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THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2020



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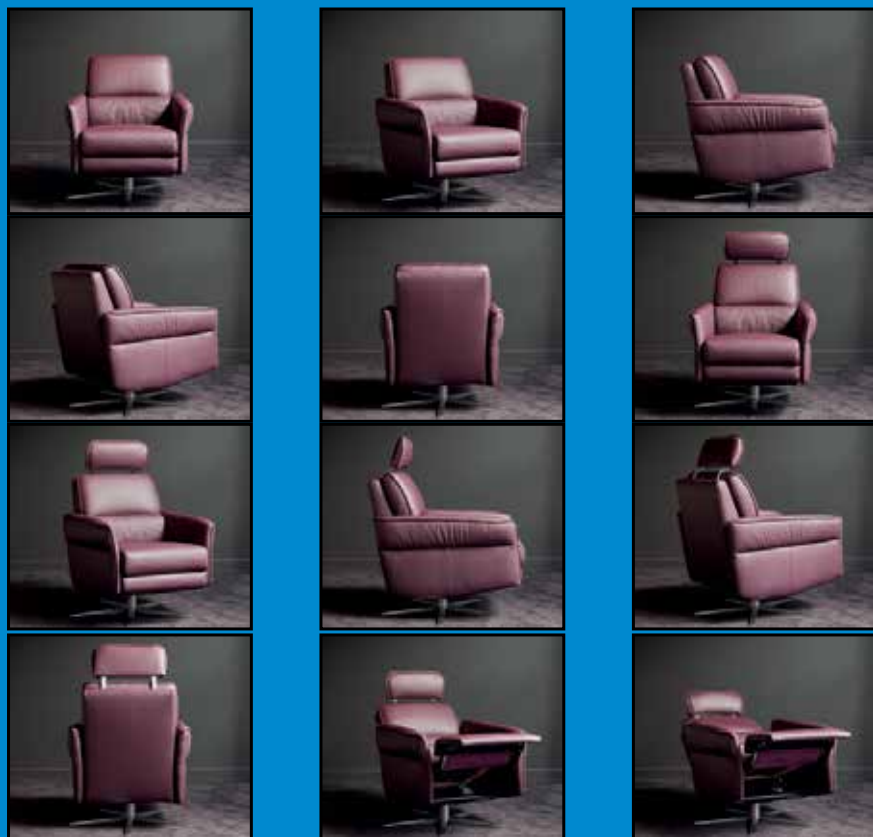
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IDA, CDD Boards Honor LWR's Finance Director for Service

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

You don't see him a whole lot. His office is on the second floor of the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, and yet there are few Lakewood Ranch employees who have made a larger impact on the quality of life in the community over the years as has Steve Zielinski.

In the 12 years he's worked for the community, Zielinski made sure that the finances of the Community Development Districts and the Inter-District Authority are sound and well-managed.

Zielinski is the guy who's gone out and gotten better bond refinance rates to save residents money on their CDD fees, and he's constantly on the lookout for ways to make financial contributions to the community work harder for the residents.

For a while Zielinski, in addition to his other duties, filled in as interim executive director while the IDA was interviewing candidates for that position.

On a sadder note, Gary Berns, longtime member of the District 1 CDD board, died Jan. 14. Supervisor Alan Roth, in lauding Berns' service to the community, noted that he could not remember a time since he first moved to Lakewood Ranch that Berns was not involved in community service. Roth said Berns had been a firefighter and attorney in New York prior to moving to Lakewood Ranch. He was an active proponent of the effort to retain Community Development District government at the time that incorporation was on the ballot several years ago, promising to not run for re-election at that time if the community voted to reject incorporation. Incorporation failed to pass and Berns, keeping his word, did not run for re-election when his term of office was completed.

ANNUAL EQUIVALENT DWELLING UNIT CERTIFICATION

As required by Florida law, the annual equivalent dwelling unit certifications were published at the January CDD board meetings: District 1-1,819; District 2-1,887; District 4-1,688; District 5-962; and District 6-444.

These numbers are used to calculate the levels of services that would be used by residents in a particular area (e.g. water and sewer services).

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Executive Director Anne Ross, in her annual review with the IDA board, was given the highest possible rating for her performance as an ED, and was awarded a 4% salary increase.

AUTOMATED GATE ACCESS

Town Hall personnel are evaluating various possibilities for converting the Country Club gatehouses to a "virtual" or "unmanned" status. Bids are expected to be received soon – possibly by the end of March – and a decision will be made as to how to proceed with this conversion.

SAFETY TOWN

District 1 Supervisor Laura Fox announced that the second annual Lakewood Ranch Safety Town event will be held Oct. 3.

FERAL HOG ISSUE

Attorney Andrew Cohen stated that the idea of using firearms to eliminate feral hogs in District 2 would not be appropriate, due to population density in the area. Supervisor Mike Finney noted that he had read that Florida had a population of approximately 500,000 feral pigs.

Operations Director Paul Chetlain noted that his department has investigated using other trapping contractors but has not found any that are markedly better than the one currently being used.

ENGINEER'S REPORT

Inspections will be performed on two lakes in District 2 and one in District 5, and the resulting reports will be submitted to the Southwest Florida Water Management District.

During the District 5 board meeting, Supervisor Alan Silverglat asked Engineer Richard Ellis if he was doing "drive-throughs" around the area to determine whether there were any new issues related to sewer failures, or pavement collapses around street drains.

Ellis replied that he had not, as this was not requested as part of his work requirement, although this could be made part of his responsibilities if requested.

Supervisor Marty Cohn noted that previously, former community engineer Mike Kennedy had taken note of possible issues at the time when he was the engineer of record, but that was because Kennedy lived in the area.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL

A new traffic signal is planned for the intersection of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard and Balmoral Woods, at the location of the Balmoral Gate in District 6.

LEGACY GOLF CLUB CONSTRUCTION

The owners of Legacy Golf Club in District 2 have applied to Manatee County for permits to build 48 housing units on their property, in order to sustain funding for the golf club.

