



# Around the Ranch

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THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2018



**LAKWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY FUND CELEBRATES CARING AND SHARING:** The Mark Wandall Foundation, one of the recipients of a LWR Community Fund grant, offers free bereavement camps to children and teens, and has teamed up with Sarasota Manatee Association for Riding Therapy (another grant recipient) to give children who have lost a parent the opportunity to work with gentle horses. For more information on the Fund and the grants, see pages 20-21. Photo by Ernie Soller

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## Preston Olinger Named to LWR District 1 CDD Board

BY ERNIE SOLLER,  
Community Correspondent

During its Sept. 20 meeting, the board of supervisors of Lakewood Ranch Community Development District 1 unanimously selected Preston Olinger, a longtime resident, to fill the unexpired term of supervisor Gil Pearce, who announced his retirement at age 90 from the District 1 board, after six years of service to the board and several years of service to the community in other capacities.

Olinger is a retired U.S. Air Force colonel. He served in the Air Force for 26 years, both in combat as a B-52 pilot in Vietnam, and in various staff postings, among them a stint as a military advisor to the negotiators of the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks with the former Soviet Union and as an assistant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

Olinger was one of the founding members of the Lakewood Ranch CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) program and has been a very active member of the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch for years, chairing the annual Food and Wine Fest over several years. He has also been one of the driving forces behind the success – and subsequent national adoption by Rotary – of the "Shelter Box" program, which provides temporary shelter, food and necessary utensils for people left homeless by disasters worldwide.

Olinger has been active in the life of District 1 for years, serving as the president of the Summerfield Riverwalk Association for two terms. He will be officially sworn in as a member of the District 1 Board at their October regular meeting.

### CELL PHONE SERVICE

Alan Roth, supervisor for District 1, reported to his board that the contract between Lakewood Ranch and USA/CRAN, the cell tower contractor, has been signed. Roth mentioned that residents may be well-advised to contact their cell phone carrier to let them know that USA/CRAN will be setting up towers in the community, with a view toward encouraging their cell carriers to enter into agreements with USA/CRAN, as the contractor will not move forward with construction of the towers without the participation of multiple carriers.

### SOIL MOISTURE SENSORS

District 1 Supervisor Roth also noted that

700 Lakewood Ranch residents have signed up to learn more about soil moisture sensors, indicating their interest in participating in the expected upcoming Soil Moisture Sensor installation program. As Executive Director Anne Ross noted, this is pretty much a no-brainer, and it will save the community – and residents – money in the long run with lower irrigation water charges, as well as promoting healthier lawns.

### BRU IRRIGATION WATER METERING

Braden River Utilities, the irrigation water supplier for Lakewood Ranch, is progressing in its efforts to install meters that will enable them to know exactly how much irrigation water is being used by a particular district. This is expected to enable staffers to better estimate the usage by residents and, consequently, link this information to the budgeted amounts for irrigation costs.

Overuse of irrigation water by residents has become a major cost factor in rising CDD assessments in recent years.

### CERT

Alan Silverglat, District 5 supervisor, reported that Lakewood Ranch CERT has developed a system for radio notification during emergencies.

### ENGINEERING SERVICES

The Lakewood Ranch CDD Boards approved their respective contracts with Dewberry Engineers for civil engineering services for the next fiscal year.

### EARLY VOTING

The early voting period during the past primary election season brought a record number of residents to the Town Hall to cast their early ballots. The Lakewood Ranch Town Hall was the busiest location for early voting in all of Manatee County, per Executive Director Ross.

Early voting for the general election will take place between Oct. 24 and Nov. 3 at the Town Hall.

Residents should know that they may go to any early voting location in the county to cast their ballot, but after early voting closes, voters will be allowed to cast their ballots only at their assigned polling locations.

The District 6 board did not meet this month.

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## GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

October 17, 2018 – November 20, 2018

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

- |                    |            |  |
|--------------------|------------|--|
| <b>October 17</b>  | 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 Committee Mtg 373-3898 |
|                    | 4 p.m.     | Sandhills Neighborhood Committee 907-0820          |
|                    | 6 p.m.     | GBVA Board Meeting 907-0202                        |
| <b>October 18</b>  | 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                       |
|                    | 3 p.m.     | CEVA Safety Meeting 850-396-2695                   |
| <b>October 22</b>  | 10 a.m.    | CEVA Finance Committee Meeting 907-0202            |
|                    | 3 p.m.     | Augusta/Oakmont Committee Meeting 907-3448         |
|                    | 5:30 p.m.  | Summerfield Hollow Board Meeting 921-5393          |
| <b>October 23</b>  | 8:30 a.m.  | SRVA Modifications 907-0202                        |
|                    | 3 p.m.     | CEVA Board Meeting 907-0202                        |
| <b>October 24</b>  | 1 p.m.     | Country Club Modifications 907-0202                |
|                    | 3 p.m.     | Edgewater Modifications 907-0202                   |
|                    | 7 p.m.     | SRVA Board Meeting 907-0202                        |
| <b>October 25</b>  | 1:30 p.m.  | Whitemarsh Neighborhood Committee Mtg 907-0202     |
|                    | 2 p.m.     | CEVA Fining Committee Meeting 907-0202             |
| <b>November 1</b>  | 3 p.m.     | CEVA Restrictions Revision Meeting 907-0202        |
| <b>November 7</b>  | 2:30 p.m.  | GBVA Restrictions Revision Meeting 907-0202        |
|                    | 4 p.m.     | GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202                |
|                    | 7 p.m.     | SRVA Landscape Meeting 907-0202                    |
|                    | 7 p.m.     | Weston Neighborhood Meeting 587-7245               |
| <b>November 12</b> | 9 a.m.     | CDD 6 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202              |
|                    | 4 p.m.     | CDD 2 Special Workshop 907-0202                    |
|                    | 7 p.m.     | Gleneagles Neighborhood Meeting 907-0202           |
|                    | 7 p.m.     | Pointe Neighborhood Committee Meeting 907-0569     |
| <b>November 13</b> | 8 a.m.     | IDA Board Meeting 907-0202                         |
|                    | 8:30 a.m.  | SRVA Modifications 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              |
| <b>November 14</b> | 10 a.m.    | CDD 4 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202              |
|                    | 10:15 a.m. | CDD 4 Board Meeting 907-0202                       |
|                    | 1 p.m.     | Country Club Modifications 907-0202                |
|                    | 3 p.m.     | Edgewater Modifications 907-0202                   |
|                    | 6 p.m.     | GBVA Annual Board Meeting 907-0202                 |
| <b>November 15</b> | 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                       |
|                    | 3 p.m.     | CEVA Safety Meeting 850-396-2695                   |
|                    | 4 p.m.     | Mizner Reserve Neighborhood Committee Mtg 373-3898 |
| <b>November 19</b> | 3 p.m.     | CEVA Annual Board Meeting 907-0202                 |

\*Meeting dates and times are subject to change



# OPEN HOUSE

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# LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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



Join us at **Club Day** at the Lakewood Ranch Block Party from 5-8 p.m. Oct. 19 at Lakewood Ranch Main Street. Club Day is a great day to join one of our many local clubs! With more than 50 active social clubs, it's hard for a resident not to meet neighbors with common interests. Our clubs make a real difference in the residents' quality of life. The clubs are involved in community service, fundraising and day trip excursions for pleasure and camaraderie. This is a great opportunity to meet neighbors and participate in weekly or monthly trips, sharing lunch, attending informative seminars, fashion shows, dance lessons and more. For a full list of clubs and how to join, visit our website, [LWRCA.org](http://LWRCA.org).



