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THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2019



**BLOCK PARTY KICKS OFF TOUR OF HOMES** - Lakewood Ranch Main Street, the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance, Lakewood Ranch Community Activities and Lakewood Ranch Communities joined together to kick off The Ranch's 22nd annual Tour of Homes. For more photos see pages 20-21. Photo by Bill Mills.

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Rene Sueiro, MD; Ilysa Howarth, PA-C

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Advertising Sales/Circulation: Around the Ranch is published by Lakewood Ranch Media which is solely responsible for its content. The Herald-Tribune is responsible for the printing, distribution and sales production of this newspaper. The articles and editorial viewpoints contained in this publication are written solely by Lakewood Ranch Media with the assistance of the Community Services Office and other offices in Lakewood Ranch, none of which are associated with the Herald-Tribune.

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# Districts Cooperate for a “Brighter Turn” in Lakewood Ranch

BY ERNIE SOLLER,

*Community Correspondent*

Some residents of District 6 – “Country Club West,” have been expressing their concern that the “deceleration” right-turn lane from northbound Lakewood Ranch Boulevard on to Balmoral Woods, and on into the Balmoral Gate, has been poorly lit at night. They asked their representatives if there could be additional lighting installed along that lane, so that any problems there could be seen before they potentially might contribute to an accident.

The Operations Department took a look at the situation, and concluded that an additional lighting fixture could be installed on an existing pole in order to make for greater illumination, at a minimum amount of cost, and in recognition that the additional lighting be directed only at the paved area.

But wait ... the other side of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard in that area belongs to District 1, and it was deemed prudent that the District 1 board of supervisors be given the opportunity to have the issue explained to them, and that they be able to voice their opinion on the move.

So, at the October District 1 Community Development District board meeting, the program was explained to the District 1 board, and they unanimously agreed that providing better lighting for that stretch of roadway was a good idea.

Cooperation among government officials: it's a beautiful thing.

## POSITIVE IMPACTS ON DISTRICT BUDGETS

Finance Director Steve Zielinski reported that a combination of payments in reimbursement for the expenses incurred by Lakewood Ranch districts as a result of Hurricane Irma, combined with a marked decrease in irrigation water usage – due largely to the installation of soil moisture sensors (SMS) at more Lakewood Ranch homes – has resulted in a positive cash flow over and above what was estimated at the time that district budgets were adopted.

Regarding the SMS program, almost all of the allotted 1,000 units recently approved have been installed, and only a few remain available.

## BUDGET WORKSHOPS FOR FISCAL 2021

Finance Director Zielinski noted that dates

had been established for all district and IDA budget workshops; they will be held beginning in March of 2020. The first meetings are scheduled as follows: (All meetings are at the Town Hall and are open to the public.) Residents are encouraged to attend and become involved in the process.

District 1 – March 23 at 3 p.m.

District 2 – March 26 at 3 p.m.

District 4 – March 9 at 2 p.m.

District 5 – March 26 at 10:30 a.m.

District 6 – March 24 at 10 a.m.

IDA – March 25 at 4 p.m.

Additional workshop meetings will take place at one-month intervals, ending in May.

## STORMWATER REPORTS

Engineer Richard Ellis said that all of the storm water reports required by the Southwest Florida Water Management District have been filed with that agency, and that SWFMD has accepted all of Lakewood Ranch's reports.

## PROPOSED MANATEE COUNTY STORMWATER ABATEMENT TAX

The Manatee County Board of Commissioners has recommended passage of a new tax in order to pay for improvements in the County's ability to deal with stormwater.

The County has come up with two options. One would have a lesser amount of money to improve current maintenance levels, in such areas as clearing drainage ditches more frequently to promote better drainage. The alternative would be a larger amount, which would enable the county to engage in improvement projects.

Based on equivalent dwelling unit (EDU) listings, option 1 would result in an additional tax of \$58.16/year, and option 2 would mean an additional tax of \$88.10/year, depending on the size of the home in question.

The tax would apply only to unincorporated areas of Manatee County, and would not impact incorporated cities, which charge their own such taxes.

Several Lakewood Ranch officials expressed alarm at this move on the part of the county, as Lakewood Ranch CDDs already have, as part of their own stormwater abatement efforts, made charges for such items a part of the taxes that their residents already



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# Lakewood Ranch No. 1 in the Nation for Housing Starts in Third Quarter

Lakewood Ranch led the nation in annual housing starts for the third quarter of 2019, according to Metrostudy, a leading research and consulting firm specializing in U.S. residential markets. The Ranch's 1,467 new home starts exceeded those of other top-selling communities in Florida, including The Villages, as well as those in Las Vegas, Arizona and California.