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Trying to Figure Out Where to Move in LWR? Start by Taking the Bus!

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

Thinking about moving to Lakewood Ranch? Thinking about upsizing, downsizing, or changing lifestyles while remaining in Lakewood Ranch?

If so, then you need to get down to the Lakewood Ranch Information Center – located in the middle of Lakewood Main Street – sign up for the Lakewood Ranch bus tour, and give yourself a chance to see all the new-home-available neighborhoods in Lakewood Ranch.

The Lakewood Ranch bus tours are available on Tuesdays and Fridays, starting at 9:30 a.m. (Make sure you're there a few minutes early to check in and get your seat on the bus.) Then you're ready to be educated on all the neighborhoods where new homes are being built, or where additional new Villages will be created in the very near future.

The bus tour I took left the information Center promptly at 9:30 a.m. and our driver, Craig, navigated us down Lakewood Ranch Boulevard toward the new Waterside area south of University Parkway.

Greg Spring, our guide and commentator, noted that the land on which Lakewood Ranch is being built was originally bought by John Schroeder, whose business interests included turpentine and furniture. Schroeder married into the Uihlein family – the proprietors of the Schlitz brewery in Milwaukee.

Over the years, the land became a large cattle ranch – and still has some ranch operations today. Home sales in the community of Lakewood Ranch began in the 1990s in the Summerfield neighborhood, and Spring noted that he had been the first person to sell a home in Lakewood Ranch back then ... to folks from New Jersey.

Spring also noted that Lakewood Ranch, even though it has experienced huge growth, is still only about half developed, with over 17,000 homes and a population of around 41,000 people.

On reaching the Waterside area we traveled through the two neighborhoods currently under construction: LakeHouse Cove and Shoreview, and Spring commented on the amenities that are being built in that area, including a new Main Street-type towncenter area that will include event space (including a new home for the Players Centre for Performing Arts) as well as retail and commercial space to provide services for Lakewood Ranch residents, as well as the surrounding communities in Manatee and Sarasota counties. He also noted two new arterials tying University Parkway to Fruitville Road, with the Lorraine Road extension already open and the Lakewood Ranch Boulevard extension scheduled to open by the end of March.

On leaving the Waterside area, we passed the Sarasota Polo Club grounds on our way to The Lake Club, The Isles, Country Club East, and the Del Webb “55 and over” community. It was



pointed out that there is also a new “55 and over” community, Cresswind, which is being built north of the Lakewood National golf community, the home of one of the events on the Korn Ferry PGA Tour.

In going through the various new home communities, Spring noted the architectural styles of the villages, the approximate price ranges of the neighborhoods, and also enumerated the sorts of amenities available to residents in those areas. For example, he noted that the clubhouses in some neighborhoods, such as Esplanade and Del Webb, provided multiple services, including restaurant facilities, while in others the services were limited to more basic amenities. He also noted that many Lakewood Ranch neighborhoods were “maintenance-free.”

Spring also informed the tour group that there were currently three assisted living facilities in Lakewood Ranch, in order to keep up with the needs of residents as they aged.

It was noted that the Polo Run neighborhood was an “all solar” community, with each home having a set of solar panels on the roof – a feature which Spring indicated could save the homeowners about 60% on their electric bill!

After a short “pit stop” at Patton Park, the tour continued on to the northern area of Lakewood Ranch, and Greg pointed out the construction of the new Publix plaza at the corner of Lorraine Road and State Road 70, near the Premier Sports Campus, commenting later that there will be another new Publix center built off State Road 64 in the future, thus making it very convenient for residents to do their grocery shopping anywhere



in Lakewood Ranch.

After winding our way through multiple neighborhoods, including the original Lakewood Ranch Country Club, the bus returned to the Information Center, and Spring invited the attendees to ask questions of the Information Center staff, and to visit any of the neighborhoods which they might find to their taste.

Each visitor who took part in the bus tour was given a “goody bag” of information on Lakewood Ranch along with a few extras, and there were snacks on the bus, too. Those on the bus tour included people with kids, those just looking at a way of “getting out of the cold” up north, and, in the case of Dale and Mary, who currently live on Florida’s east coast, a chance at finding a perfect community populated by people of their own age group.

So, if you’re looking for a new start, a neighborhood populated by people of your own age group, a new apartment to rent, an energy-efficient neighborhood, or a golfing community, Lakewood Ranch has it all – and you can check it all out by taking the Lakewood Ranch bus tour yourself! The tours run from 9:30 to noon on Tuesdays and Fridays, and you can register for a bus tour at www.lakewoodranch.com.



DrMature Proves Acting Doesn't Stop with Age

DraMature is a performing troupe of actors ages 55+. They meet weekly in a workshop setting to develop their theatrical talents through skits, songs, comedy improvisation and more. Their productions range from cabaret-style shows to full-scale musicals in which members' talents are highlighted. They offer free performances and activities in a variety of venues throughout the community, which entertain while promoting a positive image of older adults. Members are accepted on an on-going basis and there are no fees to participate.

The health and mental benefits of their involvement are apparent almost immediately. Mental acuity and memory skills are strengthened through memorizing scripted lines and stage direction. Lung capacity is increased through the breath control involved

in blocking exercises, and through the physical exertion of movement muscle strength and flexibility are improved.



This group performs several times a year for enthusiastic audiences, building life satisfaction while creating a social support network that improves the quality of life for all participants. The mix of race, gender, ethnicity, and generation in today's communities are unprecedented. The Manatee Performing Arts Center hopes to target people of all ages who

are committed to building a stronger community void of specific generational, social or family decent. Whether it is a person's first of 100th time on stage this opportunity helps actors find their voice and continue to follow their passion.

