

# Around the Ranch

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017 » THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

AROUNDTHERANCH.COM

## Grand Ovation Celebrates 10th Year in Lakewood Ranch

For more pictures, see pages #12-13



ERIC NALPAS PHOTOGRAPHY

GRAND OVATION celebrated its 10th year on Lakewood Ranch's Main Street with great weather and wonderful performances. The festival featured a sampling of the region's thriving cultural arts community, as well as a wide array of street vendors and booths.

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Photo provided

## Ranch achieves major milestones

First came the news that Lakewood Ranch was recognized as one of the top-five, best-selling master-planned communities (MPCs) in the country; then it was announced that the 10,000th home had been sold.

Coming in at No. 4 in the RCLCO survey and No. 5 in the Burns report, two independent real estate consulting firms, Lakewood Ranch outpaced many other recognizable and well-known communities in Arizona, California, Nevada, Texas, and even Florida. Lakewood Ranch saw 775 new home sales in 2016, up from 535 in 2015 – a 45 percent increase year-over-year.

Increases in sales were largely credited to successful market segmentation—the targeting of various age, income, and household segments with appropriately priced and designed residential product types and lifestyle amenities. Lakewood Ranch moved up in the 2016 rankings, benefitting from numerous new neighborhood openings and expansion of existing neighborhoods, including adding more urban and attached products to increase their share of millennials by offering both a lifestyle and price point attractive to this generation.

Another feature of the top-selling communities is the inclusion of mixed-use districts, such as Lakewood Ranch's Main Street. Also, the availability of various healthy community features

SEE RANCH ACHIEVES, 2R

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**Ancient Oak Gun Club**  
16800 SR 64 East - Lakewood Ranch, FL 34212  
Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Monday through Sunday;  
last shooter allowed on the course no later than 4 p.m.  
941.745.5900  
www.ancientoakgunclub.com

The Ancient Oak Gun Club is set in a pristine area of the Lakewood Ranch community off of State Road 64 East, and is open to the public. We encourage all who have never shot sporting clays – or who have never shot at all – to visit and allow us to walk you through the sport to see if this is something that would interest you.

There are 28 covered shooting stations on two separate courses, which are operated by a wireless, radio controlled launching system that also offers a delay for the individual shooter and a 5-stand for shotgun shooting enthusiasts. All stations have three or more trap machines giving you a greater variety of target presentations. The 5-stand consists of five shooting stations and a variety of individual trap machines.

The Ancient Oak Gun Club has a well-trained staff to assist beginning shooters and to help host charity and corporate events, as well as sanctioned instructors for the more experienced shooters.

Open to the public!!!

\*\*\* Wednesday Specials: \$30 targets and \$15 golf carts! \*\*\*

**March 18, 2017 – North River Care's Inaugural Sporting Clays Tournament.** Registration begins at 8 a.m., followed by a shotgun start at 9 a.m. Registration includes 50-bird shoot at 14 stands, golf cart, breakfast break, and lunch. Team prizes will be awarded, along with raffle opportunities. Sponsorship and donation opportunities available. For more information visit northrivercare.org.

**April 8, 2017 – Clays for Kids. Second annual Father Kezar Opening Doors Foundation fundraiser.** The foundation provides a bridge in financial funding for students with superior academic potential and a financial need. The 50-bird shoot will run from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. The event will include clays, lunch, and drinks. Sponsorship opportunities are available. For more information visit fatherkezaropeningdoorsfoundation.com; email fkodf@icloud.com, or call 941.720.1973.

**NSCA Registered Shoots** – March 21, 25 and 28; and April 11 and 25.

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## FROM PAGE 1R

# RANCH ACHIEVES

was noted, including fitness classes, active lifestyle activities, and easily accessible parks and multiuse or dedicated paths and trails for biking, walking, running and hiking. Finally, proximity to nature was listed as a valued component.

One of the underpinnings of the Ranch's ongoing success has been

its continual reinvestment in the community, evidenced by the expansion of amenity offerings at the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club. A recent multi-million-dollar project included renovations to the existing athletic center and clubhouse and construction of The Lodge, a new clubhouse at the Royal

Lakes Golf Course in Country Club East.

The combination of the successes of the Ranch's commercial properties and their subsequent job creation also drove growth, said Laura Cole, vice president of LWR Communities, LLC. And the Ranch's amenities didn't hurt either. "Lakewood Ranch Main Street and other shopping areas, the Premier Sports Campus and the Sarasota Polo Club have all kept Lakewood Ranch the premier new-home destination on

Florida's West Coast," Cole said. "The Ranch has become a hub for sporting events, non-profit functions, festivals, concerts and shows. The community continues to attract more visitors; once they're here, they want to stay."

The continued growth was evidenced in robust January sales, which helped Lakewood Ranch reach a milestone in the community's 22-year history. Eighty-six homes were sold in the first month of 2017 – a 32%

increase over January of last year – bringing the total number of homes sold in the Ranch to 10,026, with an overall sales value of close to \$4 billion.

"We are excited to have reached this milestone on the heels of having been named the fourth best-selling, master-planned community in the country in 2016," Cole said. "The Ranch has been one of the top 10, best-selling in the country for six years in a row."

There are more than 20 builders in Lakewood Ranch with 50+ models ranging in cost from \$200,000 to more than \$1 million.

Coming online at the end of 2017 is Lakewood Ranch Waterside, the newest village at the Ranch, located in Sarasota County. LWR Waterside will feature single-family homes, townhomes and apartments—all nestled among seven lakes, with walkability to the new village center, Waterside Place.

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Photos by Ernie Soller

## Car Meet dampened, but still lots of fun!

BY ERNIE SOLLER,  
*Community Correspondent*

The winds blew a bit and the temperature was a little on the cool side, but those fans who came got to see some great older cars.

The occasion was the annual Antique Automobile Club of America Devereaux-Kaiser Car Meet, held for the last several years in Lakewood Ranch.

Now, being from Detroit, and having family who worked for the “big three” automakers, cars are in my blood. So what does a guy who has the “car gene” do when there’s a car show in town? He goes to the show!

As I mentioned earlier, the weather this year was not the most cooperative type for a car show, but I did get to see a really fine 1959 Cadillac – the one with the biggest fins and

bullet tail lights. It had a light blue paint job, was long and low, and those fins just created a “presence” rarely equaled by Cadillac in the years since 1959. This car epitomized the mid-century automobile advertising chant of “longer, lower, wider,” arguably better than any other car of the period. And, while we’re on the subject of Cadillacs, while the flyer advertising the car show had a photo of a

red ‘55 Cadillac on it, the ‘55 Caddy convertible at the show was a creamy white, albeit with a red-trimmed interior.

