

Around the Ranch

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THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2019



WELCOME TO 2019! The Market at Lakewood Ranch is back! It's a weekly opportunity to shop for farm-fresh food and to come together as a community. Dine with neighbors, meet up with friends, make memories with the kids. Changing programming, activities, special guests and entertainment keep The Market experience exciting all season long. For more information and pictures, see pages 18-19. Photo by Eric Nalpas

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COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

January 2019

PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE TO VERIFY DATES
lakewoodranchgov.org/reservations

January 20 – Third Sunday

- Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.
- Sunday Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

January 21 – Third Monday

- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Creative Arts, Town Hall, 6 p.m.
- Running Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

January 22 – Fourth Tuesday

- Italian American Club, Town Hall, 10:30 p.m.
- Bridge on Tuesday, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Italian American Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

January 23 – Fourth Wednesday

- Women's Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 8 a.m.
- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

January 24 – Fourth Thursday

- Legacy Ladies' Golf Association, Legacy Golf Club, 8:30 a.m.

January 25 – Fourth Friday

- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Optimal Living Club, Town Hall, 11 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon
- Pro Jam, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

January 26 – Fourth Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- Digital Photography training, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

January 27 – Fourth Sunday

- Ladies' Soccer, Town Hall, 2 p.m.

January 28 – Fourth Monday

- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Anglers' Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

January 29 – Fifth Tuesday

- Bridge on Tuesday, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

January 30 – Fifth Wednesday

- Women's Exercise Class, 9 a.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.

January 31 – Fifth Thursday

- Thursday Bridge & St. George's Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.

February 1 – First Friday

- Women's Club board meeting, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon

February 2 – First Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- Digital Photography training, Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.
- Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

February 3 – First Sunday

- Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields #1 & 2, 2 p.m.
- Sunday Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

February 4 – First Monday

- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Lakewood Ranch Garden Club board meeting, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT Training Committee Meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
- Genealogy Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

February 5 – First Tuesday

- Lunch Club, Town Hall, 11 a.m.
- Empty Nesters, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Anglers' Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

February 6 – First Wednesday

- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Bingo, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

February 7 – First Thursday

- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Women's Club general meeting, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

February 8 – Second Friday

- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Optimal Living Club, Town Hall, 11 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon
- Pro Jam, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

February 9 – Second Saturday

- Community Activities "Learn How to Fish" seminar, Pavilion, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- CERT team captain/incident commander leaders' workshop, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Republican Club, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 8

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COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

- FROM PAGE 6**
- Digital Photography Training, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
 - February 10 – Second Sunday**
 - Ladies Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.
 - Jewish Club, Town Hall, 3 p.m.
 - February 11 – Second Monday**
 - Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
 - Lakewood Ranch Garden Club Meeting, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
 - Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
 - Gardeners Out East, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
 - Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
 - Creative Arts, Town Hall, 6 p.m.
 - CERT Board Meeting
 - February 12 – Second Tuesday**
 - Bridge on Tuesday, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
 - Women's Club – Blankets for Babies, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
 - Digital Photography Board Meeting, Town Hall, 5 p.m.
 - Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
 - Democratic Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
 - February 13 – Second Wednesday**
 - Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
 - Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
 - Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
 - Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
 - February 14 – Second Thursday**
 - Thursday Bridge at St. George's Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
 - Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
 - February 15 – Third Friday**
 - Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
 - Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
 - Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
 - Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon
 - Wine Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
 - February 16 – Third Saturday**
 - Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
 - Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
 - Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
 - February 17 – Third Sunday**
 - Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.
 - Sunday Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
 - February 18 – Third Monday**
 - Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
 - February 19 – Third Tuesday**
 - Empty Nesters, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
 - Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
 - Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
 - February 20 – Third Wednesday**
 - Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
 - Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
 - Women's Book Club, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
 - Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
 - CERT Radio Communications Committee, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
 - Indivisible LWR, Town Hall, 7 p.m.



Santa Spotted All Over the Ranch
 In addition to the evening Santa spent at Holidays Around the Ranch, he was also spotted at the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club, above, where he later had breakfast with the children, and poolside at The Lake Club (below). Photos by Eric Nalpas



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LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Building a true sense of community, through memorable events and social clubs.



Calling all new and future residents of Lakewood Ranch! Living in Lakewood Ranch, there are so many things to be proud of. Lakewood Ranch is the second one multi-generational community in the U.S. with myriad events and involvement opportunities.

Here at Lakewood Ranch Community Activities, we have resources for new Lakewood Ranch neighbors at our **New Resident Socials**, the first Tuesday of each month, beginning Feb. 5. These monthly socials are held at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall and admission is free for attendees!



Keith Pandeloglou
Director of LWRCAC

As with any transition in life, finding your way in a new place, or even falling into a new routine can be a challenge. At our monthly New Resident Socials, you will learn about local events, clubs, and activities that will interest you. A brief town history and description of community amenities will also be shared for new residents to get the most out of their new hometown.

With the popularity and growth of our LWR community, we encourage not only new residents to attend, but all of our neighbors – whether you’ve lived here five months or five years. It’s a great way to learn more about the community we so proudly call home ... and perhaps jumpstart those New Year’s resolutions to improve health and wellness in 2019.

By attending the New Resident Social, you’ll meet other Lakewood Ranchers who share the same interests through the many organizations, social clubs, and volunteer opportunities available to residents. With more than 60 existing groups and new ones forming all the time, there is surely something to spark your interest.

Learn what our blossoming community has to offer at our monthly New Resident Socials each first Tuesday of the month. If you are new to Lakewood Ranch, welcome home. We can’t wait to meet you!

Join us for a special edition of our new speaker series, **LWR Talks**, in collaboration with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Ringling College, presented by Lakewood Ranch, Lakewood Ranch Community Activities, and Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance. The event begins at 10 a.m. Feb. 19 and is held at The Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club.

Get an inside look at what it’s like to report directly to the President of the United States. John Rixse, a senior official in both the Intelligence Community and the Department of Defense will speak about the history of the President’s daily brief and what it was like overseeing its preparation and delivery.

Tickets are \$10 per person and include a continental breakfast. For more information or to



register, visit lakewoodranch.com.

The **Health and Wellness Expo** is also coming up; stop by the Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, 8330 Lakewood Ranch Blvd., between 9 a.m. and 12 p.m. Feb. 23. This interactive event will feature more than 50 local exhibitors in the health and wellness field sharing valuable information. Free offerings include ankle brachial index tests, glucose tests, balance tests, obstructive sleep apnea screenings, blood pressure checks and more. Admission is free. Vendor booths are still available. For more information visit lwrCAC.com/events/health-wellness-expo.

