

# Around the Ranch

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THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2020



**RANCHERS CAMP BENEATH THE STARS:** Lakewood Ranch's second annual Community Campout at Greenbrook Adventure Park offered campers a host of outdoor opportunities, including, of course, a campfire! For more photos see pages 18-19. Photo by Eric Nalpas.

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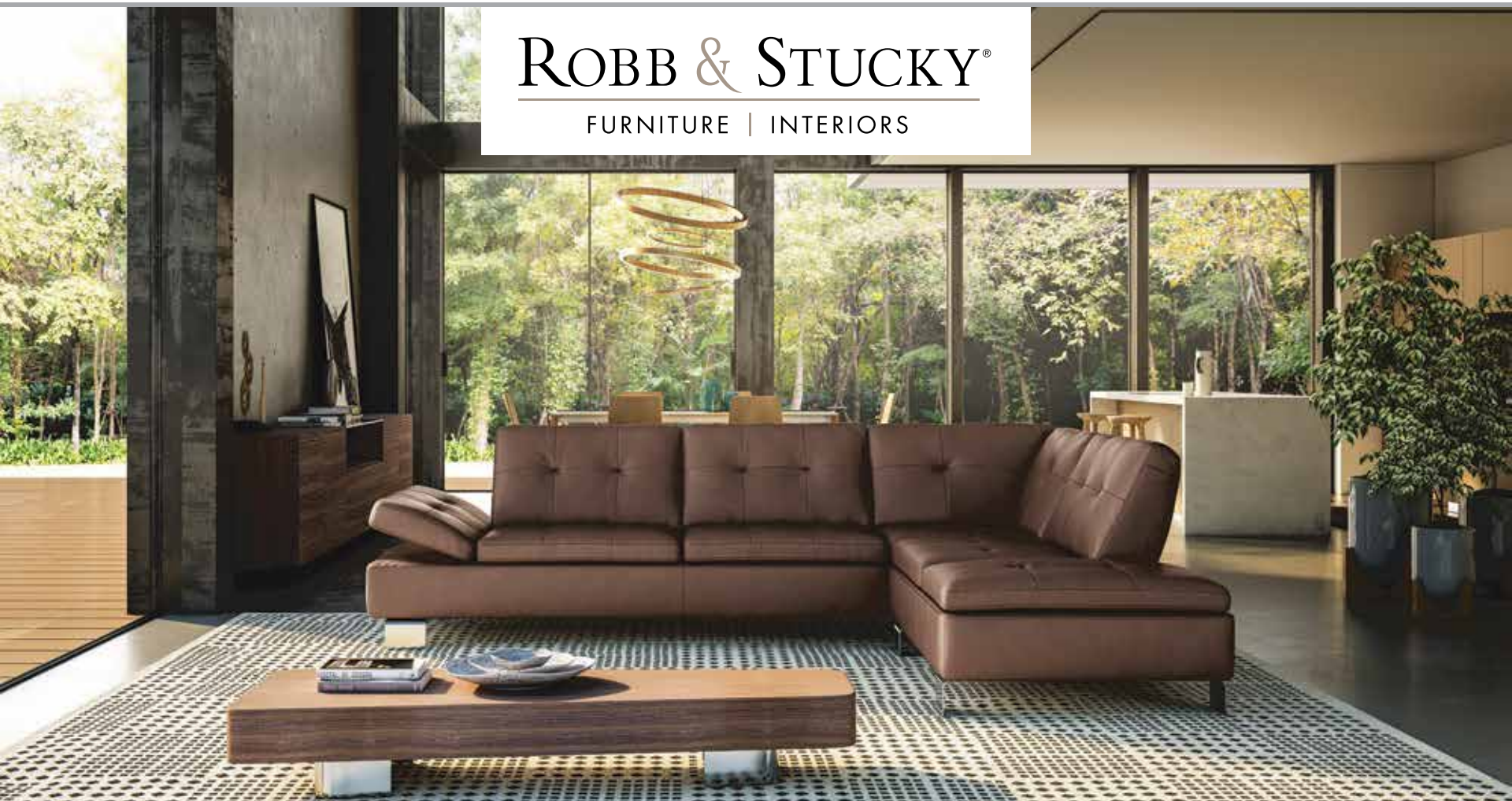
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# Lifestyle, Including Sleep, Matters When It Comes to Brain Health

More than 400 people attended a presentation on Feb. 17 at Grove Ballroom in Lakewood Ranch to learn about The Brain Health Initiative (BHI) and the role that lifestyle, for better or worse, including sleep, plays in brain health.

Dr. Stephanie Peabody, founder and executive director of the BHI, launched the fourth installment of the “*Brain Health Matters!*” lecture series with the presentation, “*Brain Health Matters and Lifestyle Makes a Difference.*” The program introduced how lifestyle, for better or worse, influences neural plasticity and neurogenesis. She shared information about the brain’s ability to grow and change throughout one’s life and how this process is nurtured, or not, in part through the lifestyle choices we make. Peabody further explained how brain healthy lifestyles enhance brain health and optimize brain performance leading to increased brain and cognitive reserve across the lifespan.