Keith Pandeloglou  
Director of LWRCAC

As fall approaches we are busy gearing up for the biggest event of the year, **BOOFest 2018**. BOOFest runs from 6-9 p.m. Oct. 26 at Lakewood Ranch Main Street. Annually, BOOFest brings thousands of Lakewood Ranch residents together in one place to celebrate fall, the Halloween season and most of all – each other as a community.

Whether you're a foodie looking for something to sink your fangs into, or a thrill-seeker looking for interactive activities like the mobile video game party truck, there is something at this event for ghouls and girls of all ages. Have your children bring their trick-or-treat bags to collect the many treats that will be given out from our generous sponsors and merchants.

Spooky food vendors include food trucks and local restaurants to tame your inner monster. If you need something to drink, head over to one of our beer trucks. The main stage will feature local talent from dance schools and a DJ will be bumping the best spooky tunes all night. Attractions to look forward to are our spooky balloon artist, interactive craft booths, and even a rock-climbing wall, as well as a "kid zone" available for new moms and youngsters.

Bring your Lakewood Ranch family and friends to BOOFest, and don't forget to wear your costume! There will be costume shows by age group on the main stage throughout



the night. Proceeds of this event will go towards Lakewood Ranch Community Activities for future events like this. This night will be so good, it's scary!

Save the date! **Holidays Around the Ranch** will be held from 6-9 p.m. Dec. 14 at Lakewood Ranch Main Street. The event is our annual holiday sensation of magical charm for all to enjoy. Children and adults alike will stand in awe at the sight of Santa Claus as he makes his grand entry in his horse-drawn carriage, decorated in lights and garland. Join our carolers as they sing around the fountain leading up to the lighting of the spectacular tree. Florida children can experience an outdoor snow slide! There will be plenty of activities to keep everyone entertained.

Sip on hot cocoa, and eggnog from the many street vendors while enjoying the annual line up of stage performances by many local dance and music studios. The season is made for sharing and this event like no other will bring us together to revel in the ambiance of the season.

Stay up to date with all things "Happening on the Ranch" by joining our mailing list. Visit [LWRCA.org](http://LWRCA.org) to sign up!



## CLUB NEWS

**LAKEWOOD RANCH RUNNING CLUB** invites you to join them for their 15th Annual Boo Run 5k & Boo Dash from 8-10 a.m. Oct. 27 at Lakewood Ranch Main Street. This event is family-friendly and will include a 5k run, Boo Dash for the kiddos, "sponsorship village" to include a full VEGAN breakfast from First Watch and beverages from Tropicana. All age group winners will receive a Tervis mug. Don't miss out on this amazing event supporting our local charity Another Day for Gray Foundation. Details and registration can be found at [www.boorun.com](http://www.boorun.com).

**LWR DEMOCRATIC CLUB** will meet at 7 p.m. Oct. 18 and Nov. 15 at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. Guests are invited to speak on topics of interest. Discussion ensues. Stay engaged! For more information visit [lwrdeems.com](http://lwrdeems.com).

**LWR REPUBLICAN CLUB** will meet from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Oct. 17 at The Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club, 7650 Legacy Blvd. Scott Hopes, candidate for Manatee County School Board, will speak. Cost is \$20. RSVP to [lwrrc.com](mailto:lwrrc.com) or [sjc@mailmt.com](mailto:sjc@mailmt.com).

**THE WOMEN'S BOOK CLUB** meets the third Wednesday

of the month and gathers between 1-1:30 p.m. for a meet and greet. The official discussion starts at 1:30 p.m. for an hour. The Nov. 28 selection is "Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine," by Gail Honeyman. For more information, contact [mmbutton@verizon.net](mailto:mmbutton@verizon.net).

**EMPTY NESTERS OF LAKEWOOD RANCH** meet on the first and third Tuesday of each month between 12:30 and 1 p.m. at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. We bring our own lunch and begin eating at 1 p.m., followed by an informal meeting to discuss where we might like to visit. Currently, we have nine different events planned spanning from a lunch on the Marina Jack II, to the International Showmen's Museum. There are no dues and you sign up only for events that interest you. We welcome singles and couples and look forward to meeting you. For more information contact Peggy Walther at (941) 907-6066.

**LAKEWOOD RANCH ANGLER'S CLUB** is planning a trip to Lake Okeechobee at 9 a.m. on Oct. 30 to fish for the afternoon, stay in a motel overnight, and fish on the morning of Oct. 31 before having lunch and returning home in the afternoon. To become a member of this club, contact [fcove2@aol.com](mailto:fcove2@aol.com).

**LWR WINE CLUB** will meet at 7 p.m. Oct. 19 at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. We'll be kicking off the new season! If you're interested in trying some new wines and meeting some fellow wine lovers, then this club is for you. We meet once a month, one of the members presents five wines in a very informal setting, and we have some lively discussions and a

## 2018 Lakewood Ranch Calendar of Events

<b>October 19</b>	Club Day	LWR Main Street
<b>October 26</b>	Boo Fest	LWR Main Street
<b>December 14</b>	Holidays Around the Ranch	LWR Main Street

lot of fun. Whether you are just beginning your wine exploration or are a seasoned oenophile, you will enjoy this club! For details and/or to sign up contact Corrine Wagner at (941)313-4982 or [corrine@wagners4.com](mailto:corrine@wagners4.com), or Ron Magee at (571)437-8495 or [oymoron46@verizon.net](mailto:oymoron46@verizon.net).

**SHANTI YOGA** meets from 10-11 a.m. Fridays at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. Enjoy peaceful yoga practice as learnt from yogis in India, with time for pranayama and meditation.

**LWR PICKLEBALL:** The Sandhill Classic Double Elimination Tournament will be held on Oct. 20. Players can compete in a double elimination tournament. Also, the 2018-'19 club/team league play begins in October with 10 teams competing. There will be Friday open play at Lakewood Ranch High School at 5 p.m., including a free beginner clinic on first and third Saturdays at Lakewood Ranch High School at 9:30 a.m. All players are welcome! For information, contact Robert Haskin at [rahaskin27@gmail.com](mailto:rahaskin27@gmail.com).

