

Around the Ranch

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THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2019



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, LAKEWOOD RANCH! The Ranch kicked off its 25th year of creating community at January's Music on Main. The Ranch will continue to celebrate its silver anniversary throughout the year. Thanks to everyone for making Lakewood Ranch such an incredible place to live! For more photos see pages 18-19. Photos by Eric Nalpas

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Editor:

Lisa M. Barnott
lisa.barnott@lakewoodranch.com

Contributing Writer:

Ernie Soller
efsoller@hotmail.com

Proofreader:

Sue Chaney

Community Programs:

Keith Pandeloglou
keith@lwrcc.com

Governance Meetings:

Lynn Kuiken
lynn.kuiken@lwrtownhall.com

Director of Advertising:

Stacia King
sking@heraldtribune.com

Graphic Designer:

Kim Collister
kim.collister@heraldtribune.com

Editorial Board

Lisa M. Barnott, Rex Jensen, Sue Chaney

Phone Numbers

Community Services Town Hall:
941-907-0202

LWR Common Area:

Maintenance Requests, 941-727-0899

Lakewood Ranch Medical Center:

941-782-2100

Manatee County Government:

941-748-4501

Lakewood Ranch Post Office:

941-758-3537

Around the Ranch offices are at 14400 Covenant Way, Lakewood Ranch, FL, 34202. The editorial phone number is 941-757-1542. Fax press releases to 941-757-1543. The e-mail address is aroundtheranch@lakewoodranch.com.

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LWR Best-Selling Multi-Gen In The Nation; Second Overall

Lakewood Ranch has been recognized as the second best-selling, master-planned community in the country by RCLCO and John Burns, two independent real estate consulting firms; an increase from its third-place ranking for 2017.

Lakewood Ranch saw 1,479 new home sales in 2018, up from 1,206 in 2017 – a 23 percent increase year-over-year and the best sales year on record for The Ranch. The 23 percent increase way exceeded the average growth of 5 percent on the top-selling list, RCLCO officials said.

Lakewood Ranch's sales numbers at mid-year boosted the community's ranking to second place in the nation for the first half of 2018 – and first in the nation for multi-generational communities – for the first time in its history, according to Maryland-based RCLCO. The robust sales pattern carried throughout the year and secured its spot for the entire year of 2018.

Lakewood Ranch bettered its 2017 year-end position of No. 3 and continued to outpace many other communities in Arizona, California, Nevada, Texas, Colorado, and even Florida. Only one other community in the top 10, located in Nevada, demonstrated a larger percentage of growth. Lakewood Ranch has been among the top-selling master-planned communities in the country for seven years.

The 2018 numbers were achieved, in part, by the opening of new neighborhoods like The Isles by Toll Brothers, and the growth of Waterside in Sarasota County.

"Waterside will include 5,000 homes at buildout," RCLCO officials said, "meaning Lakewood Ranch's time near the top of the MPC Survey will likely continue for the foreseeable future."

An important aspect of The Ranch's success is its multigenerational approach to defining its market.

"Our lifestyle and amenities are without peer and we have a dynamic and thriving business environment," said Laura Cole, vice president of marketing for LWR Communities. "These factors attract consumers of all ages and walks of life. Young families, their parents, and grandparents have all found their home in Lakewood Ranch, and this reinforces our very strong extended family dynamic and helps amplify our home sales."

Lakewood Ranch's improvement over its 2017 sales is also due to successful market segmentation – the targeting of various age, income, and household segments with appropriately priced and designed residential product types and lifestyle amenities – filling multiple market niches.

Lakewood Ranch currently offers numerous unique villages from which to choose, with a wide variety of homes types and price points, a vibrant Main Street that has become a destination for the region, and nationally recognized sports venues like the Premier Sports Campus and the Sarasota Polo Club. The Ranch also boasts A-rated schools, nine institutions of higher learning, and the Lakewood Ranch Medical Center.

Lifestyle is another driver of sales. Two new parks were opened in 2018, with miles of trails and paths, a disc golf course, three dog parks, and watercraft launches. The Ranch boasts a national award-winning lifestyle director, a flourishing farmers' market anchored by an organic community-supported-agriculture program and an ever-increasing list of local vendors, more than 50 diverse clubs, and a seemingly endless calendar of community events, including theater in the field, music in the park, festivals and tournaments.

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. The newest is CORE (Collaboration Opportunities for Research); a biotech, research and business-focused campus that is home



PHOTO BY MARK ODELL

to The Green, a mixed-use retail and entertainment project with 525,000 square feet of space. The Green includes businesses such as Earth Fare, LA Fitness, and a variety of high-quality shops and restaurants ranging from iconic national brands to local concepts. More than 300 luxury apartments are also under construction.

Commercial growth and development are contributors to new home sales as families relocate to pursue career opportunities. The Ranch has more than 1,350 businesses in diverse sectors such as biomedical, technology, insurance, and education.

Another area of growth is those who tele-commute. Technology, and the proximity of four international airports for business use when necessary, enable workers to leave highly congested metropolitan areas and pursue their careers and family lives here.

Lakewood Ranch's location close to the beaches, cultural, and sports offerings allow residents to experience a higher quality of life without sacrificing big-city conveniences.

