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On the Ranch Newsletter August 2026

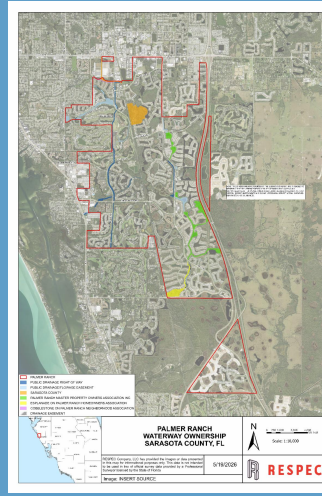
INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Palmer Ranch Community Maps
- News You Can Use
- PRMA 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

School Bus Safety

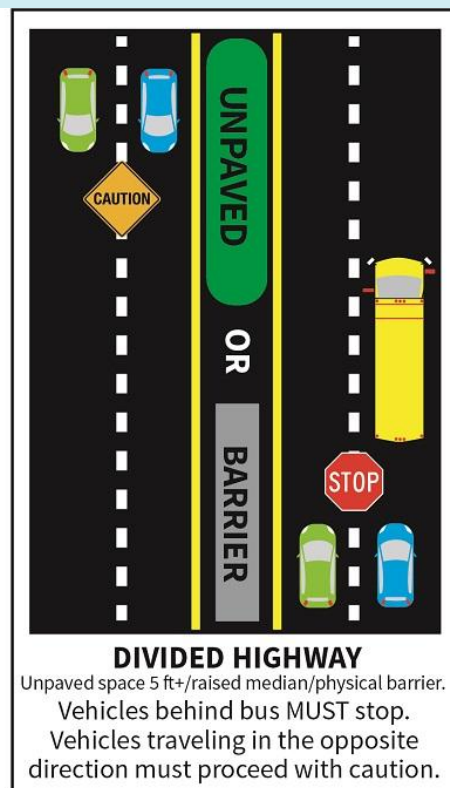
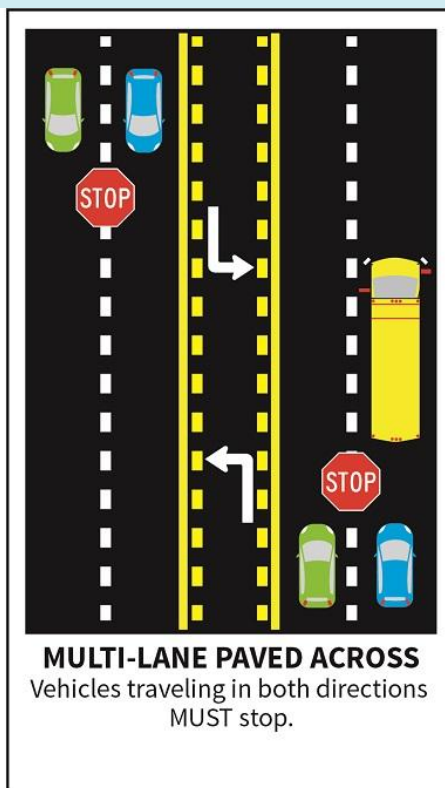
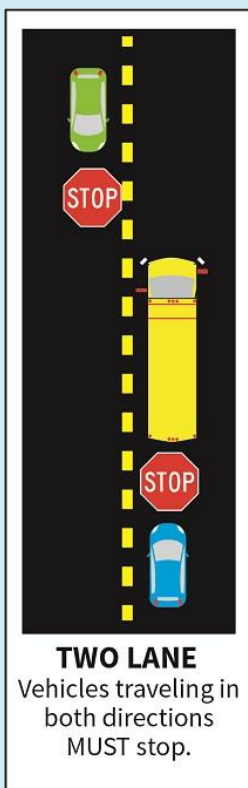
With our schools back in session next week, and busses back on the streets, here are some safety reminders:

Motorists should always be alert and drive with caution around school buses and in school zones where children may be present like schools, bus stops, school buses and school parking lots. Parents should also go over safety tips with their children to make sure they are safe on and around school buses and school zones.



Motorists are required to stop when approaching a school bus that is stopped with its red lights flashing and STOP arms extended.