Peabody also provided the audience with an overview of the BHI and introduced the brain health pilot study that gets underway in 2020. The pilot study will collect brain health data through web-based surveys. Lakewood Ranch residents randomly selected to participate in the pilot will be notified in the spring.

After a “brain healthy” break, Dr. Michael Breus, known as America’s Sleep Doctor, engaged the audience with his presentation about the connection between good sleep and brain health. Breus explained that our sleep patterns evolve as we age. Young children and teenagers need a great deal of sleep but as we age, that sleep cycle shortens. That is why it gets increasingly difficult to get a good night’s sleep the older we get. He then shared some tips on how to create a healthy sleep routine.



Dr. Stephanie Peabody, founder and executive director of the Brain Health Initiative.

Breus emphasized the importance of a regular sleep schedule: going to bed at the same time and waking up at the same time every morning. This simple routine helps keep our circadian rhythms in line and produces the proteins our brains need. Other sleep tips from Breus included:

- Get 15 minutes of sun in the morning to help regulate melatonin production in the brain.
- Get daily exercise to help your health and assist you in getting a good night’s sleep, but not too close to bedtime.
- Avoid caffeine and alcohol in the hours before bed.

- Keep the bedroom at a comfortable temperature, between 65 and 75 degrees.

The presentation ended with the opportunity to sample a “brain healthy meal” developed by Massachusetts General Hospital’s Uma Naidoo, M.D., nutritional psychiatrist, professional chef, nutritional specialist and author, and prepared in collaboration with Greg Campbell, Grove’s executive director.

The Brain Health Initiative (BHI) is a cutting-edge, new approach to studying and taking action on brain health and brain illness. This approach is set to revolutionize associated research and position the Gulf Coast as a global leader in scientific transformation. Through a groundbreaking collective impact framework that seeks to engage community members in the full brain health promotion, research and innovation process, the BHI will draw on some of the brightest minds of our time to address what experts say may be the biggest medical priority of the 21st century: brain health.

Featuring collaborative leadership from Massachusetts General Hospital, a Harvard Medical School Teaching Hospital, and the Academy for Brain Health and Performance, the BHI will focus on the science, application, and innovation of brain health promotion, prevention, early identification, innovative intervention and performance optimization across the lifespan. This focus intends to increase brain health protective factors and reduce risk factors, improving brain health outcomes across the lifespan for the Gulf Coast region and beyond.

More information about the monthly *Brain Health Matters!* speaker series and the Brain Health Initiative can be found at [www.brainhealthinitiative.org](http://www.brainhealthinitiative.org).





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## GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

March 19 – April 15, 2020

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

### Thursday, March 19, 2020

Town Hall Salon B & C	8:30 A.M.	CDD 1 Board Meeting
Town Hall Salon B & C	9:00 A.M.	CDD 2 Board Meeting
Town Hall Salon B & C	9:30 A.M.	CDD 5 Board Meeting
Town Hall Salon B & C	11:00 A.M.	CDD 6 Board Meetings
Town Hall Salon B	3:00 P.M.	CEVA Safety Committee

### Monday, March 23rd, 2020

Town Hall Salon C	10:00 A.M.	CEVA Finance Committee Meeting
Town Hall Salon B	2:00 P.M.	CEVA Fining Committee
Town Hall Salon C	4:00 P.M.	CDD 1 Budget Workshop
Town Hall Salon A	5:30 P.M.	Hollow Board Meeting

### Tuesday, March 24th, 2020

Town Hall Salon B	8:30 A.M.	SRVA Modifications Committee
Town Hall Salon C	10:00 A.M.	CDD 6 Budget Workshop
Town Hall Salon B & C	3:00 P.M.	CEVA Board Meeting

### Wednesday, March 25th, 2020

Town Hall Salon C	1:00 P.M.	Country Club Modification Committee Workshop
Town Hall Salon C	3:00 P.M.	Edgewater Modification Committee Workshop
Town Hall Salon B & C	7:00 P.M.	SRVA Board Meeting

### Thursday, March 26th, 2020

Town Hall Salon C	10:30 A.M.	CDD 5 Budget Workshop
Town Hall Board Room	3:00 P.M.	Augusta/Oakmont Neighborhood Committee Meeting
Town Hall Salon C	3:00 P.M.	CDD 2 Budget Workshop
Town Hall Salon B & C	5:45 P.M.	Watercrest Annual Members Meeting

### Monday, March 30th, 2020

Town Hall Salon C	5:00 P.M.	SRVA Compliance Committee
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### Wednesday, April 1st, 2020

Town Hall Salon C	4:00 P.M.	GBVA Modifications Committee
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### Thursday, April 2nd, 2020

Town Hall Salon C	3:00 P.M.	CEVA Restrictions Revisions
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### Monday, April 6th, 2020

Town Hall Salon C	9:00 A.M.	CEVA Landscape Committee Meeting
Town Hall Board Room	5:00 P.M.	GBVA Compliance Committee
Town Hall Salon B	7:00 P.M.	CDD 4 Safety Committee Workshop
Town Hall Salon C	7:00 P.M.	Brier Creek Neighborhood Committee