The new **Backyard Concert Series** continues Feb. 10 with “The Music Makers,” from 1-4 p.m. at Summerfield Community Park, 6402 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. Join us for live music in

the park. The event is “bring your own picnic,” but there will be food trucks on hand as well. The event is sponsored by Lakewood Ranch, the LWR Community Fund, and LWR Community Activities. For more information visit lakewoodranch.com/event/backyard-concert-series.

Stay up to date with all things “Happening in the Ranch” by joining our mailing list. Visit LWRCA.org to sign up!

CLUB NEWS

THE JEWISH CLUB AT LAKEWOOD RANCH offers a series of lectures on both entertaining and serious Jewish-themed topics, several socials and a variety of other activities, including a Passover Seder. Their mission is to provide an environment that enhances the Jewish Community at Lakewood Ranch. For more information, email Judy Gibbs at info@JewishClubAtLWR.org.

EMPTY NESTERS OF LAKEWOOD RANCH meet from 12:30-2:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, 8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. There are no dues and you sign up only for events that interest you. This informal group plans fun and interesting adventures during their monthly meetings. They welcome singles and couples and look forward to meeting you. Why not join them? For more information contact Peggy Walther at mfwalther@verizon.net.

2019 Lakewood Ranch Calendar of Events

February 5	New Resident Orientation	LWR Town Hall
February 9	Learn to Fish Seminar	Summerfield Park
February 16	Learn to Fish Tournament	Lake Uihlein

WOMEN’S EXERCISE CLUB meets from 9-10 a.m. Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. If you would like a workout buddy ... or a few ... join these ladies and get moving! For more information, email Valerie Kerwin at valerieblackkerwin@gmail.com.

LEGACY LADIES GOLF LEAGUE meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 8:30 a.m. We have nine-hole and 18-hole groups. Tuesdays we just play your own ball and Thursdays we have some fun, easy games. Come out and join us. For more information, call the Legacy Pro Shop at (941)907-7920.

FOOTBALL CLUB meets every Saturday at Greenbrook Adventure Park and is open to all ages and male and female players alike. Join them today! To learn more, email Esteban Carbajal at ecarby@me.com.

LWR RUNNING CLUB meets every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday for morning runs. All speeds and levels are welcome! Two different groups at two different speeds makes up this club for different Tuesday and Thursday run times. The entire club meets Saturday for a group run. To learn more, email Andrea Rutsky at president@lakewoodranchrunningclub.com.

CREATIVE ARTS ASSOCIATION provides education, resources and networking opportunities in order to support and encourage artistic success. This is accomplished through participation in various educational and networking opportunities and the development of and participation in art exhibits in the community. To find out more, email Carol Krah at ckrah.favoritethings@hotmail.com.

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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

Mah Jongg in Lakewood Ranch

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

Is Lakewood Ranch becoming Florida's mah jongg central?

Most Lakewood Ranch activities groups feature a single club dedicated to their particular game or activity. There's an art club, a handcrafts club, a club for writers, and so on.

There must be a LOT of mah jongg players out there in Greater Lakewood Ranch, however, because there are no fewer than five local mah jongg groups in the community, and they meet at various times and places:

- **The Mah Jongg at One Club** meets at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall at 1 p.m. on Wednesday afternoons.
 - **Evening Mah Jongg** meets at the Town Hall on Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m.
 - **The St. George's Mah Jongg Club** meets every Thursday afternoon at the Town Hall.
 - **The Mah Jongg Queens Club** meets at the Town Hall on Friday afternoons from 1 to 4 p.m.
 - **The Lunch, Laughter, and Mah Jongg Club** (open only to women members of the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club) meets at the Country Club on Fridays from 1 to 4 p.m.
- That's a lot of clubs – and a lot of mah jongg players in



PHOTO BY ERNIE SOLLER

Lakewood Ranch!

At the rate that mah jongg clubs appear to be proliferating in Lakewood Ranch, one begins to wonder when all the mah jongg players will decide that they need their own dedicated mah jongg center.

So, how did mah jongg evolve into the obviously popular game it is today?

The game was being played in China in the latter part of

the 19th century, although there appears to be some evidence that something like it was being played around the time of Confucius, around 500 B.C.

It became a very popular gambling game in China and as such, was actually banned in its home country after the Chinese communist takeover in 1949, along with other forms of gambling. However, it resurfaced during the Cultural Revolution, and was legalized in China (without the gambling aspect) in 1985.

Mah jongg arrived in the United States in the 1920s and grew quickly, especially after Abercrombie and Fitch – at one time THE purveyor of outdoor and hunting supplies – got interested in the game and sent a representative to China to buy up every mah jongg set available, in an effort to “corner the market” for mah jongg sets in this country.

The game became extremely popular with groups of Jewish women, and the founders of the National Mah Jongg League which, to this day, publishes the rules for play, were all Jewish women, living in the northern portion of the U.S. Members of the mah jongg clubs in Lakewood Ranch come from all sorts of places and backgrounds, much like most of the community's residents in general. One member of the Mah Jongg at One club hails from Alabama, and didn't play

SEE MAH JONGG, PAGE 34

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District 6 Weighs Options Regarding Gate Guard Performance

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

For a long while now, the residents and Community Development District (CDD) board for District 6 have been confronting issues related to traffic, speeding, and the performance of the gate guards at the Balmoral gatehouse.

The District 6 board has dealt with the concerns of its residents regarding cut-through traffic on several of their streets by deciding to lower the speed limit on three streets that have seen the largest amount of cut-through traffic: Greystone, Edenville, and Thornhill. The speed limit is being reduced to 20 mph on those streets in the District. New speed limit signs have been ordered and will be installed very shortly.

The board of District 6 has also addressed the concerns of its residents regarding the amount of commercial and visitor traffic coming into the Balmoral gate during peak hours. Between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 10:30 a.m. visitors, and especially commercial vehicles such as landscaping and contractor vehicles, are being directed to the Legacy gate so as to enable normal resident entrance and egress at Balmoral.

One major factor in this decision is that there is a limited amount of driveway length at the Balmoral gate between the gatehouse and Lakewood Ranch Boulevard, and landscape and contractor trucks, especially those pulling trailers, because of their total length, can quickly back up traffic at the gate, making for a traffic hazard on Lakewood Ranch Boulevard. Some signs are already in place regarding these restrictions, and more are being considered.

However, the main point of discussion at the December meeting of the District 6 board of supervisors was that of very spotty performance on the part of the security company, Excelsior Security, relative to their handling of staffing and performance of the guards at the Balmoral gatehouse.

Jim Rogoze, chairman of the District 6 board, noted that one guard had apparently taken a half-hour "bathroom break," during a shift. In addition, he mentioned that the District went three days without a guard at that gatehouse, due to the Excelsior people not showing up; the executive director and a member of the town hall staff were manning the gate!