"Lakewood Ranch was the top community in the U.S. ranked by annual housing starts in the third quarter of 2019," said David A. Cobb, region director for the South Florida, Sarasota and Jacksonville regions of Metrostudy. "This is the second quarter in a row that LWR has claimed the top spot."

Lakewood Ranch's sales – and subsequent starts success – is a result of its exceptional location, in part, according to Laura Cole, senior vice president, LWR Communities, LLC, but place is just one factor. "Our multi-generational approach and diversity of neighborhoods, as well as an ever-growing list of daily conveniences and social engagement opportunities, put us above and beyond other communities," Cole said.

The Ranch has 17 actively selling villages, including the three newest additions: Kolter's Cresswind, The Palisades, from Freedom Homes by D.R. Horton; and Woodleaf Hammock, fea-

turing M/I Homes and Meritage Homes.

Prices in The Ranch range from \$200K to more than \$1 million, providing a multitude of options for buyers, including condominiums, paired villas, and single-family homes.

Sales in Lakewood Ranch continue to come from throughout Florida, as well as from high tax markets in the Northeast and mid-Atlantic, such as New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Maryland. Over 25% of new home sales in Lakewood Ranch come from existing homeowners who are on their second, third, and even fourth home purchase in The Ranch. "As a community builder, this is a very rewarding statistic, as it tells us that our residents have truly made Lakewood Ranch their lifelong home," Cole said.

Among the lifestyle offerings are an expanded farmers' market, which began Nov. 3; and the area's first "Mindful Triathlon," which consisted of a 5K run, yoga and meditation. Coming online in the first quarter of 2020 are a resident website, with a directory exclusively for Lakewood Ranch businesses, and Ranch Nite Wednesdays, which will feature food trucks, cornhole leagues, music and celebration, at the Sarasota Polo Club at Lakewood Ranch.

For more information visit [lakewoodranch.com](http://lakewoodranch.com).

## LECOM Suncoast Classic Announces 2020 Tournament Dates

The LECOM Suncoast Classic golf tournament will return to the Korn Ferry Tour (previously the Web.com Tour) the week of Feb. 10-16, 2020. Lakewood National Golf Club in Lakewood Ranch will again host the 144 professionals competing for a \$600,000 purse and a chance to compete against the world's best golfers on the PGA Tour.

The 2019 LECOM Suncoast Classic named Mark Hubbard its first champion. Hubbard shot 26-under to secure the victory and propel his season toward success. After receiving his PGA Tour card in August, Hubbard is off to a strong start on the 2019-'20 PGA Tour circuit. He fell just short of his first PGA tour victory recently at the Houston Open, finishing in second place. Hubbard currently sits in seventh place in the FedEx Cup standings, with two top-10 results in his first five events.

"My win was so early in the year that I knew I had some work to do still to lock up my card, but I feel like I needed to come back onto this

Tour to learn how to win again," said Hubbard. "It was nice to accomplish my goal so early in the year. It almost came as a surprise to me. I thought that I would have to build all year to get into position to win, but to win it at the LECOM Suncoast Classic was unbelievable. It jumpstarted my confidence and I've been a different player since then."

The 2020 LECOM Suncoast Classic will provide another opportunity for a shot at the PGA Tour, as the tournament continues in its five-year commitment to the Suncoast area through 2023. Volunteer registration is currently open; tickets for the event are on sale now. More than 17,000 spectators came out to the event in 2019, and attendance is expected to reach 25,000 during the 2020 tournament. Children 17 and under, active duty military, veterans, and first responders all receive free admission to the tournament.

For more information, please visit [lecomsuncoastclassic.com](http://lecomsuncoastclassic.com).

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The Market at Lakewood Ranch  
Lakewood Ranch Medical Center  
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# LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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

We are almost through another year, and 2020 is just around the corner! Your board of directors and the team at Community Activities have been working hard on expanding the scope of lifestyle events for the coming year and we're so excited to share some of what's to come.

But first, December is shaping up to be packed full of things to do for the entire family, none bigger than our annual Holi-



Keith Pandeloglou  
Director of LWRCAC

days Around the Ranch event on Dec. 13 on Lakewood Main Street!

Holidays Around the Ranch 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 entrance in his beautiful 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 egg nog from our 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 enjoy the enchantment and ambiance of the season.

Don't forget each Sunday to start your weekly food preparation at The Market! The Market at Lakewood Ranch is held at the Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, in

the heart of Lakewood Ranch, across from Main Street. Far from the typical farmers market, this is a curated gathering of the best flavors in the region, cooking demonstrations, morning yoga and more. Offering organic produce, meat, poultry, seafood, eggs, breads, pasta, juices, and prepared foods from over 60 vendors. The Market will be hosting the CSA box pick-up at it's new location, the Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, every Wednesday from 3 to 6 p.m. starting Dec. 4. For more Market info, visit [themarketlwr.com](http://themarketlwr.com).