**LUNCH, LAUGHTER AND FRIDAY MAH JONGG** is a

friendly group of happy Lakewood Ranch Country Club female members who meet up at the club for lunch, laughter and mah jongg every Friday at noon. If you are interested in joining them, please email [JoanRobbins@hotmail.com](mailto:JoanRobbins@hotmail.com).

**LWR LADIES SOCCER** hosts soccer on Sundays at 5 p.m. at Greenbrook Adventure Park. We started our fall soccer season for ladies only starting in September. We play eight-a-side soccer with smaller goals. There are teams that need players of any ability. Main criteria is to have fun and get a work out! The season ends in December with the spring season picking up in January. We have refs and play for season trophies. For more info call or text Roni Duthie at (941)812-6436.

**LAKEWOOD RANCH GARDENING CLUB** holds its semi-annual yard sale from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Nov. 3 in the Lakewood Ranch villages of Summerfield, Riverwalk, and Greenbrook. To participate you must register with LWR Town Hall (8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.) and provide a \$5 fee.

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# New and Unique Local Pharmacy Serving LWR

BY ERNIE SOLLER,  
Community Correspondent

## APOTHCARE AT LAKEWOOD RANCH IS NOW OPEN

Have you ever gotten a prescription from your doctor, either your primary doctor or a specialist, taken that prescription to one of the large chain pharmacies, and felt that you've been put through a corporate wringer of sorts?

With a lot of chain pharmacies, the pharmacy portion of the "big box drug store" is positioned as far from the entrance to the store as possible. Why? Well, by putting the pharmacy near the back of the store, it forces you, the patient, to walk all the way to the back of the store just to get to the place where you can turn in your prescription for filling. It's "marketing" – the whole idea of forcing you to trudge all the way through the store is to get you to impulse-buy something else, whether it be a magazine you picked while waiting, a cosmetic item, or even a case of soda.

When you actually get to the point of picking up your medication, and you have a question about the medication, you might find that the pharmacist doesn't seem to have the time to give you a good and complete answer to your questions.

Why is this? Well, the big chain pharmacies tend to be corporate profit centers, and the more time the pharmacist spends discussing medications with patients, the less time that he or she has to fill prescriptions, and/or fill out the reports that are mandated by the corporation. In other words, spending time discussing pa-



PHOTO BY ERNIE SOLLER

tients' needs doesn't add to the corporate bottom line. Ed Zeid, along with his wife, Laila, both earned doctorates in

pharmacy from Albany College of Pharmacy in Albany, N.Y. Ed completed a residency in drug research and development at Novartis, while Laila completed her residency in the development of breast cancer drugs at Rensselaer Pharmaceutical Cancer Research Institute, and went on to do additional work in hormone replacement therapy and anti-aging medication involving women's health.

After moving to Florida in 2012, they both worked for a while at one of the chain pharmacies, but felt a need to be better practitioners of their science, especially with regard to counseling their patients. Ed remembers being criticized by corporate higher-ups for spending too much time with patients, and filling out corporate reports took up a large amount of his time.

After their son was born, they also felt a need to move to a community where there were more people of their own age group, a place with good schools and families with kids.

They looked around, saw a sign along I-75, and found Lakewood Ranch. Laila liked the closeness to the beaches, and they were both impressed with the idea of living in a master-planned community, comprised of highly-educated individuals, with good schools and the availability of day care for their child.

They moved in 2016 and opened Apothicare at Lakewood Ranch, which enabled them to do their jobs their way, and at the same time provide a higher grade of pharmacy service to

SEE APOTHCARE, PAGE 14



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FROM PAGE 12

their patients. Laila and Ed have become active members of the Lakewood Ranch community; Laila as a member of the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance and the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, and Ed as a volunteer medical board member for the Neuro Challenge Parkinson's Foundation.

What makes Apothicare at Lakewood Ranch different from the average chain pharmacy?

For one thing, Apothicare at Lakewood Ranch is what is referred to in the industry as a "compounding pharmacy." For example, your doctor may want to treat you with a specialized medication – one that is not available as a commercially-produced "off the shelf" item from the average pharmacy. At Apothicare at Lakewood Ranch, the Zeids have the knowledge and skill to prepare such medications, such as hormone-replacement therapy drugs "from scratch" in their in-house laboratory. You'll get exactly what your doctor ordered, and you won't have to wait for days trying to get your meds from a chain pharmacy that will most likely have to procure such medication from an out-of-town source.

The Zeids look at their pharmacy business as providing not only medicines, but as a factor in the prevention of health problems, which may include the recommendation of nutritional supplements. As Ed Zeid, noted, many people don't recognize the health toll on their bodies from particular foods, stress, and work conditions. Now they can look to Apothicare at Lakewood Ranch for guidance in these areas. They may be able, for instance, to provide a custom-tailored vitamin product to a client that may give improved benefits when compared to a commercially available product – at a lower cost.

Part of the benefit of being an Apothicare at Lakewood Ranch client might just lie in a small room which is unique to Apothicare.

The Zeids designed their pharmacy with a

"consultation room," as a place where a client can discuss his or her medications with the pharmacist, with a view to making sure that the client is taking the proper meds, and that the medications are not interacting in a negative manner with each other. After all, not every patient tells all of his or her doctors about all the medications they are taking, and this can be dangerous!

This consultation opportunity can also work to the patient's advantage in that the pharmacist may be able to determine that there might be a different medication that might work better or be available at a lower cost. As an example, Ed mentioned that his dad was taking two medications for a particular medical problem and was experiencing a side effect. He was able to recommend a single medication which eliminated the side effect and still provided the needed result.

One of the main considerations for the pharmacists at Apothicare at Lakewood Ranch is educating their clients. Patients may not know enough to ask the right questions – the answers to which might just help them to use their meds more effectively. The Zeids plan on starting a program of seminars that will be open to the public, at which they can give important information to their neighbors in Lakewood Ranch.

Apothicare offers many generic medications at a very low cost and offers free delivery of prescriptions, as well as one-day delivery through the post office.

They accept almost all insurance plans.

So, if you're looking to do business with a pharmacy that treats its clients like family, and goes out of the way to provide a better pharmacy experience, check out Apothicare at Lakewood Ranch, located at 8618 State Road 70. They are open from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday, and from 9 a.m. to 2 pm. Saturdays. For more information call (941)751-5000 or visit [lwrpharmacy.com](#).