If you were a Packard fan, there were several vintage Packards there to drool over, including 1922, 1933, and 1937 models.

They were all in great condition, and I couldn’t decide which was my favorite: was it the ‘33 or the ‘37? I’d guess the ‘37 – it had a massive straight-

eight engine and a cool art-deco-style hood ornament.

One of the great things about vintage car shows is the opportunity to see some fairly rare examples of automotive design, as well as cars built by manufacturers long out of business. One such example was a ‘67 Acadian – the Canadian version of the Chevy II. This car had a hood emblem featuring a large “A,” along with three

red maple leaves. Then there was a 1951 Kaiser, here again a pretty rare vehicle, since not that many were built. One very interesting feature of many of the 1950’s vintage cars at the show – they actually had back seats that could accommodate people larger than a five-year old. The Kaiser, for example, while certainly not the largest car of the

SEE CARSHOW, 6R

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FROM PAGE 4R

## CARSHOW

period, featured a back seat with lots of legroom, and that could easily seat three adults in comfort. The Studebaker name was represented by two of the best sporty designs of the mid-century era – a Studebaker Hawk, and an Avanti.

Perhaps the rarest mid-century vehicle at the show wasn't a car – it was a '64 Chevrolet Corvair Rampside truck, one of only a few hundred built

that year. At the time, General Motors was attempting to create new uses for its rear-engine technology. They came up with compact cars, vans, and trucks, and the Rampside featured a bed that had a wide ramp on one side – a ramp that could be lowered to make it easy to move goods into the bed of the truck.

Since a car show would hardly be a car show without showing off a bit of

customization, fans could drool over a mid '60s Buick Riviera, which had been treated to a new custom paint job, along with a redone interior and a nicely upholstered trunk. There was also a sunset red '58 Chevy Impala coupe, loaded up with extra chrome accessories, and a "continental tire kit." And, while most of the cars at the show were American originals, the Brits were represented by a very nice Austin-Healy 3000, a Triumph TR6, and a massive ultra-luxo Rolls Royce, which made a singular impression on me as it rolled past ... silently.



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## New Homesites Available in Lake View Estates in The Lake Club at Lakewood Ranch

Stock Development announced it has released 68 home sites for purchase in Lake View Estates within Lake Club Village at Lakewood Ranch. Stock has also established a Preferred Builder program within Lake View Estates that includes Anchor Builders, Arthur Rutenberg Homes, John Cannon Homes, and Stock Signature Homes. The Lake View Estates Preferred Builders are now offering home and lot packages priced from \$1 million on Estate sized lots.

Stock and its homebuilders at The Lake Club continue to introduce attractively priced home and homesite choices. The availability of the home sites and residences by the Preferred Builders in Lake View Estates has expanded the choices available within The Lake Club that already include homes in the Matera and Vineyards neighborhoods. Home and lot packages in Matera are base-priced from the \$700's. Residences in the Vineyards are priced from the \$800's. Completed furnished

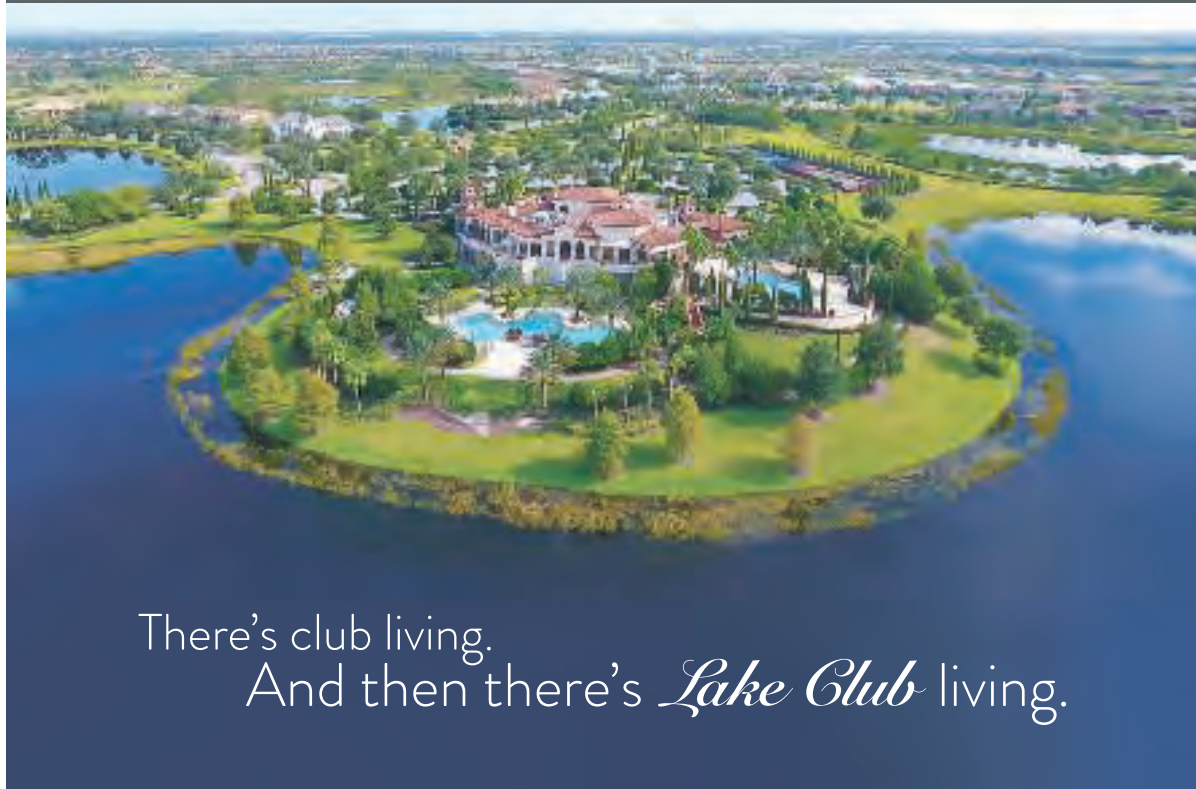
models are open daily in Matera and the Vineyards. Custom estate residences by The Lake Club's Preferred Builders are also available and priced from \$1.4 million.

In addition to the captivating home sites and the expanded product choices now available, clubhouse enhancements, expanded amenities, and concierge services will make The Lake Club lifestyle even more appealing. A Premier Club Membership at

the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club valued at \$30,000 is included with the purchase of every newly constructed residence in The Lake Club. New facilities and renovations were recently completed at the Club at a cost of \$25 million.

