

## ON THE RANCH NEWSLETTER – FEBRUARY 2024

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### News You Can Use



#### CRAPE MYRTLE TRIM SCHEDULED

The Master Association contractor will be conducting the annual trim and shaping of the Crape Myrtle Trees on Palmer Ranch starting **Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup>**, weather permitting. Workers will be trimming in the areas of: Northridge Road, Palmer Ranch Parkway East, Sarasota Square Boulevard, Honore Avenue, McIntosh Road, and Central Sarasota Parkway. *Please use caution when driving in active work zones.*

#### PRESIDENTS' DAY IS MONDAY, FEBRUARY 19<sup>th</sup>.

The Master Association Office will be closed on **Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>** in observance of Presidents' Day, reopening at 8am on **Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**.



President's Day commemorates past presidents of the United States of America. Washington's Birthday was first celebrated as a holiday in the District of Columbia in 1880. It was made a federal holiday in 1885. Originally held on the anniversary of George Washington's birth, on February 22, in 1971, this holiday was moved to the third Monday in February.

#### LEGACY TRAIL OVERPASSES AT CLARK & BEE RIDGE ROADS

FDOT construction of overpasses at Clark & Bee Ridge Roads is coming along in their 1<sup>st</sup> stage. There will be forthcoming intersection closures for powerline transitioning – dates are to be determined. Updated information provided as the project progresses. For info & photos, visit: [www.swflroads.com/project/440448-1](http://www.swflroads.com/project/440448-1)



#### ARTISTS OF PALMER RANCH MEETING – MONDAY, FEBRUARY 5<sup>TH</sup> – 10:30AM

Please join the *Artists of Palmer Ranch* at their next meeting on **Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am**, at Gulf Gate Library, 7112 Curtiss Ave. Any Palmer Ranch resident is welcome. If you like, bring your latest masterpiece!

Featured artist: Marvin Diamond

#### TURTLE ROCK ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Turtle Rock on Palmer Ranch is having their annual community garage sale on **February 10<sup>th</sup>, from 8am to 11:30am**. Both gates will be open (Palmer Ranch Pkwy. & Central Sarasota Pkwy.), and maps will be handed out to guests upon entry. Come and enjoy shopping for some great finds!

#### SARASOTA COUNTY PARKS, RECREATION & NATURAL RESOURCES

SPRING EVENTS CALENDAR – **SEE ATTACHED.**



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### GREEN TEAM EVENT AT THE GLENRIDGE

The members of the Green Team at The Glenridge on Palmer Ranch invite you to join them on Tuesday, **February 13<sup>th</sup> at 10:30am** at The Glenridge Theatre, located at 7333 Scotland Way, for a presentation by Bob Bunting, CEO, Chairman, and Chief Scientist of The Climate Adaptation Center. Mr. Bunting's presentation will be about how the climate is changing at the fastest rate in human history. We'll learn about this complex subject and what we can do to protect our way of life here in Southwest Florida. Please RSVP to (941)552-5325. Glenridge gate security will provide visitors with directions to parking and to the theatre. For additional information, please visit the Green Team website at [www.glenridgegreenteam.org](http://www.glenridgegreenteam.org).

### SAVE THE DATE 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Stoneybrook Walk 'n Talk – **SEE ATTACHED FLYER**

Join in on a special event, **Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>**, benefitting Paws for Patriots at Southeastern Guide Dogs. For more information, email [LTC365@yahoo.com](mailto:LTC365@yahoo.com).

### SARASOTA BAY ESTUARY PROGRAM

The application window for the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program's 2024 Sarasota Bay Partners Grants is now open. Sarasota Bay Partners Grants are competitive awards for projects in the Sarasota Bay watershed that promote habitat and water quality restoration, environmental education, and community involvement to benefit Sarasota Bay. This year, the Sarasota Bay Estuary Program is making a total of \$100,000 available for grants with a \$10,000 cap on individual awards. Most organizations, including non-profits, civic associations, schools, businesses, and local governments are eligible to receive funding. Applications are due on **March 1, 2024**. Follow this link to learn more about the grant program and access the application materials: <https://sarasotabay.org/get-involved/apply-for-a-grant>

### SAVE THE DATE – PALMER RANCH SINGERS SPRING CONCERT – SUNDAY, MARCH 10<sup>TH</sup> – 4PM

Artistic Director, Jane Hunder, fantastic accompanist, Linda Lee Miller, and the Leadership Team have prepared a great program commemorating the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of D-Day, 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. 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.

The Palmer Ranch Singers are now a 501c3 entity. Donations are tax deductible, and all patronage is welcomed. Funds cover music purchases, use of venue, a professional director, and musicians. Questions? Contact Peggy Wells at [pf58bmd@gmail.com](mailto:pf58bmd@gmail.com).