## Resident Orientation Session Scheduled

Lakewood Ranch resident orientation sessions are scheduled through November, and will cover local, special purpose governments, or community development districts (CDDs); the Inter-District Authority (IDA), and the homeowners' associations. Residents will learn how each of these entities operate and how they all work together to make Lakewood Ranch the best community to call home. Town Hall staff is eager to share this information with residents

the opportunity to ask questions of staff.

Those interested should RSVP to Kay DePaolo at (941)907-0202 or via e-mail at [kay.depaolo@lwrtownhall.com](#). The dates of the two-hour informational sessions are listed below. All sessions are held at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, 8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd., LWR.

### 2018 RESIDENT ORIENTATION DATE

Wednesday, November 7, from 4 to 6 p.m.

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# Suncoast Food and Wine Fest Moves to a New Home

BY ERNIE SOLLER,  
Community Correspondent

Got your tickets yet? Better hurry before they're gone!

Rotary of Lakewood Ranch is preparing for an even bigger, more successful, Suncoast Food and Wine Fest this year in its new location: the Premier Sports Campus (PSC), located on Post Road, north of State Road 70, and east of Lorraine Road. The Food and Wine Fest will take place from 1-4 p.m. Nov. 10.

In previous years, the Suncoast Food and Wine Fest was held at the Sarasota Polo Club grounds, but this year, instead of seeing hundreds of soccer playing young people roaming the fields of the PSC, the sports venue will be transformed into Food and Wine Fest heaven, with all sorts of fine wines, both domestic and imported, (and beers), available for sampling and purchase.

One advantage of having the event at the PSC is the close proximity of parking. In addition, the Florida Highway Patrol will be handling traffic on State Road 70 and Lorraine Road, and the Manatee County Sheriff's Department will



be on site to smooth out any traffic congestion in and around the parking area.

The Suncoast Food and Wine Fest will offer fantastic food from some of the region's finest restaurants, as well as creative gastronomical delights from area culinary arts schools, too. As has been the custom in the past, there will be cooking demonstrations, a silent auction of everything from sports memorabilia to gift baskets, various raffles and giveaways, beautiful cars on display ... the list goes on and on.

Just a few of the fine restaurants which are participating in this year's Food and Wine Fest



include: The Capitol Grille, Apollonia Grill, Speak's Clam Bar, P.E. Chang's, the New England Backyard Clam Bake, Rusty Bucket, Caribbean Pie Company, Nancy's Bar-B-Q, the Main Street Trattoria, and The Beach House.

One new Suncoast Food and Wine Fest restaurant of note: "GROVE," the new establishment that will be located in the building that formerly housed the Polo Grill, will be presenting some of their fare at the Food and Wine Fest for the first time!

The VIP area will feature food from Sophie's at Saks Fifth Avenue.

The primary sponsors for Rotary's Suncoast Food and Wine Fest again this year are Publix Supermarkets, Lakewood Ranch Communities, and Suncoast Porsche.

Rotary of Lakewood Ranch's Food and Wine Fest is the service club's largest fundraiser of the year, and has enabled our local Rotarians to donate over \$1.6 million to charitable works, both in our own area and across the globe. The Books For Kids program, the Rotary Clean Water Initiative, and the Shelter Box program are just a few examples of Rotary's charitable efforts.

If you haven't experienced this annual major Lakewood Ranch event, you need to get your tickets NOW. The Rotarians have set a maximum number of attendees at 2,000 people (including presenters and Rotarians), so as to make sure that things work smoothly and everyone has a great time.

As any Rotarian will tell you when talking about the Suncoast Food and Wine Fest: "You Will Never Have So Much Fun Doing Good!"

For tickets and information, go to the Suncoast Food and Wine Fest website: [www.suncoastfoodandwinefest.com](http://www.suncoastfoodandwinefest.com).



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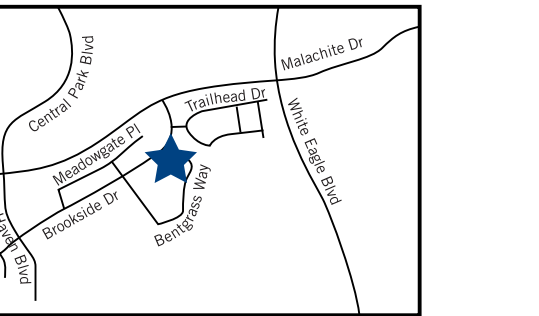


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**LA Fitness Opens at The Green Welcomes Slate of New Restaurant and Retail Tenants**

BY ERNIE SOLLER,  
Community Correspondent

Tavistock Development Company recently announced the opening of anchor tenant LA Fitness and a variety of new retailers for The Green at Lakewood Ranch including Keke's Breakfast Cafe, Irish 31 Pub House & Eatery, Dog Perfect, 7-Eleven, Wendy's, and Allstate Insurance.

These new tenants join the previously-announced list of Earth Fare, Chipotle Mexican Grill, Verizon, Starbucks Coffee Company, Lavish Nails, Mattresses & More, Main Street Dentistry, SoFresh, Modern Gents, Sirius Day Spa, and Panera Bread Company. Joining LA Fitness, the Sirius Day Spa, Modern Gents, Earth Fare, and Main Street Dentistry are now open. All other tenants are expected to open by early winter. LA Fitness will also host a grand opening event on Nov. 3.

"We're thrilled to bring so many new and diverse offerings to Lakewood Ranch residents and visitors," said Skipper Peek, senior vice president of commercial development for Tavistock Development Co. "This mix of restaurants and retail combined with experienced-based activities like the spas, salons, and LA Fitness truly make The Green a one-stop destination where guests have access to a variety of services." Keke's, an Orlando-based breakfast favorite

with more than 40 locations across the state, will open daily from 7 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. in a 4,900-square-foot store. The family-friendly Irish 31 will serve a mix of traditional Irish food, vegetarian options, Southern favorites, and classic comfort foods in a new 3,500-square-foot space. Wendy's will also open a 2,400-square-foot store in a brand-new prototype that matches The Green's contemporary architecture.

The Green will welcome a custom-designed 7-Eleven convenience store with 16 gas pumps. Additional tenants include a 1,500-square-foot Allstate Insurance office and 3,750-square-foot Dog Perfect that will offer a variety of healthy pet products, provide professional grooming and training, and a self-serve dog washing station.

The Green, located at the northeast corner of State Road 70 and Lakewood Ranch Boulevard, is a 525,000-square-foot, mixed-use development within Lakewood Ranch, the second fastest-selling master-planned community in the U.S. Part of The Green's development, construction has also begun on the 300-unit luxury apartment complex called The Residences at The Green. The complex will include unique amenities like a putting green and dog park in addition to a luxury clubhouse, state-of-the-art fitness center, and infinity-edge pool. Pre-leasing is expected to begin by summer 2019.