Visit the Lake Club Model Preview Center at 8307 Lake Club Blvd or call (866) 498-5253. Visit The Lake Club online at [thelakeclublwr.com](http://thelakeclublwr.com)

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# Community Activities Corner



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

KYANNE MERRILL  
DIRECTOR OF LWRCAC

**EGGSTRAVAGANZA:** is back at Greenbrook Adventure Park from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. April 8. Did you know it is the longest-running egg hunt in Lakewood Ranch? Avoid the long lines the morning of the event by registering and paying online on our website! We will have thousands of candy-filled eggs spread across the soccer and baseball fields. We separate the fields by age to give each child a fair shot of scooping as many eggs as possible. The two-and-under group is conveniently placed inside the skating rink so families can enjoy the moment of their child's first hunt. The event opens at 9:30 a.m. and the egg hunt for two- to 13-year-olds will begin promptly at 10:15 a.m. If you do attend, please bring a small basket or container for your child to collect the eggs as have ordered even MORE eggs this year!



**MEMORIAL DAY-TRIBUTE TO HEROES PARADE:** Calling all patriots! Join us on Lakewood Ranch Main Street on May 28, waving your American flags and wearing your red, white and blue for the annual community celebration of our fallen heroes. The event will begin at 6 p.m. with a pre-block party and the parade will begin at 7 p.m. Come out to remember our fallen heroes. You can participate so many ways: be a spectator, join our committee, volunteer for parade



security, or march in the parade. Children can register their bikes, scooters, skateboards and wagons for the decorated bike contest and all who enter will be part of the parade procession as a group. We will have awards for cutest, most patriotic and most creative decorating. Groups, clubs and organizations: show your support and enter a float, marching band or creative marching group! Residents and neighborhoods can decorate a golf cart; we will have a trophy for best float. Each year our parade grows in size with new organizations joining the procession. The parade route has been extended this year! If you are a veteran, look for our VIP "veteran viewing area," from which to enjoy the parade. Seats will be provided for you across from the Main Street Bazaar. To register your group, club or organization for the parade, submit a registration form located on our website, [www.lwrcac.com](http://www.lwrcac.com).

**CONNECTING SPONSORS AND CLUB MEMBERS:** CAC Director Kyanne Merrill will visit with the Ranch clubs at their various meeting locations throughout the year and introduce corporate sponsors to club members. This will allow corporate sponsors the ability to introduce themselves, describe what their companies/services provide to the community and interact and develop relationships with community members. The LWRCAC non-profit program is supported by the residents of Lakewood Ranch and corporate sponsors.

## CLUB NEWS:

**THE LUNCH CLUB AT LAKEWOOD RANCH:** welcomes adults in Lakewood Ranch to enjoy a delicious nutritious lunch, socialize, and explore a variety of topics presented by guest speakers and best of all, it's affordable and fun! Exciting topics for March and April include presentations on the following: Mindfulness, YMCA, Communication Tips with Your Doctor, and Solomon's Castle. The Lunch Club meets every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. Please contact Jackie Godlewski or Sue

Taylor at (941) 749-0100 for more information or to reserve your seat. Reservations are encouraged, but walk-ins are always welcome.

**AVIAN CLUB:** Save the date! From 2-5 p.m. April 1, there will be a "Bird Adoption Open House" at Birds of Paradise Sanctuary and Rescue. Come visit the parrots and learn about these amazing pets. Small, medium and large birds are available for adoption. Many of these birds have had previous homes and love being a part of the family. Volunteers will be available to answer questions and discuss the personality of each bird. This is a rare opportunity to visit the sanctuary that is currently not open to the public. Registration is required. Light refreshments will be served. During this event, information will be provided about the upcoming Birds of Paradise veterans' program, which pairs abused, abandoned or owner-surrendered parrots with veterans diagnosed with PTSD. This is the second program of its kind in the country and the only one available on the east coast. To register for the open house, email Cindy Gordon at [shorebird@tampabay.rr.com](mailto:shorebird@tampabay.rr.com). Families are welcome.

Also, please be patient with the sandhill cranes who are raising their young and like to suddenly, and without warning, cross our roads. Watching for these feathered residents and slowing down is the best way to give them a safe right of way to prevent tragedies. Juvenile sandhill cranes need both parents to teach them to survive.

**ASIAN WOMEN'S CLUB OF LAKEWOOD RANCH:** The mission of the Asian Women's Club of Lakewood Ranch is to make a positive difference in the community and in our members by fostering diversity, and enhancing awareness of Asian customs, culture, food, music, art and tradition through our fundraising events, cultural and educational seminars and outreach programs. The AWCLWR is an IRS approved 501(c)(3) nonprofit charitable organization.

There will be a presentation on "Ayurveda - The Art and Science of Longevity" by Mandy Main, Ayurvedic practitioner, at 7 p.m. March 29, at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, 8075 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. Please contact Maria Cora Gaffar, AWCLWR president, to reserve a seat.

Unless otherwise noted, meetings or educational seminars are held every fourth Wednesday of the month at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. For membership and events information, please contact Maria C. Gaffar, president, at (941)361-1205 or via email at [Asianwomensclublakewoodranch@yahoo.com](mailto:Asianwomensclublakewoodranch@yahoo.com).

**GARDENERS OUT EAST GARDEN CLUB:** will sponsor its inaugural charity golf tournament honoring our veterans with the placement of a Blue Star Memorial to be erected at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. The Memorial will be dedicated as part of the 2017 Memorial Day events in Lakewood Ranch on May 28, 2017. The Blue Star Memorial dedication is Gardeners Out East's third and largest beautification effort in Lakewood Ranch. The event will be hosted by Gardeners Out East in association with the Lakewood Ranch

VFW Post 12055. The Blue Star Memorial program began in 1945 and is part of an ongoing national memorial effort by the National Garden Club, Inc., in cooperation with their member garden clubs. These memorials can be seen throughout the United States on highways, important roads, and buildings. They are meant to be a living memorial for the men and women of the United States military. The golf event will be held at Esplanade Golf and Country Club on May 6. The activities start at 11 a.m. with a shotgun scramble starting at 1 p.m. Everyone is invited to play golf and/or support this worthwhile charity event. We are honoring our present and past veterans with a "walk of honor" throughout the event. Please consider sponsoring a memory of a current or past loved one who served. The information for the golf tournament or being a sponsor/donor can be found on the Gardeners Out East website: [www.gardenersouteast.com](http://www.gardenersouteast.com).

**ST. GEORGE'S MAH JONGG:** We play a friendly game according to National Mah Jongg rules from 1-4 pm. Thursdays, at LWR Town Hall. All skill levels are welcome. We do not teach. If you would like to join the "Dragon Ladies" please call Aida Pyle at (941)907-3846 or email [Ampyle41@aol.com](mailto:Ampyle41@aol.com).

