch Newsletter July 2026

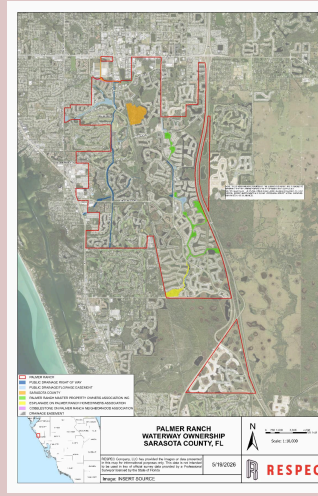
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Palmer Ranch Community Maps
- News You Can Use
- Sue's History Corner
- CERT
- Natural Assets
- Images from Palmer Ranch
- Local Happenings





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

Holiday Hours for The Master Association

The Master Association office will be closed on **Friday, July 3rd** in honor of Independence Day. We will reopen on Monday, July 6th at 8:00 am.



Burn Ban in effect for Sarasota County

As we prepare to celebrate Independence Day, this is a reminder that a burn ban is currently in effect for Sarasota County due to local drought conditions and an increased chance of fire hazards.

Personal Fireworks Are Prohibited - This includes ALL consumer fireworks, including:

- Fireworks
- Sparklers
- Fountains
- Aerial fireworks
- Any other personal pyrotechnic devices

While public, professionally permitted fireworks displays are still allowed, personal fireworks are prohibited during the burn ban.

Why? Our area is experiencing severe drought conditions, creating an extremely high wildfire risk. Even a single spark from a sparkler—which can burn at temperatures exceeding 1,200°F—can ignite dry grass, landscaping, or nearby vegetation.

Enforcement - City and County officials will be actively monitoring for violations throughout the holiday weekend. Violations may result in:

- Fines
- Enforcement action
- Potential criminal charges if a fire is caused through negligence

Thank you for helping keep our community safe and protecting our homes, neighbors, first responders, and Florida's natural environment.

Reclaimed Water Update

The demand for reclaimed water in Sarasota County is far exceeding supply. While the county has yet to issue formal restrictions on the use of reclaimed water, we received the following from Sarasota County's Utility Department:



“Both plants (Bee Ridge and Central County) have no extra water storage at this time. They are out of water. We can only put out what is sent to us. We receive and send 5.5 to 6 million gallons of wastewater per day. Additionally, we have new developments with ponds coming online and we are trying to fill them as well. With new construction comes new landscaping. The new houses have no one living in them yet, so no water is sent back to us to reclaim. Please restrict your watering or we will absolutely run out. Reclaim water is a supplemental water supply. It is only available when we have water coming into the plants. Hopefully, we will get rain soon. Thank you for conserving”.

Low water pressure manifests itself in several visible ways; however, the most notable ones is the pressure is insufficient to pop irrigation heads, while other times the valves are unable to seat themselves properly. When the latter happens, you see water weeping down the curb requiring irrigation vendors to manually address each valve. Needless to say, this is a waste of a valuable resource.

What can we all do to help? Restrict the use of reclaimed water to one day per week (matching the restrictions established for potable water) until we're on the other side of this extreme drought. We're all in this together!



Prescribed burns at Oscar Scherer State Park

Click [Here](#) to view a 2025-2026 Prescribed Burn Map for Oscar Scherer State Park which shows the areas that have already been burned as well as those yet to be burned.