### Wednesday, April 8th, 2020

Town Hall Salon B	1:00 P.M.	Country Club Modification Committee Workshop
Town Hall Salon B	3:00 P.M.	Edgewater Modification Committee Workshop
Town Hall Salon C	4:00 P.M.	CDD 4 Budget Workshop
Town Hall Salon B	6:00 P.M.	Walk Annual Meeting

### Monday, April 13th, 2020

Town Hall Salon C	9:00 A.M.	CDD 6 Agenda Review Workshop
Town Hall Board Room	3:00 P.M.	Canterbury/Laurel Valley Neighborhood Meeting

### Tuesday, April 14th, 2020

Town Hall Salon B & C	8:00 A.M.	IDA Board Meeting
Town Hall Salon A	8:30 A.M.	SRVA Modifications Committee
Town Hall Salon B & C	10:00 A.M.	CDD 1 Agenda Review Workshop
Town Hall Salon B & C	1:00 P.M.	CDD 2 Agenda Review Workshop
Town Hall Salon B & C	2:30 P.M.	CDD 5 Agenda Review Workshop

### Wednesday, April 15th, 2020

Town Hall Salon C	10:00 A.M.	CDD 4 Agenda Review Workshop
Town Hall Salon C	10:15 A.M.	CDD 4 Board Meeting
Town Hall Salon A	4:00 P.M.	Mizner Reserve Neighborhood Meeting
Town Hall Salon C	4:00 P.M.	GBVA Modifications Committee
Town Hall Salon B	6:00 P.M.	GBVA Board Meeting

*\*Meeting dates and times are subject to change*



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# LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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The rest of the season is in full swing, and coming up we've got more of our "Off the Ranch" bus rides! These rides are a great way to get off The Ranch and visit some of our wonderful regional attractions just



*Keith Pandeloglou*  
Director of LWRCA

outside of our community, such as spring training with the Orioles, the Ringling Museum, and beautiful Siesta Key Beach. For more information on all the off-the-ranch bus rides, please visit [myLWR.com](http://myLWR.com).

On April 4, we are excited to bring back our signature Easter event, Eggstravaganza, taking place at Greenbrook Adventure Park. This event is fun for kids ages 2 and up. Watch as over 26,000 eggs are scooped

up in just minutes! To give everyone a fair chance, our children's egg hunt areas are separated by different age groups; watch in amazement as they race to find the winning prize eggs, with all of the generous gifts from our sponsors!

It's coming up on April, which means market season is slowly coming to a close! Make sure to get out and visit all your favorite local market vendors of the season, which ends April 26. As always, we will be in the Lakewood Ranch Medical Center parking lot from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. each Sunday through the end of April.

The friends of the East Manatee Library at Lakewood Ranch are having their inaugural author luncheon March 27 at Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club with Mary Walton, author of "Where Hisstory meets HERstory." Please join them as they welcome Walton, an acclaimed journalist and author, while she shares her account of one woman's perseverance and self-sacrifice that resulted in the unalienable rights



for all women – the 19th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. All proceeds benefit the Friends of the East Manatee Library at LWR. For more information, please visit their website at [LWRlibraryfriends.org](http://LWRlibraryfriends.org).

It's not too early to start thinking about having your company, not for profit, community group, civic organization, or social club participate in our Tribute to Heroes parade,

coming up on May 24. Join the parade route as thousands line Main Street to honor our heroes. This is a great way to give back to our community, and have your group recognized in the parade. All proceeds from the event help our local veteran's group and event partners, the Braden River VFW Post 12055. Sign up at [myLWR.com](http://myLWR.com) to participate now and get preferred placement in the parade!

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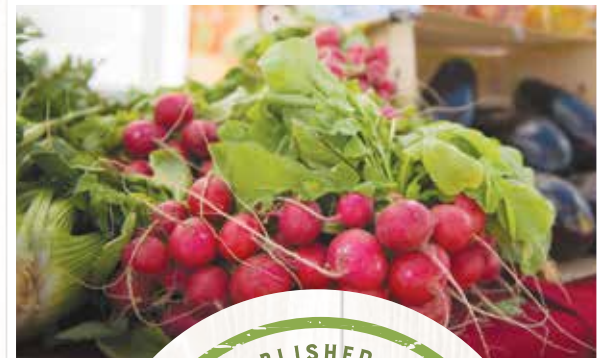
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## CLUB SPOTLIGHT

# The Lakewood Ranch “Empty Nesters” Club – Check It Out!

BY ERNIE SOLLER,  
Community Correspondent

OK, you finally did it: you decided that it was about time that you and your significant other – or just you – left the snows of winter behind. You packed it all up, tossed out all your expired-date cold remedies, gave your trusty snow-blower to a nearby relative, and moved to Florida!

So, now it's winter “up north,” and you're sitting in your new home in Lakewood Ranch smiling as you watch The Weather Channel's reporting on the latest disastrous snow, sleet, and/or ice storm hitting your former hometown. Jim Cantori, almost slipping on the ice, is reporting from your old home's downtown!