The security manager for Excelsior came down for the December board meeting and got an earful from angry board members, especially when he mentioned that his company had assigned people who had just received their training that very day, to the Balmoral gate. He also admitted that his company's site supervisor had failed to check up on them after they were assigned. He did indicate that one of the gate guards who failed to show up for a duty shift had quit the company that day – about the time the shift was to start.

Supervisor Henry Hofeler noted that Excelsior appears to be understaffed. (They failed to have a substitute guard in place when the other guards failed to show, leaving the gate open.)

The District 6 board members all wanted something in writing – immediately – from Excelsior specifying what procedures have been put in place to correct the staffing issues at Balmoral. (How many guards? How much time in service before they are posted to that gate? What system does Excelsior have in place to staff positions if a guard doesn't or can't show up for work? Exactly how the guards are trained., etc.)

They also were discussing the possibility of revoking Excelsior's contract for lack of performance and hiring another security company.

Attorney Andrew Cohen noted that the District does not

need to go out and get bids to hire a new security company.

IRRIGATION COSTS TO RISE

Finance Director Steve Zielinski announced to the various CDD boards that Braden River Utilities, the irrigation water provider for Lakewood Ranch, has announced a 6 percent price increase for reclaimed irrigation water, from a price of \$1.20/1,000 gallons, to a price of \$1.27/1,000 gallons. to be put into place in January of 2020. This is in line with BRU's stated desire to increase prices by 6 percent every three years. The last increase was in 2017. This move will cost each district approximately \$27,000, which will need to be factored into next year's budgets.

SOIL MOISTURE SENSORS

In other irrigation-related issues, Community Associations Director Gary Glass announced that 600 soil moisture sensor units will be made available to Lakewood Ranch residents, and that the 800 people who have expressed interest in taking advantage of the rebate program on the sensors will be notified via e-mail, and that the sensor installations will be done on a first-come, first-served basis.

CLUB USE OF TOWN HALL SPACE

The Lakewood Ranch Community Activities Corporation has requested that the minimum number of Lakewood Ranch residents who use the building facilities at no cost for their club purposes be reduced. That number had been 91 percent of residents of the "Phase 1" portion of Lakewood Ranch (the original districts 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6). That minimum percentage of Phase 1 residents has been reduced to 51 percent, for the time being. This move will enable people from the current "Stewardship" areas to participate.

SUPERVISOR INSTALLATION

Each of the districts that re-elected or elected new supervisors installed those supervisors in December.

NEW LAKEWOOD RANCH WEBSITE

Lakewood Ranch developer Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, Inc. is working with the Town Hall administration as well as other Lakewood Ranch entities, such as Community Activities Corporation and the Stewardship District, etc., to create a new website for the community, which is expected to be up and running in 2019.

NEW RESIDENT ORIENTATION

Executive Director Anne Ross informed the boards that the next new resident orientation will be held at 4 p.m. Feb. 5.

LANDSCAPING ISSUE IN DISTRICT 2

The operations department has initiated clearing out a stand of invasive Brazilian pepper trees in a district-owned area of land in District 2

A resident whose home is adjacent to this area had complained, because he doesn't want the plants removed. However, as they are an invasive species, Manatee County has been quite aggressive in demanding that these plants be removed wherever they may be in the county and, since they are on district property, the district has every right to remove them.

Assistant Operations Director Tom Merrell notified the District 2 board that there will be other plants planted in the area once the pepper trees have been removed.

January Programs at Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch

Please note that all events take place at The Chabad House located on 5712 Lorraine Road, Lakewood Ranch, unless otherwise noted.

Torah Studies

Saturdays, 9-9:30 a.m.

Participate in a fascinating class on the Torah portion of the week. Discover the mystical meanings and lessons behind ancient stories. Admission is free.

Torah and Tea

Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-noon

Join Chanie Bukiet in her home for a weekly dose of delicious tea and refreshments and learn about Tanya; mystical psychology of the soul.

Weekly Shabbat Services

Friday night, 6:30 p.m.; Saturday mornings, 9:30 a.m.

Enjoy warm, family friendly services at The Chabad House. Saturday morning services are followed by a delicious buffet Kiddush.

Talmud classes

Mondays, 7:30-8:30 p.m.

Explore the Talmud and its laws in its original text. No prior knowledge of the Talmud or Hebrew is necessary. Book fee: \$45.

CKids Shabbat Club

Saturday mornings, 11 a.m.-noon

Includes prayer, games, songs for children ages 3-13 and is followed by a Kiddush luncheon.

Chabad Hebrew School of the Arts

Sunday mornings, 9:30 a.m.-noon

Give your child the experience of a lifetime at CHS featuring an outstanding curriculum, professional and warm teachers, hands-on lessons, CKids motivational system and an innovative Hebrew reading Aleph Champ program.

C-Kids- Grow Goodness

Jan. 20, 10 a.m.- noon

Join CKids and learn about your power to make an impact and uplift the world, while building a community Tree of Giving! Make your own seed bombs to plant at home! Design paint and fill your masterpiece tree with carved leaves, sharing your ideas about how you can spread goodness and kindness. For children only. RSVP needed. \$10.

C-Teen – Kosher Pickle Factory

Jan. 22, 7 p.m.

Join C-Teen and get yourself out of a pickle! Participate in the teen challenge of "Does the world owe me or do I owe the world?" Make your own delicious and zesty pickles and join in fun and juicy games! C-Teen annual membership is \$180 including all trips and activities except the International C-Teen Shabbaton in N.Y. Special thank you to the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee for sponsoring C-Teen 5779.

Babyccino

Jan. 18, 11:30 a.m.-12:15 p.m.

Babyccino provides a chic meet for mod moms and their tots and features centers for creative art and expression, Judaic discovery, music and movement, sensory stimulation, dramatic play, parallel play and social interaction. Suggested donation \$10.

RCS – The Pledge Fund

Jan. 17, noon

Women are invited to join RCS's latest course, "Larger Than Life – Weaving G-d in the Details," for the third class entitled "The Pledge Fund." Lunch will be served. Course costs \$75, textbooks included or \$18 per class.

For more information on any of the ongoing events, call Rabbi Mendy Bukiet at (941)752-3030 or e-mail rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com.

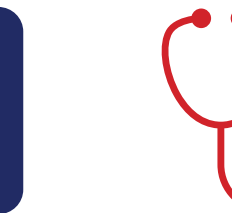
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LWR Watercolorist Wins Award

Lakewood Ranch painter William Perry was one of two artists who won a merit award at the Englewood Exhibition of the Florida Watercolor Society. His painting, "Forever," grew out of his many trips to the Gulf beaches.