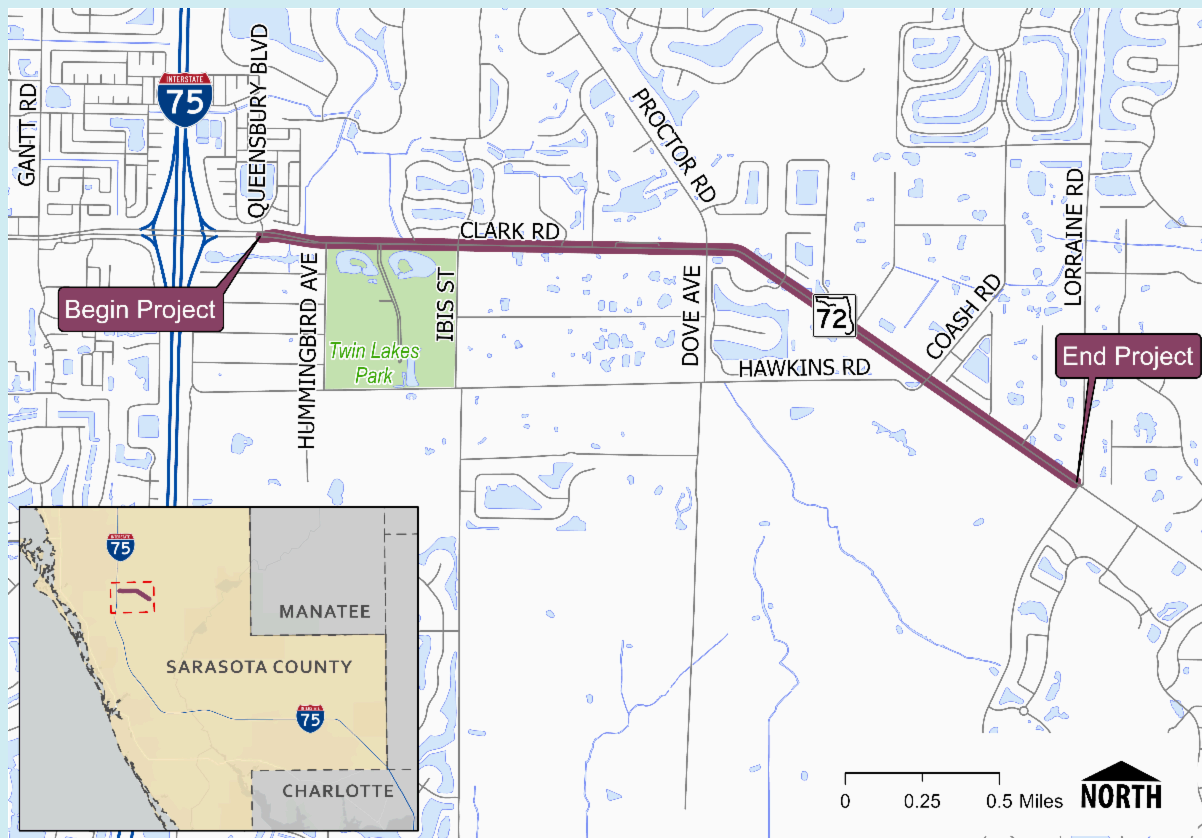
Oscar Scherer does not have a mechanism in place to notify residents of prescribed burns; however, the Park Ranger has promised to alert our office so that we can advise the Palmer Ranch residents of upcoming prescribed burns at the Park. We would share this information with the communities using the same mechanism used for our newsletters.

Alternatively, you can follow the Friends of Oscar Scherer State Park on Facebook where they do post burn notices: <https://www.facebook.com/FriendsofOscarSchererPark/> .

FDOT S.R. 72 (Clark Road) Project Development and Environment Study

On May 19, 2026, the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) Office of Environmental Management (OEM) granted Location and Design Concept Acceptance for the State Road (S.R.) 72 (Clark Road) Project Development and Environment (PD&E) Study.

The project limits are from east of I-75 to Lorraine Road in Sarasota County, a distance of 3.39 miles. The Financial Project ID number is: 444634-1-22-01. The proposed improvements include widening S.R. 72 from two to four lanes within the project limits with a raised median, curb and gutter, and shared use paths on both sides. Multilane roundabouts are proposed at the intersections of S.R. 72 and Ibis Street/Talon Boulevard, Proctor Road/Dove Avenue, Hawkins Road/Coash Road, and Lorraine Road.