You sit back, sipping your Manhattan, waiting for the news as to how many cars are stuck in the roadside ditches “back home,” and look outside at the green lawn and the multi-colored flowers in your new yard, grinning at the prospect of calling your former next-door neighbor to tell him about your having had breakfast outdoors that morning. And then it hits you.

What else have you got going?

Your kids are married and living lives of their own, hauling your grandkids to soccer and dance lessons. They call maybe once a week, just to make sure that you're still perpendicular to the floor, or to ask if you want in on their office's Super Bowl pool.

You like living in Florida, but haven't gotten into a whole lot of activities – at least not yet. You're biding your time ... right?

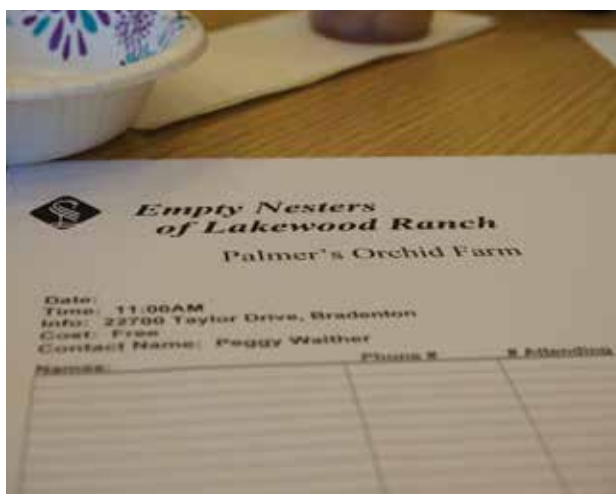
Guess what? You're an “empty nester.”

But fear not, for there's a cure for the empty nester blues, right here on The Ranch. It's called the Lakewood Ranch Empty Nesters Club, and it promises to alleviate your feelings of ennui.

The Lakewood Ranch Empty Nesters Club has been around almost as long as Lakewood Ranch itself, at least going back to around 2000.

The Club meets at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall twice a month, at 12:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month for a lunch meeting. The lunch is a potluck event, so bring whatever you like to cook – or go down to Publix and grab one of their already-prepared meal items.

The lunch meetings are intended to be a social gathering, and they provide for the opportunity not only to get togeth-



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

er with other empty nesters, but also to plan activities for the members.

On the day I visited, member Janet Stewart presented several additions to the club's outing schedule. There was a trip to Mixon's Farm, to take the Farm's tram ride, learning about the citrus business in our area, and to have lunch there – and maybe return home with some of Mixon's goodies.

A trip to Palmer's Orchid Farm was also discussed for the next month's outing, along with trips to Snook Haven in Venice, and the Siesta Key Rum distillery, just to name a few. (The distillery tour sounds like a real winner. I wonder how many samples are included!)

Not satisfied with simply being a “go, gab, and eat” club, the Lakewood Ranch Empty Nesters Club also makes charity



Clockwise from top left: Members having lunch at Town Hall  
Janet Stewart discussing possible outings for the Club  
Signup for orchid farm activity

a focal point of their meetings. Members are asked to bring non-perishable and not-outdated food items with them to the meetings, which are donated to the “Our Daily Bread” food bank.

So, the Lakewood Ranch Empty Nesters Club offers residents a chance to meet and greet, to get out and do things around the area, and to engage in charitable activity.

If you'd like to join, or just would like some additional information on the Lakewood Ranch Empty Nesters Club, contact Peggy Walther at [mfwalther@verizon.net](mailto:mfwalther@verizon.net).

So get in gear, get out of the house, and get yourself down to the Lakewood Ranch Empty Nesters Club! Meet new friends and have more fun in Florida.

That way, instead of just calling your friends “up north” to tell them how warm the weather is in winter here in Florida, you'll also be able to tell them about all the interesting places you've been and the new friends you've met.



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PHOTOS BY ERIC NALPAS

## Park Honoring SMR Ranch Manager Opens

On Feb. 24, co-workers, friends, and family of Roger Hill gathered to cut the ribbon on the park bearing his name. Hill was Schroeder-Manatee Ranch's (SMR) ranch manager for some three decades. Although SMR is now best-known for its award-winning master-planned residential development, Lakewood Ranch, the company is rooted in agriculture, which Hill, an avid fisherman and hunter, loved to showcase. Hill also gave back to the community, serving as the director and two-term president of the Manatee County Fair Association and volunteering with Florida Farm Bureau and the Manatee County Cattlemen's Association, among others.

The Roger Hill Park is located behind the Harmony village, off White Eagle Boulevard. It is accessible by bike or foot, connecting to the parking area and amenities at James L. Patton Community Park.



## March 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.

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### Talmud classes

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

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

### Chabad Hebrew School of the Arts

**Sundays, March 22 and 29, 9:30 a.m. to noon**

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### RCS – An Eternal Blueprint

**Thursday, March 19, noon**

The secret of Jewish survival is the Torah, but what value is the Torah in our everyday lives? Based on the assertion of the Zohar that the Torah is the blueprint of the world, the Lubavitcher Rebbe constantly emphasized that no element of creation can possibly be in conflict with Torah. The Torah is not only a guide to living a holy, spiritual life, but also a guide to how to properly utilize and interact with the world in optimal fashion. Lunch will be served. Course fee: \$75, textbook included or \$18 per class.