**THE FINANCIAL FORUM:** will continue its normal meetings on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month in March and April.

**LADIES' DEVOTIONAL HOUR:** We will take an Easter break April 13, but will continue with our video study. The group meets every Thursday, from 9:45 to 11:20 a.m. at LWR Town Hall. All ladies of any age and denomination may join us each week. You will find great friendships formed, prayer, activity and joy! We will have our last meeting for the season on May 25.

## 2017 Lakewood Ranch Calendar of Events

April 8	Eggstravaganza	Adventure Park
May 28	Tribute to Heroes	LWR Main Street
Oct. 20	Club Day on Main St. Block Party	LWR Main Street
Oct. 27	BOO Fest	LWR Main Street
Dec. 8	Holidays Around the Ranch	LWR Main Street

Contact Shirley Surowiec at [shsur46@gmail.com](mailto:shsur46@gmail.com) or Carol Tumey at (941)727-3789.

**COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT):** It CAN happen here! There has been a sense of complacency over the years about hurricane threats here in Manatee County, but 2016 was a warning. After 3,966 days without a direct hurricane hit (not since 2005), Hurricane Hermine made landfall in September. She brought serious flooding to many areas of the county, and one death. The water supplies in Sarasota and Clearwater were compromised by flood waters and a boil water notice was made. Then in October, Hurricane Matthew, a Category 2 storm, resulted in five deaths in Florida and 191,000 homes were without power. And Matthew was not a direct hit. Manatee County is still recovering from these two storms.

With tropical storms and hurricanes come tornadoes, and last year was no exception. There were two tornado deaths in January just north of Lakewood Ranch. Another tornado struck in Sarasota County causing significant damage to homes: 17,000 homes were without power, two condo complexes were damaged, and two residents were injured when the second floor of their home collapsed from the force of the tornado. In January of this year, 20 died across the southeast from

tornadoes. Hurricane season runs from June 1 through Nov. 30. Please educate yourself about severe weather threats, and have a plan. Information is available on the CERT web site, [www.lwrcert.org](http://www.lwrcert.org). In the event of a major storm or other disaster, volunteers on your neighborhood CERT teams will be here to help.

**DOUBLE DECK PINOCHLE:** All are welcome: young, older, married, single, newbie or polished. Our only requirement is to have fun. We play from 1-5 p.m. every Tuesday at various members' homes. Email [valen3000@aol.com](mailto:valen3000@aol.com) if interested.

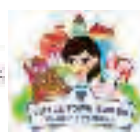
**BOOK CLUB:** The March selection is "Travels with Epicurus," by Daniel Klein. The April 19 selection is "Lexicon," by Max Berry. For more information call Mary Button at (945)755-0012.

**EMPTY NESTERS OF LAKEWOOD RANCH:** Upcoming events include a March 23 trip to Big Cat Habitat ([bigcathabitat.org](http://bigcathabitat.org)), contact Peggy Walther at (941) 907-0820; and "Senior Prom for Seniors" on April 20 at Tropicana Field, during the Rays vs. Detroit Tigers game. Call Bob Krambeck at (941)907-0820 for more information.

### PRESENTING SPONSORS:



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Social media sources for LWR Community Activities: [www.lwrcac.com](http://www.lwrcac.com) • [www.facebook.com/LWRCommunityActivities.com](https://www.facebook.com/LWRCommunityActivities.com)



# LWRBA

## LAKEWOOD RANCH BUSINESS ALLIANCE

**Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance**  
The Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance (LWRBA) is a business organization committed to connecting, educating and strengthening the business community in the Lakewood Ranch region. The LWRBA's 550+ member businesses reflect a wide variety of small and large businesses across all industries in and around Lakewood Ranch, Florida. More information is available online at [www.LWRBA.org](http://www.LWRBA.org).

### Upcoming Events

(Please visit [www.LWRBA.org](http://www.LWRBA.org) to sign up for these events.)

### LWRBA Luncheon: The State of the Ranch Wednesday, March 29

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Fete Ballroom at Polo Grill  
10670 Boardwalk Loop  
\$25 LWRBA Members;  
\$35 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.

### January Networking Social: Coastal Orthopedics Wednesday, April 5

5-7 p.m.  
Coastal Orthopedics  
8340 Lakewood Ranch Blvd., #300  
Free for LWRBA Members;  
\$10 Non-members

Coastal Orthopedics welcomes all LWRBA members and prospective members from 5 to 7pm for the March Networking Social. Spend the evening making connections and getting to know the Coastal Orthopedics facilities and physicians. Includes complimentary food and cash bar.

### Executive Briefing: Being a Great Boss Wednesday, April 12

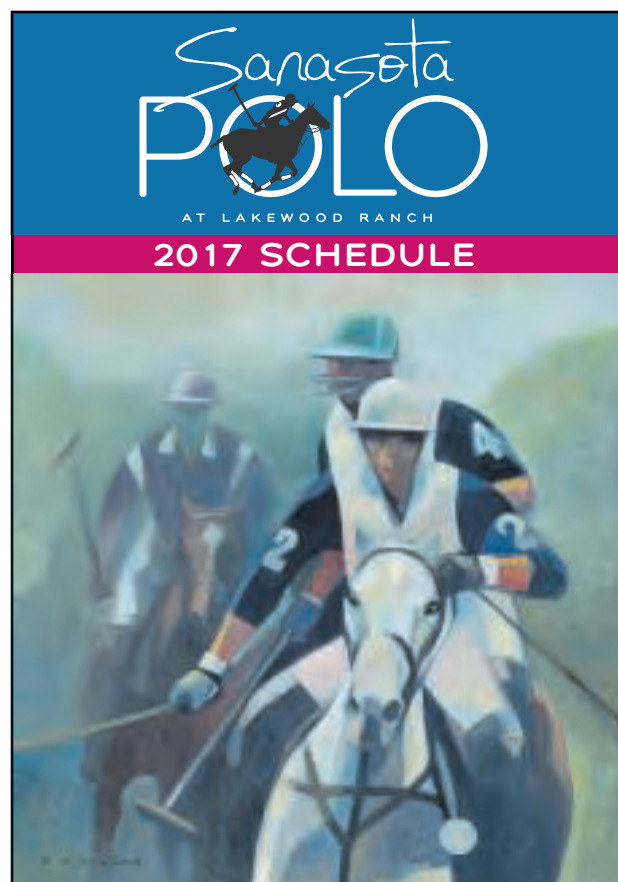
7:30-9 a.m.  
Keiser University  
6151 Lake Osprey Drive  
\$10 LWRBA Members;  
\$20 Non-members

Nancy Hardaway from Listening 2 Leaders combines her years of business experience in organizational development, coaching, and psychology and introduces the keys to being an effective leader.

