

Around the Ranch

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2016 » THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

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For more pictures and grant information, see pages 12-13

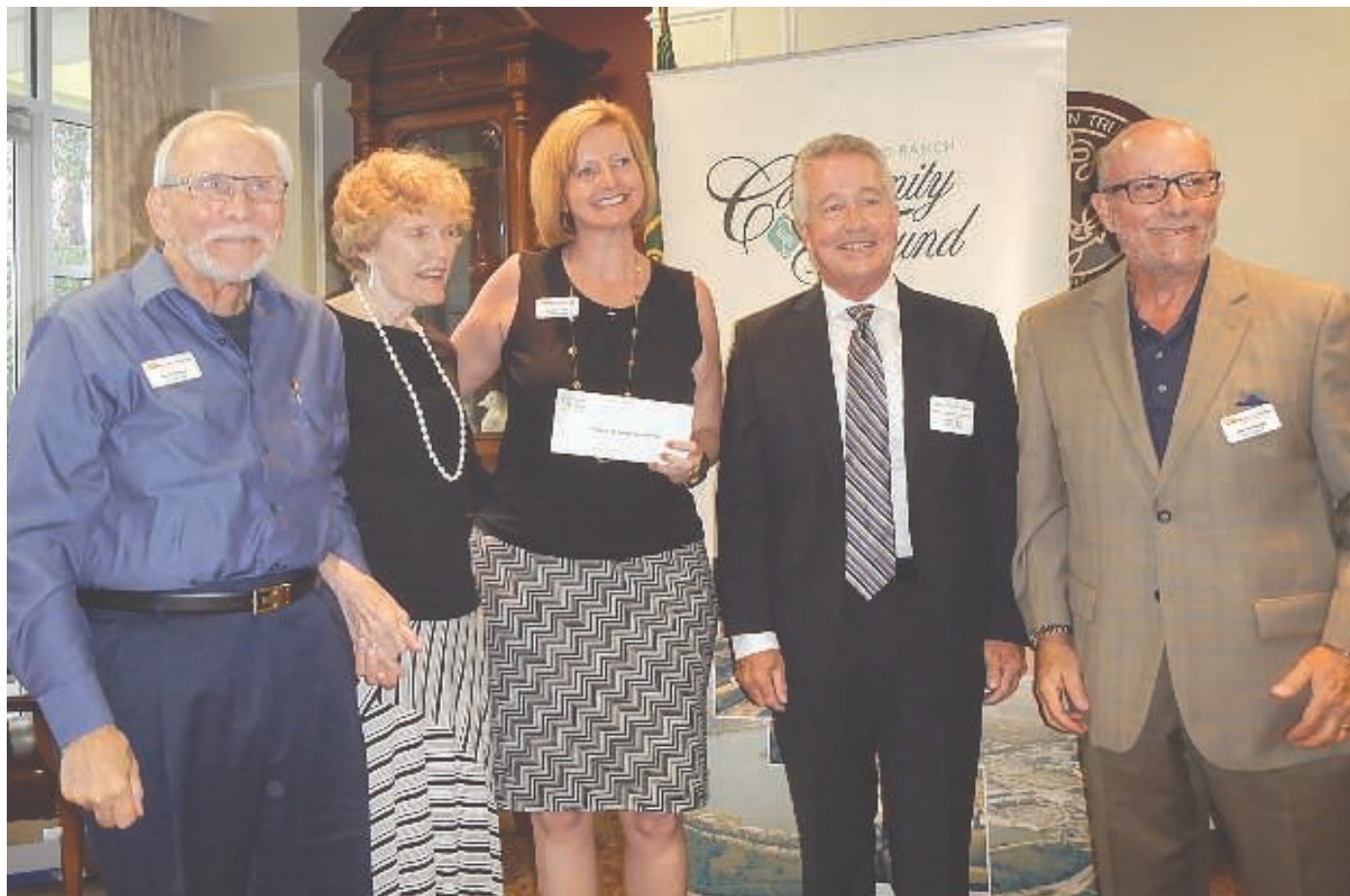


Photo Provided

The Lakewood Ranch Community Fund recently announced the recipients of 24 grants totaling \$82,500, as well as the honorees for the Humanitarian of the Year award.

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Gun Club**

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and Events**

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Photo Provided

The Story and Purpose of "Forward Manatee"

BY MAC CARRAWAY

The next few paragraphs will tell the story of the "Forward Manatee" Political Action Committee (PAC) to support two referenda on the Nov. 8 ballot. That ballot language is available at the Manatee County Supervisor of Election's website and addresses the following two initiatives:

- For Manatee County – A new ½ cent sales tax for existing infrastructure, focusing on transportation (71%), public safety and law enforcement (15%), and parks and green spaces (14%).
- For the Manatee County School Board – A continuation of a ½ cent sales tax for school construction and renovation, school security, technology and safety.