### 2024 TOUR DE PARKS – REGISTRATION NOW OPEN

Benefitting the Legacy Trail and all that it brings to our community, the annual Tour de Parks fundraiser on **Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**, is a great way to spend the day with friends and family while exercising and enjoying various parks along the ride. Organized by Friends of the Legacy Trail (FLT), the Sarasota Manatee Bicycle Club (SMBC), and Sarasota County, there are three different routes offered to participants: distances of 21, 35, and 62 miles going through 12 scenic parks in Sarasota County. For more information, and to register, click on: [https://www.smbc.us/content.aspx?page\\_id=4008&club\\_id=796445&item\\_id=2188506](https://www.smbc.us/content.aspx?page_id=4008&club_id=796445&item_id=2188506).

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### SURREY RIDES ON THE LEGACY TRAIL HAVE RETURNED FOR 2024

Ready to travel the Legacy Trail? The Surrey Ride Program offers a way for residents and visitors the chance to enjoy Sarasota County's award winning and highly popular Legacy Trail. The program, which is a partnership between Sarasota County Parks, Recreation and Natural Resources and the Friends of the Legacy Trail (FLT) runs **every Wednesday now through April 10<sup>th</sup>**. Riders can sit back and enjoy the ride on a four-passenger, four-wheeled canopy covered surrey type bicycle while FLT volunteers provide the 45-minute pedal-powered trips. The ride includes information and history of the Legacy Trail and its surroundings. To pre-register for your free surrey ride, call (941) 861-7275 or visit <https://www.friendsofthelegacytrail.org/the-surrey-program/>



### Sue's Grounds Corner

The Palmer Ranch Master Association has had for several years now a Natural Assets Committee that we've become very proud of. This committee is made up of member volunteers, management, and professional consultants, and is designed to facilitate education to the Palmer Ranch communities about Palmer Ranch's four watersheds and other natural assets. We have resident committee members from several of the Palmer Ranch communities, including Deer Creek, Mira Lago, Sandhill Preserve, Turtle Rock and VillageWalk. However, we need more input from some of the communities who are not represented. If you're interested but not ready to make the commitment, please let us know and we can send you the meeting link for you to listen in. We meet at 9am on the second Wednesday of every month, except for June and August. Palmer Ranch prides itself on the environmental impact we can make in the Sarasota area and are looking for volunteers to help push us forward in this endeavor.

If you live in any of the 90+ communities on Palmer Ranch and are truly interested in what we're doing and where we're going in 2024 and beyond, please get in touch with us at the Master Association office and we can then put you in touch with one of our many committee members to further the discussion.

In the meantime, please feel free to visit our website, click on the Resources tab and go down to Natural Assets. One of the things this writer is especially proud of is our creation of the Pond Buffer Zones flyer shown on the website under the Best Practices tab on the Natural Assets page.

### Pond buffer zones add value, beauty, life



#### What are stormwater ponds?

- Man-made systems designed to imitate the role of natural Florida ponds and wetlands
- Engineered to prevent flooding
- Capture runoff from rain and irrigation – including pollutants
- Connect and empty into our bays
- Enhance property values, when well-maintained

#### What are buffer zones (aka no-mow zones)?

- Protected borders of vegetation around stormwater pond shorelines
- Should be at least 3 feet wide and 8 to 12 inches tall, accommodating native Florida plants
- Trimmed, not mowed

#### Why plant buffer zones?

- Minimize erosion, delaying costly shoreline remediation for homeowners and associations
- Improve water quality by reducing nutrients, chemicals, and bacteria in runoff
- Add beauty by restoring habitat for wildlife and expanding plant diversity
- Increase property values

Palmer Ranch Watershed & Natural Assets Committee



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### Everything You Need to Know About Palmer Ranch

Just How Large is Palmer Ranch?

The development area of Palmer Ranch is defined by the Master Development Order (MDO), filed with the state, region, and county. This instrument allows up to 14,200 residential building values, as well as other values, such as Commercial-Industrial space, within the development area.

Look to the Master Association website at [www.palmerranch.net](http://www.palmerranch.net) for the outline of the development area containing 7,000± acres. Note from the website map that the perimeter of the Development Area is not a rectangle.

Parcels of land within the MDO become part of the Master Association when an Incremental Development Order (IDO) is approved, thus the size of the Master Association is not static.

There is an additional 2,400 acres (approximately) of Palmer Ranch, on the east side of I-75. At this time, this land is not anticipated to become part of the Master Association, and there is no Development Order for this land.

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.'*

# FIND ALL OF OUR EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES ONLINE



Visit [SarasotaCountyParks.com](https://www.sarasotacountyparks.com)  
or scan the QR code to view the Winter/Spring  
Events and Activities Guide.