Most recently DraMature performed the musical; The Music Man Sr. for two performances in front of sold out audiences in Stone Hall at the Manatee Performing Arts Center. More than two dozen DraMature actors prepared each week for months with Producing Artistic Director Rick Kerby and Production Manager Kristin Ribble. The next event will be a special Murder Mystery event, "Murder at the Juice Joint" on April 17th inside the Bradenton Kiwanis Theater. If you would like to participate or find out more ticket information, please call 941-748-5875 or visit ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com

To stay up-to-date on upcoming theatrical performances, concerts and events visit our website at www.ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com

LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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



The power of Lakewood Ranch is in the passion, dedication, and giving back nature of you, our residents. We would not be able to have sustained 20 years of providing events, groups, entertainment and philanthropic causes to be a part of if not for residents coming together to volunteer, donating their time, to help build what is today the #1 multi-generational master-planned community in the country.



*Keith Pandeloglou
Director of LWRCAC*

No one better embodies that spirit of our residents than Francis Shea, Jr., former president of the board for Community Activities, and founder of our annual Irish Celtic Festival. Our community suffered a huge loss when Frank lost his battle with cancer this January.

I was supposed to meet with Frank, and the entire committee for the Irish Festival, the week he passed. Not being able to get Frank's ideas, thoughts, and suggestions for



this year's event is a regret I won't be able to change, but I do know what Frank would have wanted. He would have wanted the committee to come together and find a way to make this year's event, being held on March 7 at Greenbrook Adventure Park, the best one yet. He'd want all the bands that we've grown to love to come out in his honor. He'd want Cahal Dunne, Ireland's Happy Man, to kick us off as he always has, with his magical quality known in show business as "it." He'd want to raise a pint to officially open the beer garden, again as the MVP relay races began, and



long into the early evening again at the inflatable pub, listening to Clover's Revenge.

Most importantly, he'd want the community to do what we do best at our events – come together, meet new and old friends, eat, drink, and be happy – while wearing our finest kilt, of course.

Come join us to celebrate the life of Frank Shea at this year's Irish Celtic Festival the best way we know how – music playing, beer flowing, and a corned beef sandwich in hand – this March 7 at Greenbrook Adventure Park from 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

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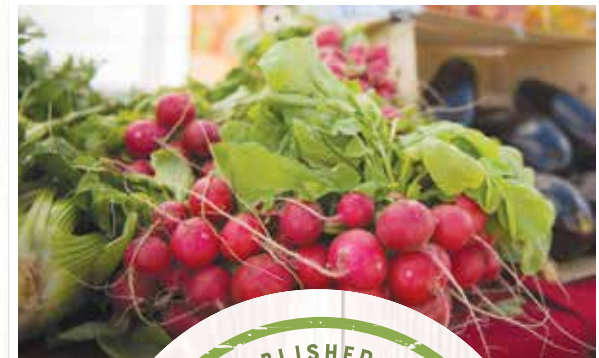
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Irrigation Water In Lakewood Ranch

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

In a way, Florida is a lot like Baja California, in Mexico. We're on this big peninsula, with water on three sides, but it's salt water, and you can't drink it, and you can't use that water to irrigate your lawn and plants, so Floridians have had to provide for other sources of water for drinking, food preparation, and irrigation.

In Lakewood Ranch, irrigation is a big issue. Residents want nice green lawns, and they want their plants and trees to be green and healthy, so way back when, a company was formed to bring irrigation water to The Ranch – primarily reclaimed water, which was available at a considerably lower cost than “potable,” or “drinking water.”

Braden River Utilities is that company, and BRU is a subsidiary of Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, the developers of Lakewood Ranch. The area served by BRU in Lakewood Ranch is close to 50 square miles, larger than the cities of Sarasota, Bradenton or Venice combined!

For years, the cost of irrigating Lakewood Ranch's lawns and gardens has been going up, largely because of excessive usage by residents who think, mistakenly, that watering their lawns every day is a sure way to keep them green. And, since our irrigation water isn't free, the increased costs of providing ever-increasing amounts of irrigation water to Lakewood Ranch have been reflected in larger CDD assessment cost to residents.

Among the biggest over-waterers are some of our snowbird residents who, perhaps because they don't understand that Florida has a “dry season” and a “rainy season,” leave in April or May to go up north for the summer months, having programmed their irrigation systems to run every day ... or at least way more than is needed. Maybe they don't realize that during the summer months it may rain almost daily on the lawns and garden beds of Lakewood Ranch even though in the winter months – the months when they're here – it may not rain for weeks on end. Hence, year-round Lakewood Ranchers end up shaking their heads upon seeing their neighbors' sprinklers running while the summer rains are pouring from the sky.

Since stemming the tide of the seemingly ever-increasing cost of irrigation water is of



great importance to residents, their elected representatives, the members of the Community Development District boards, have been working on finding ways of determining just where the water is being used and how this usage can be pared down so as to avoid future large cost increases.

On Jan. 29 the board members of CDDs 1,2,4, and 5 met at the Town Hall to hear from Bob Simons of BRU as to what has been done and what is being done to not only provide sufficient irrigation water for Lakewood Ranch, but also about what is being done to provide accurate information as to how much water is being used in each district, in order to assist district supervisors in establishing legitimate charges for irrigation water usage in their annual budgets.

Simons noted that BRU operates transmission lines to bring the irrigation water to The Ranch, although each district has its own distribution network within their particular area, commenting that BRU is essentially a “warehouse for water” for the Ranch and has spent, according to Simons, \$23 million dol-

lars in capital improvement project(s) in order to continue to provide sufficient water for irrigation. A major thrust of BRU's establishing its own pipelines is that BRU wanted to make sure that it controlled any outflow from these lines, so as to prevent being at the “tail end” of a system that they did not own, and which might be supporting other users.

Water is brought in from Manatee County, the City of Bradenton, and the City of Sarasota, and is supplemented by water from lakes such as Lake Uihlein, and water from numerous wells.

