

## Hammocks Happenings

The Hammocks: The Nicest Community on the Sun Coast

July 29th, 2020

Below please find a number of 'Items of Interest' regarding River Wilderness and the Hammocks.

### **Upcoming Meetings & Events**

- **Hammock's HOA August board meeting:** Thursday, August 27, at 5:00 PM at the RW Community Center.
- **Hammock's HOA September board meeting:** Thursday, September 24<sup>th</sup>, at 5:00 PM at the RW Community Center.
- **RW Master HOA's August meeting:** Tuesday, August 18th, at 2:00 PM at the RW Community Center.
- **RW Master HOA's September meeting:** Tuesday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 PM at the RW Community Center.
- **Board meetings** will adhere to the CDC recommendations in place at the time of the meetings. Safe procedures should always be followed including the wearing of face masks and keeping a reasonable distance from other meeting attendees. The number of attendees could be limited. CDC recommendations are always subject to change.

### **Welcome to The Hammocks**

The Hammocks' HOA board along with the entire community wishes to welcome the following new neighbors:

- |                            |                          |
|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| • Doris Lamb               | 12166 Red Leaf Road      |
| • Bradley & Stacey Call    | 12122 Red Leaf Road      |
| • John & Karen Robinson    | 12147 Maple Ridge Drive  |
| • David & Kristin Perrotti | 3105 Woodland Fern Drive |
| • Lori & James Stoppani    | 3415 Woodland Fern Drive |

In addition, the community would like to welcome those new residents that have not been 'officially' welcomed due to the coronavirus. We will catch up with their visits shortly and then introduce anyone that we may have missed.

**The Sun Coast - 'On the Move Again'**

- **I-75 at SR70** – This project has been underway for well over a year and involves rebuilding the SR 70 interchange from its partial cloverleaf design to a modified diamond interchange design with a single loop in the northwest quadrant. Included in this project was the replacement of the entrance and exit ramps, adding emergency stopping sites and widening I-75 from north of University to south of SR 64. Along SR 70 there will be a 6.5-foot buffered bike lane and a 5-foot sidewalk. Remaining to be done is the completion of the ramps, noise walls, stormwater ponds, miscellaneous drainage work, ramp traffic lights, Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) and resurfacing of mainline I-75. Weather permitting the project should wrap up by the Spring of 2021.
- **I-75 / US301 Interchange** – The scope of this project is to widen the I-75 facility and reconstruct the I-75 / US 301 interchange from a partial cloverleaf interchange to a tight diamond configuration. New bridges will be constructed over the Manatee River for a northbound exit ramp and a southbound entrance ramp. They will be compatible with the ultimate section for future mainline traffic. The widening and reconstruction of I-75 will provide for an eight-lane divided roadway with 12 -foot inside and outside shoulders (10 foot paved) and a median that varies from 64 feet to 161 feet. A depressed median with roadside ditches will be used to convey storm water. The redesign of the I-75 / US301 interchange will not only handle the existing six lanes of traffic more efficiently, it will accommodate up to ten lanes (two express lane and three general use lanes in each direction). These future ultimate improvements are planned to extend the acceptable level of service for I-75 well beyond 2050. Work is scheduled to begin in early to mid-2021. There will be pre-construction public information meeting in early 2021.  
(See *FDOT Handout below for more information and detailed diagrams*)
- On Thursday, July 16<sup>th</sup>, **Mote Marine Laboratory and Aquarium** announced that they would be breaking ground on the state-of-the-art Mote Science Education Aquarium, or Mote SEA, in late September at Nathan Benderson Park. The project will take roughly two years to complete once the structure of the facility is built, leaving an estimated completion date of the winter of 2022 or the spring of 2023. Mote SEA will be an iconic, 110,000-square-foot hub of marine science education and outreach and it will be a nexus site for Sarasota and Manatee counties and the southwest Florida region. It will feature more than 1 million gallons of exhibits with marine life and scientific displays from around the world and is projected to double the attendance of the current Mote Aquarium. Its projected economic impacts include \$280 million from construction alone and \$28 million per year from operations. Mote SEA will have interactive state-of-the-art STEM (science, technology, engineering and

math) teaching labs and will offer educational programming to over 65,000 students from Sarasota and Manatee county schools free of charge.

(Review Mote SEA youtube presentation:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pfUJiw3gJG0>)

- **Marie Selby Botanical Gardens adopts Historic Spanish Point**

In April 2020, The Marie Selby Botanical Gardens announced that Historic Spanish Point would be joining its organization as a companion campus effective in May.

Marie Selby Botanical Gardens was founded in 1973 when Sarasota resident and passionate gardener Marie Selby bequeathed her former home and property 'for the enjoyment of the general public'. The 15-acre original Downtown Sarasota campus features botanical highlights such as a captivating banyan grove planted by Marie and her husband, William, nearly a century ago. The downtown campus is the only botanical garden in the world dedicated to the display and study of epiphytic orchids, bromeliads, gesneriads and ferns and other tropical plants.

Historic Spanish Point (HSP), a hidden 30-acre gem on Little Sarasota Bay in the Osprey area of Sarasota County, is one of the largest waterfront preserves showcasing native Florida plants in the state. With an archaeological record that encompasses approximately 5,000 years of Florida history, HSP is one of the largest intact and actively preserved archaeological sites in the Gulf Coast of Florida. Like Selby Gardens' Downtown campus, HSP was owned by a forward-thinking woman of her time, Bertha Palmer, a Chicago native who became a Florida real estate pioneer. Visit: <https://selby.org/> for more information.

## Factoid

*The State of Florida's fiscal year begins the first of July.* This is a 'factoid'. What is a 'factoid' you ask? Well a factoid is either a false statement presented as a fact, or a true but brief or trivial item of news or information. The term was coined in 1973 by American writer Norman Mailer to mean a piece of information that becomes accepted as a fact even though it is not actually true, or an invented fact believed to be true because it appears in print. Since its creation in 1973, the term has evolved, now often being used to describe a brief or trivial item of news or information. Now you know. In this particular case the 'factoid' is a 'brief or trivial item' and is true.

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