### CTeen – Passover Foam Party

**Sunday, March 22, 12:15 p.m.**

Join Chabad of Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch for a foam party and Passover car wash! Clean cars for Passover and raise money for food for needy families. Lunch and drinks will be served. Cost is \$18; free for CTeen members.

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).

## LWR Lego Champs!

The top 36 FIRST LEGO League (FLL) teams across Florida's West Coast were recently invited to compete in the FLL Regional Championship for the opportunity to be one of the three teams to receive an invitation to a global invitational, one of seven to advance to the Florida State Championship, and/or the one team to be nominated for the FLL Global Innovation Award. Each team was challenged to: 1. identify a problem with a building or public space in their community and provide an innovative solution to solve it; 2. design and build a robot, associated attachments, and code to autonomously complete up to 14 different complex missions within 2.5 minutes, and; 3. do it all while displaying the FIRST Core Values!

The LWR BotTanks students were awarded all three opportunities, an incredible accomplishment and opportunity for the



students! The LWR BotTanks, comprised of Lexi Brielmann (Willis Elementary), Matthew Goldberg (Dr. Mona Jain Middle School), Jaxon Lemus (Nolan Middle School), Ike Lippincott (Nolan Middle School), Owen Lippincott (Nolan Middle School), Tess Lippincott (Nolan Middle School), Michael Merino (Dr. Mona Jain Middle School), and Natalie Merino (Gullett Elementary), will represent the entire region (including Lakewood Ranch) at the South Carolina Global Invitational May 6-9, at the Florida State Championship on March 28 in Niceville, Fla., and at the FIRST LEGO League Global Innovation Award to be held June 7-9 at Disney World. Through the nomination for the Global Innovation Award, they will have the opportunity to go on to meet government leaders, receive patents, bring their invention to market, and could even receive \$20,000 for their work.





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# Lakewood Ranch Boulevard Extension Now Open

Business leaders and various government officials gathered March 2 to commemorate the completion of the Lakewood Ranch Boulevard extension south to Fruitville Road.

The completion of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard will facilitate travel from Fruitville Road in Sarasota County, to U.S. 301, north of the Manatee River, via the Fort Hamer Bridge, in Manatee County. The road will improve the transportation network for people in both counties, alleviating congestion on I-75. This is the second north-south road that the Lakewood Ranch Stewardship District has built; the Lorraine Road extension, between University Parkway and Fruitville Road, was finished in 2017.

“The Lakewood Ranch Boulevard and Lorraine Road projects are of regional significance in that they provide increased mobility not for just Lakewood Ranch residents but everyone in Manatee and Sarasota counties,” said Rex Jensen, president and CEO of Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, Inc. “They are a continuation of our established standards of planning and infrastructure quality.”

Both the Lorraine Road and Lakewood Ranch Boulevard extensions connect Manatee and Sarasota counties, and run along Lake-



wood Ranch Waterside, The Ranch's first development in Sarasota County, with more than 5,100 homes planned at completion. Waterside Place, the lakefront town center that will be home to stylish shops, acclaimed restaurants, and more, is under construction and expected to be complete by the end of the year.

The road project was a collaboration between Schroeder-Manatee Ranch (the devel-

oper of Lakewood Ranch) and Sarasota County; Schroeder-Manatee Ranch has a history, since its inception, of planning and implementing infrastructure ahead of development.

“The opening of this section of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard completes this much needed north-south thoroughfare connecting Manatee and Sarasota counties, providing a parallel reliever road to I- 75,” said Betsy Benac,



chairwoman of the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners. “It has taken determination, grit and cooperation to get it done – thanks to SMR for being a great leader in this public private partnership!”

The road was built by Woodruff and Sons, in about a year and a half, at the cost of approximately \$16 million. Construction of the 1.711 miles of four-lane roadway took 14,676 tons of asphalt, 4,400 linear feet of guardrails, 9,979 square yards of concrete for the sidewalk, and 34,918 linear feet of curb. The extension features two roundabouts and 82 streetlights.

“I am incredibly excited about this event,” said Mike Moran, chairman of the Sarasota County Board of County Commissioners. “Traffic is a quality of life issue for our community and a top priority. It is a huge day for Sarasota County residents.”

## Neal Communities Breaks Ground on New LWR Neighborhood

Neal Communities recently broke ground on Windward, a new 450-acre gated community that will have 900 homes at its completion.

The architectural inspiration for the community includes a collection of designs, such as British West Indies, coastal, island and farmhouse styles.

Windward will include a 7.8-acre amenity center with a 9,600-square-foot clubhouse including gathering spaces, a fitness center, pools, dog parks, a playground, a sports field and multiple athletic courts including pickleball, tennis and volleyball courts. The community will also have a full-time lifestyle coordinator to plan and host events for residents throughout the year.

Windward will offer 16 floorplans, seven of which will be on display as model homes. Plans are in development to construct



a “Discovery Center” sales office.