These measures are really about the kind of future we want for Manatee County. Do we want better roads? Do we want better schools? Do we want safer communities?

The beauty of these two initiatives is that not only will every dollar raised stay right here in Manatee County, every dollar spent will be overseen by independent citizen-run oversight commit-

SEE FORWARD MANATEE, 2R

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FROM PAGE 1R

FORWARD MANATEE

tees. And, it is worth noting, tourists and visitors to our community will help pay for needed infrastructure, and the costs for better roads, schools and safer neighborhoods will not be borne just by property owners.

If both pass, the sales tax rate in Manatee County will be 7%, exactly the same as in Sarasota, Pinellas, Charlotte, Pasco and Hillsborough counties.

Clearly, Manatee County is the loner in the region without these resources.

As for a little history on the County's piece, in 2015, the Manatee County Board of County Commissioners formed a diverse citizens' committee (the Committee) which was comprised of appointees by each commissioner (seven total) plus an appointee from each of six key County business

organizations (including the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance), for a total roster of 13.

Most of us on the Committee entered that four-plus month investigative and learning process with a healthy level of skepticism about the County's need for additional revenue. As the chair of that group, I worried about what form our final deliberations might take. Sparingly you the lengthy details, the Committee voted unanimously in support of a new ½ cent infrastructure sales tax for the County. The

“why” of that strong unanimous recommendation for the infrastructure sales tax (versus other potential revenue sources) can be distilled down to a several key points:

- The County is almost exclusively dependent on ad valorem/property taxes for its revenues. The Committee judged this to be unsustainable.

- After hearing numerous presentations from the County department managers and Sheriff Brad Steube, we were convinced of their continuous struggle to provide essential services in a highly stringent and competitive budget process. While we admired their ability to do more with less, the Committee felt this was clearly not in the best interests of the citizens of Manatee County.

- The budget process itself is rigorous and almost continuous, calling on each line item to earn its way into the final budget.

- Property tax rates in Manatee County are the lowest on the Gulf Coast, and the Committee felt that should not be jeopardized, nor should property owners be called on to shoulder an inordinate share of the cost of County government.

- The infrastructure sales tax would cost the typical Manatee County family about \$5 a month, and lends itself to being paid 1/3 by visitors and non-residents who provide wear and tear on the County's infrastructure but pay nothing for its upkeep (Note: the “tourist bed tax” by statute is not available for infrastructure purposes).

- Finally, this approach would result in almost immediate action on

long-overdue projects on the County's list. Taken together with the historically low interest rate environment in the government bond market (particularly for a highly-rated local government like Manatee County), this is an incredibly fortunate convergence of opportunity for the citizens of Manatee County that would be regrettable to miss out on.

Having spent a fair amount of my career working in the eastern portion of Manatee County and Lakewood Ranch, and while it is “newer” in a sense, it shares in these needs and would certainly participate in the many benefits. The County's project list, faithful to the recommendations of the Committee, includes a fair distribution of project benefits throughout the County, which will be protected by the already-established citizen's oversight committee.

As to the school element, it is important to remember it is a continuation of the existing ½ cent sales tax for schools. The fine new, newer and renovated schools in Manatee County are the direct result of the original passage of this measure. Now is not the time to deprive the Manatee County School District and its students of these critical funds. The needs are obvious:

- Repair, renovate and maintain existing schools
- Relieve overcrowding at existing schools
- Improvements in school safety
- Improvements in school technology
- New and improved student transportation / buses

These are essentials for

the competitive market our students will be in. Whether you have children in Manatee County schools or not, quality education defines the fabric of every community, and is at the core of sustained economic prosperity. Manatee County Schools' new Superintendent Dr. Dianna Greene has clearly demonstrated her leadership and that she is worthy of our trust. We need to reciprocate and get this funding done. As she so ably says, “This is the Right Path. Right Now.”

Forward Manatee, while still young, has earned the support of many individuals, businesses and organizations in Manatee County, including endorsements from the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance, the Manatee Chamber of Commerce, the Bradenton Area Economic Development Corporation and the Realtor Association of Sarasota and Manatee.

As a fellow citizen of Manatee County, I respectfully ask you with all of my energy to invest in Manatee County and Vote Yes on 6 and 7 on Nov. 8. It is simply the right and necessary thing to do for the future of ALL of Manatee County.

Thank you.