Click [Here](#) to view the FDOT study newsletter.

Additional information is available on the project website at www.swflroads.com/project/444634-1. This project is now eligible to move to the next phase of development.

If you would like more information regarding this project, please contact FDOT Project Manager, Jeff Mednick, at (863) 519-2304 or by e-mail at Jeffrey.Mednick@dot.state.fl.us.com.

The environmental review, consultation, and other actions required by applicable federal environmental laws for this project are being, or have been, carried out by FDOT pursuant to 23 U.S.C. §327 and a Memorandum of Understanding dated May 26, 2022, and executed by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and FDOT.



We all remember events of September 11, 2001. That evening the American Flag first flew at the entries of Palmer Ranch and has been continuously displayed since. The display of the American flag one of the many things that drew me to work for Palmer Ranch back in January of 2002.

My history with the American flag goes back to my Grandma Dorothy who worked for Annin Flag Company for over 20 years as a seamstress. Grandma started out working at the stripes table and then worked her way up to the stars table. To this day, portions of the flags manufactured by Annin are still hand-sewn.

Respect for the American flag is of the utmost importance to me. I see to it that the flags on the Ranch are kept in pristine condition and are destroyed respectfully when a flag becomes worn or damaged, following the guidelines set by the U.S. Flag Code.

In celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, Palmer Ranch is displaying the Betsy Ross 250 flag. Designed with the iconic 13-star circle and a bold “250” emblem, this flag bridges America’s revolutionary past with its present-day legacy.

On behalf of all of us at the Master Association, I wish everyone a
Safe and Happy 4th of July!

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)

SRQ CERT Association Inc. Announces Their New CERT Basic Certification Course - CERT Hybrid Course – Skills Component

The SRQ CERT Association Inc. is pleased to invite you to participate in the **CERT Hybrid Course Skills Component**, a required step toward earning your **CERT Basic Certification**.

Dates: August 19th & 20th

Time: 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM (both days)

Location: Red Cross Center - 2001 Cantu Ct, Sarasota, FL

Course Details: This hands-on, two-day Skills Session complements the online portion of CERT training and provides practical experience in emergency preparedness and response.

Pre-Requisite Requirement - Log onto this link:

<https://cert.hazready.com/CourseCatalog?friendlyId=DP000072>

In the upper right corner, click on the red register icon. For the question “Your CERT organization” - Please select Sarasota County CERT unless your community’s name is within the drop-down box.

This course can be stopped & restarted at any time but must be completed & passed prior to August 10, 2026.

If there are any issues with this link, Contact Rachel Brown for any questions at **801-581-8042** or send an email to rachelbrown@hsc.utah.edu.

Important Information

To receive your **full CERT Basic Certification**, you must complete:

- The online course
- The two-day Skills Component

Once you've received your online certification, please forward to Ron Moscati

What to Bring: Plan to bring your own **lunch and snacks** each day.

Registration & Questions: To register or for more information, contact: **Ron Moscati - Ronsailedaway@gmail.com**

***** NOTE -SRQ CERT MUST have a minimum of 15 students signed up with their online course certifications completed prior to August 10, 2026**

Natural Assets

Promenade Estates Enhances Quality of Life and Stormwater Protection with its New Microforest

Thanks to local organizations and dozens of volunteers, a new Promenade Estates microforest is starting to grow into a dense native forest. Located near Honore Avenue and Bay Street, the project is a labor of love involving Promenade Estates, Suncoast Urban ReForesters, the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay, Florida Veterans for Common Sense, and volunteers from Palmer Ranch and beyond. Additionally, funding has been provided by the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program, the Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay, the Sunrise Rotary Club, and the Southwest Florida Rotary Club. According to Promenade Estates resident and project coordinator Michael Ansel, "Our objective is to create something that's aesthetically pleasing, ecologically friendly and a lasting benefit for the community."