Sales in Lakewood Ranch are coming from throughout Florida, including an influx of buyers from Tampa, Orlando, and the east coast, as well as New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Illinois and the mid-Atlantic. People are also coming, in increasing numbers, from Georgia and California.

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

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.

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 the meanings of our daily prayers.

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.

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



BEHIND THE SCENES...

Volunteers generously donate their time and talents to design, construct, paint and build most of our sets at Manatee Performing Arts Center.

As the popular TV ad proclaims, "We've done a thing or two because we've seen a thing or two." Well, at Manatee Performing Arts Center you can do a thing or two or see a thing or two. In our Scene Shop you'll find very active and involved staff and volunteers working tirelessly to design, construct, paint and assemble thousands of props and set pieces each year. This is no easy feat. Our two paid employees in the Scene Shop, Technical Director Tom Sell, and Resident Technical Designer Caleb Carrier, rely heavily on the amazing work of four part-time volunteers (Dudley Davis, Ralph Nurmella, Mike Harris and Bruce McNally - LAKEWOOD RANCH RESIDENT) to assist in the set creations that come to life year after year on our stages. Bruce is just one of many Lakewood Ranch residents who make a vital impact at the Manatee Performing Arts Center.

When audiences walk through the spacious lobby into the 350 seat Stone Hall or 80 seat Bradenton Kiwanis Theater, they are treated to the beautiful fully completed sets. Whether that be a ship for a pirate crew or a carousel full of horses, there isn't a bad seat in the house to watch these performances. Audiences will truly feel like they are part of the production and in the pieces.



"We can always use additional volunteers with or without skills in woodworking, painting or art. Helping others learn these, and many other skills, is one of the important missions for the Manatee Performing Arts Center." -Dudley Davis, volunteer, set maker and artist

Haven't joined us, yet?

On stage you can see a variety of shows, not just your traditional Broadway shows either. The Manatee Performing Arts Center hosts musical artists, comedians, tribute bands, operas and other traveling shows, throughout the year. We are excited to host **Judy Collins, live and in person**, on March 8 and **Liverpool Live: Beatles Tribute** on March 30.

Manatee Players' production of Disney and Cameron Mackintosh's **MARY POPPINS** opened, in Stone Hall, on February 14 and runs through March 3. Go online to reserve your seats today; you don't want to miss this one!

For a complete listing of performances, to find out how you can get involved or to experience a backstage tour visit:
www.ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com

LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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



LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Live here, Play here

Lakewood Ranch friends and neighbors, are you still sticking to your "New Year, Healthier Me" resolutions? Whether you are ... or not so much ... chances are, you could benefit from attending our annual **Health and Wellness Expo** from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 23, at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. Admission is free!



Keith Pandeloglou
Director of LWRCAC

The Health and Wellness Expo will have more than 50 exhibitors in the health field who will share samples, perform screenings, and market services and information. There will also be free offerings including: ankle brachial index tests (ABI), glucose tests, balance tests, obstructive sleep apnea screenings, blood pressure checks and much more!

We encourage you to invite friends and relatives!

Looking for new ways to stay active? Here are two clubs that might interest you – and are welcoming new members. Not a runner, but curious? Check out the LWR Running Club – walkers are invited as well – and have participants at all levels and speeds. Scheduled runs/walks are at 6 a.m. on Tuesdays and Thursdays at Braden River Nature Park on Lakewood Ranch Boulevard. They also meet on Saturdays at 6 a.m. at Summerfield Park Pavilion at Summerfield Park. For more information contact James Nelson at (941)345-3868.

Another health and wellness club suggestion is the Shanti Yoga Club! Perfect for those new to yoga, or just beginning in their yoga practice, you will experience peaceful practice with breathwork and meditation. There is a one-time contribution of \$20 to cover insurance. Shanti Yoga meets from 10-11 a.m. every Friday at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall.

Our friends at **MVP Sports and Social** host seven different recreational sports leagues! They host co-ed sports for



adults 18 years old and up. Whether you are a seasoned athlete, haven't laced up your cleats since high school, or are just looking for a fun way to burn some extra calories, MVP provides a fun, social environment that all skill levels can enjoy. For more information visit mvpsportsandsocial.com.

Are you new to Lakewood Ranch? Mark your calendars for the **"new resident orientation"** held the first Tuesday of the month at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, 8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. Learn about Lakewood Ranch history, community development and stewardship districts, local businesses, volunteer opportunities, and charitable giving. Find out about the more than 60 clubs, local events, parks and trails, and the seasonal farmers' market. Connect with your community and meet your Lakewood Ranch team.

All new residents to Lakewood Ranch are welcome to attend this free event. Attendees will also go home with a gift



bag sponsored by Lakewood Ranch Community Activities. RSVP at lwrcac.org.

Join the conversation at the **LWR Talks** speaker series, in conjunction with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Ringling College. The next date is March 19, which will feature Dr. Alex Beavers on "Artificial Intelligence: Good or Evil?" From a pioneer in artificial intelligence, the layers of sensationalized hype surrounding AI will be peeled back to explore why we should embrace it rather than fear it. The event begins at 10 a.m. and is held at the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club. Visit lakewoodranch.com to register; cost is \$10 per person.