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# RANCH RAMBLINGS



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

## Dear Reader,

I recently attended the annual grants reception for The Lakewood Ranch Community Fund. I was only vaguely familiar with the fund prior to attending, but I learned right from the jump that it is the only organization focused exclusively on the Lakewood Ranch/East County area. The fund has awarded more than \$1.3 million to worthy recipients since it was established in 2000. While I was initially unaware of the fund itself, I immediately recognized nearly all of the nonprofit organizations that it supports, and found it interesting to see the behind-the-scenes donation process that keeps these wonderful programs afloat in our community.

Donations come from people who want to give to their town and from larger private companies, including General Electric, a company that gives 1% of the sales from all appliances installed in nearby homes back to the Ranch community. While 1% may seem an insignificant amount at first glance, it adds up quickly: G.E. is actually the largest donor to the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund. The reception began by acknowledging the generosity of the donors, along with the dedication shown by the board of advisors, who work hard each year to review applications and bring the reception to fruition.

The short and sweet slogan "live here, give here" is very well-suited to this short and sweet event, in which each award recipient was applauded and encouraged by the crowd for their good works before being handed their grant. I arrived a tad early and enjoyed watching the recipients mingle with one another as they took their seats and waited for the reception to begin. I suppose it is only to be expected that these folks would be in high spirits – after all, \$83,500 in needed grant money would be distributed in that hour – but I still found it heartwarming to watch the representatives from various foundations lean in to laugh and chat with one another. While everyone certainly looked polished for the occasion, I found the crowd to be cozy and easy-going. (I was seated with a particularly colorful flock of Junior Leaguers that made me regret wearing muted colors!)

Out of the 40 applications submitted to the Fund, 22 groups were selected to receive awards. The nonprofit organizations chosen by the application committee

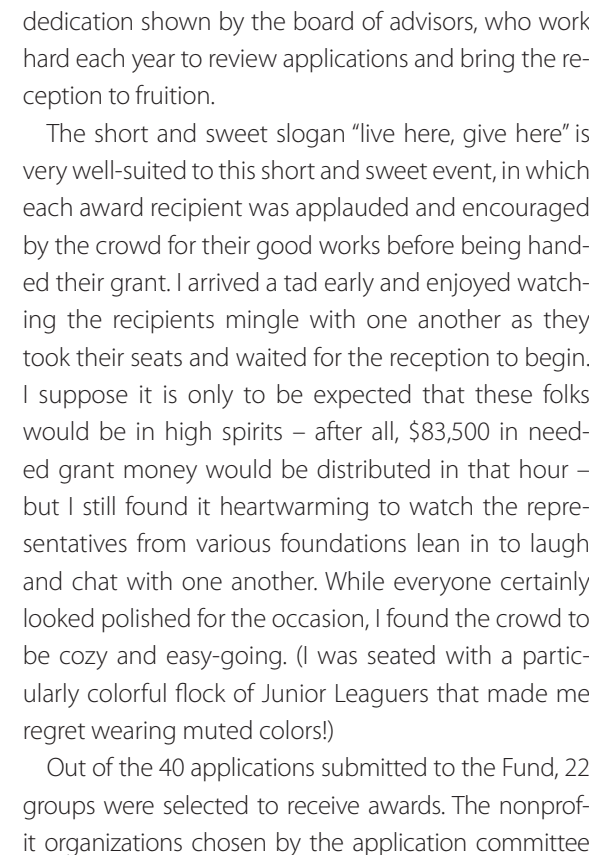
address a wide variety of community issues: the money donated will go towards investments in food security, programs for epilepsy assistance, animal shelters, even a mobile mammogram truck!

One fascinating collaboration involved two 2017 grant recipients who met at last year's award reception and decided to partner up to design a healing program for grieving children in our area. The Mark Wandall Foundation is known for offering free bereavement camps to children and teens; they have now teamed up with Sarasota Manatee Association for Riding Therapy (otherwise known as S.M.A.R.T.) to give children who have lost a parent the opportunity to work with gentle horses. This free program enables them to form connections with other kids who are experiencing profound grief: studies have shown how alien bereaved children can feel from the rest of their peers, and this new partnership seeks to remedy that by getting these kids together to have fun and support one another through their grief.

Three children from the Mark Wandall Foundation attended the reception to show their appreciation. Brian Tucker, who is now 18, told us that the program helped him to know that he was "not alone, not the only one with grief." I'm sure I wasn't the only person in the room who had to swallow a lump in my throat listening to these brave kids say thank you to the Community Fund.

And just like that, the event was over and it was time for everyone to be on their merry way. While I had to duck out to meet my sitter, I noticed that the majority of the crowd lingered to chat with one another some more. As I was leaving, I imagined that a brand-new partnership might emerge from one of the casual conversations happening behind me, offering additional support to those who need it most in our area. Nothing but good can come out of putting that many caring souls in a room together. It was neat for me to have this introduction to the Community Fund: it felt a bit like I had been given a sneak peek at a magical machine, one that I didn't even know existed, and I feel a little closer to the Lakewood Ranch community now that it is no longer invisible to me.

*Chelsea Clarkson is the farmwife at Grove Ladder Farm, a pasture-based livestock farm in East Sarasota. Her days are spent looking after her three small daughters, collecting hundreds of chicken eggs, and reading old books. She blogs about faith, family and fabulosity at [www.holysparkle.com](http://www.holysparkle.com).*







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PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

## Wine Flows, Crowds Take to the Streets ... Lakewood Ranch Main Street, that is!

BY ERNIE SOLLER,  
Community Correspondent

Quick: what do lots of Greater Lakewood Ranch residents like to enjoy, besides warm Florida sunshine, eating at restaurants, and going to the beach or the polo matches?

WINE, of course!

And, Lakewood Ranch has been blessed with an interesting wine venue on Lakewood Main Street – Fine Wine and Tastings on Main.

Fine Wine and Tastings is run by a family – the Shortts – who love wine, love introducing new wines to their friends and patrons, and who think that just drinking wine is only part of what their clients deserve to know as the Fine Wine and Tastings experience.

Actually, there are many experiences that this comparatively new store has come up with to enhance the enjoyment of wine.

One of those signature experiences – the “Wine Walk” – took place this summer with the involvement of a whole list of stores on Main Street.

The idea of the Wine Walk was to introduce people to various wines in a fun atmosphere that consisted of checking in at Fine Wine and Tastings on Main, getting an armband to indicate that you had paid the Wine Walk fee of \$20 in advance, or \$25 at the event; taking your signature wine glass, and walking from one participating store to another, sampling fine wines, getting a few snacks in in the process and generally having a terrific wine-time. Among those participating Wine Walk businesses on Main Street were Integrity Sound, Wish, Naples Soap Co., and J & J Gallery. Each of the participating businesses had several fine wines for Wine Walkers to taste, along



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with some snack items to munch on. The wines offered for tasting on the Wine Walk came from various wine regions, including California, France, Italy, Australia, Oregon and South Africa.