### 2017 Ranch Scramble Golf Tournament Friday, April 28

1 p.m. Shotgun start  
Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club  
7650 Legacy Blvd.  
\$650 Foursome - Early Bird Special!  
(\$750 after 3/31); \$200 Individuals

It's almost time for our annual Ranch Scramble Golf Tournament! This year's event is back at the beautiful Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club. Ideal for golfers of all skill levels. Includes lunch, awards reception, fun games, and raffles.



Sarasota  
**POLO**  
AT LAKEWOOD RANCH  
**2017 SCHEDULE**

### January 2017

- 08 Holcomb-Kreithen Plastic Surgery and MedSpa  
Tailgate Theme: College National Championship
- 15 Lakewood Ranch Women's Club
- 22 Dinan Realty Group  
Tailgate Theme: Fireside Chat
- 27 Polo Last Friday of the Month; 3pm — Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance
- 29 Country Club East, Lakewood Ranch

### February 2017

- 05 Pre-Super Bowl Party  
Call for Tickets!
- 12 The Ritz-Carlton, Sarasota  
Tailgate Theme: Show Me Your Love
- 19 Suncoast Porsche  
Tailgate Theme: Hawaiian Luau
- 24 Polo Last Friday of the Month; 3pm — The Mall at University Town Center
- 26 The Observer Cup / SMR Cup Weekend  
Tailgate Theme: Cowboy Polo

Go to [sarasotapolo.com](http://sarasotapolo.com) for latest match information and directions.

### March 2017

- 05 Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, Inc.
- 12 BMO Private Bank  
Tailgate Theme: St. Patty's Day
- 19 The Players Centre for the Performing Arts  
Tailgate Theme: Spring Break-Mexico
- 26 Raymond James
- 31 Polo Last Friday of the Month; 3pm — Southeastern Guide Dogs

### April 2017

- 02 Fidelity Investments, Sarasota
- 09 Saint Stephen's Episcopal School  
Tailgate Theme: Glitz and Glam

Matches are held every Sunday and the last Friday of the month.

### Sunday Matches:

Start at 1 pm  
Gates open at 10 am

### Friday Matches:

Start at 3 pm  
Gates open at 2 pm

General Admission:  
\$12 per person / Under 12 Free.  
Dogs welcomed on leash.

# Grand Ovation Celebrates 10th Year in Lakewood Ranch

Grand Ovation celebrated its 10th year Feb. 4, at Lakewood Ranch's Main Street. The free street festival celebrated the region's thriving cul-

tural arts community, and featured two live performance stages. Performances included top musicians, dancers, thespians and vocal groups,

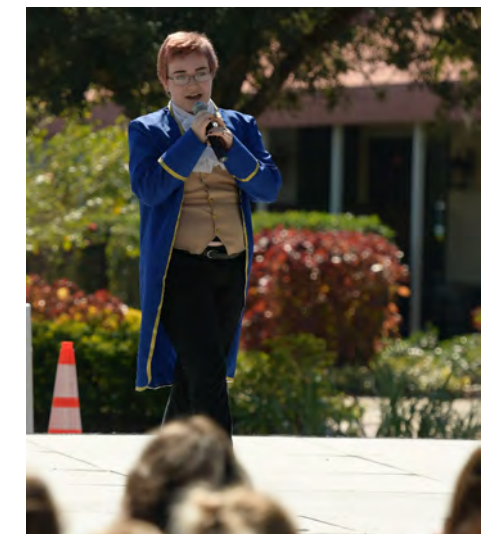
including Florida Studio Theatre, the Sarasota Ballet, the Sarasota Opera, and the School of Russian Ballet. There were also a wide array of

street vendors and booths from the Ringling Museum and Imagine School at Lakewood Ranch, as well as most of the performing groups.

Grand Ovation is one of Lakewood Ranch's signature events, and was founded and is supported by LWR Communities LLC.



Photos by Eric Nalpas Photography



# “THAI” something different! Thai Spice & Sushi

BY ERNIE SOLLER,  
*Community Correspondent*

Tucked away in San Marco Plaza, off Nature's Way between Lakewood Ranch Boulevard and the bustle of the Market Street shopping area, Thai Spice and Sushi is in a quiet place, but don't let the slightly out-of-the-way factor or the relative smaller stature of the San Marco Plaza deter you from experiencing a new taste.

Thai food has a reputation for being spicy - note the name of the restaurant! However, you can be assured that not ALL of their food offerings will ignite your inner self.

In order to prevent unsuspecting customers from experiencing the full-blown blast-furnace spiciness of certain dishes, the friendly folks at Thai Spice and Sushi have enhanced their menu with a “spice chart” that allows the new-to-Thai diner the opportunity to determine the relative heat of certain dishes. One pepper - not too spicy; two peppers - spicier; three peppers - not for the timid.

Since my friends (and fellow diners) and I are not a particular fans of super-hot fare, we chose dishes which were defi-

nately not accompanied by multiple pepper icons.

I began with an order of spring rolls - someone who had been there prior to my visit had highly recommended the spring rolls to me - and a bowl of wonton soup. The spring rolls were tasty, especially when combined with the appropriate sauce, which was sweet and slightly spicy, but not overpowering. The wonton soup was somewhat different than similar soups I've experienced in local Chinese eateries. The wonton pieces were noticeably thinner - almost gossamer thin, compared with the heavier sort I've had in other restaurants. The soup was garnished with very thin slices of vegetables; quite light and satisfying.

My dinner choice was based on the fact that I really like duck, and very few restaurants offer duck. When I get the chance to order duck, I usually go for it. The duck was prepared with a red pineapple sauce, and was very tasty. The portion was sufficient that I decided to take some home rather than stuff myself right there! After the spring rolls and the soup, I just didn't have all that much room left to allow me to finish it all in one sitting.



Photo by Ernie Soller

One of our friends chose a “traditional” Thai dish of Massaman - chicken thighs and wings cooked with peanuts, potatoes, and onions. Her verdict was that she en-

joyed her meal.

Another one of our friends chose to experience the coconut shrimp. The shrimp were large, succulent, and heavily encrusted with shredded

coconut, accompanied by rice. She was delighted by the fact that the shrimp were large and meaty, but felt that there was perhaps a bit “too much” coconut on the shrimp.

To test their theory I partook of several pieces, and found that I really liked the way it was cooked; but then I have an affinity for both shrimp and coconut, so perhaps I'm a little biased.

In any case, the portions were quite good, and no one going to Thai Spice and Sushi should worry about not getting enough to eat.