For a while now, a number of residents, in cooperation with BRU and the Operations Department, have been monitoring water pressure in certain areas to determine whether there was sufficient pressure to provide for adequate irrigation. Their findings have enabled BRU to improve service. It is now possible for BRU to take monthly meter readings from each district. This has been a big concern for district supervisors, as they have been wondering just how BRU determines how much water is being used from each district, and how is

this determining BRU's billing.

Simons also noted that reclaimed water is not regulated by the Southwest Florida Water Management District (SWFWMD), but water taken from wells is regulated. Having said that, he also noted that it is necessary for water to be pumped out of wells on occasion, for a period of 10 days, in order to hinder the growth of snails in the well water sources, which can impair pumping efforts. Residents should inform the Operations Department if they see snails in their irrigation system.

One factor that has mitigated increased water usage has been the advent of soil moisture sensors (SMS). These devices, when hooked into the homeowner's irrigation controller system, regulate water usage, shutting off irrigation when it is not needed. They also allow additional watering at times when the soil becomes unusually dry. These sensors were made available recently at little or no cost to residents through a program supported by the SWFMD, although at this time there are few if any available in the program, until and unless a new SMS program comes along.

SMS usage varies widely by district. Only 8% of Greenbrook households are using these sensors, compared to over 50% in districts 2 and 5. And the use of these sensors is reflected in the fact that water usage is down in districts 2 and 5, while it has gone up in Greenbrook. This trend, if it continues, will result in higher bills for Greenbrook homeowners, in order to pay for this over-watering!

On the negative side, some homeowners who have sensors are turning them off and using more water because they think that their plants need more water. This negates the benefits of the sensors, and results in over-watering – and higher bills.

Supervisor Bonnie Sidiski, of District 4 (Greenbrook) noted that she's told her constituents that they should install sensors as soon as possible, at a time when the cost is low, in order to avoid possible mandatory installation, which might cost them a lot more!

BRU is continuing to make sure that it can provide the additional water resulting from the continued growth of Lakewood Ranch and in doing this, is trying to enter into additional new contracts with its reclaimed water sources to cover needs for at least the next 20 years.



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Lakewood Ranch Medical Center Hosts “New Year, New You” Health and Wellness Expo at University Town Center

Lakewood Ranch Medical Center (LWRMC) hosted the “New Year, New You” Health and Wellness Expo in January at The Mall at University Town Center (UTC). The event included fitness classes hosted by local instructors, meditation sessions in the LWRMC Lounge, and cooking demos with Williams Sonoma and renowned chef Judi Gallagher. The expo featured some 50 vendors from Sarasota and Manatee counties, as well as speakers on various health and wellness topics.

The expo was presented by Lakewood Ranch Community Activities in conjunction with the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance, and was an amplified version of the event that was previously held at LWRMC.

“Lakewood Ranch is a community founded in wellbeing and for the past seven years, we’ve brought numerous health and wellness companies to The Ranch during our annual expo,” said Keith Pandeloglou, executive director of Lakewood Ranch Community Activities. “This year’s event is an expansion of that commitment; via partnerships with the LWRMC and Mall at UTC, we can showcase our lifestyle offerings to even more people.”



PHOTOS BY TED WEST



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“Results Driven”: New Fitness Center Opens In LWR

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

Are you a parent with a son or daughter who wants to really excel at a particular sport? Are you an adult who is tired of your body's low energy level? Are you someone who realizes your “couch potato” lifestyle is taking a toll on your body?

There is a new athletic training facility, right here in Lakewood Ranch, that will challenge any of the above individuals to “up their game.”

The name of this new place is D-1 Training, and it is located behind Crowder's Hardware on Gatewood Drive, just east of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard, south of State Road 64.

D-1 Training is a place which essentially duplicates the type of athletic training facility that previously could only be found in the training complexes of professional sports teams, or the workout facilities of top-tier big-name colleges.

First of all, the place is spacious. The equipment is first-rate and of professional quality. This is not a workshop that uses “big box/discount store tools.” You will find graded weights, kettlebells, heavy ropes for exercising your body, etc.

Jeff and Megan Munafo, the owners of D1 Training in Lakewood Ranch, wanted to find a place to live that incorporated a healthy lifestyle and a community that would be a great place to raise their family, and they found that in Lakewood Ranch, leaving the hustle and bustle of the Big Apple to put down roots in The Ranch's Country Club East. They love the “feel” of Lakewood Ranch!

They are excited about our community, their place in it, and the challenge of “giving back” to the community by providing Lakewood Ranch with the best training facility in the area.

So, what is the background of D-1? The company was founded in 2001 by Will Bartholomew, a former offensive lineman for the University of Tennessee Volunteers who, soon after beginning a pro career with the Denver Broncos, sustained a knee injury that ended his football career.

Bartholomew decided to establish a new business that would make the experience of a major college or pro training facility available to those individuals who seriously wanted to improve their athletic abilities, and push themselves toward success, whether in becoming a more fit, energetic individual, or a more viable candidate for athletic success at the high school and college level.

D-1 training's scholastic program focuses on the student athlete, from ages seven to 11, in the “Rookie” program, which targets character development, coordination, teamwork, accountability, a healthy lifestyle, and confidence building.

The “Developmental” program, for ages 12-14, targets athletic movement, power, speed building, and some work with appropriate levels of weights.

The “Prep” program, for ages 15-18, works on power, speed, strength, and athleticism, in a manner similar to a Division 1 college training program.

For those athletes who are striving to attain their goals of



excelling at a particular position in a specific sport, there is what is referred to as the “Overdrive Program.”

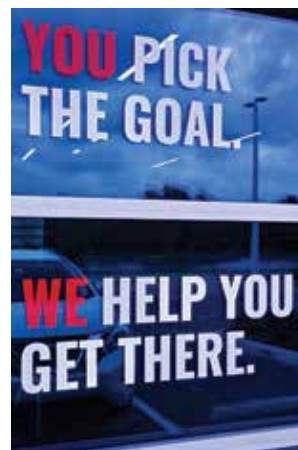
In addition, D-1 Training also provides the opportunity for high school and club sports athletes to do team training.