In addition, other businesses not directly involved in the Wine Walk, such as Sotheby's, The Lakewood Ranch Cinemas, and Anna Molinari Salon put out food and other goodies for Walkers, such as popcorn at the Cinema, and sparkling water and cheese at Sotheby's.

A number of Lakewood Main Street restaurants also provided "Wine Walk Specials" for Wine Walkers, including Pinchers, MacAllisters, The Main Street Trattoria, Ed's Tavern, Maya Mexican, Hana, Nancy's Barbeque, and Craft Growlers.

This is the first time that the Shortts have put on their Wine Walk, but judging from the success of the July event, they plan to hold it on a continuous basis, with future Wine Walks scheduled for November, March, January, and July.

Just how successful was the event?

Well, Jim Shortt estimated beforehand that about 150 folks would sign up to do the Wine Walk. His son, Scott, estimated 75 Wine Walkers.

Over 200 signed up in advance, and the total number of Wine Walkers taking up the challenge astonished the Shortts - 354 people took part in this initial event!

As to how successful the Wine Walk was for the other businesses on Main Street, both those which participated and those which saw the potential for increased business, here are some facts:

- Six more Lakewood Main Street businesses have already



signed up to participate in the next Wine Walk in November, with eight others promising to become involved in some manner.

- The participating businesses saw increases in their sales of between \$1,000 and \$1,500 over their "normal" Wednesday sales numbers.

So, what's a Lakewood Ranch wine lover to do?

Well, first of all, consider that Fine Wine and Tastings also hosts other wine-related events. Tasting evenings are held once a month on the second Wednesday, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$20, and you will be able to sample 20 different wines. There is also a 10% discount for bottles purchased at these tastings.

Then there are the Wine Academy sessions at Fine Wines,

featuring wine experts who will enhance your knowledge of a particular type of wine, or a wine from a specific region, and involve you sampling five different wines featured at each session.

Fine Wines and Tastings has other featured events and specials, and Jim Shortt noted that he recently got a deal on a particular wine, a special price which he passed on to his customers, and ended up selling 1,300 bottles of that wine. It was that big of a hit. When Fine Wines gets these types of deals, you will be able to buy wine, in many cases, for less than you could buy it for at the winery!

To find out more, go to the Fine Wine and Tastings website at [www.finewineandtastings.com](http://www.finewineandtastings.com), and sign up to learn more about wine events, tastings, specials and lots more good wine.

Keep on drinking the good stuff.

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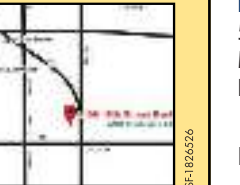


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**LWRBA**  
LAKEWOOD RANCH BUSINESS ALLIANCE

The Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance (LWRBA) is a business organization committed to connecting, educating and strengthening the business community in the Lakewood Ranch region. The LWRBA's 600+ 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.)

**2018 Main Street Block Party**  
Friday, October 19

5-8 p.m.

Main Street at Lakewood Ranch

Free to attend; open to the Public

Join Main Street at Lakewood Ranch, the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance, Lakewood Ranch Community Activities and Lakewood Ranch as we kick off Tour of Homes. This block party will supply lots of fun. Vendor booths will line the street, as well as beer trucks, food, and live music by The Cherry Bombs.

**Luncheon: Change the Culture, Change the Outcome**

Wednesday, October 24

11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club

7650 Legacy Blvd.

\$30 LWRBA members; \$40 non-members

Award-winning author and HR expert Tony Moore will walk participants through a proven process for designing and building a culture where organizational values are turned into action and metrics are used to ensure alignment between who you say you are and what you do. Infused with research, humorous stories, and real-life examples, this highly interactive workshop will be both a personal and collective journey that allows participants to depart with practical tools to help them design, build, and harness the full power of a healthy culture.

**November Networking Social:**

**Bank of America**

Wednesday, November 7

5-7 p.m.

Bank of America

6311 Atrium Drive, #101

Free for LWRBA members; \$15 non-members

Our November Social will be at Bank of America, where the theme is "Better Money Habits." This is a joint social with the Young Leaders Alliance, who will be celebrating young professionals in the region through our inaugural "Next Gen Recognition."

**Executive Briefing: Data + Social = ROI**

Wednesday, November 14

7:30-9 a.m.

Keiser University

6151 Lake Osprey Drive

\$10 LWRBA members; \$20 non-members

Marketing for businesses and brands have transformed over the years to a digital and social world. Bryan Green of iD8 will walk you through steps to create, manage, adjust, and realize an effective social campaign for your business. He will explore examples of different industries and products paired with realistic expectations to build valuable actions.

**The Sandies Members' Choice Awards**

Friday, November 16

11:30 a.m.-1:15 p.m.

GROVE

10670 Boardwalk Loop

Tickets \$37 by 11/6; \$47 after 11/6

The Sandies let us come together to celebrate exceptional LWRBA volunteers who strive towards the highest levels of personal and professional accomplishment, devote time and energy to our community, and forge paths of leadership for others to follow.