County Link:

www.myanatee.org/gisapps/pm/halfcent/

School Link:

www.manateeschools.net/pages/SDMC/Departments/Superintendent/contents/_Communications_Family_and_Co/Referendum

19th Annual Thunder by the Bay Motorcycle Festival comes to the Ranch For 2017

Suncoast Charities for Children announced new venue locations for next year's festival, scheduled for Jan. 5-8, 2017. Locations include Premier Sports Campus and the Ancient Oak Gun Club at Lakewood Ranch, and Gulf Gate Village in Sarasota.

Lucy Nicandri, the executive director for Suncoast Charities for Children the festival's director, said the decision to change venues was prompted in part by economics. "Our primary focus is to do what is best for the charity, our sponsors, and attendees," Nicandri said. "The way to accomplish that is to keep expenses at a reasonable level, allow an opportunity for growth, and make everyone attending the event feel welcome. Events like Thunder By The Bay, produced by Suncoast Charities for Children, have always been free to the public and will continue."

Area businesses leaders from Lakewood Ranch have openly welcomed the festival knowing its longstanding history, economic impact it brings to the area, and revenues raised for Suncoast Charities for Children. Net proceeds from this annual event allows Suncoast Charities for Children to provide support to five local non-profit agencies that serve more than 8,000 children, teens, and adults with special needs. "We are very excited to welcome this festival to the Lakewood Ranch com-

munity, which will allow it to expand and grow," said Rex Jensen, president and CEO of Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, Inc., the devel-

oper of Lakewood Ranch. This year's Festival generated an economic impact of \$8.8 Million, an estimated 8,400 room nights, and 93% of attend-

ees surveyed indicating that they would attend the 2017 festival.

For additional festival information visit thunderbythebay.org.



Photo Provided

OFFICIAL THUNDER BY THE BAY SCHEDULE

Thursday, Jan. 5

Sporting clays tournament – Ancient Oak Gun Club

Registration 8:30 a.m. – Start time 9:30 a.m.

Friday, Jan. 6

"Cruisers and Customs" block party

Gulf Gate Village

Live music – demo displays – "Light Up The Night" bike show

6 until 11 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 7

• "Cruise for Cash" charity motorcycle ride

Registration 9:30 until 11:30 a.m. at Sarasota Ford

Fun stops with ride ending at Premier Sports Campus at Lakewood Ranch

\$4,000 in cash prizes

• "Rockin' & Ridin' at The Ranch" festival

Premier Sports Campus at Lakewood Ranch

More than 100 vendors – live music – demo displays – food court

Craft beer/wine/spirits tastings

10 a.m. until 10 p.m.

Sunday, Jan. 8

"Rockin' & Ridin' at The Ranch" festival

Premier Sports Campus at Lakewood Ranch

More than 100 vendors – live music – demo displays – food court

Craft beer/wine/spirits tastings

17 class bike show

10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

**Ancient Oak Gun Club**

16800 SR 64 East - Lakewood Ranch, FL 34212

Hours: 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. Thursday-Monday; last shooter allowed on the course no later than 4 p.m. Shooting extended to 7 p.m. on Thursdays during summer season.

941.745.5900

www.ancientoakgunclub.com

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

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

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

You need not be a member to shoot, although we do offer various memberships that afford discounts!

Scholastic Clays Target Program – kids 12 to 18: AOGC will hold an organizational meeting for kids and parents at 2 p.m. Nov. 19. We will field a team of 12- to 18-year-old sporting clays shooters. Local parents and competitive shooters, as well as Ancient Oak staff, will coach the team. NO SHOOTING EXPERIENCE OR EQUIPMENT IS NECESSARY TO GET STARTED! SSCP teaches responsibility, discipline and perseverance as well as teamwork and shooting skills. For more information visit ssfonline.org/scholastic-clay-target-program/

We are looking for people who would like to volunteer to become trappers for our registered shoots. Please call the office to learn more about the benefits of becoming a trapper and what you will receive for your participation.

For more information visit www.ancientoakgunclub.com
THE HARVEST MOON CLASSIC WILL BE HELD NOV. 12 & 13!

15th Annual Suncoast Food and Wine Fest

The 15th Annual Suncoast Food & Wine Fest, presented by the Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch, will be held at the Sarasota Polo Grounds in Lakewood Ranch from 1-4 p.m. Nov. 12. Mark your calendar to save the date. You don't want to miss this outstanding event!

Attendees will have the pleasure of sampling more than 300 American and international wines and food servings from more than 35 of the area's finest restaurants, including Apollonia Mediterranean Grill, Café Gabbiano, Brio Tuscan Grille, The Sandbar, The Capital Grille, Half Shell Oyster House, The Melting Pot, Nancy's

Bar-B-Q, Selva, Oak & Stone, and more. In addition, for every ticket purchased online, from a Club member, or at a retail outlet, attendees will receive a coupon for a free bottle of wine.

General admission tickets are \$80 per person and VIP tickets are \$150 per person.