The newly planted microforest features hundreds of native trees and plants. It will provide Promenade Estates residents with redirection and absorption of stormwater, screening of traffic sight and sound, terrestrial and aquatic revegetation, and a trail for walking and running. It was installed using the Miyawaki method, an environmental technique in which a diverse mix of native species are grouped closely together. This dense arrangement prompts rapid growth. In fact, a decade-old microforest can match the ecological benefits of a conventional 50-year-old forest.

Key to the benefits of forests large and small is the fact that the presence of trees can reduce flooding, both by drawing water from the soil and by slowing rainfall before it reaches the ground. A full-grown, healthy tree lifts up to 100 gallons of water a day. It will absorb water from the soil and move it to the atmosphere. "It will help take the flooding off of the street," explained Carol Auricchio, President-Elect of the Palmer Ranch Master Association. "So that it doesn't keep flowing to someplace else that you don't want it."

Local microforest proponent and creator Charles Reith, Ph.D. of Mira Lago on Palmer Ranch says, "A microforest can fit into a surprisingly small space – an empty lot, a schoolyard, a church property, or even part of a backyard – and yet provide many of the benefits of a much larger forest. I love microforests because they demonstrate something I've learned throughout my career: Small actions, thoughtfully done, can have a big impact. These tiny forests help cool neighborhoods, improve air quality, provide habitat for birds and pollinators, absorb carbon, and reconnect people with nature." He adds "Just as important, they give communities a chance to create something beautiful together. In a world where environmental problems often seem overwhelming, microforests remind us

that positive change can start right where we live. Sometimes the best way to think globally is to plant locally.”

The team has planted about 5,000 square feet of forest so far, and plans to plant another 5,000 square feet later this year. Collectively this represents about one-third of the planting area around a community pond. Promenade Estates expects to complete the rest of the area around the pond by 2027. Promenade Estates expects planting the full area will cost about \$60,000.

The Promenade Estates project is an inaugural effort encouraged by the stormwater management task force created by Palmer Ranch Master Association after the 2024 storm season. Other Palmer Ranch communities interested in creating a microforest are encouraged to reach out to Palmer Ranch Master Association for contacts and additional information.

Article by Michelle van Schouwen, Co-Chair, Palmer Ranch Natural Assets Committee. Photos courtesy Charles Reith, Ph.D., Promenade Estates, Rotary Club of Sarasota Bay, and Spectrum News 9.



Images from Palmer Ranch

Pat Donnelly has shared some amazing photos she took from a distance of a bobcat on Palmer Ranch.



Local Happenings

Discover Stoneybrook Golf & Country Club – Open to the Public for a Limited Time

Golfers throughout Palmer Ranch and the Sarasota area are invited to experience one of the region's premier golf destinations. Stoneybrook Golf & Country Club is now welcoming public play on its beautifully restored championship course.

Fully reopened in January 2025, the 18-hole course has been thoughtfully modernized under the guidance of renowned golf course architect Kipp Schulties while preserving the timeless character of Arthur Hills' original design. The result is an exceptional golfing experience that blends strategic shot-making, outstanding course conditions, and the natural beauty of Southwest Florida.



Whether you're planning a round with your regular foursome or organizing a special day on the course, Stoneybrook offers an enjoyable challenge for players of all skill levels. Guests can take advantage of the greatest tee time availability on Tuesdays and Thursdays, providing an ideal opportunity to enjoy the course at a relaxed pace. Please note that the course is closed on Mondays.

Reservations may be made up to two days in advance through the Golf Shop.

Come discover the beauty, challenge, and outstanding playing conditions at Stoneybrook Golf & Country Club—and see why it continues to be one of Sarasota's hidden gems.

To learn more about the course, visit www.stoneybrook.net/golf, or call the Golf Shop at **941-966-1800**.

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](tel:941-926-4777) or at rocky@covenantlifepc.com

Covenant Life Church Sunday Summer Worship Schedule

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



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.