"I was particularly struck with this couple's intimate hand holding," Perry said. "Obviously married for many years, they seemed to be lost in all those trips they had taken to the shore and as they strolled along ... they still found things to share in this timeless pastime. The light was just right, and unaware that I was photographing them they walked along naturally and I waited till they had passed to capture their interest in something out in the water. The painting turned out to suggest the exact feelings I had of them as they strolled along together. And watercolors were the right choice as my medium, as they suggested a long day in the sun, the skin tones, contrasted with the cool colors of the surf and sea."

Perry said that as far back as he can remember, he was interested in drawing and making things with his hands.

"My first recognition as a painter came while still in school when I won a first-place ribbon in the Allied Artists' annual Children's Exhibit; the year was 1957," Perry said. "In high school I received a scholarship to study painting at The Artists League of Ligonier Valley in Rector, Penn., and when I graduated from high school my teachers wanted me to go on to New York to continue my studies. But this was out of the question, as my family was too practical to contemplate art as a career," he said. "They felt that one must have a marketable skill, and it was decided that I would become a teacher."

"I earned a B.S. in art education from Indiana University of Pennsylvania and continued to paint on my own, mostly in oils, throughout my undergraduate days. Indiana prepared me to teach and provided a strong foundation in the skills necessary to that end. However studio skills and specialization in a medium was largely sacrificed to a more comprehensive background. Thus, I am largely a self-taught painter and have learned through studying the work of others and continued practice," Perry said.

"I went on to teach for 36 years in the Pittsburgh Public Schools. With a wife and four children I found, like so many others, that my painting took a back seat to the expediences of earning a living and being a husband and father," Perry continued.

"In 1978, I gave away my oil paints and took up a medium that was quicker; at least this was how I viewed watercolors at first," Perry explained. "I soon realized that the transfer from oils to watercolors was not going to be the simple matter I had envisioned. Watercolors, unlike oils, behave in very unpredictable ways. No matter how much I studied the work of others, capturing the qualities I admired in them was another thing all together. But I persisted, and eventually I was able to gain some control of this difficult and fluid medium. I entered my paintings in local shows and received a little recognition for my efforts. But when I view these earlier paintings today, I see little of my current direction in watercolor."

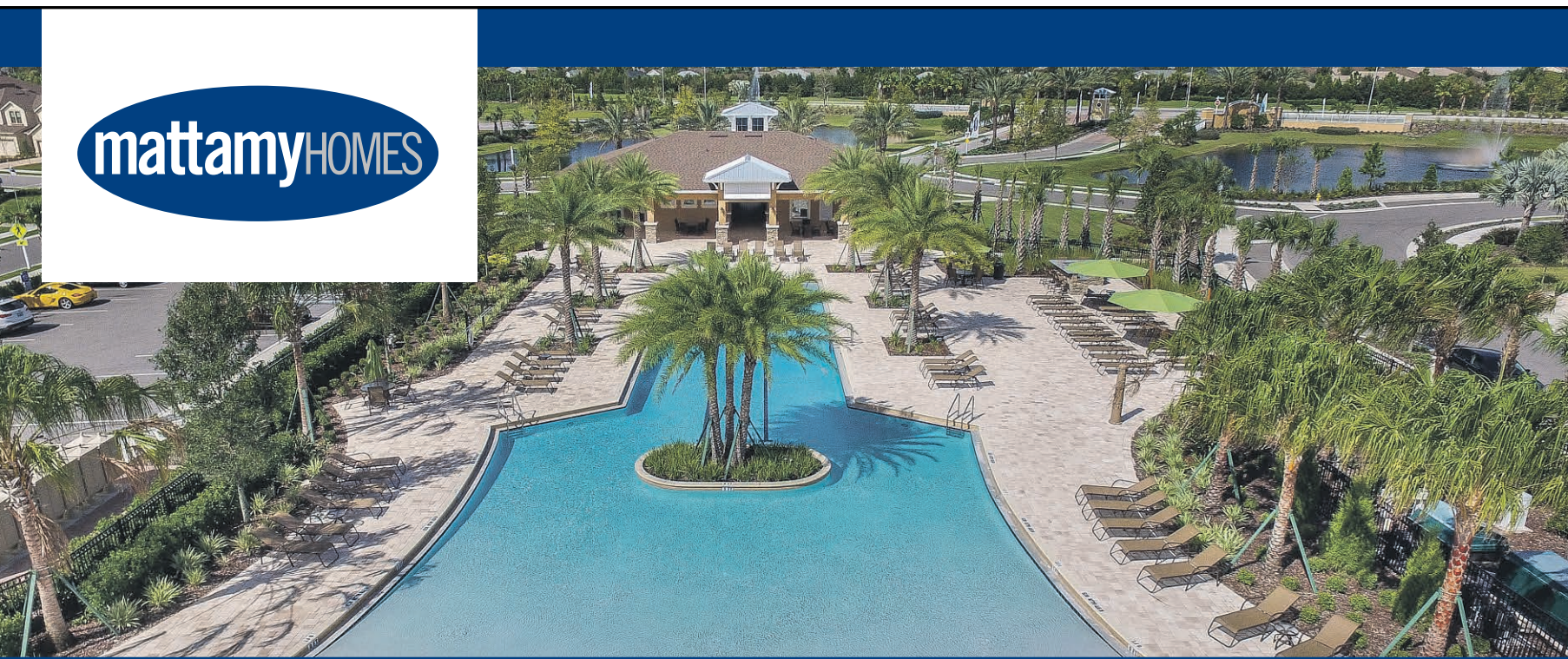
Upon retirement, he continued to teach at Carnegie Mellon University, and then Slippery Rock High School. Now fully retired, he has turned to painting in earnest. "I find my inspiration in the nearby countryside where I roam with my always-present digital camera, seeking those moments when the familiar has been transformed by some special quality of light," Perry said. "This fascination with light and color is what distinguishes my paintings. I love the immediacy of the watercolor medium. I paint nearly every day, choosing subjects that interest me, occasionally taking on commissions if the challenge interests me."

"It is nice to have the freedom of knowing I don't have to paint to pay the bills and feel my paintings are not motivated by practical considerations. I have won many prizes in shows both local and national and am a signature member of the National Watercolor Society and Pennsylvania Watercolor society," Perry said. "I have sold hundreds and hundreds of paintings but what brings me into the studio each day is a desire to explain what I see and feel in paint. I paint for me. I am compelled by a desire to make permanent those moments that stir my soul, and with each painting the challenge is to capture a specific moment in time."

"I don't make prints of my work. Each painting is unique, and in a world where duplication has become all too commonplace it is refreshing to know that you can have something that speaks to you directly and is one-of-a-kind."