We all decided that we were too full to partake in the dessert-coconut cake. Perhaps next time. And, maybe next time I'll try some sushi.

As to the ambience of the restaurant, the folks at Thai Spice and Sushi have tried to give their place a quiet, elegant feel. If I have a criticism of the experience, I'd have to point out that, given that the location is not overly spacious, the tables are of a size that makes for comfort for two, but feels a little cramped for four people. Our waiter seemed challenged at times in finding space on our table for all the dishes that may have been needed at one time or another.

Altogether, dining at Thai Spice and Sushi was a good experience. The food was good, and the portions not skimpy.

Price-wise, I'd have to place this restaurant's prices in the “mid-range,” relatively. The prices are somewhat higher than in many of the “chain” casual dining establishments in our area, but definitely not in the stratospheric high-end category. Thai Spice and Sushi - try it, you may find that you'll like it.

For more information visit [thaispiceoflakewood-ranch.com](http://thaispiceoflakewood-ranch.com) or call (941) 907-4747.

# Florida Cancer Specialists Foundation moves to new office to accommodate growth

Florida Cancer Specialists Foundation opened a new headquarters office on Paylor Lane in Lakewood Ranch to accommodate the foundation's growth. The new FCS Foundation office has more room for the more than 20 volunteers as well as the five full-time employees. The relocation also made more room for Florida Cancer Specialists & Research Institute's marketing department in an office next door.

FCS Foundation helps qualified patients who need financial assistance with non-medical expenses during cancer treatment.



Photos provided



recounted stories about grant recipients, such as a patient who was expecting to be evicted that week. "We got his case expedited and processed in 48 hours in order to help him stay in his home," she said.

The foundation is able to give 100 percent of the money it raises to patients in need because the physicians at Florida Cancer Specialists pay for the foundation's overhead. The foundation has given more than \$2 million to patients being treated for cancer across Florida since it was founded in 2011. For more information visit [foundation.flcancer.com](http://foundation.flcancer.com).

These grants pay for things like mortgage payments or utilities to help those for

whom cancer treatment costs are causing financial stress. About 35 percent of

FCS Foundation grant recipients are non-FCS patients.

At a ribbon cutting last month, Foundation Executive Director Val Vance

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ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS  
OCTOBER 21, 2016 (PG)

HOME ALONE  
NOVEMBER 18, 2016 (PG)

GARFIELD  
JANUARY 27, 2017 (PG)

SHREK  
FEBRUARY 24, 2017 (PG)

RIO  
MARCH 31, 2017 (PG)

HOME  
APRIL 28, 2017 (PG)

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL  
941-757-1582  
[WWW.PREMIERSPORTSCAMPUS.COM](http://WWW.PREMIERSPORTSCAMPUS.COM)

## Raising the fun for a local hearing clinic

HearCare Connection Sarasota will host its annual Wine&Stein fundraiser April 6, at Gold Coast Eagle Distributing in Lakewood Ranch. The evening will include a wine and beer tasting, live and silent auction, and heavy appetizers by Evie's on Main, Michael's on East, and Alpine Steakhouse.

Free Daps, a Guinness Book world record holder for hip-hop free style, will perform. Doors open at 6 p.m. and the event runs from 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$50 each and are on sale now. Purchases can be made online at [hearcareconnection.ejoinme.org/Regis-](http://hearcareconnection.ejoinme.org/Regis-)

terNow or by calling (941) 316-0406.

HearCare Connection believes strongly in the idea that better hearing develops better communication. The Wine&Stein event helps bring people together for the cause of hearing and helps raise funds for the local clinic.

"Our Wine&Stein event gives us a chance to show those that give and serve this organization what they've helped us to accomplish through the year," said Eileen Olson, HearCare Connection's executive director. "It's really a fun party atmosphere and it's a great venue for us to throw an anni-

versary celebration." The event provides operational funding for the local hearing clinic, one of the few non-profit audiology centers in the nation.

HearCare Connection is a nonprofit organization established in 2015 to provide low-income and uninsured individuals and families reduced fees on hearing healthcare based on family size and household income. They offer a wide variety of audiology services and treat patients aged birth through adult. For more information visit [www.HearCareConnection.org/Sarasota](http://www.HearCareConnection.org/Sarasota) or [www.facebook.com/hccsarasota](http://www.facebook.com/hccsarasota).

## Instacart now servicing Lakewood Ranch and surrounding areas

Instacart, the retail delivery service whose personal shoppers hand-pick and deliver items from local stores, has expanded into Sarasota, its fourth city in Florida. Sarasota area residents can now order from their favorite retailers like ABC, Publix, Whole Foods Market, Costco, and Petco, and have their groceries delivered straight to their doorsteps in as little as one hour.

The delivery area will cover more than 299K residents and will provide more than 30 new jobs, Instacart officials said.

Areas of service include Sarasota, Bradenton, Lakewood Ranch, North Port, Longboat Key, Parrish, Holmes Beach and Palmetto.

"Over the past year we've seen incredible demand in the Sarasota area," said Nick Friedrich, Instacart's general manager. "We strive to provide the freshest, highest quality groceries to our customers.

"Expansion into Sarasota gives us an opportunity to further service consumers in the Florida market," he continued.

"We're also excited to

build a world-class shopper community, where we can offer fun and flexible jobs for our shoppers, who ultimately deliver this amazing service to the community."

How Instacart works: Customers go online to [www.Instacart.com](http://www.Instacart.com) or open the Instacart mobile app on their iPhone or Android device, select their city/store, add items to a virtual cart, and then choose a delivery window (within one hour, within two hours, or up to seven days in advance) and