(See the different situations in the diagram below)



- All drivers moving in either direction on a two-way street must stop for a school bus displaying a stop signal, and must remain stopped until the road is clear of children AND the school bus stop arm is withdrawn. (see diagram, TWO-LANE)
- On a highway divided by a paved median, all drivers moving in either direction must stop for a school bus displaying a stop signal, and must remain stopped until the road is clear of children AND the school bus stop arm is withdrawn. (see diagram, MULTI-LANE)
- The only time traffic approaching an oncoming school bus does not need to stop, is if there is a raised barrier such as a concrete divider or at least five feet of unpaved space separating the lanes of traffic. (see diagram, DIVIDED HIGHWAY)
- On a highway divided by a raised barrier or an unpaved median at least 5 feet wide, drivers moving in the opposite direction do not have to stop for the bus (painted lines or pavement markings are not considered barriers). However, these motorists should slow down and watch for students loading or unloading from the bus. (see diagram, DIVIDED HIGHWAY)

CERT (Community Emergency Response Team)



Identity Theft Prevention: Stay Safe and Secure - From SRQ CERT

Recent statics show Florida consistently ranks among the states with the highest rates of identity theft and consumer fraud in the nation, based on the FTC's latest available data (2024).

- Identity theft reports:115,840
- Identity theft reports per 100,000 residents: 2,793
- Total fraud and other consumer reports: 474,314
- Total reported fraud losses: \$866.1 million
- Median fraud loss per victim: \$520

Where to Report Suspicious Activity

If you or a neighbor has been targeted, reporting the incident is the most critical step to helping law enforcement stop these crime rings.

- FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center (IC3): Use www.ic3.gov to report any online fraud or digital theft.
- Federal Trade Commission (FTC): Report scams at ReportFraud.ftc.gov or call 1-877-FTC-HELP.
- National Elder Fraud Hotline: Call 833-FRAUD-11 (833-372-8311) for specialized assistance for older adults.
- IdentityTheft.gov: The official one-stop resource for reporting and recovering from identity theft.

Educational Resources & Toolkits

These sites provide up-to-date data on emerging threats, including AI-driven scams and sophisticated phishing tactics.

- AARP Fraud Watch Network: A free resource offering watchdog alerts, a scam-tracking map, and a dedicated helpline at 877-908-3360.
- National Cybersecurity Alliance: Visit staysafeonline.org for their "Then & Now" Online Safety Workbook, which is specifically designed to help older adults build digital confidence.
- FTC's "Pass It On": This toolkit provides materials on 13 different scam topics, including impersonator and prize scams, designed for community leaders to share with others.
- National Council on Aging (NCOA): Their "Savvy Saving Seniors" program offers handbooks and quizzes to help recognize the "Dirty Dozen" common scams.

Practical Security Tools

- Cyber-Seniors: Offers FREE technology support, one-on-one tech coaching, and daily webinars for older adults at cyberseniors.org.
- Password Managers: To secure your accounts, consider highly-rated tools like Bitwarden (which offers a free tier), KeePass, or LastPass.
- National Do Not Call Registry: Reduce the number of unwanted telemarketing calls by registering your number at DoNotCall.gov.

CERT Leaders, consider partnering with your local Police Department to offer no-cost Identity Theft and Fraud Prevention seminars for your community. These presentations can help residents recognize common scams, protect their personal information, and learn practical steps to reduce their risk of becoming victims.

SRQ CERT Association Inc. - CERT's Basic Certification class

CERT Hybrid Course – Skills Component

The SRQ CERT Association Inc. invites 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-hand 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's any issues with this link, Contact Rachel Brown for any questions at 8015818042 or send an email to racheltbrown@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 -There MUST be a minimum of 15 students signed up with their online course certifications completed prior to August 10th.

Natural Assets

Palmer Ranch Communities Manage Algae in Environmentally Friendly Ways

Algae: Like most elements of nature, it has its purpose. But when it covers the human-made, often smaller ponds in communities like Palmer Ranch, it can become a nuisance, both for the ponds and for waterways leading out, Little Sarasota Bay, and the Gulf, where it ends up, providing nutrients that can feed red tide.

Conventional algae treatment includes chemicals, which have their place. But some of the chemicals – copper sulfate, for example – can get into the systems of wildlife and may remain in the soil under the water for many years. For this reason, some Palmer Ranch communities are exploring – and succeeding with – alternate methods of algae control.

First, know this: Algae needs nitrogen and phosphate to grow. It also needs sunlight – often starting its growth at the bottom of a pond.

Spatterdock grown in pond water limits underwater sunlight: It may take some adjustment for residents to approve of water-lily-like spatterdock growing in the middle of local ponds. However, these plants block much of the sunlight that reaches the bottom of ponds, sunlight that allows algae to get started and eventually create an unsightly green mat on the water surface. Residents often learn to appreciate their natural, algae-free ponds, and also enjoy the increase in birds living in ponds with spatterdock. These ponds may remind us of Monet's classic paintings, and, even in summer, will hopefully remain algae-free.