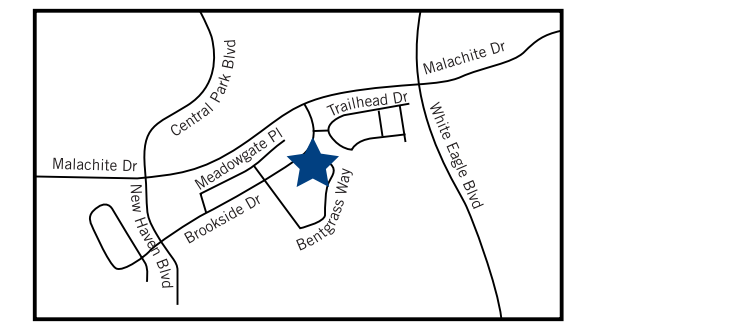
Perry and his wife recently moved to Lakewood Ranch, and he is finding new inspiration for his paintings on the Gulf Coast.

His work can be viewed by visiting billperry-paintings.com or at his home gallery in Lakewood Ranch.



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AROUND THE RANCH



PHOTOS BY ERIC NALPAS



Second Season underway for The Market at Lakewood Ranch



The Market launched its second season in December with eager crowds and new vendors and activities.

Market manager Morgan Bettes said there are some 40 vendors, with more expected to be added throughout the season, which runs through the end of April. Last season, The Market was recognized by Sarasota magazine for starting a "night market" trend; it runs from 3-7 p.m. every Wednesday at the Sarasota Polo Club at Lakewood Ranch.

"We set out to be different by being on a weekday, and we know there are other week day markets in the day time, so why not try a late afternoon/evening time so that people working and kids in school could still attend?" Bettes said. "The lights that line market alley really set the ambiance for the nighttime theme."

Some of the new vendors shoppers will see include Caribbean Pie Co., All Dried Up Snacks, Big D's Jerky, Pep Rub Grillin, Magic Circle Crepes, and Cypress Creek Wild Alaska Salmon. Returning favorites from last season include Worden Farm's organic vegetables, Sunshine Canning, Maggie's Seafood, Camelot Breads, and Grove Ladder Farm.

In addition to the new vendors, there will be myriad activities for attendees, Bettes said.

"We added a lot more programming this year with outside groups. The first of every month we partner with Create U DIY in Sarasota, a makers' workshop group, and guests have a chance to do a project right at The Market and take it home," Bettes said. "On the second Wednesday of the month we are continuing our makers' market, with 20-30 artisans of jewelry, leather goods, clothing, purses, art, etc. The third Wednesday of the month we will bring in a group called Kinspoke to lead workshops such as wreath making, floral arrangements and more. And of course, we're bringing back bingo every fourth Wednesday of the month in the pavilion, with prizes donated from our vendors and a \$100 cash prize final!"

There will also be a different kids' activity each week: All projects are stem-based or stem-related and this is sponsored by The Little Geniuses school.

Also this year, Bettes said, The Market is amping up its social consciousness by partnering with Meals on Wheels Plus of Manatee as its non-profit partner for the season. They will be there each market day to talk about their mission, and to collect food donations from attendees and from vendors that have leftover products.

For more information visit lakewoodranch.com/life-on-the-ranch/themarket, or follow them on Facebook.





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Realtors of the Year Repeat as Champs – The “Old School” Way

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

For the second year in a row, Leslie and Irv Rothschild, of Bright Realty, have taken the honors of selling the most new construction homes in Lakewood Ranch in the period between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, 2018.

If this fact surprises anyone, it may be that the surprise factor comes out of an approach to business that Irv calls doing it “Old School.” They don’t use social media. They aren’t locked into the internet as the only way to market homes. They work with their clients on a personal, face-to-face basis, establishing trust in their expertise, and guiding those clients toward decisions they’ll be happy with for years to come.

In addition to the sheer numbers, here is some anecdotal evidence:

My friend was looking to leave the winter cold of northern Virginia and to put some warmth in her life. She wanted sunshine, culture, and a place to meet new friends and enjoy her retirement – a reasonable wish list.

She attended a “Live South” show at a hotel ballroom near her “up north” home.

There were representatives from various southern locations – the Carolinas, Georgia, and, of course, Florida.

There she met Leslie and Irv Rothschild. She had a nice conversation with them, got on their mailing list, and later, found that a friend of hers had used the Rothschilds to find a home here in Florida.

She was most impressed with the way they did business – Leslie and Irv took care of everything. They took her “wish list” seriously. They informed her as to which hotels would give her the best rates for her stay when she came to check out housing in the Sarasota area. They picked her up at the hotel and promptly took her to view several homes that they had selected as meeting her requirements.

The first home was an older structure, which she rejected. Then they took her to a newer development in Lakewood Ranch, and she bought a home through Leslie and Irv Rothschild. She noted that their approach to business was like “the super-fast action of a well-oiled machine,” in that they knew the market and made it very easy for her to make her selection and get all the details taken care of within a month.

The Rothschilds are ex-northerners them-



Leslie and Irv Rothschild of Bright Realty, have, for the second year in a row, sold the most new construction homes in Lakewood Ranch in the period between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30.

selves, having arrived in Florida from the snows of Buffalo, N.Y.

They started their Florida real estate careers working directly for home builders but eventually decided to become general realtors with Bright Realty, concentrating their efforts in the area of Sarasota, Anna Maria Island, Longboat Key and of course, Lakewood Ranch. In their opinion, the Greater Lakewood Ranch area has it all – culture, golf and tennis, pro sports nearby, polo, beaches and restaurants: high-end, ethnic, and everything in between.

Their personal approach to attracting clients and giving them the chance to make their Florida dreams come true begins with their attendance and participation in several of the “retirement expositions” of the type attended by my friend. Leslie and Irv participate in roughly eight of these sessions a year, up and down the East Coast. At these sessions, they not only sell Florida, they sell themselves, as well as their brand of service, and establish that personal relationship which makes them so successful.

They actually listen to their clients’ comments about what sort of home they are seeking, be it a small villa or condo, or a manse on

SEE REALTORS, PAGE 34

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LWRBA
 LAKEWOOD RANCH BUSINESS ALLIANCE

The Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance (LWRBA) is a business organization committed to connecting, educating and strengthening the business community in the Lakewood Ranch region. The LWRBA's 650+ member businesses reflect a wide variety of small and large businesses across all industries in and around Lakewood Ranch. More information is available online at www.LWRBA.org.

UPCOMING EVENT
(Please visit www.LWRBA.org to sign up for this event.)