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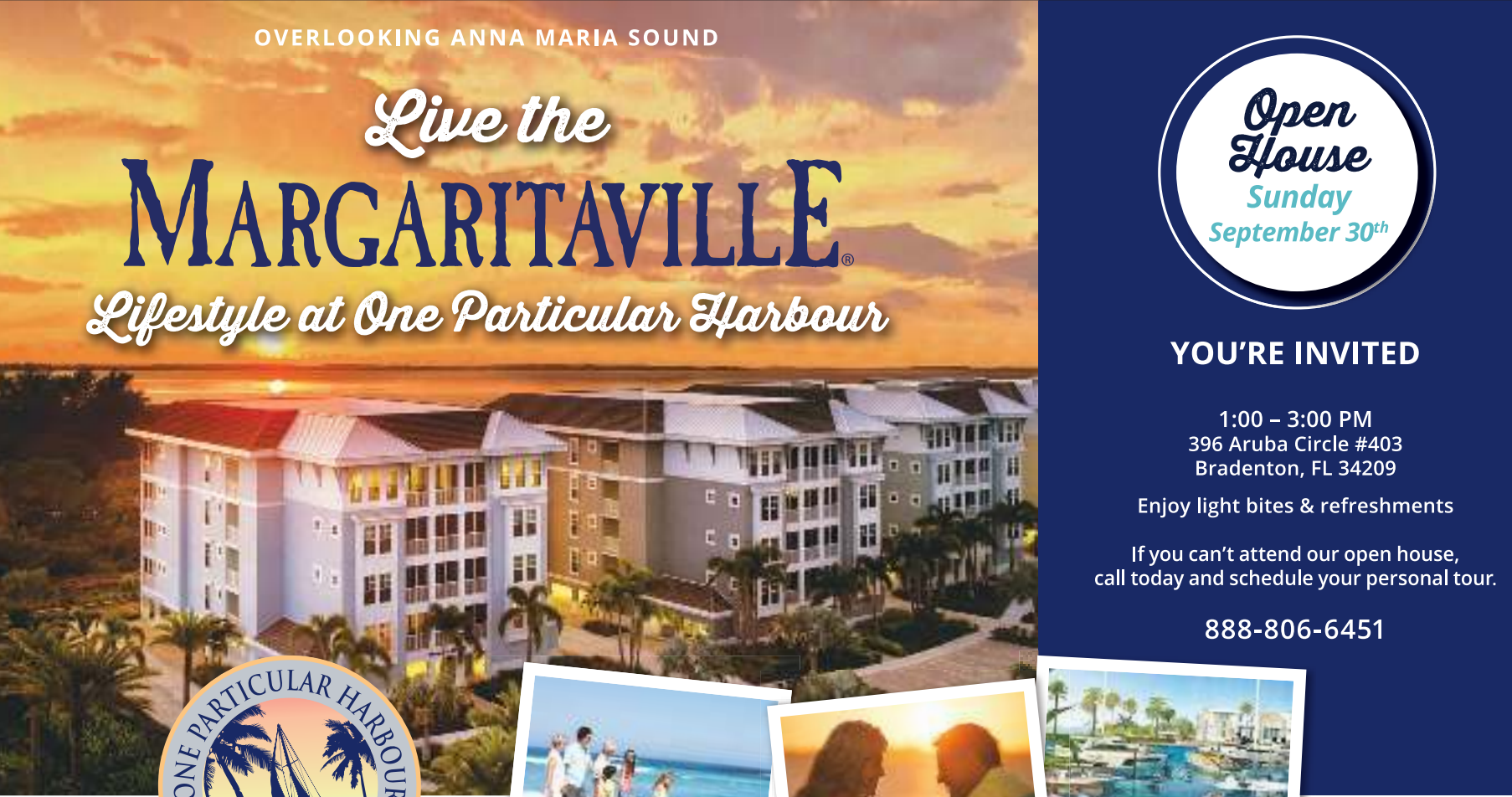
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## COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

- October/November 2018
- PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE TO VERIFY DATES**  
lakewoodranchgov.org/reservations
- October 20 – Third Saturday**
- CERT Training, 9 a.m.
  - Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
  - Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
  - Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- October 21 – Third Sunday**
- Ladies' Soccer Club, fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.
  - LWR Moms Group Halloween Party, Pavilion, 4:30 p.m.
  - Sunday Bridge, 6:30 p.m.
- October 22 – Fourth Monday**
- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
  - Art Club, Town Hall, noon
  - Spyglass Card Sharks, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
  - Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
  - Anglers' Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
- October 23 – Fourth Tuesday**
- Women's Club brunch, Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.
  - Legacy Ladies' Golf Association, Legacy Golf Club, 8:30 a.m.
  - Spyglass Card Sharks, Town Hall, 11 a.m.
  - Bridge on Tuesday, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
  - Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
  - Italian American Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- October 24 – Fourth Wednesday**
- Women's Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.
  - Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
  - Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- October 25 – Fourth Thursday**
- Legacy Ladies' Golf Association, Legacy Golf Club, 8:30 a.m.
  - Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
  - American Asian Women, Town Hall, 6 p.m.
  - Women's Club Brunch, Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.
- October 26 – Fourth Friday**
- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
  - Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
  - Art Club, Town Hall, noon
  - Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon
  - BOOFest, Lakewood Main Street, 6-9 p.m.
- October 27 – Fourth Saturday**
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
  - Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
  - Digital Photography, Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.
- October 28 – Fourth Sunday**
- Ladies' Soccer Club, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.
- October 29 – Fifth Monday**
- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
  - Art Club, Town Hall, noon
  - Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
  - Anglers' Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
- October 30 – Fifth Tuesday**
- Legacy Ladies' Golf Association, Legacy Golf Club, 8:30 a.m.
  - Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
  - Football Club, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
  - Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
- October 31 – Fifth Wednesday**
- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
  - Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 2 p.m.
  - Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- November 1 – First Thursday**
- Legacy Ladies' Golf Association, Legacy Golf Club, 8:30 a.m.
  - Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
  - LWR Safety Advocates, Town Hall, 6 p.m.
- November 2 – First Friday**
- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
  - Women's Club Board Meeting, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
  - Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
  - Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon
- November 3 – First Saturday**
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
  - Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
  - Digital Photography, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
  - Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- November 4 – First Sunday**
- Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.
  - Sunday Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- November 5 – First Monday**
- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
  - Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
  - Art Club, Town Hall, noon
  - Lakewood Ranch Garden Club meeting, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
  - Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
  - Genealogy Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
- November 6 – First Tuesday**
- Legacy Ladies' Golf Association, Legacy Golf Club, 8:30 a.m.
  - Lunch Club, Town Hall, 11 a.m.
  - Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
  - Anglers' Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- November 7 – First Wednesday**
- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
  - Bingo, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
  - Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
  - Digital Photography board meeting, Town Hall, 5 p.m.
  - Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- November 8 – Second Thursday**
- Legacy Ladies' Golf Association, Legacy Golf Club, 8:30 a.m.
  - Digital Photography, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
  - Thursday Bridge Club, Town Hall, 12:45 p.m.
  - St. George's Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
  - Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
  - Women's Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- November 9 – Second Friday**
- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
  - Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
  - Total Health Club, Town Hall, 11 a.m.
  - Art Club, Town Hall, noon
  - Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon
  - Pro Jam, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- November 10 – Second Saturday**
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
  - Adult Soccer, Summerfield Park, 8 a.m.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 30



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## COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

**FROM PAGE 28**

**November 11 – Second Sunday**  
• Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.

**November 12 – Second Monday**  
• Lakewood Ranch Garden Club, Town Hall, 9 a.m.  
• Art Club, Town Hall, noon  
• Gardeners Out East, Town Hall, 1 p.m.  
• Spyglass Card Sharks, Town Hall, 1 p.m.  
• Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.  
• CERT board meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

**November 13 – Second Tuesday**  
• Legacy Ladies' Golf Association, Legacy Golf Club, 8:30 a.m.  
• Bridge on Tuesday, Town Hall, 1 p.m.  
• Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.  
• History Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.  
• Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

**November 14 – Second Wednesday**  
• Women's Club new members coffee, Town Hall, 9 a.m.  
• Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.  
• Community Activities, Town Hall, 5 p.m.  
• Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

**November 15 – Third Thursday**  
• Legacy Ladies' Golf Association, Legacy Golf Club, 8:30 a.m.  
• Digital Photography, Town Hall, 9 a.m.  
• Thursday Bridge Club, Town Hall, 12:45 p.m.