Floorplans will include paired villas and single-family homes. Paired villas range from 1,434 square feet to 1,524 square feet. Single-family homes start at 1,531 square feet and can be as large as 2,907 square feet.

“We’re excited to break ground on this project so early in the year,” said Mike Storey, president and CEO at Neal Communities. “Windward will offer a wide range of floorplan options to Lakewood Ranch starting this summer.”

Windward is located in Sarasota County along the southern gateway of Lakewood Ranch, three-and-a-half miles east of I-75 at the corner of Lorraine and Fruitville roads, and is adjacent to Lakewood Ranch's Waterside community. Windward is currently scheduled to open in the summer of 2020.

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



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# AROUND THE RANCH



PHOTOS BY ERIC NALPAS



## Campout Helps Build Community

Lakewood Ranch's second annual Community Campout at Greenbrook Adventure Park proved its appeal by drawing twice as many campers – more than 50 families – as last year! Starting in the late afternoon, campers were offered a host of outdoor activities, in-

cluding a tent-pitching demo, nature hike, hands-on science activity, interaction with a Manatee Sheriff's Office K9 police team and an engine from East Manatee Fire Rescue, live music, storytelling, an outdoor movie, and of course, dinner around the campfire.







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POLITICS

9:30 AM  
-  
10:35 AM

**CLASS 1:**  
**America and the World 2020:  
Where Are We Now?  
(And where are we going?)**

PROFESSOR:  
William Burke-White  
University of Pennsylvania  
*Gorman Award for Teaching Excellence*



PSYCHOLOGY

10:50 AM  
-  
11:55 AM

**CLASS 2:**  
**The Art of Aging:  
A Prescription for Mind and Body**

PROFESSOR:  
Catherine Sanderson  
Amherst College  
*Princeton Review's Best 300 Professors*



LITERATURE

12:10 PM  
-  
1:15 PM

**CLASS 3:**  
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## 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 750+ member businesses reflect a wide variety of small and large businesses across all industries in and around Lakewood Ranch. More information is available online at [www.LWRBA.org](http://www.LWRBA.org).

### UPCOMING EVENTS

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

#### Luncheon: State of the State with Senator Galvano Wednesday, March 25

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Grove Ballroom  
10670 Boardwalk Loop  
\$37 LWRBA members; \$47 non-members

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

#### Young Leaders Alliance Networking Social Thursday, March 26

5:30-7:30 p.m.  
Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club  
7650 Legacy Blvd.  
Free for YLA members; \$15 non-members

Join the Young Leaders Alliance at the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club for a fun evening of networking alongside fellow young professionals, along with some giant Jenga and cornhole! Enjoy complimentary light bites and a cash bar with happy hour specials!

#### Networking Social: Grand Living at Lakewood Ranch Wednesday, April 1

5-7 p.m.  
Grand Living at Lakewood Ranch  
7230 University Parkway  
Free for members; \$15 non-members

The Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance's April social is hosted by one of LWR's newest additions, Grand Living at Lakewood Ranch. Mingle with fellow members and enjoy complimentary appetizers provided by Grand Living's in-house culinary team.

#### Alliance LEADS: Manatee and Sarasota County Supervisors of Elections Wednesday, April 8

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

Manatee and Sarasota counties' supervisors of elections, Mike Bennett and Ron Turner, join us to recap the presidential primary elections, as well as look ahead to November's general election.

#### Luncheon: Even Cheetahs Slow Down - Unbreakable Laws of Nature to Help You Drive (and Survive!) Change Friday, April 17

11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.  
Grove Ballroom  
10670 Boardwalk Loop  
\$35 LWRBA members; \$50 non-members

Driving change is a journey not for the faint-at-heart. You must be prepared for challenges and opportunities both known and unknown. How do you measure your progress, stay engaged, and keep moving forward? Speaker Julie Henry will share a time-tested, proven methodology to both drive and survive change. She'll discuss ideas, share challenges, and most importantly, actively reflect on key takeaways that can be implemented immediately.

#### 2020 Ranch Scramble Golf Tournament Friday, April 24

11 a.m.-6 p.m.  
Esplanade Golf and Country Club  
12825 Malachite Drive  
\$725 foursome (\$805 after April 3)  
\$195 individuals (\$210 after April 3)

It's almost time for our 2020 Ranch Scramble Golf Tournament! Join us at the beautiful Esplanade Golf and Country Club for an afternoon on the links with your Alliance friends. Ideal for golfers of all skill levels! Includes lunch, awards reception, fun games, and raffles.



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**"THE FUTURE  
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Featuring Lakewood Ranch  
Medical Center CEO,

**ANDY GUZ**  
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TUESDAY  
**MAY**  
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# COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

March/April 2020

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## March 16 – Third Monday

- Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Lakewood Ranch Women's Club Knitters, Town Hall, 3:30 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday Mah Jongg, Town Hall North, 6 p.m.
- Creative Arts Association of LWR, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

## March 17 – Third Tuesday

- People's Photography Club focus group board meeting, Town Hall North, 2 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall North, 7 p.m.

