



ON THE RANCH NEWSLETTER – DECEMBER 2021

WWW.PALMERRANCH.NET

News You Can Use

PALMER RANCH FLAGS AT HALF STAFF

On Palmer Ranch, flags will be lowered to half-staff from sunrise to sunset **Tuesday, December 7th** in honor of National Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. Annually, this day commemorates the attack on Pearl Harbor, in Hawaii, during World War II. Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day is not a federal holiday, however, flags are flown at half-staff, so that Americans never forget this day that lives “in infamy.”



HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM PALMER RANCH

We wish you and your family all the best during this Holiday Season! The Master Association office will be closed **Thursday, December 23rd** and **Friday, December 24th**, reopening at 8am on **Monday, December 27th**.

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES AT COVENANT LIFE CHURCH

Covenant Life Church, located at 8490 McIntosh Road, has issued an invitation to attend their Christmas Eve Candlelight Services on **Friday, December 24th**. The modern service will take place at 5:00pm & the classic service will take place at 7:00pm. For more information contact Amy at amy@covenantlifepca.com or call (941) 926-4777.



PALMER RANCH MAH JONGG GROUP

Palmer Ranch Mah Jongg Group welcomes all Mah Jongg players to join them **every Monday and Friday from 1pm-4pm**, at Covenant Life Church, 8490 McIntosh Rd., for some lively games of Mah Jongg. Bring your sets, bring your cards, and bring your enthusiasm! If you have questions, please call Barbara at (941) 346-1114.

STONEYBROOK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY - **FLYER ATTACHED**

Stoneybrook Golf & Country Club, located at 8801 Stoneybrook Blvd. is hosting New Year's Eve dinner & entertainment on **Friday, December 31st starting at 7:00pm**. For reservations call (941) 918-9595.



HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM PALMER RANCH

Happy New Year from all of us at Palmer Ranch! Our very best wishes for a wonderful 2021! The Master Association office will be closed **Thursday, December 30th**, and **Friday, December 31st**, reopening at 8am on **Monday, January 3rd**.



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VILLAGE WALK SINGERS INVITE YOU TO SING WITH THEM

Do you love to sing?... want more music in your life?... find yourself missing former choir / chorus affiliations? If “yes” to any of these questions, VillageWalk Singers invite you to sing with them!



After a two-year hiatus forced upon the group by COVID, the Singers are thrilled to announce preparations for a Spring 2022 concert, scheduled for Sunday evening, March 13. Their outstanding Artistic Director, Jane Hunder, and their extraordinary accompanist, Linda Lee Miller, have conferred with their Leadership Team to prepare an exciting program!

They will rehearse on Mondays, 1:15 to 3:30 p.m., starting January 10. The rehearsals and performances will take place at St. Andrew United Church of Christ, 6908 Beneva Rd, in the Gulf Gate Estates section of Sarasota.

To maximize the safety and well-being of their members and audience, they will follow the protocols set by Safe Arts Sarasota, which is composed of Sarasota County’s nine major arts organizations. Therefore, they expect attendees at rehearsals to require photo identification, proof of Covid vaccination and masks. If CDC guidelines change, so will their protocols.

The eventual goal is to develop a Palmer Ranch Community Chorus of men and women from communities throughout Palmer Ranch. They hope that’s where you come in!

Please join them on January 10, and lift your voice with theirs. Additional information is available from their Co-Managers: Diane Baum (hypelady@aol.com) or Peggy Wells (pf58bmd@gmail.com).

FRIENDS OF OSPREY JUNCTION TRAILHEAD BICYCLE RIDING SAFETY INFORMATION - [FLYER ATTACHED](#)



WINTER ANNUALS

A seasonal tradition on Palmer Ranch is the changing of the annuals. Winter brings forth striking beds of Geraniums. Soils will be modified at each of the Palmer Ranch entrances in preparation for the installation of the winter plantings. The design features full beds of Red Patriot Geraniums. Planting the annuals in late November/early December allows the plants to “harden in” before the colder weather arrives.