Young Leaders Alliance 2019 Kick-Off Social
Thursday, January 24
 5:30-7:30 p.m.
 Gecko's Cattleman, 351 N. Cattleman Road
 Free for YLA/LWRBA members and non-members

Kick off the new year at the Lakewood Ranch Young Leaders Alliance January social! Join us for a night of networking at Gecko's Grill & Pub on Cattleman Road. This is a great opportunity to start off the new year by making connections with fellow young professionals. And starting in 2019, YLA membership is open to all LWRBA members under 40, free of charge. Be sure to bring a friend! Register at www.LWRBA.com.

2019 Annual Membership Luncheon
Friday, January 25
 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
 The Ballroom at GROVE,
 10670 Boardwalk Loop
 \$35 LWRBA members;
 \$45 non-members

See what's in store for the Alliance in the coming year. Our 2019 annual membership luncheon will honor our outgoing board members and reflect on the successes of the past year, as well as introduce the 2019 board of directors.

Business Beyond Baseball with the Baltimore Orioles
Friday, February 1
 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
 The Ballroom at GROVE,
 10670 Boardwalk Loop
 \$40 LWRBA members;
 \$55 non-members

An all-star panel of Baltimore Orioles executives joins us to explore how to stay competi-

tive today and into the future. Learn how the Orioles' use of core marketing principles, coupled with modern analytics and insights, can be applied to businesses of any size to identify customers and focusing a message based on your company's core values.

Networking Social: Sirius Day Spa
Wednesday, February 6
 5-7 p.m.
 Sirius Day Spa, 11585 SR 70
 Free for LWRBA members;
 \$15 non-members

Join us at Sirius Day Spa for our February networking social. Mingle with fellow Alliance members and enjoy complimentary appetizers and a cash bar. Tour this state-of-the-art spa and learn how Sirius can take you to relaxation.

Executive Briefing: Your Hire = Your Brand
Tuesday, February 12
 8-9:30 a.m.
 Lakewood National Golf Club,
 17605 Lakewood National Parkway
 \$35 LWRBA members;
 \$45 non-members

Join us at Lakewood National Golf Club, home of the Web.com Suncoast Classic, for an informational breakfast featuring a golf pro about doing business on the golf course. Includes optional tours of the Lakewood National facilities.

Breakfast: Paving the Road for Next-Gen Leaders
Friday, February 15
 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
 The Ballroom at GROVE,
 10670 Boardwalk Loop
 \$25 LWRBA members;
 \$35 non-members

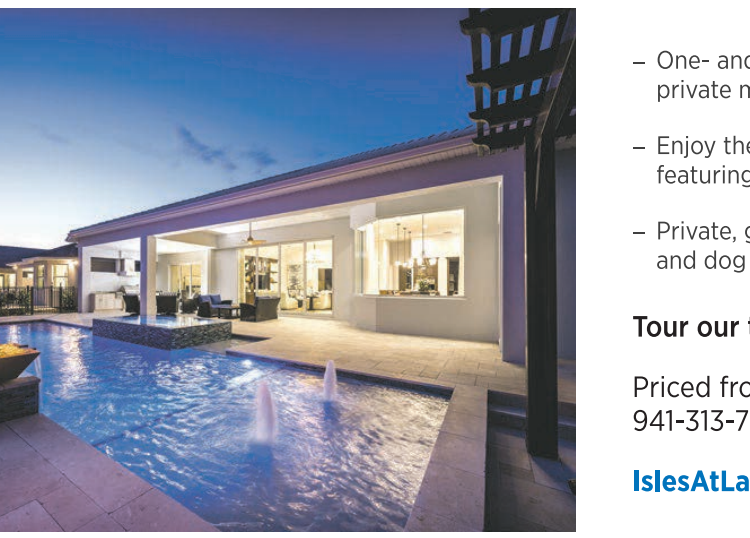
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GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

January 17, 2019 – February 19, 2019

Please note that all meetings will be held at Town Hall unless otherwise specified.

January 17	8:30 a.m. 9 a.m. 9:30 a.m. 11 a.m. 3 p.m.	CDD 1 Board Meeting 907-0202 CDD 5 Board Meeting 907-0202 CDD 2 Board Meeting 907-0202 CDD 6 Board Meeting 907-0202 CEVA Safety Meeting (850)396-2695
January 21	10 a.m.	CEVA Finance Committee Meeting 907-7279
January 22	8:30 a.m. 3 p.m.	SRVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202 CEVA Board Meeting 907-0202
January 23	1 p.m. 3 p.m. 4 p.m. 7 p.m.	Country Club Modifications 907-0202 Edgewater Modifications 907-0202 Sandhills Neighborhood Committee Meeting 907-0820 SRVA Board Meeting 907-0202
January 24	1:30 p.m. 7 p.m.	Whitemarsh Neighborhood Committee Meeting 907-0202 Whitemarsh Neighborhood Meeting (412)389-0033
January 28	3 p.m. 5:30 p.m.	Augusta/Oakmont Neighborhood Committee Meeting 907-3448 Hollow Board Meeting 921-5393
January 31	5 p.m.	GBVA Compliance Meeting 907-0202
February 4	9 a.m. 7 p.m.	CEVA Landscape Committee Meeting 907-0202 Brier Creek Neighborhood Meeting 907-1169
February 6	4 p.m.	GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
February 7	9:30 a.m. 3 p.m. 3 p.m.	Country Club West Annual Meeting 359-1134 GBVA Compliance Meeting 907-0202 CEVA Restrictions Revision 907-0202
February 11	3 p.m.	CEVA Board Workshop 907-0202
February 12	8:30 a.m. 2 p.m.	SRVA Modifications 907-0202 CEVA Fining Committee 907-0202
February 13	1 p.m. 3 p.m.	Country Club Modifications 907-0202 Edgewater Modifications 907-0202
February 19	8 a.m. 10 a.m. 1 p.m. 2:30 p.m.	IDA Board Meeting 907-0202 CDD 1 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202 CDD 5 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202 CDD 2 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202

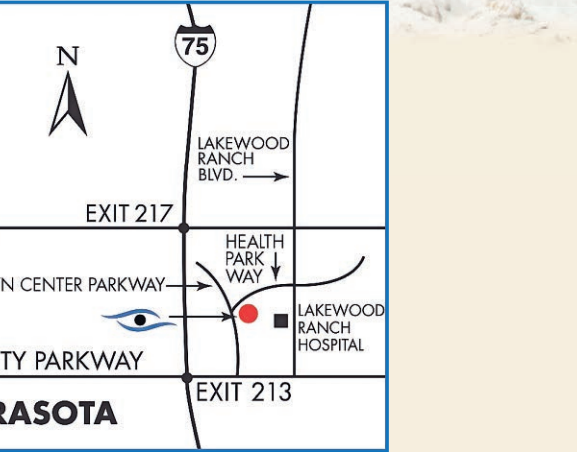
*Meeting dates and times are subject to change



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SF-182446

Holidays Around the Ranch: Songs, Santa, And Even A Little “Chill”

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

The annual Holidays Around the Ranch celebration was again a magical night full of fun for all ages. The weather was a bit “iffy,” as a brief shower passed over Lakewood Ranch just prior to the arrival of Santa, but the shower moved out very quickly, allowing the festivities to go on as planned.

