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Palm River: Our Lovely Village in North Naples

# Palm Prints

[www.palmriver.org](http://www.palmriver.org)

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## Hi Neighbor!

The new bridge has been constructed. The river has been dredged. The construction trucks have stopped driving through our streets. Our traffic has gotten back to normal. For now.

By now many of you have seen the Collier County notice of the upcoming infrastructure work in Palm River that will be starting soon. Or you may have been to the county's presentation on February 7<sup>th</sup>, at LaPlaya, describing what, how and the timing of the work that will be done. The county has carefully planned the work to avoid having equipment driving over recently completed streets to get to the next phase. The first section to get the infrastructure improvements, Areas 1 and 2, is Cypress Way East from Horse Creek to Ibis Way including the side streets, Palm River Blvd, Golf View, Pompano, and Eastwood. The work includes water main and sewer replacement, repaving of the streets, and improvement of storm water system. Included in the work is installation of sidewalks on Cypress Way East only from Horse Creek to Ibis Way. This work is scheduled to begin in August 2022 and will take about 15 months to complete.

After this section is completed, work in another area will begin, most probably Cypress Way West, Fairway Circle, Old Tamiami Trail and Cocohatchee. After that's done, construction will move to other areas of Palm River until it's completion.

Obviously, since the county is determined to do all this work in phases, with minimal disruption to us, the residents, it's going to take several years to complete. But when it's finished, our streets will be in great shape. During discussions with county representatives, it's been pointed out that during similar work in areas like Naples Park, the construction sites have become a magnet for kids to play in. I understand completely because if I were 10 again, I'd probably do the same. Except that in some cases, it resulted in delays of work or damage to equipment. If you have children, stress that construction sites are dangerous and they should stay out of them. The county has set up a hotline (239-227-4172) and an email ([PalmRiverUtilities@colliercountyfl.gov](mailto:PalmRiverUtilities@colliercountyfl.gov)) specific to Palm River for residents with questions.

Representatives of the county and the engineering firm will be at our annual meeting on March 28<sup>th</sup>, at LaPlaya's clubhouse at 6:30 pm. Hope you can make it. It will be very informative about the work to be done in our great village.

Life in Palm River continues to be good. We're still the best small neighborhood in all of Collier County with its small village atmosphere, friendly neighbors, good kids, and helpful friends.

Ken Oehler, President  
Palm River Homeowners Civic Association

## **REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE and ...DONATE!**

It is estimated that less than 10% of the items that could be recycled, actually are. Why? Because many recyclables are contaminated with non-recyclable materials, and many items that are recyclable never make it to the recycling center. Here are some tips and information to make our recycling efforts more worthwhile.

Collier County has an excellent recycling program- recyclable materials can be “co-mingled” into the same container. No need to separate. Your yellow-top recycling bin (call Collier County at 252-2380 if you need a bin) has instructions on how to recycle and what not to put in the bin.

**NO PLASTIC BAGS!** If you put your recyclable materials in a plastic bag, the entire bag is thrown out. Nothing in the bag gets recycled. So put your items in the bin **without any plastic bagging**. Plastic bags themselves are not to be put in the bin, but you can recycle them at Publix and some other stores. Another tip- use re-usable bags at the grocery store to eliminate plastic bag waste.

Cardboard- a lot of cardboard (that your new TV came in) is put on the curb on our curbside waste collection day. That is unfortunate as cardboard is one of the easiest items to recycle. Just collapse your cardboard boxes, cut to fit if necessary, and put in your recycling bin.

What else came in that new TV box? Likely it was RIGID STYROFOAM PACKAGING MATERIAL. While that can't be placed in your curbside recycling cart, it CAN be recycled. Just take it to a county recycling drop-off center (aka a 'transfer station'). We are fortunate to have one nearby, at 9950 Goodlette-Frank Road North, just south of Immokalee Road on the east side of Goodlette. Styrofoam can last for centuries in the landfill, and takes up a lot of room so take it to the drop off center instead of putting it out on the curb.

What about the old TV? Those can also be taken to the drop-off center along with other electronics (“anything with a plug”), paint, used oil, gas, styrofoam food trays and containers (can also recycle those at Publix), auto and boat and rechargeable batteries, fluorescent bulbs (they contain mercury, don't put them in your trash), thermometers (can also contain mercury), propane tanks, glues, solvents and cleaners, scrap metal, fertilizers and lawn chemicals, even used clothing (there is a Goodwill clothing box there). The drop off center also has free paper shredding on the first Saturday of each month. You can get an extensive list of recyclables at [www.colliercountyfl.gov/recycle](http://www.colliercountyfl.gov/recycle).