## DECEMBER

**1** The Market LWR • LWR Medical Center – 10am-2pm

**4** Classic Car Show • LWR Main Street – 5pm-9pm

**5** Carriage Rides, Strolling Carolers, Santa Visit • LWR Main Street – 6:30pm-8:30pm

**6** Music on Main • LWR Main Street – 6pm-9pm

**8** The Market LWR • LWR Medical Center – 10am-2pm

**12** Carriage Rides, Strolling Carolers, Santa Visit • LWR Main Street – 6:30pm-8:30pm

**13** Holidays Around the Ranch • LWR Main Street – 6pm-9pm

**15** The Market LWR • LWR Medical Center – 10am-2pm

**19** Carriage Rides, Strolling Carolers, Santa Visit • LWR Main Street – 6:30pm-8:30pm

**20** Jingle Run 5k • LWR Main Street – 6pm-9pm

**22** The Market LWR • LWR Medical Center – 10am-2pm

**22** Chanukah Celebration • LWR Main Street – 5pm-8pm

**23** Christmas on Main • LWR Main Street – 4:30pm-8:30pm

**29** The Market LWR • LWR Medical Center – 10am-2pm



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# COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

November/December 2019

VISIT [LAKEWOODRANCHGOV.ORG](http://LAKEWOODRANCHGOV.ORG)  
FOR THE LATEST UPDATES

**November 21 – Third Thursday**

- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 2 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.

**November 22 – Fourth Friday**

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

**November 23 – 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.

**November 24 – Fourth Sunday**

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

**November 25 – Fourth Monday**

- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

- Anglers' Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

**November 26 – Fourth Tuesday**

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

**November 27 – Fourth Wednesday**

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

**November 28 – Fourth Thursday**

- Town Hall closed for holiday
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.

**November 29 – Fifth Friday**

- Town Hall closed for holiday

**November 30 – Fifth Saturday**

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

**December 1 – First Sunday**

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

**December 2 – First Monday**

- Gardeners Out East, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Lakewood Ranch Garden Club board meeting, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Genealogy Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

**December 3 – First Tuesday**

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

**December 4 – First Wednesday**

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

**December 5 – First Thursday**

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

**December 6 – First Friday**

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

- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon

**December 7 – First Saturday**

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

**December 8 – Second Sunday**

- Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.
- Jewish Club, Town Hall, 4 p.m.

**December 9 – Second Monday**

- Garden Club, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

**December 10 – Second Tuesday**

- Women's Club - Blankets for Babies, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Digital Photography board meeting, Town Hall, 5 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Democratic Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

**December 11 – Second Wednesday**

- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- History Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14

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**Rat Pack: Together Again**

Jan 11



MICHAEL W. SMITH

Feb 8

**IT WAS A VERY GOOD YEAR**

Feb 29

**ATLANTIC  
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Apr 25

For ticket information [ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com](http://ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com)  
(941) 748-5875

# COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

## December 12 – Second Thursday

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

## December 13 – Second Friday

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

## December 14 – Second Saturday

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

## December 15 – Third Sunday

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

## December 16 – Third Monday

- Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Italian American Club, Town Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

- Running Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Jewish Club board meeting, Town Hall, 7 a.m.

## December 17 – Third Tuesday

- Empty Nesters, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Italian American Club holiday party, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

## December 18 – Third Wednesday

- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Indivisible LWR, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

## December 19 – Third Thursday

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

## December 20 – Third Friday

- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon
- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 2 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.

FROM PAGE 6

pay. (Note the previous comments about the reports submitted to the Southwest Florida Water Management District by Lakewood Ranch CDDs.) They feel that such a tax, if applied to CDDs and HOAs which already deal with such issues in their own areas, would constitute double taxation.

The County scheduled seven informational meetings, to get public comment on this issue. The Manatee County Board of Supervisors will vote on the plan at their Dec. 10 meeting.

During a discussion on this topic at the District 2 board meeting, District 2 board chairman Pete Bokach suggested that Lakewood Ranch CDDs should make their opinions known to the county officials as one unified entity – Lakewood Ranch – so that the county folks know that Lakewood Ranch residents are speaking with one voice on this issue.

### PRESIDIO/RIVIERA DRAINAGE ISSUE

District 5 will contract with a wastewater expert in order to find the best solution to the drainage problem in Presidio/Riviera, before any actual work is approved.

### SAFETY TOWN

District 1 supervisor Laura Fox was congratulated by her fellow board members for having planned and carried out Lakewood



Laura Fox.

PHOTO BY ERNIE SOLLER

Ranch's first "Safety Town" event for kids.