Group training sessions for kids and young adults are offered, and can include birthday party events – which involve training and the usual fun and games of a party – in the second floor lounge area.

As was mentioned before, parents are invited to get into the action themselves while their kids are participating in their own training sessions. You can get in a workout at the same time that your child is getting his or her exercise, without having to drive to another facility!

As for adult training, there are several options: “Boot Camp” involves a 54-minute workout stressing strengthening, mobility, conditioning, and a big-time calorie burn! Then there is an eight-week program of strength training, intended to increase muscle mass, and both private and semi-private training is also available.

The whole idea behind D-1 Training ... RESULTS!



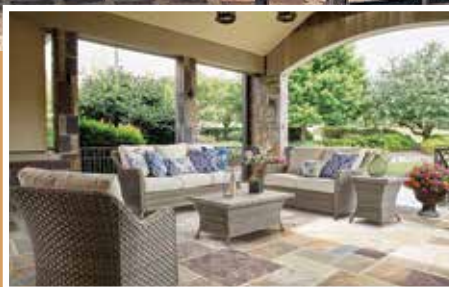
So, whether you need a New Year's resolution, just want to get into better shape, or your son or daughter is an aspiring athlete, get yourself over to D-1 Training-Lakewood Ranch, and check it out for yourself.

For more information visit d1training.com/lakewood-ranch.

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Pulte Homes' Sapphire Point Coming to Lakewood Ranch

Pulte Homes has announced plans for Sapphire Point at Lakewood Ranch, a new family-friendly community of approximately 472 single-family homes in the northeast section of Lakewood Ranch.

Featuring more than 60 acres of preserve and 35 acres of lakes, Sapphire Point at Lakewood Ranch will offer one- and two-story homes on 42-, 52- and 62-foot-wide homesites.

Located off State Road 70 on Uihlein Road, just past the Premier Sports Campus, Sapphire Point is close to everything, including top-rated elementary and middle schools, shopping, local parks and convenient commuter routes. Sapphire Point is also situated near plentiful employment opportunities in and around Lakewood Ranch, its Main Street entertainment district and Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. Nearby, Premier Sports Campus hosts year-round sports and recreation activities on its 140 acres of celebration-seeded grass, including 23 FIFA-regulation playing fields.

"Sapphire Point at Lakewood Ranch provides homebuyers the ideal combination of Pulte's flexible, modern-minded floorplans and the Lakewood Ranch lifestyle that offers something for everyone in the family," said Richard McCormick, president of PulteGroup's Southwest Florida Division. "Its convenient location, just 1.5 miles from A-rated elementary and middle schools and one mile from a future high school, coupled with all of the neighborhood amenities, makes it a great value."

Models in Sapphire Point are expected to break ground in



spring of 2020, and the community is scheduled to open in the fall of 2020. Pulte's single-family home designs will offer flexible floor plans, gourmet-inspired kitchens and versatile outdoor living spaces, officials said. Homebuyers can personalize their Sapphire Point selections with customizable options and smart home technology.

Sapphire Point at Lakewood Ranch will offer a resort-style pool and a clubhouse with a community room for neighborhood gatherings, along with a fire pit, basketball and pickleball courts and a playground.

Beyond the gates of Sapphire Point, residents will enjoy close



proximity to Main Street, the downtown center of Lakewood Ranch featuring an array of shops and restaurants as well as free special events, and concerts and festivals throughout the year. The neighborhood is also near the future county library and aquatics center.

Within a five-minute drive, residents will find The Green, a town center that features more than two dozen businesses within 150,000 square feet of retail, office and restaurant spaces.

For more information about Sapphire Point visit www.Pulte.com/SapphirePoint or call (941) 213-1179.

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AROUND THE RANCH



PHOTOS BY ERIC NALPAS AND JULIO AGUILAR

Ranch Nite Wednesdays at Sarasota Polo Club

If you haven't been to Ranch Nite Wednesdays, now is the time to come. This "new" event (an off-shoot of last year's evening Market) features the live music, kids' playground and family-friendly lawn games, and outdoor picnic and table seating. There's a food truck rally with a rotating lineup of trucks each week, featuring a mix of dinner and dessert options. And don't forget the libations available for purchase from the Sarasota Polo Club!

MVP Sports and Social hosts the Lakewood Ranch-based cornhole league, which boasts more than 50 teams. Not ready for league play? There are also free play cornhole boards for those who want to play the game but not commit to the league.

The free, mid-week celebrations kick off at 4 p.m. and last until around 8 p.m. (ending later for league play) through Feb. 26 at the Sarasota Polo Club, 8201 Polo Club Lane, Lakewood Ranch.

For more information about Ranch Nite Wednesdays visit lakewoodranch.com/event/ranch-nite-Wednesdays.



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KOLTER

Lakewood Ranch Best-Selling Multi-Gen Community In The Nation

Lakewood Ranch has been recognized as the best-selling, master-planned multi-generational community in the country by John Burns and RCLCO (two independent real estate consulting firms) for the second year in a row.

Lakewood Ranch saw 1,655 new home sales in 2019, up from 1,479 in 2018 – a 12 percent increase year-over-year and the best sales year on record for The Ranch.

Lakewood Ranch has been among the top-selling master-planned communities in the country for nine out of the last 10 years, according to RCLCO, who ranked The Ranch second in its “Best of the Decade” list.

Favorable market conditions contributed to Lakewood Ranch's success in 2019, according to Laura Cole, senior vice president of LWR Communities. Sales came from throughout Florida, as well as from high tax markets in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic, such as New York, New Jersey, Boston and Maryland. People are also coming, in increasing numbers, from Georgia and California. Low interest rates, a booming stock market, and a strong overall economy have helped bolster buyers' confidence.