The Lakewood Ranch Community Campout was rescheduled from January due to weather: new time is 3 p.m. to 10 a.m. Feb. 23-24, at the Greenbrook Adventure Park, 13010 Adventure Place. Join your neighbors for a night of family

fun! Cost is \$20 per family/space. Activities include campfire s'mores, tent-pitching demos, stargazing with an astronomer, family movie, treasure hunts, live music, nature hike, and food trucks. For more information visit lakewoodranch.com/event/lakewood-ranch-community-campout.

It's true, we are all Irish on St. Patrick's Day, so it's the perfect time for you to enjoy our annual **Irish Celtic Festival & Lucky Dog Parade**, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. March 9 at the Greenbrook Adventure Park, 13040 Adventure Way! If you're of Celtic descent, you can show the newbies how it's done. We hope to see lots of WEARING O'THE GREEN! We'll have plenty of traditional Celtic food, craft beers, hard ciders and GREAT entertainment! Bring the whole family to celebrate with us for this fantastic event. See you there!

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 LWR PICKLEBALL CLUB meets at 4 p.m. every Friday and at 8:30 a.m. every Saturday at the LWR High School courts. Beginner/novice clinics are held on the first and third Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m. New members are always

welcome, so bring your friends! For more information contact Robert Haskin at rahaskin27@gmail.com.

THE LAKEWOOD RANCH WIND ENSEMBLE is now looking for members! If you play a woodwind (flute, piccolo, clarinet, oboe, bassoon, saxophone), brass (trumpet/cornet, French horn, trombone, baritone/euphonium, tuba) or percussion instrument, and your skills are current, contact them today! Include the name of the instrument you play and a brief resume of your performance history. For more information contact jmmsr7973@gmail.com.

THE LWR DIGITAL PHOTO CLUB meets the third Wednesday of every month at the Grace Community Church, 6932 Professional Pkwy. E., Sarasota. For more, contact: Larry Deitch at larrydeitch@gmail.com or visit LWRdpc.com.

THE ASIAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF LAKEWOOD RANCH has a mission of making a positive difference in the community and in their members through friendships, enhancing awareness of Asian customs, culture, food, music, art and traditions; educational seminars, and fundraising events to

support local charities and provide scholarships for students in need. The AWCLWR meets every fourth Wednesday at 6 p.m. at Town Hall. For more, contact: Maria Cora Gaffar at mcg200@aol.com or (941)361-1205.

THE LAKEWOOD RANCH ANGLERS CLUB offers fishing secrets from local charter fishing captains, helps children by assisting them in catching their first fish, and provides tips for fishing in both fresh and salt water. They meet at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at LWR Town Hall. For more information contact Larry Naddeo at (941)567-4552 or at larry_naddeo@hotmail.com.

THE GENEALOGY CLUB meets at 7 p.m. on the first Monday of each month from November through April at Town Hall. The club helps you study the history of your family and the tracing of their lineages and history. Methods include the use of oral interviews, historical records, genetic analysis, and other records to obtain information about a family and to demonstrate kinship and pedigrees of its members. For more information contact Donna Moughty at moughty@mac.com or at (941)907-2914.

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Manatee Sheriff's Office Opens Ranch Substation

The Manatee County Sheriff's Office (MCSO) opened its newest substation in Lakewood Ranch in January.

The facility, at 14544 Arbor Green Trail, is just south of State Road 70 and east of Lorraine Road. The new station is housed in the former sales office for Lennar's Lakewood National village. The effort was a joint project of the MCSO, Lakewood Ranch developer Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, Inc. (SMR), and Ranch builder Lennar.

"Lennar was happy to provide subcontractors, labor, materials, equipment, supervision and coordination to complete the substation's buildout for the MCSO in conjunction with SMR," said Kyle Bernethy, director of sales for Lennar in Southwest Florida. "Our whole Lennar team has a commitment to the safety of the community, as well as a desire to help out where there is a need."

The MCSO will rent the facility from SMR, who intends to keep the land off the market long enough for the Sheriff's Office to get resources in order to build a more permanent location, according to SMR's president and



PHOTO BY ERIC NALPAS

CEO Rex Jensen. Public safety has always been a Lakewood Ranch priority, Jensen said. "This is a huge win for the community. This

partnership accelerates the active presence of the MCSO in Lakewood Ranch by at least three to four years. We now have better po-

lice protection while we await the permanent facility."

The substation will allow deputies in the expansive District 3, of which Lakewood Ranch is a part, to have a place to work that's closer than the current District 3 office, which is at State Road 64 and I-75. Sheriff's deputies, school resource officers, and rural officers will all utilize the facility, according to MCSO's public information officer, Randy Warren. Preliminarily, the office will be open to the public from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. There will be a call box on property that can be utilized during off hours.

Manatee County Sheriff Rick Wells has wanted this facility for years.