## NATURAL AREAS AND TRAILS

Featured Events and Activities

NAME	LOCATION	DATE
Fire Fest	Carlton Reserve	Feb. 3
Birding Basics	Manasota Scrub Preserve	Feb. 7
Seasons and Serendipity Stroll	Shamrock Park	Feb. 9 and March 8
The Wild Side of Sarasota County	Deer Prairie Creek Preserve	Feb. 13
Family Bike Rides	Carlton Reserve	Feb. 18-May 19
Ecowalk: Family Moonlight Adventure	Red Bug Slough Preserve	Feb. 21
Ecowalk: Invasive Plants	Pinecraft Park	March 1
Plant and Animal Identification Walk	Curry Creek Preserve	March 4
From Early Inhabitants to Pollyanna	Pocono Trail Preserve	March 11
Lemon Bay F.I.S.H Project (wading)	Lemon Bay Park	February-June
Gopher Tortoise Day: Tortoise Trek	South Venice Lemon Bay Preserve	April 9
Ecowalk: Unique Preserves	Sleeping Turtles Preserve North	April 12
Ecowalk: Aquatic Invertebrates	Urfer Family Park	April 23
Old Miakka Wildflower Bioblitz	Old Miakka Preserve	April 27

For more information, call the  
Sarasota County Contact Center at 311.

IT STARTS IN  
**PARKS**



# 21ST ANNUAL STONEYBROOK G & CC WALK -N- TALK



Benefiting the Veterans Program at Southeastern Guide Dogs

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 17, 2024** 

*Sign-In Starts 8:00am-8:30am at Clubhouse Front Entrance. Walk Starts at 8:45am Breakfast and Speaker at 9:15am*

**THERE WILL BE A SPECIAL GUEST AND HIS SPECIAL COMPANION AT THIS YEAR'S EVENT.**

Through Veteran Services at Southeastern Guide Dogs, Army Veteran Russell Smith and his service dog Mustang are now a team in his effort to overcome PTSD. Russell served eight years in the Army and was deployed twice to Iraq. An accomplished trumpet player, Russell was assigned an additional duty to play Taps at all too frequent memorials. The sound of exploding IEDs and mortar attacks were a constant reminder that he would, once again, be playing Taps for a fallen friend in arms. After Russell's discharge, the lingering effects of post-traumatic stress kept him isolated and hyper-alert with frequent and severe anxiety attacks. "I arrived at the Southeastern Guide Dogs campus nervous and stressed. Enter Mustang!! He completely changed my life. Mustang has my back and is always there for me." Come meet U.S Army Veteran Russell Smith and Mustang to hear Russell's life changing journey.



**Minimum Donation is \$25.00 per person. Donation includes Breakfast & Coffee.**

Non-Walkers are strongly encouraged to attend. For those unable to attend and wishing to donate, your donation is very much appreciated. 100% of your donation goes to local Southeastern Guide Dogs who operate the most advanced training facilities of any service dog organization in the world. For this year's event, All Walk N Talk donations will be MATCHED dollar for dollar by a group of generous Southeastern Guide Dog donors through their Heroes Challenge.

### **THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS TO DONATE:**

- If you are a Stoneybrook GCC member your donation can be charged to your member account. Email, text or call Dave Scruggs at [LTC365@yahoo.com](mailto:LTC365@yahoo.com) (Tel. No. 716-983-9098). Provide your name, club number and amount you wish to donate.
- A check made out to Southeastern Guide Dogs and mailed to Bob Richards, 8726 Grey Oaks Ave, Sarasota, FL 34238.
- Donate via charge card or direct debit at [www.guidedogs.org/stoneybrook](http://www.guidedogs.org/stoneybrook) and choose your donation amount under the "DONATE TODAY" section.
- Give your donation to a committee volunteer listed below.
- Donations will be accepted, and Raffle tickets for Gift Baskets will be sold on Pub & Rib Nights January 31st & February 1st and February 7th & 8th as well as the day of event.



## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION:**



Your Stoneybrook Walk N Talk Committee,  
Maddy/Peter Berendt, Ellie Brenan, Pat Cardinale, Shelby Colston, Barbara/Ken Colwell,  
Judy Cowgill, Shiela Elliott, JoAnn/Michael Federico, Pat/Kevin Gmerek, Mel Green.,  
Stephanie Hayes, Sharon Herrick, Margaret Ida, Carol/Joe Kreit, Louise Melehan,  
Retta/Jeff Meser, Alice/Dick Neaves, Mike Netkovick, Jo/Bob Richards, Joe Rich,  
Pat/David Scruggs, Roseann/Tim Smith, Lynn/ Dennis Tague and Bill/June Walker