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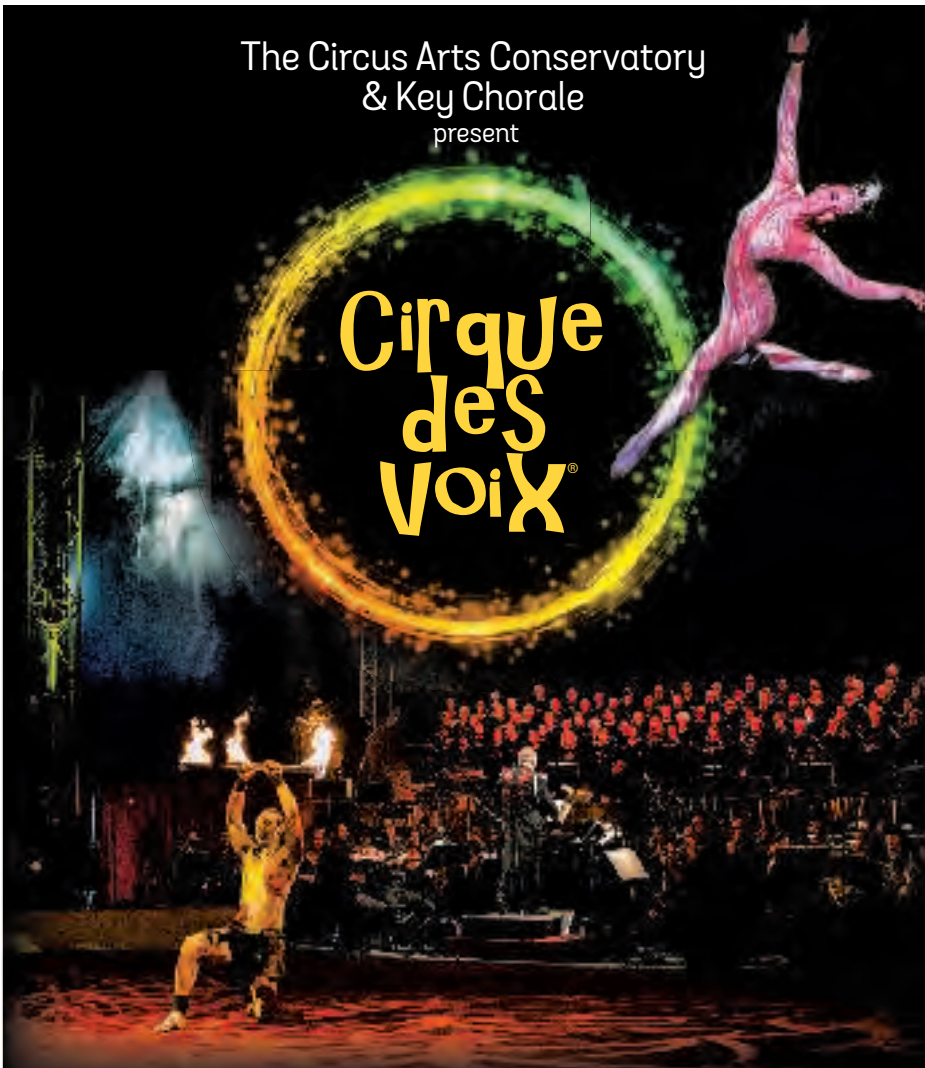


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# LWR Main Street events give big boost to charities

Main Street at Lakewood Ranch helped more than 60 area non-profits raise more than \$800,000 in 2016. The events ranged from car shows to parades, and from bike races to the monthly "Music on Main" concert series.

Main Street has been the hub of community activity since it opened in 2005, and its reach has grown exponentially, drawing people from around the state to its numerous shows and festivals. Annual favorites now include the Memorial

Day Parade, the Jingle 5K for the Arthritis Foundation, BooFest, and Holidays Around the Ranch.

Monthly, thousands come to enjoy Music on Main, which started in 2006 and became a fixture quickly with its free entertainment, family activities, and chosen charities pouring beers to earn money for their organizations.

Records have only been kept since 2012, according to Main Street Manager Amanda Zipperer, but she estimates the total earned is well over \$5 million, as

over the past five years alone they helped charities raise \$3,530,726:

- 2012 - \$591,284
- 2013 - \$671,257
- 2014 - \$709,956
- 2015 - \$753,844
- 2016 - \$804,385

"We are the heart of Lakewood Ranch," Zipperer said. "We host events to bring visibility not only to the street and merchants but to the entire Lakewood Ranch community. Our events have a social *and* economic impact - not only do we



Photo by Paul Videla

help develop a sense of community but we help raise money for a lot of great charities. I also think these events show that "we aren't alone" - there's power in attending an event and seeing other people who support the same cause or have experienced the same thing."

What makes the events so incredibly popular? "I think people have come to find that when there is an event on Main Street or elsewhere in Lakewood Ranch we do it right - we have established a reputation for excellence," Zipperer said. "We are well-organized and a lot of our

major events have been on the street since our inception, but we have also added some new ones along the way as well so it doesn't get stagnant. People know that we always have something going on."

More than 120 community events are planned for 2017.

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## Walk For Water

**When: Saturday, April 1, 2017 at 8:30am**  
**Where: Harvest United Methodist Church**

14305 Covenant Way, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

An estimated **2,000 CHILDREN** under the age of 5 die in the world every day from waterborne diseases.

It costs **LESS THAN \$200** to provide a family in a 3rd world country with sustainable clean drinking water.



Rotary  
Club of Lakewood Ranch  
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\$10 recommended donation to participate. Kids 8 and under walk for free. Contact 941-870-0002 or [rotarylwr@gmail.com](mailto:rotarylwr@gmail.com) for more info or to register. Walk is approximately 1 mile and symbolizes the journey many families make each day to obtain clean drinking water.

V31935

## COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE TO VERIFY DATES

<http://www.lakewoodranchgov.org/reservations/month>

### March 20th – Third Monday

- Women's Exercise, Woodland Baptist, 9 a.m.
- Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Italian American Club, Town Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- Art Club, Town Hall, noon
- Creative Arts Club, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

### March 21st – Third Tuesday

- Lunch Club, Town Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- Kiwanis, Polo Grill, noon
- Empty Nesters, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Double Deck Pinochle, various homes, 1 p.m.
- Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

### March 22nd – Fourth Wednesday

- Women's Exercise, Woodland Baptist, 9 a.m.
- Women's Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.
- Total Health Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 pm
- Football Club, soccer field 1, 6 p.m.

### March 23rd – Fourth Thursday

- Financial Forum, Caddy Shak at River Club, 9 a.m.
- Ladies' Devotional Hour, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday Bridge Club, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- St. George's Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 1 p.m.

### March 24th – Fourth Friday

- Women's Exercise, Woodland Baptist, 9 a.m.
- Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, 12:30 p.m.
- Pro Jam Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### March 25th – Fourth Saturday

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

### March 26th – Fourth Sunday

- Italian/American Club's Winter Picnic – Pavilion, 2 p.m.
- Ladies Soccer, soccer fields 1 and 2, 2 p.m.

### March 27th – Fourth Monday

- Women's Exercise, Woodland Baptist, 9 a.m.
- Art Club, Town Hall, noon
- Angler's Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

### March 28th – Fourth Tuesday

- Kiwanis, Polo Grill, noon
- Double Deck Pinochle, various homes, 1 p.m.
- Lunch Club, Town Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- Bridge on Tuesday, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Italian American Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Running Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

### March 29th – Fifth Wednesday

- Women's Exercise, Woodland Baptist, 9 a.m.
- Bingo, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field 1, 6 p.m.

### March 30th – Fifth Thursday

- Ladies' Devotional Hour, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Financial Forum, Caddy Shak in River Club, 9 a.m.