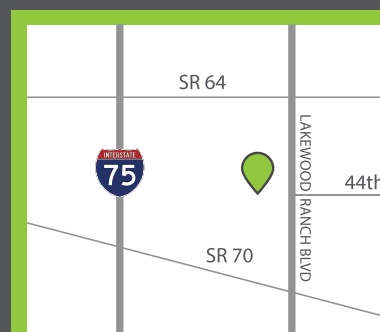
"We are looking forward to having a substation in this constantly expanding area of Manatee County," Wells said. "Our deputies will now have another office location to work from, which not only increases our response time to calls, but also allows the public a more convenient place to stop, ask questions, and file reports if needed. This is a great addition to the Lakewood Ranch community."

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GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

FEBRUARY 20 – March 20, 2019

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

February 20	8 a.m.	CDD 6 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	10 a.m.	CDD 4 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	10:15 a.m.	CDD 4 Board Meeting 907-0202
	2:30 p.m.	GBVA Restrictions Revision Meeting 907-0202
	4 p.m.	GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
	4 p.m.	Mizner Reserve Neighborhood Comm. Meeting 373-3898
	6 p.m.	GBVA Board Meeting 907-0202
February 21	8:30 a.m.	CDD 1 Board Meeting 907-0202
	9 a.m.	CDD 5 Board Meeting 907-0202
	9:30 a.m.	CDD 2 Board Meeting 907-0202
	11 a.m.	CDD 6 Board Meeting 907-0202
	2 p.m.	CEVA Fining Committee 907-0202
	3 p.m.	CEVA Safety Committee 850-396-2695
February 25	10 a.m.	CEVA Finance Committee Meeting 907-7279
	3 p.m.	Augusta/Oakmont Neighborhood Comm. Meeting 907-3448
	5:30 p.m.	Hollow Board Meeting 921-5393
February 26	8:30 a.m.	SRVA Modifications 907-0202
	3 p.m.	CEVA Board Meeting 907-0202
February 27	1 p.m.	Country Club Modifications 907-0202
	3 p.m.	Edgewater Modifications 907-0202
	7 p.m.	RVA Board Meeting 907-0202
February 28	9 a.m.	CDD 2 Special Workshop-Assessment Methodology
	1:30 p.m.	Whitemarsh Neighborhood Comm. Meeting 412-389-0033
March 4	7 p.m.	Pointe Neighborhood Committee Meeting 907-0569
March 6	4 p.m.	GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
March 7	3 p.m.	CEVA Restrictions Revision 907-0202
March 12	8:30 a.m.	SRVA Modifications 907-0202
	9 a.m.	IDA Budget Workshop 907-0202
March 13	1 p.m.	Country Club Modifications 907-0202
	3 p.m.	Edgewater Modifications 907-0202
March 18	9 a.m.	CDD 6 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	3 p.m.	CEVA Board Workshop 907-0202
March 19	8 a.m.	IDA Board Meeting 907-0202
	10 a.m.	CDD 1 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	1 p.m.	CDD 5 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	2:30 p.m.	CDD 2 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	3:30 p.m.	CDD 2 Special Workshop – Assessment Methodology
March 20	10 a.m.	CDD 4 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	10:15 a.m.	CDD 4 Board Meeting 907-0202
	2:30 p.m.	GBVA Restrictions Revision Meeting 907-0202
	4 p.m.	GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
	4 p.m.	Mizner Reserve Neighborhood Comm. Meeting 373-3898
	6 p.m.	GBVA Board Meeting 907-0202

*Meeting dates and times are subject to change

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Neal Signature Homes Debuts New Luxury Floor Plans At Country Club East

Neal Signature Homes recently introduced new luxury home designs at the Collingtree and Highlands neighborhoods in Country Club East in Lakewood Ranch.

Neal Signature Homes is adding five never-seen floor plans to its existing offerings at Collingtree, including the Amelia Island, Bar Harbor, Cape Cod, Ocean Grove and Nantucket.

The plans range in size from 2,552 square feet to 3,584 square feet. Neal Signature Homes will still offer the popular Castellina, Montecito and Palmavera designs.

“These well-appointed plans will infuse a fresh new look to the marketplace and provide more opulent options at this distinctive neighborhood,” said Randy Turkovics, president of Neal Signature Homes. “Our team worked with California architects to produce the latest and greatest in livable, deluxe designs for our homebuyers. We in-

corporated spacious 12-foot ceiling, open-concept plans that emphasize large kitchens, expansive outdoor living and very unique pools. These designs are all focused on bringing the outdoors in



The Carlotta

and living the full Florida lifestyle.”

The builder is also releasing three new plans – the Belvestia II, Carlotta and Lugano – at Highlands. These floor plans join the 2,493-square-foot Entrare and the 2,393-square-foot Montecito at Highlands.

“Interior design styles are constantly changing in Florida, with the British West Indies and island influences topping the architectural trends,” said Kathy Cioffi, vice president of design at Neal Communities. “Neal Signature Homes works very hard on the details, and homebuyers will appreciate a uniqueness and true attention to the design of the different architectural types with these new offerings. The latest plans personify the Florida flair with 24-inch overhangs, lots of brackets, siding and a very light and coastal color palette.”

Neal Signature Homes in Country Club East offers home sites with close proximity

to the two community clubhouses and the 18-hole Rick Robbins-designed golf course.