**November 16 – Third Friday**  
• Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

**November 17 – Third Saturday**  
• Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.  
• Creative Arts annual fall show, Town Hall, 8 a.m.  
• Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.  
• Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

**November 18 – Third Sunday**  
• Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.  
• Sunday Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

**November 19 – Third Monday**  
• Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.  
• Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.  
• Spyglass Card Sharks, Town Hall, 10 a.m.  
• Italian American Club, Town Hall, 10:30 a.m.  
• Art 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.

**November 20 – Third Tuesday**  
• Legacy Ladies' Golf Association, Legacy Golf Club, 8:30 a.m.  
• Empty Nesters, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.  
• Women's Club – Blankets for Babies, Town Hall, 1 p.m.  
• Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.  
• Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

• St. George's Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 2 p.m.  
• Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.  
• Democratic Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

## Inaugural Barctoberfest comes to Lakewood Ranch

The Animal Rescue Coalition (ARC) has partnered with Lakewood Ranch to host the largest pet fest in the area from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m. Oct. 27, at Bob Gardner Park in Lakewood Ranch.

Attendees will enjoy a fun-filled day of pet-related activities with their dogs. Try a variety of beer, wine and food; watch agility, disc and nose-work demonstrations, and visit popular pet companies ... all while listening to a great band – Reverend Barry and the Funk.

Dress your pet in a costume and participate in the "Furry Scurry" pet parade, learn helpful tips about your pet, and more! Come and experience all there is to offer your pet in and around Lakewood Ranch.

By attending, you'll support the ARC mission of making high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter available for everyone. In the last 20 years, ARC has performed nearly 60,000 spay/neuter surgeries; both the public and rescue organizations rely on ARC for their spay/neuter, vaccination and microchipping needs. Spay/neuter is the single most effective way to end shelter overcrowding and to stop the senseless killing of innocent animals.

If you wish to become a sponsor or donate, contact event manager Kate O'Driscoll at kate@ARCSRQ.org. She can help guide you toward the best sponsorship. ARC is also accepting silent auction donations of products and services ... no act of generosity is too small to make a difference.



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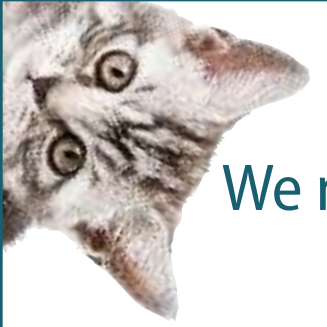


Lakewood Ranch  
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OCT 19 - NOV 18  
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**JLI Course in LWR Addresses Dissonance between Religion and Western Values**

BY ERNIE SOLLER, Community Correspondent

This November, Rabbi Mendy Bukiet of Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch will offer "Wrestling with Faith," a new six-session course by the acclaimed Rohr Jewish Learning Institute (JLI), that openly addresses common challenges people have in their relationship with God.

Beginning at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 24, participants in the course will grapple with issues that many struggle with, including beliefs in Judaism that seem primitive or outdated, reconciling scientific findings with ideas that cannot be proven in a lab, and the role of religion regarding gender roles, relationship choices, and other such controversial issues.

"We recognize that almost everyone has some degree of skepticism when it comes to religion," said Rabbi Mendy Bukiet, the local JLI instructor in Lakewood Ranch. "We've created this course for participants to think critically about these challenges—to approach them with an array of insightful perspectives—so we can articulate our beliefs to ourselves and to the next generation with clarity and conviction." Wrestling with faith explores questions such as: Why do I need God if I can live perfectly well without Him? Does God really care about the nuances of Jewish practice? Doesn't the concept of "Jewish chosen-ness" seem racist? How can we relate to a loving and caring God amid the experience of tragedy and suffering? How do we reconcile compelling evidence for evolution and the age of the universe with a Bible that tells a different story? Is it even possible to develop a relationship with a God I cannot perceive with my five senses?

"People often deal with such issues by going on the defense," explained Rabbi Zalman Abraham of JLI's Brooklyn, N.Y. headquarters. "In this course we stay away from that. Instead, we embrace the challenges wholeheartedly and seek a broader context through which to understand the issues."

Jennifer Wiseman, a senior astrophysicist at NASA and the director of the American Association for the Advancement of Science's Dialogue on Science, Ethics, and Religion, commented about the course. "At a time when science and technology dominate the mechanics and framing of our modern lives," Wiseman said, "it is more important than ever to ask the bigger questions of life's purpose and values."

"This course enables the seeker to embrace the achievements of modern science while seeking the higher gifts of wisdom, meaning, and a personal relationship with God."

Like all JLI programs, this course is designed to appeal to people at all levels of knowledge, including those without any prior experience or background in Jewish learning. All JLI courses are open to the public, and attendees need not be affiliated with a particular synagogue, temple, or other house of worship.

Interested students may call (941)752-3030 or visit [www.myJLI.com](http://www.myJLI.com) for registration and for other course-related information. JLI courses are presented in Lakewood Ranch in conjunction with Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch.

**The Players Centre for Performing Arts Sells its Property in Downtown Sarasota**

The Players Centre for Performing Arts recently announced that the sale of its property on Ninth Street and N. Tamiami Trail in downtown Sarasota was completed. The Players has also entered into a two-year lease back agreement, allowing them to lease the property as of Oct. 1, 2018 for a full two years, until Oct. 1, 2020.

Real estate agent Ian Black of Ian Black Real Estate has handled the sale of the property with Jag Grewal, CCIM, partner at Ian Black Real Estate handling the sale for the buyer, who wishes to remain anonymous at this time.

"The Board of Trustees and I are pleased that we can now get on with planning our new state-of-the-art facility in the Waterside development," said Donna Defant, chairperson of The Players Board of Trustees.

The timeline for The Players new performing arts complex in Lakewood Ranch's Waterside Place has shifted since the sale of the property from an initial buyer fell through this summer. Now, the theatre will invest in the completion of its architectural design for the next six to eight months and break ground in 2019. With community support, the new Players Centre for Performing Arts will be up and running in 2021, officials said.

"In the Shakespeare play 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' there is a wonderful quote about love," said artistic director Jeffery Kin. "'The course of true love never did run smooth.' I would like to replace 'true love' with 'real estate transactions.'" he continued.

"We have been through a bit of a ride with the sale of our property, but it's only to be expected. Now, we are happy to say that we not only were able to close on the sale of our property, but that the new owner asked us to stay an extra year! So, speaking for the creative side of The Players, we are thrilled! We now have the money to invest in the design of our new building and we have a home until September of 2020. Exciting times for all of us at The Players Centre!"



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