Lakewood Ranch's multi-generational approach continued to pay dividends in 2019. “The community was prepared to meet increased demand from the millennial buyer while still accommodating move-up families, empty-nesters, retirees, and seniors,” Cole said. “Our strength lies in the diversity of our

neighborhoods and homes, abundance of shopping, dining, and services, job base, and exceptional lifestyle offerings. It is not unusual to see one sale turn into two, three, and even four sales as families and friends quickly follow the initial purchaser.”

The 2019 numbers were achieved, in part, by the opening of new neighborhoods like Kolter's Cresswind, The Palisades from Freedom Homes by D.R. Horton; and Woodleaf Hammock, featuring M/I Homes and Meritage Homes. The growth of Waterside, the village located on the southern edge of The Ranch in Sarasota County, has also contributed. Waterside is situated around several lakes; its much-anticipated town center, Waterside Place, is expected to be complete at the end of this year.

Popular amongst residents are a vibrant Main Street that has become a shopping, dining and entertainment destination for the region, miles of trails and paths, parks offering a disc golf course, watercraft launches, and dog parks; and nationally recognized sports venues like the Premier Sports Campus and the Sarasota Polo Club. The Ranch is also home to A-rated schools, nine institutions of higher learning, and the Lakewood Ranch Medical Center.

Lifestyle remains a major driver of sales. The Ranch is home to a national award-winning lifestyle director, a flourishing farmers' market anchored by more than 60 local vendors, more than 50 diverse clubs, and a seemingly endless calendar of com-

munity events, including theater in the field, festivals and tournaments. New in 2019 was area's first “Mindful Triathlon” – a 5K run, yoga and meditation. Coming online in the first quarter of 2020 are a resident website, with a directory exclusively for Lakewood Ranch businesses, and Ranch Nite Wednesdays, which will feature food trucks, cornhole leagues, music and celebration, at the Sarasota Polo Club at Lakewood Ranch.

The Ranch continues to be successful at market segmentation – the targeting of various age, income, and household segments with appropriately priced and designed residential product types – filling multiple market niches. Lakewood Ranch currently offers buyers 17 unique villages from which to choose, with a wide variety of homes types and price points (\$200k to well over \$1M) by 21 different builders. In 2020, five new villages are scheduled to open to add to the already robust offerings. Two new apartment communities opened in 2019, with another on schedule to be complete in 2020.

Lakewood Ranch is a major job center, with more than four million square feet of commercial real estate in place and entitlements for up to 14 million. There are more than 1,350 businesses in diverse sectors such as biomedical, technology, insurance, and education.

One commercial center, CORE (Collaboration Oppor-

SEE COMMUNITY, PAGE 26



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HEALTH OF WEALTH

Staying The Course

BY HULDAH MATHIS

Happy new year everyone! With January already in the rearview, those resolutions and goals for 2020 may be slipping out of sight already for many. Now is the time to refocus if that is sounding familiar. Let's break it down month by month with some questions to consider and some tips to stay the course with what you set out to accomplish financially, and otherwise, this year.

FEBRUARY One month into 2020, how are you doing with those new habits you set out to maintain this year? Are you sticking to that budget you set for yourself? Have you broken down your long-term goals into something more tangible, like 30-day increments? If not, set small goals one month at a time that will put you on the path to reaching that bigger objective by year end.

MARCH Have you been planning to buy a new home? Are you trying to move before the start of the next school year? For those hoping to downsize and extend your seasonal time out of state during the summer months, have you begun that process before you leave this year?

APRIL It's tax time again. Do you have a plan this year to maximize your tax-deductible retirement savings? Do you have a dependent day care account through work that you haven't taken advantage of yet? Do you know whether you qualify to fund a Roth IRA this year? Have you talked to your accountant



to make sure you are structuring your business in a way that maximizes your tax efficiencies? Time to check in for this year's plans even if you can't adjust anything for 2019 filing.

MAY Summer is coming. Have you planned that vacation yet? For those with younger kids, have you made plans for their activities and figured out what you may need to adjust on your work schedule/budget to account for the summer schedule. If you are a grandparent helping while school is out, have you figured out how your other commitments might need to adjust as well?

JUNE You're halfway through the year! Look back and recall everything you have already accomplished and celebrate that! Do you need to reset/adjust anything? Now is a good time to reassess.

JULY For many people this is a slower time at work. If updating your estate plan was on your to-do list this year, have you set up a meeting with an attorney? Have you and your spouse thought about what changes you want to make now that your kids are grown? If you're going through this process for this first time, have you thought about what kind of legacy you would want to leave for those you love?

AUGUST Being well into the second half of the year, now is a good time to revisit your investment strategy. If you manage your own portfolio, make sure that any planned rebalancing or trading has been executed properly so you aren't positioned in more cash than you intended. If you're just starting out, don't overcomplicate it. A target date fund is a great single fund solution for a long time horizon. For any investor, it is important to choose a program that fits your timeframe for using this money and to stick to your plan. You can ride the waves of the market

without changing course if you know your end game.

SEPTEMBER Season is coming! Slow down and take the time to be a tourist in our own great town. So many people wait all year to vacation here and enjoy the arts, beaches and beauty that we have access to year-round. Are you taking full advantage of all that our local community has to offer?

OCTOBER While this may seem early, holiday season will be here before you know it. So many people start January feeling stressed about "paying off" the holidays. Have you thought about how you plan to stick to your budget this year? Can you spread out some of the year-end pile up by starting some gift shopping early and spreading out the expense?

NOVEMBER For many this is a timeframe of open enrollment for benefits through work. Have you taken the time to read through next year's offering? If you are either approaching Medicare eligibility or already enrolled, this is a good time for you also to look ahead to next year and have a plan for either enrolling initially or re-evaluating your current plan to make sure it still fits today's life circumstances.

DECEMBER As the year closes and holidays approach, take the time to revisit your gifting and charitable giving. Have you completed what you planned to in those areas? Make sure to talk to your financial advisor and your accountant early this month to ensure you have taken advantage of the most tax efficient ways to accomplish these objectives before year-end.