This image is from a pond in Mira Lago



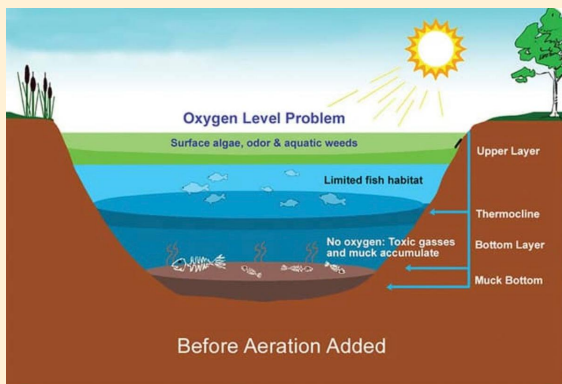
Non-toxic black pond dye limits underwater sunlight: Ideally started in the spring and continued through the hotter months, or even used all year long, the black dye does not in fact turn ponds to black. (It may increase reflections when the pond is calm.) However, the dye does help block sunlight from reaching pond bottom and thus discourages algae growth. It will not harm desirable aquatic plants or wildlife. It can even be used in combination with spatterdock.

This image is from a pond in Turtle Rock containing non-toxic black pond dye.

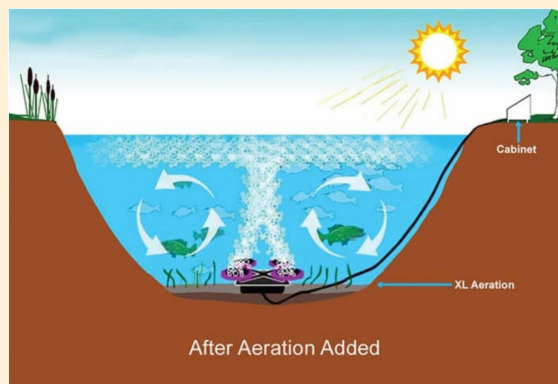


Submerged aerators reduce the nutrients algae need: Submerged aerators can promote beneficial water circulation and discourage algae growth. Unlike surface

fountains, they have a significant effect on sub-surface waters. The aerators use a shore-mounted air compressor with lines or hoses that go to the pond's bottom. The hose connects with underwater air stations that break air into millions of tiny bubbles. This action serves to transfer oxygen into the nearby water, and to drag stagnant, low-oxygen water from the bottom toward the surface. This then causes a mild churn, venting gases such as hydrogen sulfide and methane into the air, while absorbing fresh atmospheric oxygen that sinks back into the water. The boost in oxygen fosters a nitrogen-processing cycle, which limits the amount of biologically available nitrogen in the water, and thus discourages algae growth.



Before aeration and oxygen level problems due to many layers.



Diffused aeration promotes an overall balanced and healthy ecosystem. (Diagrams courtesy of Vertex Water Features)

These three tactics can be used singly or in some combination, depending on your needs. By working with your community and your pond consultants, you can develop smart, cost-effective, lasting solutions for summer algae problems. And meantime, you are supporting wildlife, natural beauty, and our bays and Gulf.

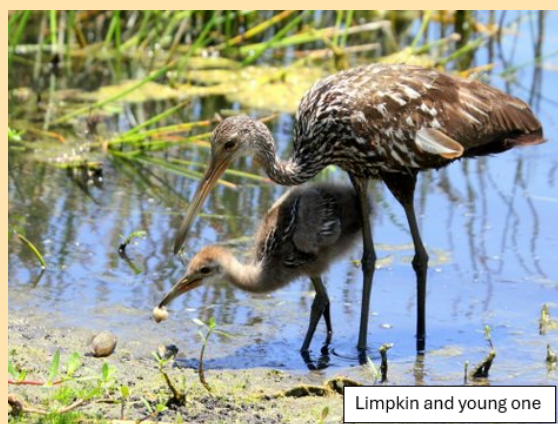
*Article by Michelle van Schouwen, Co-Chair, Palmer Ranch Natural Assets Committee.
Images: Mira Lago (spatterdock), Turtle Rock (pond with black dye, by Melody Barackman) and Vertex Water Features (diagrams of aeration).*

Images from Palmer Ranch

Pat Donnelly has shared some more wonderful bird photos she took



Purple Gallinule



Limpkin and young one



Lesser Scaup , Male and Females



Male and Female Blue Winged Teal Ducks

Local Happenings

Covenant Life Church Announcements



Little Explorer's Preschool Openings

Little Explorers Preschool is an accredited, faith-based preschool for children ages 2 to 5. They have a few openings for 3-year-olds this fall, and would love to welcome new families into their preschool community!

Covenant Life Church is located at 8490 McIntosh Road - on Palmer Ranch.

Preschool classes meet: **Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 9:00 am to 12:00 pm.**

If you'd like to learn more, please visit covenantlifepca.com/preschool or contact them at **941-926-4777** or littleexplorers@covenantlifepca.com. They would be happy to answer any questions and share more about their program.

Covenant Life Church Sunday Summer Worship Schedule

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



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, September 7th 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!

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**.

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.