For more information, visit lakewoodranch.com.

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AROUND THE RANCH



PHOTOS BY ERIC NALPAS



Monthly Music on Main Starts Year with Community Celebration

Lakewood Ranch kicked off its 25th year of creating community at the first Music on Main concert of the year. A rainy start to the evening didn't seem to dampen anyone's spirits, as the community showed up in throngs to celebrate with live music, dancing, various kids' activities,

man-on-the-street interviews, a photo booth, laser light show, and Lakewood Ranch-themed giveaways. The Ranch will continue to celebrate its silver anniversary throughout the year! Thanks to everyone for making Lakewood Ranch such an incredible place to live!



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First Tenants At Lakewood Ranch's Waterside Place Announced

The 36-acre Waterside Place, under construction in the Sarasota County portion of Lakewood Ranch, has its first tenants.

In addition to the previously announced Players Centre for the Performing Arts' 70,000 square-foot venue, Foundation Coffee Co., The Yoga Shack, SoFresh, and Kilwins will be among the town center's first purveyors.

Set to debut in 2020, Waterside Place blends lifestyle and the arts with 120,000 square feet of unique in-line and freestanding commercial, retail and office space; diverse dining options, an eight-acre park, and miles of nature trails. In addition, more than 800 urban-style apartments and townhomes are being built within Waterside Place and over 4,000 homes will be connected via trails and water taxis.

"Waterside Place will be an exceptional regional destination that will draw residents and visitors to shop, dine, relax and experience state-of-the-art entertainment, all while being surrounded by stunning lakefront views," said Kirk Boylston, president of LWR Commercial. "We have spent nearly two years planning and designing this town center to ensure it will be a vibrant and dynamic contribution to our community's lifestyle."

Boylston added that Waterside Place tenancy is clearly focused on filling a significant gap in the Sarasota/Bradenton region. For some time, many area residents have headed to Tampa/St. Petersburg for an evening out on the town.

"We're going to provide an array of dining, nightlife and entertainment options right here in their backyard, eliminating the need for that extended drive time," he said.

"We will continue to be thoughtful and highly selective as we add additional retailers to Waterside Place," Boylston said. "We look forward to working with tenants that are best in class in their category or that offer a unique but proven concept."

He added that Waterside Place's first announced tenants represent the types of brands

being targeted for the destination. They include:

- **Foundation Coffee Co.** is a specialty coffee shop that will feature a unique, bodega-style buildout with a walk-up bar and outdoor seating near a pedestrian bridge, making it a picture-perfect spot for morning gatherings.

- Founded in 2013 by Courtenay Smith and Nikka Colorado, **The Yoga Shack** is a 1,600 square-foot studio that will offer yogis picturesque water views from its second-story space. Yoga enthusiasts will also be able to participate in outdoor group classes at the village's eight-acre park.

- **SoFresh** is a fast-casual restaurant offering made-to-order bowls, salads and wraps. Founded in Tampa, the Lakewood Ranch location will be the company's eighth eatery throughout Florida.

- Since 1947, **Kilwins** has been a popular destination for sweet treats, including hand-made ice cream and high-quality chocolates. Its Lakewood Ranch location will feature modern décor designed exclusively for the village.

Waterside Place includes numerous unique communal parks and "pop-out" spaces, which will encourage gathering and interaction among visitors and businesses. The town center will further activate the dynamic area by hosting festivals, farmers' markets, and more.

Boylston said boutiques, specialty and experiential retail shops, restaurants, spas and neighborhood-oriented professional services are among the businesses being selected to join the urban entertainment hub, which features modern coastal architecture, offices with balconies and water views, and paseos that lead to ample parking.

Waterside Place will serve as the heart of Waterside, Lakewood Ranch's newest village, which is situated around seven pristine lakes with 20 miles of shoreline and acres of nature preserve. When complete, it will feature more than 5,000 homes in up to 12 neighborhoods.

For more information about Waterside and Waterside Place, visit www.lwrwaterside.com.

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CLUB SPOTLIGHT

The Lakewood Ranch History Club

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

It isn't every day that, when informed of a club meeting date, I was instructed to go and watch a movie.

My friend, Brenda, sent me an e-mail telling me about the Lakewood Ranch History Club, notifying me of a special meeting date, and telling me to go and watch the movie "Vice," in order to prepare to understand the discussion at the special meeting of the Lakewood Ranch History Club at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall in January. The meeting was called to allow members to participate in a discussion of the movie's historical importance and its relevance in today's political climate.

Note this movie is NOT about sex trafficking, gambling, or drug dealing. It is a movie about the role played by former Vice President Dick Cheney before and during President George W. Bush's two terms in office, which ran from 2001 to 2008.

The movie starts out portraying Cheney as

a hard-drinking college boy attending Yale, who got his life straightened out in part due to the influence of his then-girlfriend, and later wife, Lynne. It goes on to portray him in his earliest years in Washington as an intern in the office of Donald Rumsfeld, learning the ways of power, and gradually succeeding in rising to that power and prestige through successive stints in various positions.