Huldah is a Lakewood Ranch resident and certified financial planner with Northwestern Mutual. She is a Florida native and has been serving this community for 12 years.

Manatee County Neighborhood Leaders Invited to 2020 Manasota Summit

Community leaders are invited to attend the Manasota Neighborhoods Summit on Feb. 21, hosted by Neighborhood Services staff from Manatee and Sarasota counties and the City of Sarasota.

The 2020 summit will bring together formal, informal and aspiring neighborhood leaders to learn about improvement trends and opportunities that impact the leadership, safety, environment and enjoyment of our region's neighborhoods.

The Manasota Neighborhoods Summit will be held from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Feb. 21 at Gold Coast Eagle Distribution Center, 7051 Wireless Court, Lakewood Ranch, Fla., 34240. There is no cost to attend, but registration is strongly encouraged, and is available at bit.ly/mns2020. A light breakfast, snack and lunch will be provided.

The half-day event will focus on the local perspective, at no cost to attendees. Workshops include (may be subject to change):

- Welcoming Wildlife into Your Neighborhood
- Neighborhood-level Planning Strategies
- Neighborhood Grant Programs

- 2020 Census
- Neighborhood Pointers Program
- Participating in Local Government
- GIS Quick Picks

There will also be a panel discussion with Manatee County Sheriff Rick Wells and Sarasota County Sheriff Tom Knight, during which they will talk about crime trends and prevention techniques before answering questions from the audience.

To close out the summit, there will be a guided trolley tour of Lakewood Ranch, one of the largest green-certified communities in the nation.

"We want to give our neighborhoods the resources and knowledge to be the best advocates for their communities," said Manatee County Neighborhood Connections Coordinator Debbie DeLeon. "This summit allows neighborhood leaders to network with other like-minded leaders as well as the organizations that serve them."

For more information, call (941) 749-3030 or email neighborhoodconnections@mymanatee.org.

FROM PAGE 24

tunities for Research), is a biotech, research and business-focused campus that is home to the Brain Health Initiative (BHI), formed by The Academy for Brain Health and Performance in collaboration with Massachusetts General Hospital, a Harvard Medical School Teaching Hospital. This large-scale effort is designed to uncover the factors that affect brain health and performance, as well as discern, develop, and test interventions aimed at enhancing brain health and optimizing performance throughout the lifespan. The Ranch was named to ideal-Living magazine's "best wellness environment" category in 2019, due in part to the association with the BHI.

Not to be overlooked is Lakewood Ranch's proximity to the beaches, and cultural and sports offerings that allow residents to experience a higher quality of life without sacrificing big-city conveniences.

RCLCO has been ranking master-planned communities since 1994; for more information, visit www.rclco.com. This is the 11th year that John Burns Real Estate Consulting has ranked top-selling U.S. master-planned communities; for more information, visit www.realestateconsulting.com.

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

January 20 – March 18, 2020

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

February 20	8:30 A.M.	CDD 1 Board Meeting 907-0202
	9:00 A.M.	CDD 2 Board Meeting 907-0202
	9:30 A.M.	CDD 5 Board Meeting 907-0202
	11:00 A.M.	CDD 6 Board Meeting 907-0202
	3:00 P.M.	CEVA Safety Committee 850-396-2695
February 24	10:00 A.M.	CEVA Finance Committee Meeting 907-3880
	2:00 P.M.	CEVA Fining Committee
	5:00 P.M.	SRVA Compliance Meeting 907-0202
February 25	8:30 A.M.	SRVA Modifications 907-0202
	3:00 P.M.	CEVA Board Meeting 907-0202
February 26	1:00 P.M.	Country Club Modifications 907-0202
	3:00 P.M.	Edgewater Modifications 907-0202
	5:30 P.M.	Hollow Board Meeting 921-5393
	5:30 P.M.	SRVA Safe Neighborhood Planning Meeting 355-0292
	7:00 P.M.	SRVA Board Meeting 907-0202
February 27	3:00 P.M.	Augusta/Oakmont Neighborhood Comm. Mtg. 907-3448
March 4	4:00 P.M.	GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
March 5	3:00 P.M.	CEVA Restrictions Revision 907-0202
March 9	9:00 A.M.	IDA Budget Workshop 907-0202
	5:00 P.M.	GBVA Compliance Meeting 907-0202
March 10	8:30 A.M.	SRVA Modifications 907-0202
March 11	1:00 P.M.	Country Club Modifications 907-0202
	3:00 P.M.	Edgewater Modifications 907-0202
	7:00 P.M.	SRVA Landscape Meeting 907-0202
March 12	3:00 P.M.	CDD 2 Special Workshop
March 16	9:00 A.M.	CDD 6 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	3:00 P.M.	CEVA Board Workshop 907-0202
	5:00 P.M.	SRVA Board of Directors Workshop
	7:00 P.M.	Pointe Neighborhood Committee Meeting 893-5135
March 17	8:00 A.M.	IDA Board Meeting 907-0202
	10:00 A.M.	CDD 1 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	1:00 P.M.	CDD 2 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	2:30 P.M.	CDD 5 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
March 18	10:00 A.M.	CDD 4 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	10:15 A.M.	CDD 4 Board Meeting 907-0202
	4:00 P.M.	Mizner Reserve Neighborhood Committee Meeting 373-3898
	4:00 P.M.	Sandhills Neighborhood Committee Meeting 907-0820
	4:00 P.M.	GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
	6:00 P.M.	GBVA Board Meeting 907-0202

*Meeting dates and times are subject to change



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COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

February/March 2020

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February 15 – Third Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- Digital Photography, 8:30 a.m.
- Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Digital Photography photo drop off, 12:30 p.m.

February 16 – Third Sunday

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

February 17 – Third Monday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

February 18 – Third Tuesday

- Italian American Club, 10:30 a.m.
- Empty Nesters, 12:30 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- History Club, 7 p.m.

February 19 – Third Wednesday

- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT Radio communications committee, 7 p.m.