Of course, the main event was the annual arrival of Santa Claus himself, along with Mrs. Claus, escorted by a guard of elves in a carriage pulled by a pair of grey horses.

Santa arrived, smiling and waving to the crowd, and soon after he alighted from his carriage, was swarmed by a gaggle of smiling little girls, all eager to “get in the picture with Santa.” After waving to the crowd one last time, he ducked into USF’s Culinary Center and sat down on his big chair to prepare to hear the Christmas wants of all the kids who lined up to whisper their wishes into his ear.

Santa began his duties by holding in his arms a two-and-a-half-month-old baby! We’re not sure whether the baby fully communicated his wishes to Santa, but we’re sure Santa came through!

As Mrs. Claus stood by to assist, Santa duly listened intently to all the kids as they filed in to take their turn on Santa’s lap.

But Holidays Around the Ranch didn’t stop there. No, there were lots of other activities to occupy both the young – and the slightly older who braved the threatening weather.

The Lakewood Ranch High School Chorus was on hand to sing carols and get the crowd “warmed up” for the occasion, and there were all sorts of booths offering goodies, such as the Lakewood Ranch High Key Club’s booth, which offered fresh baked goods as part of their fundraising efforts. Other booths also provided goodies, from lots of candy at various locations (including those manned by dental professionals ... hmmm!), as well as booths offering hot pizza, tacos, etc.

The Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County handed out LOTS of books at no charge to the children.

Some folks just meandered around Main Street, checking out the goods and decora-

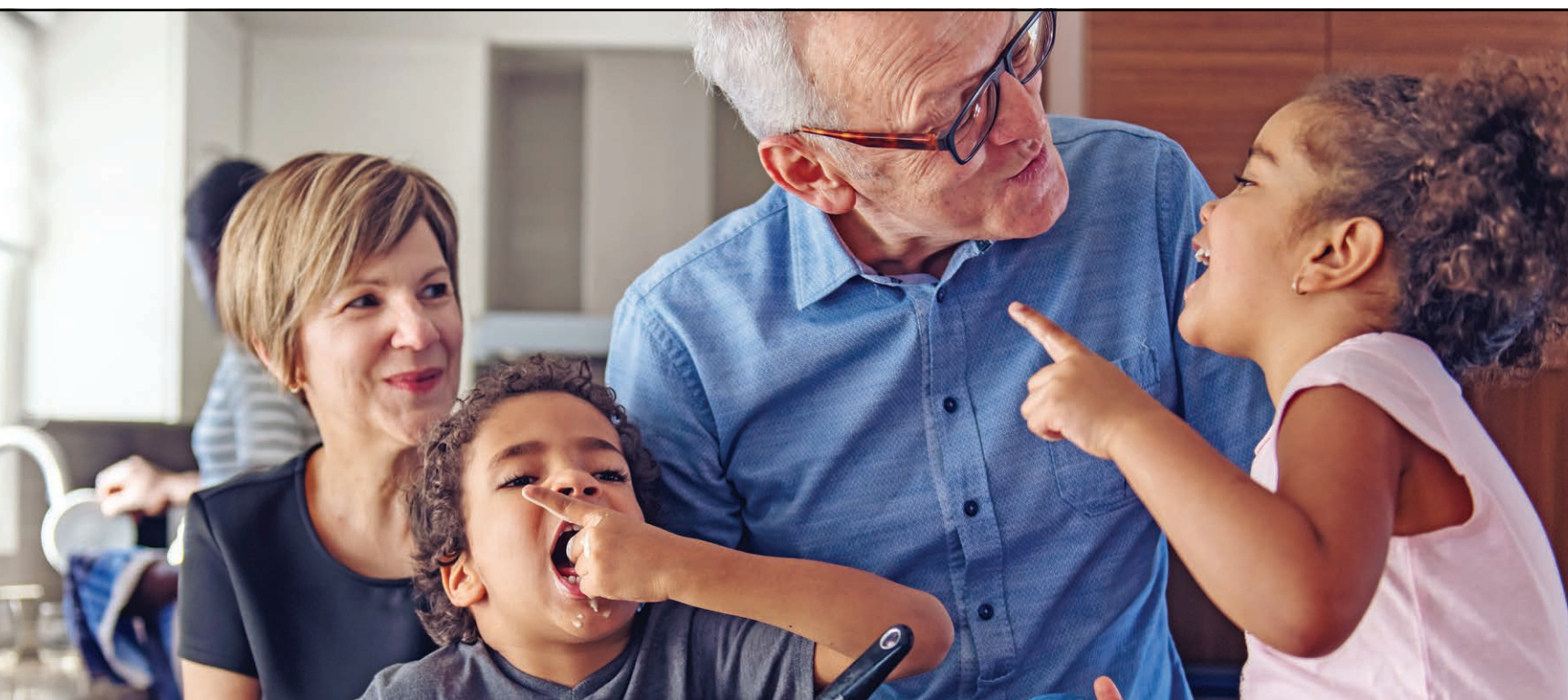
tions in the shop windows, some of which were pretty spectacular, ranging from the Grinch to jewelry, to flowers, etc.

Thomas the Tank Engine was there, ready to give kids a Christmastime ride around the big Christmas tree on Main Street, and the balloon man made unique creations from balloons for the kids, some of whom also got their faces painted with colorful designs.

A bubble maker stood in the middle of Main Street, creating huge bubbles, little bubbles, and everything in between, to the delight of kids and adults alike.

As far as bringing a little “chill” to Lakewood Ranch Main Street, there was a snow slide, and kids lined up for their chance to hop on a big tube and go sliding down the “hill.” There may not be a traditional northern “white Christmas” in Lakewood Ranch this year, but for a very short time there WAS snow on Main Street!

As for those whose tastes were more mature and sedate, there was a beer trailer, where adults could go to slake their thirst, and, of course the Main Street restaurants were open, as was the wine bar at Fine Wine and Tastings, where some folks just sat outside, sipping glasses of wine, and enjoying the sights and sounds of Holidays Around the Ranch.



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Chanukah On Lakewood Ranch Main Street

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

The Jewish community of Greater Lakewood Ranch celebrated the arrival of Chanukah, the festival of lights. The Chabad of Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch, led by Rabbi Mendy Bukiet, once again erected a Chanukah menorah on Lakewood Ranch Main Street, bringing with it the songs, teachings and traditions of Chanukah to the Jewish community and its neighbors, again providing a point of light in the darkness of December.