## March 18 – Third Wednesday

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

## March 19 – Third Thursday

- LWR Women's Club Yoga, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Dragon Ladies' Mah Jongg, Town Hall North, 1 p.m.
- Gardeners Out East Garden Club, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- LWR Women's Club Book Club, 6:45 p.m.

## March 20 – Third Friday

- Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon
- Wine Club, Town Hall 6:30 p.m.

## March 21 – Third Saturday

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

## March 22 – Fourth Sunday

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

## March 23 – Fourth Monday

- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Spyglass Card Sharks, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Anglers' board meeting, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday Mah Jongg, Town Hall North, 6 p.m.
- Running Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

## March 24 – Fourth Tuesday

- Bridge on Tuesday, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Italian American Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall North, 7 p.m.

## March 25 – Fourth Wednesday

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

## March 26 – Fourth Thursday

- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Dragon Ladies' Mah Jongg, Town Hall North, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- American Asian Women's Association, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

## March 27 – Fourth Friday

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

## March 28 – Fourth Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Digital Photography, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.

## March 29 – Fifth Sunday

- LWR Women's Soccer, Greenbrook Adventure Park, 2 p.m.

## March 30 – Fifth Monday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday Mah Jongg, Town Hall North, 6 p.m.
- Lakewood Ranch Anglers' Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

## March 31 – Fifth Tuesday

- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall North, 7 p.m.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 25

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# COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 24

## April 1 – First Wednesday

- Digital Photography, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Bingo, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT set up members, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- CERT members meeting, Town Hall, 7:30 p.m.

## April 2 – First Thursday

- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Dragon Ladies' Mah Jongg, Town Hall North, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.

## April 3 – First Friday

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

## April 4 – First Saturday

- Eggstravaganza, Greenbrook Adventure Park, 9:30 a.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Digital Photography, Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.
- Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

## April 5 – First Sunday

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

## April 6 – First Monday

- Women's Club Yoga, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Spyglass Card Sharks, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- LWR Women's Club Knitters, Town Hall, 3:30 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday Mah Jongg, Town Hall North, 6 p.m.
- Genealogy Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

## April 7 – First Tuesday

- Lunch Club, Town Hall, 11 a.m.
- Empty Nesters, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Anglers' Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.
- Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall North, 7 p.m.

## April 8 – Second Wednesday

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

## April 9 – Second Thursday

- Women's Club Yoga, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Dragon Ladies' Mah Jongg, Town Hall North, 1 p.m.
- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- People's Photography Club, Town Hall North, 5:30 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Women's Club general meeting setup, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- Women's Club general meeting, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

## April 10 – Second Friday

- Women's Exercise Class, 9 a.m.

## April 11 – Second Saturday

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

## April 12 – Second Sunday

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

## April 13 – Second Monday

- Lakewood Ranch Garden Club general meeting, 9:30 a.m.
- LWR Women's Club Yoga, 9:30 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Gardeners Out East, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Monday Mah Jongg, Town Hall North, 6 p.m.
- CERT board meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

## April 14 – Second Tuesday

- Bridge on Tuesday, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Women's Club Blankets for Babies, 1 p.m.
- Digital Photography board meeting, 5 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall North, 7 p.m.

## April 15 – Third Wednesday

- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Women's Book Club, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT radio communications committee, 7 p.m.

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# Audit Reports – Good News For Ranch Districts

BY ERNIE SOLLER,  
Community Correspondent

At the monthly board meetings of the Lakewood Ranch Community Development Districts and the Inter-District Authority, the word was the same. Helen Painter, partner in the accounting firm of Purvis, Gray and Co. reported that her company's audits of Lakewood Ranch's finances for the 2019 fiscal year indicated that things were going well, indeed.

Over and over, she stated that the audit reports were "unmodified," and/or a "clean opinion" – meaning that the auditors found no financial problems or irregularities, an indication that Lakewood Ranch's finances are at the highest level of accuracy.

Supervisors, on hearing the results of the audits, praised Finance Director Steve Zielinski and his staff for their expertise and accuracy.

## PRE-EMPLOYMENT DRUG TESTING

Attorney Mark Barnebey, commenting on a question at the IDA board meeting regarding requiring drug testing for new hires, noted that under current laws, drug testing for prospective employees of Lakewood Ranch would only be acceptable for employees who

are being hired for a safety-sensitive position. He recommended that the IDA compile a list of such positions (for example-heavy equipment operator), and, after that list has been compiled, then Lakewood Ranch could require pre-employment drug testing for applicants for those positions.

## PINE TREES

Anna Vigliotti, a resident of District 2's Edgewater Cove neighborhood, came to the meeting to request that the District take action regarding a group of large pine trees which, according to Vigliotti, are causing moisture buildup and flooding issues. In addition, she indicated that these trees are large and are leaning in the direction of homes. She acknowledged that normally, in such situations involving District trees overgrowing residential property, the residents are expected to trim the trees if they present a problem, but expressed her concern that these particular trees have grown to a large height, and for a resident to attempt to trim them would require the hiring of a "bucket truck" at a minimum of around \$1,000, a very large cost for an individual homeowner. She also commented that if individual homeowners were to attempt

to trim these trees, they might not be trimmed in an even manner, and could look unsightly.