Supervisor Bob Swiatek said that not only had Fox planned the activity and recruited the first responders and volunteers to run the event, she personally paid for all the materials used in the event, including the capes worn by the first responders!

Fox asked her fellow board members to check into paving some of the trail areas in District 1 make them more handicapped-friendly. She indicated that there may be grant money available for such projects.



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## GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

November 21 – December 18, 2019

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

- November 21** 8:30 a.m. CDD 1 Board Meeting 907-0202  
9:00 a.m. CDD 5 Board Meeting 907-0202  
9:30 a.m. CDD 2 Board Meeting 907-0202  
11:00 a.m. CDD 6 Board Meeting 907-0202  
1:30 p.m. Whitmarsh Neighborhood Committee Meeting 907-0202  
3:00 p.m. CEVA Safety Committee 850-396-2695
- November 25** 3:00 p.m. Augusta/Oakmont Neighborhood Committee Meeting 907-3448  
5:00 p.m. SRVA Compliance Meeting 907-0202  
5:30 p.m. Hollow Board Meeting 921-5393
- November 26** 8:30 a.m. SRVA Modifications 907-0202
- December 2** 9:00 a.m. CEVA Landscape Committee Meeting 907-0202  
5:00 p.m. GBVA Compliance Meeting 907-0202  
7:00 p.m. Brier Creek Neighborhood Meeting 907-1169
- December 4** 4:00 p.m. GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
- December 5** 3:00 p.m. CEVA Restrictions Revisions 907-0202  
7:00 p.m. SRVA Landscape Meeting 907-0202
- December 9** 9:00 a.m. CDD 6 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
- December 10** 8:00 a.m. IDA Board Meeting 907-0202  
8:30 a.m. SRVA Modifications 907-0202  
10:00 a.m. CDD 1 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202  
1:00 p.m. CDD 5 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202  
2:30 p.m. CDD 2 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
- December 11** 10:00 a.m. CDD 4 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202  
10:15 a.m. CDD 4 Board Meeting 907-0202  
1:00 p.m. Country Club Modifications 907-0202  
3:00 p.m. Edgewater Modifications 907-0202
- December 12** 8:30 a.m. CDD 1 Board Meeting 907-0202  
9:00 a.m. CDD 5 Board Meeting 907-0202  
9:30 a.m. CDD 2 Board Meeting 907-0202  
11:00 a.m. CDD 6 Board Meeting 907-0202  
2:00 p.m. CEVA Fining Committee 907-0202
- December 16** 5:30 p.m. Hollow Board Meeting 921-5393
- December 18** 2:30 p.m. GBVA Restrictions Revision Meeting 907-0202  
4:00 p.m. GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202  
4:00 p.m. Mizner Reserve Neighborhood Committee Meeting 373-3898  
6:00 p.m. GBVA Board Meeting 907-0202

\*Meeting dates and times are subject to change

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

## There is no better time than now to join the Alliance!

During the month of November, new members of the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance will receive 14 months of membership for the price of 12. As a member of the LWRBA, enjoy access to 100+ events and programs per year, connecting you and your business to potential clients, and equipping you with the tools and resources you need to grow your business. The Alliance works with over 700 member businesses and 2,500 business professionals across a diverse range of industries, across Manatee and Sarasota counties, and beyond.

Become a part of our dynamic and ever-growing business community and harness "The Power of Connection" today. Join online at [www.LWRBA.org](http://www.LWRBA.org) or call our office at 941-757-1664.

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### Holiday Networking Social Wednesday, Dec. 4

5-7 p.m.

The Concession Golf Club, 7700 Lindrick Lane

\$10 per person; open to LWRBA & YLA members only

Let's celebrate the holiday season! Join LWRBA and YLA members at the beautiful and exclusive Concession Golf Club. Complimentary hors d'oeuvres will be served, along with plenty of holiday cheer! This is not one to be missed!

### Luncheon: Discovering and Supporting the Hidden Needs of Lakewood Ranch Wednesday, Dec. 11

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

The Ballroom at Grove, 10670 Boardwalk Loop, Lakewood Ranch

\$27 members; \$37 non-members

Life in Lakewood Ranch is so wonderful that it is easy to overlook the fact that many of our neighbors have unmet needs. Join us as we learn about how the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund and the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance discover and address these hidden needs in our community. You'll also be a part of celebrating the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund's announcement of this year's grant recipients and the C. John A. Clarke Humanitarian of the year. As a special treat, local nonprofits will be showcasing their organizations before and after the luncheon.



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# AROUND THE RANCH



PHOTOS BY BILL MILLS



## Ranch Celebrates Business, Community, Tour

Lakewood Ranch Main Street, the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance, Lakewood Ranch Community Activities and Lakewood Ranch Communities joined together Oct. 18 to kick off The Ranch's 22nd annual Tour of Homes with its Block Party event.