Bulk Items- Do you know what happens to that couch you put out on the curb on your bulk pick up day? It gets crushed and is dumped into the landfill, taking up valuable space. Why not donate your used furniture, electronics and other reusable household items and keep them out of the landfill? Some of these non-profits will pick up your unwanted household goods and furniture (depends on their needs) so give them a call- St. Matthews House 774-3315 (they even take old bicycles and refurbish them); Goodwill 652-1600 (you can also drop off, they have a store at Uptown Center, next to Sam's Club); Shelter for Abused Women 434-7115; Salvation Army 775-0721; Habitat For Humanity Resale Store (they take re-usable building materials too) 732-6388. There are many more organizations that will accept your furniture, etc. and you can find them online, including for-profit consignment furniture and accessory stores. This not only keeps your crushed furniture out of the landfill, but you help support non-profit outreach agencies and consignment businesses in our community.

By recycling, donating or properly disposing of environmentally sensitive items, you will be surprised how little waste actually goes into your garbage can. And you are helping to preserve our environment!

Any questions about recycling, bulk materials or waste? Contact the Collier County Solid Waste Division at 252-7575.

## **Solar Power Projects**

As you recall, we, in Palm River, have been able to enjoy a lovely display of lights on the main bridge at Palm River Boulevard during the holiday season. Once our neighbors saw these lights it became clear that the bridge at Cypress Way East should receive the same treatment. Casual investigation for the project revealed that electricity would need to be extended to the near end of the bridge. Cost for this installation was prohibitive at roughly \$15k. The time required to complete the project could have been as much as 36 months. The single alternative was the design, manufacture and installation of a solar powered electrical system. This system would not require FPL power. Such systems are available commercially but the cost is high and the units are easily pilferable. In addition, no commercial system could be found which closely matches the requirements. To address these concerns, we, the members of the PRCHA board, built our own system.

A design was developed, components were acquired, and the two systems, one for each side of the bridge, were assembled. The systems include solar collectors to gather the energy from the sun. This energy is stored in a battery and directed to a timer-controlled inverter which converts the 12 volts direct-current from the battery to the 110 volts (alternating-current, such as is used in your house) needed to power the lights. Metal support stands for the solar collectors were constructed. These stands can be folded for quick deployment and easy storage. Timers were programmed to energize the lights from dusk until 10:00 pm.

When tested, the design worked so well that the board decided to undertake the holiday lighting of the new bridge over the Palm River at the north end of Palm River Boulevard. Two additional solar power systems were constructed and deployed at that location. After some initial weather associated glitches, the system functioned as well as the Cypress Way East bridge systems. These systems are relatively maintenance free, ecologically responsible, and low in cost.

You may also recall that the setting at the Ibis Way bridge on Cypress Way East has been the focus of significant beautification efforts. Two solar powered lamps were installed but these lamps emitted light that was so dim as to be nearly imperceptible. To correct the deficiency, the lamps were modified with brighter bulbs. This required more power to be delivered to the lamp poles. Board members swung into action applying the same technology as was used for the holiday lights on the two bridges. The present Ibis Way system of collectors, timer, inverter and battery was installed to drive the post lamps. As part of the Ibis Way Bridge beautification efforts, the board envisioned plantings which would require irrigation. Once again, the non-availability of power and a well at that location dictated a self-contained system. Conveniently, the solar power delivered to the lamp posts was sufficient to drive a small irrigation pump. Water comes from the collection pond adjacent to the bridge. If you have questions about the details of these systems, you can call or text, Barry Hoy at 757-469-4811 year round.

Our residents have commented upon the positive effect of the lighting of the two additional bridges. In addition, we frequently observe persons to be enjoying the setting at the Ibis Way location. They take a seat on the park bench engaging in conversation or just enjoying the ambiance. The location has recently been informally commissioned as the Ibis Way Park.

**Palm River Homeowners  
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## **Official Notice of Spring Meeting**

Palm River Homeowners and Civic Association, Inc.

6:30 PM, Monday, March 28, 2022, at

LaPlaya Clubhouse

**We will start the meeting by awarding 9 of our graduating high school seniors with  
Palm River Homeowners Civic Association scholarships.**

We plan to have county and engineering firm representatives to make a presentation of  
the infrastructure plans for Palm River.

Election of board members will also be held.

### **Palm River Civic Association Board of Directors**

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