Those positions included being the assistant to Rumsfeld in the Department of Economic Opportunity, Deputy White House Counselor, White House Chief of Staff (1975-'77), Wyoming representative to the U.S. House of Representatives (1979-'89) – including a year as Republican Minority Whip – and Secretary of Defense under President George H.W. Bush (during the period of Desert Storm and the invasion of Panama).

In 1995 he became CEO of Halliburton, a large oil-country service organization, and was then chosen by George W. Bush as his vice-presidential running mate, accepting that position after declining it the first time around.

The film takes the viewer on a journey with Cheney, casting him as a dark presence, ever manipulating and devising ways to get his way and in the process, attaining more power for himself. Cheney comes off as the "master manipulator," pushing conservative causes – and, of course, his own power.

In the movie, Cheney becomes the "creator of intelligence" – the supposedly contrived intelligence that was used to convince Americans that it was necessary and proper to invade Iraq and topple Saddam Hussein. He is shown as the guy who schemed to place Secretary of State Colin Powell in the position of telling the United Nations that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction – weapons which were never found. He is shown as the guy who encouraged "enhanced interrogation" (read: torture) as a legitimate intelligence tool of the U.S. He appears to deal with George W. Bush as more of a mentor and director rather than a subordinate, as Bush is portrayed as a former party boy who initially had no clue how to run the country, a presi-

dent who allowed his vice president to direct his actions – at least at first.

Cheney is also shown as making sure that a lot of the intelligence coming into the White House went directly to HIS desk before getting to the desk of George W. Bush – if it ever got there at all.

So much for the gist of the movie. As for the discussion of the movie at the Lakewood Ranch History Club, moderated by history professor Bob Toplin, things got a bit, well, controversial right away, even though members were reminded that the organization was non-partisan!

One member commented that the film portrayed Cheney – and other Republicans – as "bad guys."

Another compared Cheney to Andrew Jackson, in that he grabbed power and used it in new and different ways. Cheney comes off as the guy who raised the position of vice president to a level unheard of in previous administrations.

SEE HISTORY, PAGE 24

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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 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 these events.)

Luncheon: The Bay Project & Why It Matters In LWR
Wednesday, February 27
 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
 Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club,
 7650 Legacy Blvd.
 \$25 members; \$35 non-members

Bill Waddill, managing director of the Sarasota Bayfront Planning Organization, joins us for a joint luncheon with the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch. Learn how SBPO's 53-acre "The Bay" project along US 41 is progressing and the impact it will have in the Lakewood Ranch region.

Networking Social: iHeart Media
Wednesday, March 6
 5-7 p.m.
 iHeart Media, 1779 Independence Blvd.
Free for LWRBA members; \$15 non-members

Join us at our March networking social for a behind-the-scenes experience at the "Conley Buick GMC garage," iHeart's studio event space. Come mingle with fellow Alliance members

and enjoy complimentary appetizers courtesy of iHeart Media Sarasota.

Executive Briefing: Protect Your Data, Protect Your Business
Wednesday, March 13
 7:30-9 a.m.
 Keiser University, 6151 Lake Osprey Drive
\$10 LWRBA members; \$20 non-members

Whether you have four employees or 400, a data breach can hurt your business and be costly to repair. A small business may be subject to devastating fines if a data breach is not handled properly. This seminar provides an essential overview of the topic geared towards small businesses. Our speakers will help you understand what types of data breaches might occur for a small business, and what the risks are if a breach were to occur. Come learn about the steps a small business should take before a data breach might occur, including tips/best practices related to the collection and storage of sensitive third-party information, IT security, insurance coverage and privacy policies.

Luncheon: State of the Ranch with Rex Jensen
Wednesday, March 20
 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.
 The Ballroom at GROVE,
 10670 Boardwalk Loop
\$35 LWRBA members; \$45 non-members

Find out the latest happenings from around Lakewood Ranch as Schroeder-Manatee Ranch President and CEO Rex Jensen presents an update on the "State of the Ranch." Hear about recent successes, as well as what's in store for our community down the road.



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FROM PAGE 22

One member, who admitted to having gone to school with George W. Bush, stated that "W" was an "embarrassment," noting as an example that in a yearbook photo showing his classmates in dress shirts and ties, "W" was photographed wearing a T-shirt.

This was followed by a comment from a member that Cheney's keeping intelligence from George W. Bush could be likened to reports that current White House staffers were keeping certain information from President Donald Trump.

Another member compared the portrayal of Cheney, the main character as a villain –

a rare event in Hollywood – to Citizen Kane and Oliver Stone's Nixon.

One individual noted that Lynne Cheney, in her position as the director at the National Endowment for the Humanities, made a concerted effort to turn the Endowment's awards in a politically conservative direction. And so the discussion went on.

The Lakewood Ranch History Club, which is in its seventh year, meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall.

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Ranch's Backyard Concert Series Continues

Lakewood Ranch hosted the first of its "Backyard Concert Series" Jan. 13 at Summerfield Community Park. The next event is scheduled for 1-4 pm. March 10, headlined by the Tobacco Road Band.

The concerts are free, and attendees are invited to bring their own picnics, but food trucks will also be available. No glass is allowed, and furry friends should be left at home.