Operations Director Paul Chetlain acknowledged that the trees are overgrowing residential property, that they need major trimming, and that they have grown "out of scale."

The District 2 board will look into what can be done.

District 2 supervisors were informed that over 1,000 soil moisture sensor systems have been installed in the District, although some may need relocation or re-calibration.

## GOPHER TORTOISES

Operations Director Chetlain reported that a count of gopher tortoises in District 1, along the Braden River, is under way and the results will be available soon. Last year, the tortoise count was between 30 and 40 of the animals.

## DISTRICT BOND REFINANCE

At the last meeting of the District 6 board, the supervisors voted to look into the possibility of refinancing three series of District bonds.

At the February District 6 meeting, after the board voted to engage MBS to act as their agent, Brett Sealy, managing partner at MBS

Capital markets, LLC presented a plan to refinance three sets of District 6 bonds: The small 2010 bond issue, the 2014 bond issue, and the 2015 bond issue.

Because of the drop in interest rates, MBS will be able, through private placement, to save the District around \$7,000 per year on the 2010 bonds, around \$43,000 per year on the 2014 bonds, and about \$34,000 per year on the 2015 bonds by refinancing them as a package.

The proposal was approved by the board, and the closing on the refinancing will be voted on at a special board meeting on March 20 at 11 a.m.

This move may make it possible for the District 6 board to reduce assessments for homeowners.

## GARAGE SALE

The District 1 and District 4 Community Garage Sale will be held March 28.

## SHRED DAY

The annual Lakewood Ranch Shred Day will be April 18 at the Town Hall. Bring some cans of food to help feed the hungry in our community.



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# Lakewood Ranch's Grove Celebrates a Year of Food and Fun

BY ERNIE SOLLER,  
Community Correspondent

Once upon a time, there was a large restaurant located in the heart of the Lakewood Ranch Main Street shopping area. It was called the Polo Grill and Bar and, attached to the restaurant at one end was a ballroom facility, the only one in Lakewood Ranch (outside of the LWR Golf and Country Club) capable of accommodating a large banquet crowd.

The Polo Grill and Bar was decorated in a style derived from the “polo tack room” tradition – that is, dark stained woodwork, rich wall colors, warm and friendly in a cozy way, but not exactly bright and airy and tropical in any way, shape or form.

Enter Hugh Miller, owner of Pier 22. He bought the former Polo Grill location, and he and his executive chef, Greg Campbell, collaborated on the transformation of a somewhat staid-looking eatery into the bright, airy, and definitely different Grove.

Where there was dark stained woodwork, and a lot of warm colored walls, there is now bright metal, slabs of locally harvested wood from very old trees, and the colors of sea foam on the walls. Where there was a bar area, which was a bit on the dark side, with very subdued lighting, there is now at Grove an outdoor bar area, light and bright, and ready for a summer's pick-me-up, or the snowbird invasion. Indeed, there's now a lot of seating outside in the open air and, if things get a bit chilly, Grove has portable heaters on hand to warm those patrons who elect to sit in the open air. There's even a tabletop “fire pit” for good measure.

As for the ballroom area, it, too has been given a facelift. The somewhat darker colors of the Polo Grill era have given way to – here again – a much lighter, tropical pastel look.

So ... the food's been good, the atmosphere fun-filled, the service cheerful, and, after a year of success at the Grove, a celebration was in order.

Invitations were disbursed, and a crowd of Lakewood Ranchers, including many members of the local business community as well as residents, showed up on the evening of Feb. 20. To get things off to a rousing start, the crowd



was entertained by the Mighty Drumline from the Sarasota Military Academy. Once these young people did their thing, there was no question that there was something big going on here.

Miller and Campbell cut a ribbon, a few appropriate words were said, and the crowd was then able to take in the warm spring air in front of Grove, where the next attraction was a fire dancer, whose act was soon followed by fireworks, or patrons could enter the ballroom area to release a glass of champagne from its

notch in an ivy-covered wall of champagne. These champagne walls were set up on either side of the doors leading into the ballroom.

There were a couple of bars set up for those who preferred to consume cocktails or cabernet, and some of the guests partook of a green-hued rum concoction that was chilled as it was being poured out of a large ice sculpture bearing the name GROVE in big green letters. Interesting!

Grove served up some mighty tasty snacks for their celebration. There were several trays



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

of food – from cheeses to a Tuscan veggie tray, to a charcuterie board with all sorts of tasty meat offerings. And, if meat and cheeses were not your primary choice, you could also partake of morsels of tasty sushi!

And, if all of that wasn't enough, there was a dessert bar set up in a side room – complete with macaron “sandwiches” along with mini eclairs, and if you wanted to go directly into chocolate heaven, a tray of chocolate truffles of various flavors. (I saw one woman of a certain age slip a few truffles into a plastic bag before she left the party!) Yes, they really were that good!

Now of course, if you consumed all that food – and especially all that dessert – then you had better have hit the dance floor, as Grove also provided a singing disc jockey to enable its guests to work off a couple of calories.

All in all, a great party for the “new” hotspot on Main Street – in Lakewood Ranch, of course!

Congratulations to Grove!



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