



"Gratitude turns what we have into enough, and more. It turns denial into acceptance, chaos into order, confusion into clarity...it makes sense of our past, brings peace for today, and creates a vision for tomorrow." —[Melody Beattie](#)

### [NORTH PORT SAYS 'NO' TO COCOPLUM VILLAGE SHOPS' TURN LANE](#)

Sarasota-based Benderson Development was granted waivers on new signs at Cocoplum Village Shops. There also is a planned extension of that retail footprint nearby at Sumter and Tamiami Trail. That parcel faces Tamiami Trail. There's also a Wendy's on the southeast corner.

Benderson proposes to extend the Cocoplum Village Shops to that corner. Plans show proposed offices and retail, the interior roadway running from Sumter to South Salford Boulevard.

But on Tuesday, North Port City Commission denied Benderson's request to add a left turn lane off Sumter just north of Tamiami Trail. Courtesy Craig Garrett/[Port Charlotte Sun](#) (2/24/22 edition)

### [DEVELOPMENT SET FOR FOUR CORNERS?](#)

Tamiami, River Road intersection set for changes

Those four corners at River Road and U.S. 41/Tamiami Trail and into the interior will see further development with the widening of North River Road, a \$47 million expansion south from Interstate 75.

That stretch of road runs through North Port, Venice and parts of Sarasota County. The Florida Department of Transportation project started this month. That widening will change the dynamic of a sleepy five miles to a bustling four or six lanes and its inevitable march of goods and people.

And then there is South River Road between U.S. 41 and Englewood. Sarasota County, not the state Department of Transportation, is responsible for that stretch. Courtesy Craig Garrett/[Port Charlotte Sun](#) (2/19/22 edition)

### [WHAT'S AHEAD FOR CHARLOTTE, PUNTA GORDA?](#)

Officials weigh in on future of malls, other development.

Balancing charm and growth is the challenge for local officials when considering future development.

"This is the hardest part of our job," Charlotte County Economic Development Director Dave Gammon said. "Charlotte County is a very charming community and a very charming county and I have bosses that have me on the (balance) scale every Monday."

He (City Manager Greg Murray) said there is no goal to have 200-foot buildings in Punta Gorda.

Courtesy Daniel Sutphin/[Port Charlotte Sun](#) (2/2/22 edition)

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**Howard J. Corr CCIM**

Managing Broker

[D] 941.815.2129

[O] 941-740-1215

[E] H.Corr@CorrAdvisors.com



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COMMERCIAL ADVISORS  
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