The new series is a laid-back alternative to the more frenetic pace of Music on Main and is being staged, in part, to test the waters for a larger, more permanent music series at the Waterside Place park, which is currently under construction.

Parking is extremely limited, so partici-

pants are encouraged to walk, bike, or ride-share to the park; there will also be shuttle transportation from Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, 8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.

The event is presented by Lakewood Ranch, the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund, and Lakewood Ranch Community Activities Corporation.

For more information visit lakewoodranch.com, email info@lwrca.org or call (941)757-1530.





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Districts Weigh Their Options On Gatehouse Guards

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

The problems experienced recently at the Balmoral gatehouse appear to be continuing. District 6 Supervisor Robert Crain reported at the January supervisors' meeting that he recently drove into the Balmoral Gate off Lakewood Ranch Boulevard, and found that the visitors' gate was wide open, even though there was a security guard present at the time.

This highlights a series of problems that have plagued that particular gatehouse recently. At one point late last year, the guard failed to show up for the shift. No notice was given to the district, and Executive Director Anne Ross and another Town Hall staffer ended up having to man the gate for a while.

The residents of District 6 are fed up with what they feel is the shoddy performance of Excelsior Security, and are looking at firing that company and contracting with another security firm. The boards of other Lakewood Ranch districts have expressed agreement with the idea.

While Attorney Andrew Cohen noted that while there is no express "termination for cause" wording in the contract with Excelsior, there may be sufficient cause to immediately cancel the contract with the company. There is a clause in the contract providing for a 30-day notice of cancellation.

Several supervisors gave their opinions as to how the district should proceed with getting a new security company to take over the gate responsibilities. Supervisor Henry Hofeler recommended that the new company be able to step in immediately, once the cancellation is called for. He also commented that board members should, after the new security company takes over the gate operations, themselves drive in as "visitors," in order to check that the new guards are properly doing their job.

District 6 has been concerned for a long time about the perceived problems of traffic entering the Balmoral Gate, and had planned on erecting signs in the median of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard telling drivers that that gate would be closed to visitors and contractors from 10:30 p.m. to 10:30 a.m. in order to prevent backups caused by contractor trucks and visitor cars. Backups can be dangerous, since

there is a very minimal amount of driveway leading from the roadway of Lakewood Ranch to the gatehouse.

Engineer Richard Ellis took the plans for the signage to Manatee County officials, since Lakewood Ranch Boulevard is a county road. The county officials denied permission for such a sign to be erected in the median, citing a policy that the county does not allow restricted access signs for private communities on a county right-of-way.

Ellis suggested that an alternative might be to put up a large sign on District property adjacent to the gate, directing contractors and visitors to the Legacy Gate, but this was immediately discarded as making the entrance look less than attractive.

PARKING ISSUES

The various district boards of supervisors discussed the idea of turning over parking enforcement duties to the neighborhood homeowner associations, since the districts do not have the authority to fine for such violations.

Parking has not been a major issue in Lakewood Ranch, with only a handful of exceptions. No cars have been towed due to parking violations of late.

MIDGE FLIES

Operations Director Paul Chetlain informed the boards that a company has offered to provide Lakewood Ranch with a special aerator which the company claims will reduce the infestations of midge flies. The company has offered to loan out one of these aerators to the community for a one-year period, so that the effectiveness of the system can be assessed.

TRANSPONDER REQUEST

A Central Park resident had asked to purchase a transponder to gain entrance to the Country Club, as the petitioner takes children to their grandparents in the Country Club for daycare. The request was denied on the basis that the Central Park resident is not a Country Club resident, and therefore has no right to acquire a Country Club transponder.

CELL PHONE ISSUE

USA/CRAN has not yet finished contracting with carriers in order to establish new cell towers in Lakewood Ranch. They have been given an extension.

Local Window Company Ranks Among Nation's Best

WEATHER TITE WINDOWS Named by REMODELING Magazine to its 2018 REMODELING 550 List of America's Biggest Remodelers Sarasota, Florida (February, 2019) –

WEATHER TITE WINDOWS ranks 25th on the 2018 REMODELING 550 list of the nation's biggest remodelers, WEATHER TITE WINDOWS announced today. The REMODELING 550 brings together the nation's 550 biggest full-service remodelers, replacement contractor / home improvement firms, insurance restoration firms, and franchisors. Because the full-service and replacement firms operate so differently, the REMODELING 550 lists and ranks them separately.

"We are honored to receive this distinction," said Michael Hollander, President, of Weather Tite Windows. "There are roughly 100,000 remodeling firms in this country with payrolls, so it's great to know that we're among the top 0.5% in the nation."

REMODELING, published by Hanley Wood, is the leading publication in the home improvement industry. REMODELING editor-in-chief Craig Webb noted there's a high turnover rate in remodeling, with roughly one-sixth of the firms going out of business annually. "In contrast, the bigger firms have a failure rate of less than 2%," he said. "Thus, become a

REMODELING 550 company indicates that you have quality and staying power—two traits that customers value most."