- Thursday Bridge Club, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- St. George's Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- CERT Training, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

### March 31st – Fifth Friday

- Shanti Yoga Club, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.

### April 1st – First Saturday

- Adult Soccer, Summerfield Park, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field 1, 8:30 a.m.
- CERT Training, Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.
- Scribes Club, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

### April 2nd – First Sunday

- Ladies' Soccer, Adventure Park, 2 p.m.
- Sunday Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### April 3rd – First Monday

- Women's Exercise, Woodland Baptist, 9 a.m.
- Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art Club, Town Hall, noon
- LWR Garden Club, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Genealogy Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

### April 4th – First Tuesday

- Lunch Club, Town Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- Kiwanis, Polo Grill, noon
- Double Deck Pinochle, various homes, 1 p.m.
- Angler's Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

### April 5th – First Wednesday

- Women's Exercise, Woodland Baptist, 9 a.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Bingo, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 6 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer fields 1 and 2, 6 p.m.

### April 6th – First Thursday

- Women's Golf, Legacy, 7:30 a.m.
- Financial Forum, Caddy Shak in River Club, 9 a.m.
- Ladies' Devotional Hour, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday Bridge Club, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- St. George's Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- CERT Training, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

### April 7th – First Friday

- Women's Exercise, Woodland Baptist, 9 a.m.
- Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Pro Jam, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### April 8th – Second Saturday

- EGGSTRAVAGANZA, GREENBROOK ADVENTURE PARK, 9:30-11:30 a.m.
- Adult Soccer, Summerfield Park, 8 a.m.

### April 9th – Second Sunday

- Football Club, soccer fields 1 and 2
- Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 and 2, 2 p.m.

### April 10th – Second Monday

- Women's Exercise, Woodland Baptist, 9 a.m.
- Art Club, Town Hall, noon
- Gardeners Out East, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Digital Photography BOD Meeting Town Hall, 5 p.m.

- CERT Board Meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

### April 11th – Second Tuesday

- Lunch Club, Town Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- Kiwanis, Polo Grill, noon
- Bridge on Tuesdays, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Double Deck Pinochle, various homes, 1 p.m.
- Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
- Democratic Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

### April 12th – Second Wednesday

- Women's Exercise, Woodland Baptist, 9 a.m.
- Total Health Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Community Activities, Town Hall, 5 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field 1, 6 p.m.
- CERT Radio Communications Committee, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

### April 13th – Second Thursday

- Ladies' Devotional Hour, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Financial Forum, Caddy Shak in River Club, 9 a.m.
- Thursday Bridge Club, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- St. George's Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 2 p.m.

### April 14th – Second Friday

- Women's Exercise, Woodland Baptist, 9 a.m.
- Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art Club, Town Hall, noon
- Republican Club, Ranch Grill, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.

### April 15th – Third Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer fields 1 and 2, 8 a.m.
- Creative Arts Annual Spring Show, LWR Town Hall
- Football Club, soccer field 1, 8:30 a.m.
- Scribes Club, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

### April 16th – Third Sunday

- Sunday Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

### April 17th – Third Monday

- Women's Exercise, Woodland Baptist, 9 a.m.
- Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Italian American Club, Town Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- Art Club, Town Hall, noon

### April 18th – Third Tuesday

- Lunch Club, Town Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- Kiwanis, Polo Grill, noon
- Empty Nesters, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Double Deck Pinochle, various homes, 1 p.m.
- Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

### April 19th – Third Wednesday

- Women's Exercise, Woodland Baptist, 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.
- Football Club, soccer field 1, 6 p.m.

### April 20th – Third Thursday

- Financial Forum, Caddy Shak in River Club, 9 a.m.
- Ladies' Devotional Hour, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday Bridge Club, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- St. George's Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 2 p.m.
- History Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

## GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

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

<b>March 15</b>	10 a.m.	CDD 4 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	10:15 a.m.	CDD 4 Board Meeting 907-0202
	6 p.m.	GBVA Board Meeting 907-0202
<b>March 16</b>	8:30 a.m.	CDD 1 Board Meeting 907-0202
	9 a.m.	CDD 2 & CDD 5 Board Meeting 907-0202
	10:30 a.m.	CDD 6 Board Meeting 907-0202
	3 p.m.	CEVA Safety Meeting 907-6999
<b>March 20</b>	9 a.m.	IDA Budget Workshop 907-0202
	3 p.m.	CEVA Board Workshop 907-0202
<b>March 21</b>	4 p.m.	GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
<b>March 22</b>	1 p.m.	Country Club Modifications 907-0202
	3 p.m.	Edgewater Modifications 907-0202
	4 p.m.	Sandhills Neighborhood Committee Meeting 907-0820
	7 p.m.	SRVA Board Meeting 907-0202
<b>March 23</b>	2 p.m.	CEVA Violations Hearing 907-0202
	6 p.m.	Watercrest Board of Directors Annual Meeting 907-0948
<b>March 27</b>	10 a.m.	CEVA Finance Committee Meeting 907-3880
	5:30 p.m.	Hollow Board of Directors Meeting 752-4812
	7 p.m.	CDD 1 Budget Workshop 907-0202
<b>March 28</b>	8:30 a.m.	SRVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
	10 a.m.	CDD 6 Budget Workshop 907-0202
<b>March 29</b>	3 p.m.	CEVA Board Meeting 907-0202
	6 p.m.	CDD 4 Budget Workshop 907-0202
<b>March 30</b>	10:30 a.m.	CDD 5 Budget Workshop 907-0202
	3 p.m.	CDD 2 Budget Workshop 907-0202
<b>April 3</b>	9 a.m.	CEVA Landscape Committee Meeting 907-0202
	7 p.m.	Brier Creek Neighborhood Meeting 907-1169
	7 p.m.	CDD 4 Safety Workshop/GBVA Safety Committee 907-0202
<b>April 4</b>	7 p.m.	Weston Neighborhood Meeting 941-587-7245
<b>April 5</b>	3 p.m.	CEVA Restrictions Revision Meeting 907-0202
	4 p.m.	GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
<b>April 11</b>	8:30 a.m.	SRVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
<b>April 12</b>	1 p.m.	Country Club Modifications Meeting 907-0202
	3 p.m.	Edgewater Modifications Meeting 907-0202
	9 a.m.	CDD 6 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
<b>April 17</b>	3 p.m.	CEVA Board Workshop 907-0202
	7 p.m.	Gleneagles Neighborhood Meeting 306-5107
	8 a.m.	IDA Board Meeting 907-0202
<b>April 18</b>	10 a.m.	CDD 1 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	1 p.m.	CDD 2 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	2:30 p.m.	CDD 5 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	4 p.m.	GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202

\*Meeting dates and times are subject to change

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