February 20 – Third Thursday

- LWR Women's Club Yoga, 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Indivisible LWR, 6:30 p.m.
- LWR Women's Club Book Club, 6:45 p.m.

February 21 – Third Friday

- Women's Exercise, 9 a.m.
- Shanti Yoga, 10 a.m.
- Art League Club, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, noon
- Wine Club, 6:30 p.m.

February 22 – Fourth Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- CERT grid search training-setup, 8 a.m.
- CERT grid search training, 9 a.m.
- Digital Photography, 1 p.m.

February 23 – Fourth Sunday

- SUGAR Volunteers, noon
- Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.

February 24 – Fourth Monday

- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Spyglass Card Sharks, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, Soccer Field, 5:30 p.m.
- Anglers' board meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Running Club, 6:30 p.m.

February 25 – Fourth Tuesday

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

February 26 – Fourth Wednesday

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

February 27 – Fourth Thursday

- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT Public education session setup, 6 p.m.
- CERT Public education session, 7 p.m.

February 28 – Fourth Friday

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

February 29 – Fifth Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- Digital Photography, 8:30 a.m.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 29



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COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 28

March 1 – First Sunday

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

March 2 – First Monday

- Gardeners Out East board meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- Handcrafts and More, 10 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Lakewood Ranch Garden Club board meeting, 1 p.m.
- Spyglass Card Sharks, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- LWR Women's Club Knitters, 3:30 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT board meeting, 7 p.m.
- Genealogy Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

March 3 – First Tuesday

- Lunch Club, Town Hall, 11 a.m.
- Empty Nesters, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- CERT marketing communications committee, 4 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Anglers' Club, 6:30 p.m.

March 4 – First Wednesday

- Digital Photography, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Bingo, 1 p.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

March 5 – First Thursday

- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.

March 6 – First Friday

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

March 7 – First Saturday

- Irish Celtic Festival-all amenities, 7 a.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Digital Photography, 8:30 a.m.
- Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

March 8 – Second Sunday

- Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.

March 9 – Second Monday

- Lakewood Ranch Garden Club general meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- LWR Women's Club Yoga, 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.

March 10 – Second Tuesday

- Bridge on Tuesday, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Women's Club "Blankets for Babies," 1 p.m.

- Digital Photography board meeting, 5 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Democratic Club, 7 p.m.

March 11 – Second Wednesday

- Digital Photography, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Indivisible LWR, 6:30 p.m.

March 12 – Second Thursday

- Women's Club Yoga, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Women's Club general meeting setup, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT operations committee, 6 p.m.
- Women's Club general meeting, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

March 13 – Second Friday

- Women's Exercise Class, 9 a.m.
- Creative Arts Annual Spring Show setup, 10 a.m.

March 14 – Second Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Creative Arts Annual Spring Show, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.

March 15 – Third Sunday

- Italian American Club/pavilion, noon
- Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.
- Sunday Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

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Games Begin: End of March

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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 750+ 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 EVENTS

(Please visit www.LWRBA.org to sign up for these events.)

Luncheon: From Cattle Ranch to Lakewood Ranch
Thursday, February 27
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lakewood Ranch Country Club
7650 Legacy Blvd.

\$27 members; \$37 non-members

Local historian and executive director at Historic Spanish Point, John McCarthy, joins us to dive into the history of our region. McCarthy will uncover the factors that influenced local entrepreneurs as they helped this community prosper, and how those les-

sons apply to today's business. This luncheon is in partnership with the Rotary Club of LWR.

Young Leaders Alliance Networking Social
Thursday, February 27
5:30-7:30 p.m.

The Bishop Museum
201 10th St. W.
Bradenton, FL 34205

Free for YLA members, \$15 non-members

Where else on Florida's Gulf Coast can you network while watching manatees munch on lettuce? On Feb. 27, the YLA Social will be at The Bishop Museum of Science and Nature. Join us for an evening of conversation and exploration in an open-air courtyard under twinkling lights. Mingle next to a herd of manatees or indulge your inner paleontologist with some fascinating local fossils. Come ready for some delicious food and drinks, great networking, and engaging conversations!

Networking Social:
Sarasota Gateway Hotels
Wednesday, March 4
5-7 p.m.
Comfort Inn & Suites

5985 Brookhill Blvd.

Free for members; \$15 non-members

Our March Networking Social will be hosted by Sarasota Gateway Hotels – the new campus at Fruitville & I-75 – offering three brand flags under two roofs: Comfort Inn & Suites and Sleep Inn/MainStay Suites. The hotels offer 193 rooms and 19 different room types. Don't miss this one!

Alliance LEADS: Unlocking the Secret of Being a Trusted Advisor
Wednesday, March 11
7:30-9 a.m.

Keiser University

6151 Lake Osprey Drive

\$10 members; \$20 non-members

Understanding how we take in information is an important component of building any long-lasting relationship. Brett Morris of Momentum Consulting will share an approach to communicating and listening to ensure you're viewed as someone others can trust and with whom they WANT to do business – a "trusted advisor."

Luncheon: State of the State with Senator Galvano
Wednesday, March 25
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Grove Ballroom

10670 Boardwalk Loop

\$35 for members and non-members

Join us as we host president of the Florida Senate, Bill Galvano (District 21), as he delivers a 2019-2020 legislative session overview with an emphasis on Lakewood Ranch and Manatee and Sarasota counties.

February 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.

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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.

Chabad Hebrew School of the Arts

Sundays, Feb. 23, 9:30 a.m. to noon

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JLI – Judaism's Gifts to the World

Wednesdays, Feb. 19 and 26, from 7:30 to 9 p.m.

JLI presents a new six-session course on how major Jewish ideas have become universal values. An analysis of Jewish contributions past and present allows us to define ways in which Judaism can continue serving as a beacon of light and wisdom for all humanity. JLI courses are sponsored in part by the Jewish Federation of Sarasota-Manatee. Cost for the course is \$75, textbooks included.

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

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