550
remodeling

In response to this prestigious award, WEATHER TITE WINDOWS - for a limited time - is offering **THE ULTIMATE WINDOW SALE!** \$100 Rebate per window and \$200 per door. These rebates are being offered on a first come, first served basis - so call now to ensure you receive full value. And for the **FIRST TIME EVER**, Weather Tite Windows is introducing our **TRUST PROGRAM!**

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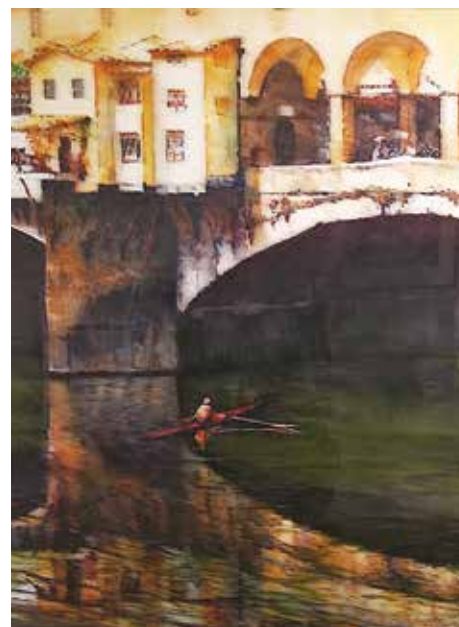


The events committee.

Ranch Golfers Giving Back

The 18-Hole Women's Golf Association of Lakewood Ranch held two events over the last few months to raise funds for Breast Health Sarasota, an organization that helps uninsured and underinsured men and women receive breast health services in Manatee County. The first event, "Corks for a Cause," was held in November, raising more than \$7,000. The second event, "Think Pink," was held in January at the Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club.

Weather conditions were perfect, and more than 180 golfers participated in a step-aside scramble. Golf was followed by dinner and a silent auction. Fran Mastrelli and Lizane Nadon chaired the event, with several other volunteers on the committee. More than \$34,000 was raised at this event. Thank you to all those who donated items for the silent auction and to those who participated to help make these events a success!



Above: William Perry's "Ponte Vecchio"
Right: Lydia Kaeyer's "Dockside Reflections"



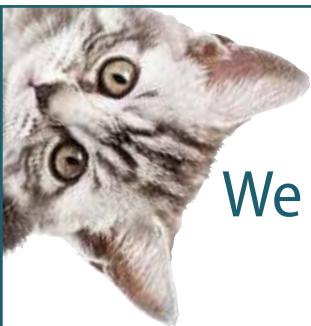
Lakewood Ranch Artists Recognized

Two Lakewood Ranch artists were standouts at the Florida Suncoast Watercolor Society's annual aqueous show at Art Center Manatee.

William Perry won the excellence in trans-

parent watercolor award for his work, "Ponte Vecchio," and Lydia Kaeyer won a merit award for her "Dockside Reflections."

The show runs through Feb. 22 at the gallery, 209 9th St. W., in Bradenton.



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CORPORATE EVENTS | BANQUETS | WEDDINGS | MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED

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COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

February/March 2019

PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE TO VERIFY DATES

lakewoodranchgov.org/reservations

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.

February 21 – Third Thursday

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

February 22 – Third 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 23 – Third Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.

February 24 – Fourth Sunday

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

February 25 – Fourth Monday

- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Italian American Club, Town Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Anglers' Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
- History Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

February 26 – Fourth 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.
- Italian American Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

February 27 – 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.
- American Asian Women, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

February 28 – Fourth Thursday

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

March 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

March 2 – First Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- CERT First Aid Refresher set up, Town Hall, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- CERT First Aid Refresher, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- CERT First Aid Refresher Set Up, Town Hall, noon
- CERT First Aid Refresher, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Digital Photography Training, Town Hall, 1 p.m.

March 3 – Second Sunday

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

March 4 – Second Monday

- 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.
- Genealogy Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

March 5 – Second 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.

March 6 – Second Wednesday

- Bingo, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Women's Club scholarship committee, Town Hall, 4:30 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

March 7 – Second Thursday

- Thursday Bridge & St. Georges Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT Family Hurricane Preparedness Workshop set up, Town Hall, 6 p.m.
- CERT Family Hurricane Preparedness Workshop, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

March 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

March 9 – Second Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Community Activities/Irish Celtic Festival-all amenities, Town Hall, 8 a.m.
- Digital Photography Training, Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.
- Republican Club, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

March 10 – Third Sunday

- Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.
- Jewish Club, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

March 11 – Third Monday

- Lakewood Ranch Garden Club general 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.
- CERT board meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

March 12 – Third 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.

March 13 – Third Wednesday

- Women's Club new members' coffee, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT general membership meeting set up, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- CERT general membership meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

March 14 – Third Thursday

- Thursday Bridge & St. Georges Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Women's Club general meeting set up, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- Women's Club general meeting, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

March 15 – Third Friday

- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Creative Arts Annual Spring Show set up, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Reserved, Town Hall, 6 p.m.
- Wine Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

March 16 – Third Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Creative Arts Annual Spring Show, Town Hall, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

March 17 – Fourth Sunday

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

March 18 – Fourth Monday

- Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Italian American Club, Town Hall, 10:30 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.
- Jewish Club board meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

March 19 – Fourth Tuesday

- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- History Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

March 20 – Fourth Wednesday

- 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.

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