The evening featured local businesses, Lakewood Ranch

club representatives, and Lakewood Ranch builders. All proceeds benefitted the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance, which is focused on building a stronger, more successful business community in Lakewood Ranch.

The event also served as the "official" ribbon-cutting for the new Lakewood Ranch Information Center on Main Street!





# Upcoming Events support The Food Bank of Manatee, Meals on Wheels PLUS

The 19th annual “Empty Bowls” luncheons to benefit The Food Bank of Manatee will be held from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Nov. 21, at Manatee Performing Arts Center, and 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Nov. 22, at Main Street in Lakewood Ranch.

Tickets are \$30 each for general admission and include a unique ceramic bowl to keep, a selection of soups, fresh-baked bread, and dessert. VIP tickets are \$50 and give early admission and access to a special selection of bowls. The symbolic meal of soup and bread demonstrates that together, we can fill the empty bowls of our neighbors in need.

Empty Bowls is the primary annual fundraiser benefiting The Food Bank of Manatee and 100% of the proceeds go directly back to hunger and nutrition programs in Manatee County. The Food Bank of Manatee is a program of Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee and is the largest hunger-relief organization based in Manatee County, providing food to nearly 100 local social service agencies, food pantries, and soup kitchens.

“Year after year, participants enjoy the luncheon while demonstrating their support for the thousands of food-insecure children, families, and elderly residents of Manatee County,” said Maribeth Phillips, president & CEO of Meals on Wheels PLUS. “The keepsake bowl is a reminder that together, we can fill the bowls of those in need.”

In December, the 14th annual Community Shoebox Drive and Reception will be presented by the Lakewood Ranch Elks Club. It will be held from 4-6 p.m. Dec. 8, at the Lakewood Ranch Elks Club, 4602 Lena Road, Bradenton. This event will benefit homebound seniors across Manatee County. Guests are encouraged to bring a wrapped and filled shoebox for a senior, or a \$20 donation at the door. The goal is to collect 1,000 shoeboxes to be delivered to seniors throughout the holidays by Meals on Wheels PLUS volunteers.

“We are excited to bring the 14th annual Holiday Shoebox event to the beautiful, brand new Lakewood Ranch Elks clubhouse,” Phillips said. “Having grown over the years, our goal is to provide holiday gifts to over 1,000 seniors in Manatee County this year. The gifts collected are often the only holiday gift our clients receive, and we are asking our community to join us in this important effort so that no seniors are forgotten in our community this holiday season.”

Shoebox gifts can also be delivered to the office of Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee, Renaissance on 9th location at 1816 9th St. W., Bradenton, during business hours: Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For more information visit [mealsonwheelsplus.org](http://mealsonwheelsplus.org) or call (941)747-4655.

## November Programs at Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch

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

### Torah Studies

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### Weekly Shabbat Services

**Friday night, 7 p.m.; Saturday mornings, 9:30 a.m., Shabbat Kiddush at noon**

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

### Talmud classes

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

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

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

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## HEALTH OF WEALTH

# Giving Thanks for the Kindness that Surrounds Us

BY HULDAH MATHIS

As we come to the season for giving thanks, I can't help but remind us all that our Lakewood Ranch community has much to be thankful for all year round. Most of us have begun our lives here by choice and we live every day in a place that many people around the country wait all year to arrive for vacation.

As a local financial advisor, one of the biggest privileges of my work is having insight into the "why" behind the dollars. This year I want to begin the holidays by giving thanks for all the good I have witnessed from our community, sharing a few stories that have touched and inspired me the most.



... To the retired teacher who started a women's club in her community to raise funds through friendship and fellowship, all for the purpose of giving back to those less fortunate than them.

... To the countless local running and biking events promoting both health and generosity, each in the name of their own cause and purpose.

... To the board member who takes time from a busy work schedule to ensure that sports provide children the life lessons and lasting relationships he knew as a child.

... To the numerous retired professionals that devote their time and resources to give back to our schools through reading programs, mentoring, meals and donations.

... To the young parents who started a non-profit to raise funds and awareness for a disease that challenged their own child's health and future.

... To the family foundation that supports the local arts out of the abundance of their time and resources, shaping the music and theater that distinguish this community.

... To all of my fellow LWR neighbors who mindfully inspire and encourage us to give back to this beautiful community, I thank you. Today and every day.

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

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# “Hallowine Walk” Kicks Main Street Into High Gear

BY ERNIE SOLLER,  
Community Correspondent

Leave it to Scott Shortt and his happy crew of wine lovers to cook up a pre-Halloween event to enliven Lakewood Ranch Main Street on the evening BEFORE Halloween.