As in the past, the attention of the crowd was directed to the history and traditions of Chanukah. The feast commemorates a miracle from centuries ago, at a time when the Temple of Jerusalem was being re-dedicated, and only a minuscule amount of lamp oil was found to illuminate it. But light it the oil did – for eight days, which Jews now commemorate in the eight days of the Festival of Lights, using the eight-branched Chanukah menorah, on which a different candle is lit every day of the festival, until the menorah blazes with light.

Each year that the celebration has been held on Main Street, a different theme has been used to emphasize the spreading of light, and the charity that comes with it for Jews. One year, the Chabad used a menorah made of cans of food. One other year, the menorah was festooned with donated socks for the homeless, the theme being “Knock, Knock, Give a Sock.” Last year, the menorah was made up of multiple donation boxes, from which attendees could pick out their favorite charity and donate accordingly by placing their money in the appropriate box.

Another year, the Chanukah menorah was created from a huge block of ice and illuminated from below, and the menorah, though it did continue to melt during the celebration, stayed in good shape, long enough to last through the entire program!

This year, the menorah was covered with “sticky notes” on which people could list their commitment to do good for others.

Along with the singing came the congratulatory speeches by Manatee County Commissioner Vanessa Baugh; Laura Cole, the vice president of marketing for LWR Communities; and the president of the Sarasota/Manatee Jewish Federation.

Rabbi Mendy, in his comments regarding the importance of Chanukah for Jews, reflected on the recent increase in anti-semitism, and the murders at the Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh by telling those attending the Chanukah celebration that, in earlier times when confronted by such things, Jews tended to turn inward and hide their Jewish identity.

Now, in light of happenings in today’s world, he stated, Jews need to be proud of their Jewishness, and to show the world that they are going to put light into the world by their deeds, as Chanukah provides light for the world.

Traditional Chanukah songs filled the air after the rabbi’s talk, such as the “Dreidel Song,” and others telling of the miracle of the Festival of Lights.

No Chanukah celebration would be complete without a number of good things – like all the food available to the Chanukah crowd – including potato latkes, doughnuts, falafel, cookies and, of course the “gelt” – chocolate wrapped in the shape of coins.

This year, the Chabad arranged for a “gelt drop.” As the kids gathered around, a Chabad member rose into the air on a “televator” and yes, dropped the gelt down from above, into the waiting hands of happy kids, who scrambled to get their share!

A highlight of this year’s Chanukah celebration was a performance by Spheres – a crew of guys blowing bubbles. This was not your ordinary “bubbles from a jar” performance, but one that employed a huge pan of bubble liquid into which various implements were placed, and both huge and small bubbles filled the sky over Main Street, to the delight of Chanukah party-goers.

And, so it went for another Chanukah on Main Street in Lakewood Ranch: light, song, and fun



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

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Holiday Toy Drive at SMR Brings Joy to Many

This holiday season, employees at Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, Inc. supported two very different charities for holiday gifts and donations: Child Protection Center, Inc. and Roy McBean Boys & Girls Clubs of Sarasota County.

New, unwrapped gifts were collected in two large boxes in the lobby of the headquarters, with each box marked for a different charity. The boxes were filled to overflowing, and each charity also received a \$500 check to help make the season bright for the youngsters.

The Child Protection Center's mission is to provide the prevention, intervention, and treatment of child abuse through its five core programs: personal safety and community awareness, child protection team, supervised visitation, sexual abuse treatment program, and the kid kindness program. For more information on the CPC and its work, visit www.cpcsarasota.org.

The Roy McBean Boys and Girls Club works to enable all young people, especially the most needy, to reach their full potential as productive, caring, responsible citizens. For more information on this organization, visit www.bgsarasota.com.



PHOTOS BY ERIC MALPAS



FROM PAGE 12

until she found the game after moving to Lakewood Ranch. Glenda Robertson of the Mah Jongg Queens club never played until she moved to Florida from Ohio.

One notable feature of mah jongg in this country has been the absence of the gambling aspect.

The National Mah Jongg League has hosted national tournaments in places like the Trump Taj Mahal casino in Atlantic City, and there have been a number of mah jongg cruise ship tournaments as well.

To illustrate the popularity of mah jongg, computerized versions of mah jongg games are now on the market.

The game is played with a large collection of small tiles (or large ones for those whose eyesight might have taken a hike) and each of the players starts with a group of tiles, building on the strength of their hand until they achieve "mah jongg."

The tiles that are used in playing the game carry symbols, such as those portraying the four winds, and others, such as dragons. The color of the symbols can also be meaningful.

The color red symbolizes life and luck; the color blue, the beauty of the sky. The color green symbolizes the earth in its verdant growth.

Mah jongg sets are available in prices ranging from less than \$40 for an entire set from tiles to dice, to astronomical amounts for sets made for collectors or created from precious metals.

Amazon alone lists multiple pages of mah jongg sets for sale ... like 20 pages!

The mah jongg clubs in Lakewood Ranch offer fun, companionship, and a chance to learn a unique game. Their members vary in terms of experience in playing the game and the number of participants who belong to each club. One of Lakewood Ranch's mah jongg clubs might just be what you're looking for. Check out the Lakewood Ranch Community Activities Corporation's website for the club you might want to join. The meeting times are listed, as well as the names and phone numbers of club leaders.



PHOTO BY ERNIE SOLLER

FROM PAGE 20

the third tee. Are they looking to be near a particular school? Are they aiming for a senior lifestyle community?

They feel that it is their job - and privilege - to enable their clients to actually enjoy the home-buying process. They will take clients to the Lakewood Ranch Information Center to give them a feel for the various neighborhoods of the Ranch. Once a decision has been made, the Rothschilds will even accompany a client to their builder's design center, so as to make the experience of picking out all the various little items that can make their new Lakewood Ranch home uniquely "theirs," a really fun experience. In doing this, they take away some of the stress which can creep into this process.

So, once again, "old-school" service and the personal touch have made Leslie and Irv Rothschild the most successful real estate sales people in Lakewood Ranch.

Congratulations, Leslie and Irv!!

If you or a friend might like to experience the "Old-School" service of Leslie and Irv Rothschild, you can go to their website: www.livesarasota.com, call Irv at (941)321-9683, or Leslie at (941)266-5308.

They return phone calls. And they can open doors for you-in Lakewood Ranch!



PHOTO BY ERNIE SOLLER
Judi Taulbee of Fine Properties was recognized recently for having sold the second most new construction homes in Lakewood Ranch between Jan. 1 and Sept. 30, 2018.

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