The Patriot Geranium feature lightly scented crimson flowers which mature to about 24-30” tall and spread anywhere from one to two feet. They prefer moist but well-drained soil. We trim back, or pinch off, the old blooms which prompts the plant to send out new blooms which is why the Geraniums look beautiful all the way to the spring planting of Sunpatiens.



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Sue's Grounds Corner

NATURE PRESERVE ON PALMER RANCH

For our returning northern residents who are wondering what is happening at the southeast corner of Palmer Ranch Parkway West and Beneva Road, the Master Association is reclaiming the area as the Nature Preserve on Palmer Ranch! No building is being constructed.

This parcel, also known as Palmer Ranch Tract 700, consists of 5.48 acres of Native Habitat and Preserve area. The parcel contains a central non-forested wetland system surrounded by mesic hammock. The area had overgrown the original foot print. Our plan is to get rid of ALL invasives including the dreadful Brazilian Pepper. The invasives, if left to grow wild, would eventually kill out any native vegetation. Our plan is to re-establish the area with native vegetative species, indicative of on-site native habitats.

Wildlife utilization in this area is low due to the surrounding developments and roadways, however upland areas could be suitable gopher tortoise habitat. If that is the case, no machinery or herbicide applications will be employed, so the burrow is not disturbed. All work is being done by a knowledgeable restoration crew from Stantec and overseen by experienced field restoration services personal along with Palmer Ranch Master Association staff!

It is anticipated that the invasive species removal will be replaced with appropriate native species indicative of the targeted habitat. In other words, the species that we will be putting back will be relative to what has been successful in the area.



Do you want to hear about the news on Palmer Ranch first hand? If so, simply visit our website: 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!

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.'

Let's Celebrate
**NEW YEAR'S
EVE 2021**

Cocktails 7pm - Dinner 8pm - Entertainment 7pm-Midnight

99++

Hand Passed Appetizers

Blah blah

Starter

Lobster Bisqued Herb Butter

Intermezzo

Something sorbet

Entree

Surf and Turf

5oz Filet with 5oz Chilean Sea Bass

Sides

Sweet Potato Croquette & Asparagus bundle

Dessert

Grand Marnier Infused Crème Brulée

Complimentary Midnight Champagne Toast

8801 Stoneybrook Blvd. Sarasota, FL 34238

www.stoneybrook.net 941-918-9595



Safe Bicycle Riding, Part 1

By Ralph Monti



In Florida, the bicycle is legally defined as a vehicle. Bicyclists have the same rights on the road and must obey the same traffic laws as operators of other vehicles. In bicycle safety classes, the underlying axiom for being a safe bicyclist is “Ride Your Bike Like You Drive Your Car.” Below are basic guidelines for safe bicycle riding.

FOLLOW THE LAW

Your safety and the perception of bicyclists depend on you. You have the same rights and duties as drivers. Obey traffic signals and stop signs. Ride with traffic; use the rightmost lane headed in the direction you are going.

BE PREDICTABLE

Make your intentions clear to everyone on the road. Ride in a straight line and don’t swerve between parked cars, on a trail or in the roadway. Signal turns and check behind you well before making a turn or changing lanes.

BE CONSPICUOUS

Ride where people can see you and wear bright clothing. Use a front white light, rear red light, and reflectors when visibility is poor. Make eye contact with motorists, other bicyclists, and pedestrians.

THINK AHEAD

Anticipate what drivers, pedestrians and other people on bikes will do next. Watch for turning vehicles and ride outside the door zone of parked cars. Look out for debris, potholes, and other road hazards. Cross railroad tracks at right angles.

RIDE READY

Before you ride, make sure your tires have enough air, your brakes are working, chain runs smoothly, and quick release levers are closed. Carry tools and supplies that are appropriate for your ride. And wear a properly fitted helmet.

You can assess your knowledge of bicycle safety skills and Florida laws, by taking the interactive Florida Bicycle Association bicycle safety quiz. Visit <https://flbikesafetyquiz.com>.

Ralph Monti is the immediate past chair of the board of The League of American Bicyclists, America’s foremost bicycle advocacy organization based in Washington, DC. He sits on Sarasota County’s Bicycle Trail and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and is the Director of Bicycle Programs for the Friends of Osprey Junction Trailhead.