“Hallowine Walk” enabled Lakewood Ranchers to step out in their finest scary, cute, or totally outlandish costumes for an evening spent sipping great wines and numerous “stations” around Main Street.

For a very reasonable fee of only \$35/person, Hallowine walkers could drift into places such as Vanessa Fine Jewelry (reputed to have the best food offerings on the Hallowine Walk), or Fantasy Flowers (where owner Michelle Bridges dressed up as a very cute scarecrow), or Premier Sotheby’s Real Estate (anyone need a new home?), in order to sample 20 wines from the great wine regions of several continents.

Here’s how the Walk came into being: A while back, Scott Shortt came up with the idea of hosting an event that would combine a major attribute of his store, Fine Wines and Tastings – that is, tasting wine – with the opportunity for other Lakewood Ranch Main Street business owners to join in the fun and the increased profits to be gained from opening their businesses for a special event at a time when some of the stores and



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

restaurants might not normally be open.

The Wine Walks have come to be a quarterly thing and this time around, it was decided to make the event even more special by encouraging event goers to come in costume. And so they did, with interesting results!

There were some predictable choices – The Count (Dracula) came, along with his companion who had, shall we say, a lovely neck (cue the Bela Lugosi accent).

SEE HALLOWINE, PAGE 28





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FROM PAGE 26

One couple came in matching red jumpsuits with a toy gun, should they need to blow away the competition. The Queen of Hearts showed up, with the Mad Hatter. "Dolly Parton" arrived with a "hippie chick" – straight out of Woodstock. And of course there were pirates, zombies, including one girl wearing a very colorful "Day of the Dead" outfit, and luchadors wearing colorful Mexican wrestling masks.



Even the dogs got into the act. A black lab came dressed as "Bat Dog," along with his trusty sidekick "Robin" the Pomeranian.

As for the merchants and restaurateurs of Lakewood Ranch Main Street, their contributions came in a number of categories. Initially, the idea was that restaurants and other merchants would provide a certain amount of snacks for the Halloween Walkers to enjoy. Choices varied at the tasting stations: Vanessa Fine Jewelry continued their tradition of offering a more "upscale" snack by providing catered wrapped sandwiches, along with cheeses, and fruit. The Naples Soap Company was big into candy. Fantasy Flowers, where the luchadors were spotted, was into the chips and salsa mode, with a big bowl of cheese dip. The Fish Hole miniature golf offered discounts on play.

Some of the merchants who did not necessarily provide space for wine pourers, offered discounts on their food, such as \$5 burgers at Ed's Tavern, a free dessert or drink at

Pinchers, or wine discounts at Grove and Paris Bistrot.

The economic results of the Halloween Walk won't be known for a while but in the past, merchants who stayed open and offered their wares and/or services during previous Wine Walks have reported a significant increase in their revenues during the events.

So, what's not to like? A nice, if a bit warm, evening. Good wine, cool snacks, crazy costumes, and, once again, Lakewood Ranch Main Street becomes a great fun place to be, to see and be seen – having a terrific time.

Cheers!

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Despite some bad weather on the planned day for the event, The Players Centre for Performing Arts proved the show must go on. Instead of the blustery Saturday, Sarasota Polo Club in Lakewood Ranch was transformed on a sunny Sunday for the outdoor immersive experience of Washington Irving's classic Sleepy Hollow story. The production was part of the Harvest Festival, which featured kids' activities, a costume sale, Thriller dance lessons, pony rides, food trucks and more.

Sleepy Hollow, an annual tradition in Lakewood Ranch, was once again an outdoor theatrical experience like no other!







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## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

## LWR Digital Photography Club – Still Growing Strong

BY ERNIE SOLLER,  
Community Correspondent

Quick – what Lakewood Ranch club started out in 2004 with just a handful or two of regular attendees at their meetings, and is now, arguably, the largest fun club in Lakewood Ranch? Give up?

It's the Lakewood Ranch Digital Photography Club (LWRDPC).

Back in 2004, when I first attended a meeting of the club, if there were a dozen people at a meeting, it was a big crowd. And then, a couple of somewhat unrelated things happened.

First, the digital photography revolution started to move forward at breakneck speed. Back in 1997, I attended a photographic seminar led by veteran wildlife and landscape photographer George Lepp, at an auditorium in Ann Arbor, Mich.

At the time, Lepp was asked by someone in the audience whether film was better than digital photography. He commented that, at that time, the resolution quality of film was still superior to that of digital photographs, although he expected that digital resolution would be improving. He then pulled out a new-at-the-time digital camera, noting that this piece of equipment had a resolution of something like FOUR MEGAPIXELS. Lepp then noted that the cost of that camera (in 1997) was around five thousand dollars – for the camera body only – without a lens. Four megapixels? Your cell phone probably has a higher resolution.

Today, I own an “average” resolution digital camera with a resolution five times that of that high-end 1997 camera – at about one-fifth the cost! A friend of mine just purchased a new camera that can attain a resolution of 41 megapixels! And, new, creative computer programs make it possible to retouch and change your photos in ways only dreamed of a few short years ago.

This is kind of like the change in aviation from the “Red Baron” biplane era to the Blackbird happening in only about 20 years.

Ok, that's one factor.

The other factor in the growth of the Club is the huge growth in population in and around Lakewood Ranch. Fifteen years ago, when the Club got it's start, there weren't all that many people in Lakewood Ranch who owned a digital camera.

But Lakewood Ranch is now proud to advertise that it is the best-selling multi-generational community in the country. And this growth has happened during the digital revolution. Lots more people means lots more photographers. Add the digital camera factor, and you have the tremendous growth of the LWRDPC. The Club now boasts more than 300 members!

As digital photography is, in the minds of many, still in its



October print winner Cheryl Kurman.

PHOTO BY ERNIE SOLLER

infancy, one goal of the Club is to educate their members to become better photographers, not only in the sense of learning the ins and outs of the “digital” part, but also the techniques of the art and design of what makes a great photograph.

In doing this, the club hosts educational sessions, not only in a “class” -type setting, but also in the way of field trips to various locations, in order to allow members the opportunity to sharpen their skills. This has also been a hallmark of the LWRDPC. The club gains members by providing value to the members.

The club starts out to learn about a prospective member's interests and needs right from the moment of their first contact. Visitors to the club meetings are asked, in addition to introducing themselves, to explain how they found out about the Club, what sort of photography they enjoyed, and what type of camera they have been using. This way, the Club members can get an idea of the new member's needs and aspirations. The evening I visited the Club, two new members came forth with different interests. Ana Bowers had used the internet to find “a photo club near me,” and found from this research that the Lakewood Ranch Digital Photography Club provided the most complete, most organized, and most diverse opportunities in the area. Jason Winget joined the Club to further his interest in “low light” photography. The Club has specialty photographers work-

ing in many areas of the field, including videography.

The Club also has speakers come to their meetings both to enlighten and entertain the membership. During the October meeting, the presenter was Jennifer Khordi, a New Jersey-based specialist in cityscapes, aerial, storm and moon photography.

Khordi showed some of her work at the Club, including a number of shots of what has come to be known as the “Blood Moon,” depicted behind structures such as the Statue of Liberty in New York harbor, and, perhaps the most dramatic, a huge “Blood Moon” rising behind the Manhattan cityscape.

In discussing the “how” of getting such a picture, Khordi noted that she used an app that pinpointed the location at which the moon would rise above the horizon. She then traveled to a location 25 miles away from the buildings, at a state park in New Jersey, and got a shot that looked almost as if the dark red moon was about to consume the city.

That photo was circulated by her agency to a large number of publications around the world in a very short time frame and now, several years later, she still receives royalties from fees for the use of that photograph!

Part of the fun of being in a photography club is the aspect of competition among the members. A particular theme may be selected for a monthly competition, with members voting on photos which their fellow members have entered to do the best job of meeting the assignment, as well as having the best technique and impact.

The October winner was Cheryl Kurman, who won a blue ribbon for her photo of a lone woman huddled under a lamppost, titled “Alone Among Millions.”

Joining the Lakewood Ranch Digital photography Club has other benefits, too. The Club provides opportunities for discounts on classes run by professionals, as well as money-saving perks such as a discounted digital camera sensor cleaning, to be done prior to the November Club meeting, at a cost of about half the normal rate.

The Lakewood Ranch Digital Photography Club is open to residents and non-residents alike, and you can check out the club's website at [lwr-dpc.com](http://lwr-dpc.com). The website contains some fantastic photographs created by club members.

If you're into photography and want to learn more about all that digital stuff, or just want a chance to meet other photo enthusiasts, check out the LWRDPC!

The Club meets generally at 6:30 p.m. on the third Wednesday of the month, at the Grace Community Church, 6932 Professional Parkway, east of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard, and south of University Parkway.



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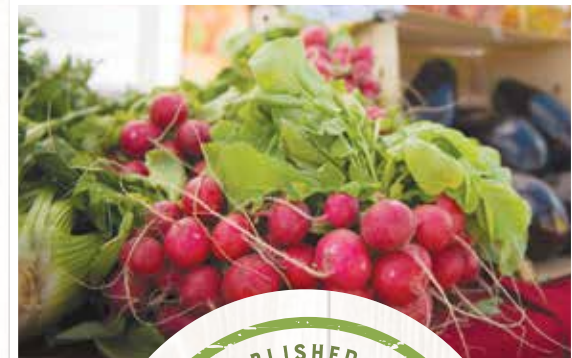
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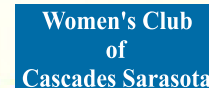
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# Marco's Pizza: A Slice Of Toledo Comes to The Ranch

BY ERNIE SOLLER,  
Community Correspondent

What is it with these Midwestern foodie transplants?

It's happened again ... a staple restaurant has come from its origins in a Midwestern city to plant yet another culinary flag in Lakewood Ranch.

We welcome Marco's Pizza, a gift to Lakewood Ranch from Toledo, Ohio, the same town which gave America Tony Packo's, the restaurant made famous by "Klinger" on the comedy series M\*A\*S\*H\*.

Marco's Pizza is a bit different, both in its origins and the fact that it is a franchise restaurant, owned by Nehal and Tushar Shah, who were long-time business owners in Pinellas County.

Marco's Pizza was founded in Toledo in 1978 by Pasquale "Pat" Giammarco, an Italian immigrant who came to Toledo at the age of nine with his father to produce their idea of the perfect pizza, "The Italian Way."

At Marco's Pizza, there is a slogan, "Hello Primo," which gives an indication about how the founder made sure that his pizza was going to be great pizza. It means that the pizza dough is made from scratch every day – right in the local store – not frozen and brought in in cartons from a refrigerated truck.

The cheese in Marco's Pizza is different, too; it's actually a combination of three cheeses, blended to give the great flavor which pizza addicts love – and, here again – the cheese is fresh. The sauce is blended in-house, using imported herbs and spices – again, a tip of the hat to ultimate freshness in a pizza.

One hallmark of a good pizza place is variety. And Marco's Pizza shines in that department as well.

Not only does Marco's have very good pizza (I ordered, and can heartily recommend, the Deluxe pizza, which comes with pepperoni, Italian sausage, mushrooms, green peppers, onions, and a goodly amount of cheese. It tasted great!), but Marco's offers other culinary delights. You can



PHOTO BY ERNIE SOLLER

order a sub, "cheezy bread," chicken wings with several different sauces, and salads.

As for the salads, you have your choice of Italian chef salad, with ham, salami, provolone cheese, sliced tomatoes, red onions and croutons. Or try a Chicken Caesar, a garden salad, or a Greek salad, with feta cheese, black olives, and banana peppers, served with Greek dressing.

One pretty unique feature of the Marco's Pizza menu is the fact that the calorie counts for all items are clearly printed on the menu so, whether you think that this is a great idea or a means for you to feel guilty, it's there in black-and-white.

And, speaking of higher calorie items ... Marco's Pizza also has desserts, and, yes the calorie counts are printed on the menu, just like everything else. That means that when you order the "cinnasquares," or the double chocolate brownie, made from Ghirardelli chocolate topped with Ghirardelli chocolate sauce, you'll know exactly how many calories you'll have to work off!

Marco's Pizza also has on hand bottled water and soft drinks, so you won't have to make a side run to a grocery store for that portion of your meal.

Marco's Pizza is primarily carry-out, but there are several small tables in the front of the store for those customers who want to come in, grab their pizza, and wolf it down before someone else can grab hold of it. After all, offices are dangerous places for a fresh, but lonely, pizza. Pizzas have been known to disappear.

Marco's Pizza is located in the shopping center at the northwest corner of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard and State Road 70, next to Publix, at 11161 SR 70, Ste. #104. Their phone number is (941)909-1900, and you can order online at marcos.com.

Hours are from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and from 11 a.m. to midnight on Friday and Saturday.

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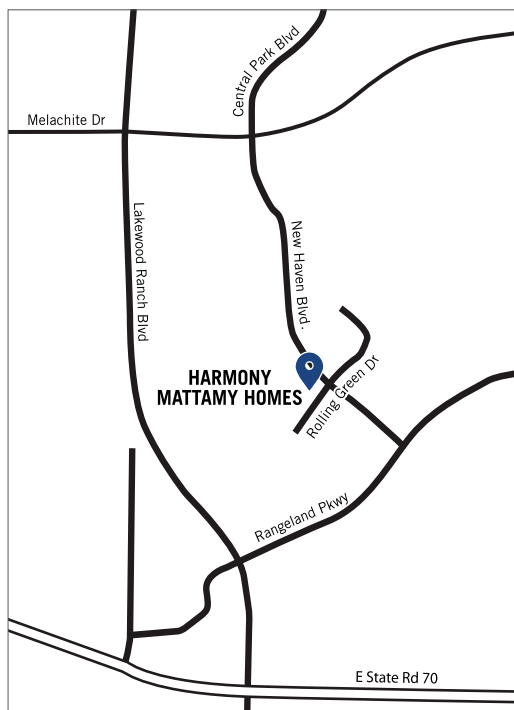


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