There will be live musical entertainment, a very special silent auction, a beer tasting garden featuring craft beers, cooking demonstrations featuring local celebrity chefs, plus free parking.

The Rotary Club of Lakewood Ranch is proud to have raised more than \$1.3 million to date from


the proceeds of previous Suncoast Food and Wine Fests and has provided funding to an average of 25 charities in Sarasota and Manatee counties yearly.

Bring friends and create your own event with in an event, enjoy the festivities, experience some new tastes and good entertainment while supporting charities in Sarasota and Manatee counties.

For more information or to purchase tickets, visit the Wine Fest website at www.suncoastfoodand-winefest.com. All tickets must be purchased in advance; no tickets are sold at the gate.

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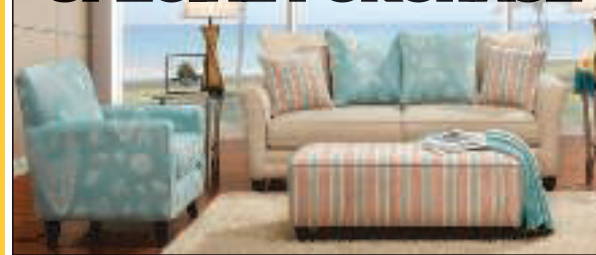
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Community Activities Corner



KYANNE MERRILL
Director of LWRCAC



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

Health & Wellness Expo – This event was a great success and we want to thank all those who attended and participated! This year we brought back a local favorite: A fresh and vibrant FARMER'S MARKET! The next Health and Wellness Expo will be February of 2017!



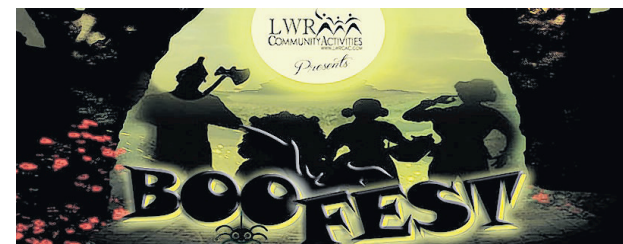
Block Party – Club Day – Join Lakewood Ranch Main Street, the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance, Lakewood Ranch Community Activities and Lakewood Ranch Communities as we kick off Tour of Homes from 5-8 p.m. Oct. 21. Lakewood Ranch Community Activities will be present; with more than 50 active social clubs, 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. If you have not joined a club, it is highly recommended you visit the club exhibits to get a feel for all they have to offer! What a great opportunity to meet neighbors and participate weekly or monthly taking trips, sharing lunch, attending informative seminars, fashion shows, and dance lessons. Many congregate to play cards or share spiritual learning lessons. If cooking, sharing recipes, learning art, playing sports or wine tasting is your interest, there is a club for you! What a fantastic amenity for new residents just moving into the community. For more information on the event and how to participate call LWR Community Activities at 941-757-1530. Visit www.lwrcac.com/club-day/ for a full list of clubs and how to join.

Boofest – Boofest is moving back to LWR Main Street on Oct. 28, and this year, to celebrate the 10-year anniversary, we are incorporating a merchant window painting contest!

Merchants can either paint their own windows or donate them to a local art student! Guidelines have been established with certain paints and supplies that are required. Students that volunteer to paint a window must provide their own supplies as outlined and meet with the merchant prior to paint day, which is scheduled for Oct. 22! This will be a great way to bring the community together and get in the festive mood leading up to Halloween and the Boofest event! The community can visit throughout the week to check out the windows; judging will begin at the Boofest event with some fantastic prizes awarded to the winners! All the details are available online. This year's Boofest is also incorporating a "Wizard of Oz"-themed event, at which everyone is encouraged to dress up. Those participating in the window painting contest can opt for a classic (please-not too scary) Halloween scene or incorporate the Wizard of Oz theme!

Boofest will be held at LWR Main Street from 6-9 p.m. Oct. 28! Park in a nearby parking area (Magnolia Park off University) and board the Haunted Trolley to Oz! Make sure you dress in costume and explore the Spooktacular Dark Maze! Children, bring your trick-or-treat bag to collect the many treats that will be given out by our generous sponsors and merchants. Music will be playing in the background and children of all ages will have a HOWLING good time. Wizard of Oz characters in eclectic costumes will be all the rage! There will be a haunted trail and kids' zone along with an all new mobile video game truck. There will be Wizard of Oz-themed picture ops with actual characters for great pics and face painting to match your costume. Tapsnap will also be there with a spooky backdrop and pictures will be made available



to you right away. A balloon artist and performances by local dance academies will also be there for your entertainment. This event is FREE. Food and beverage will be available for purchase. There are sponsorship opportunities available! Contact our office directly to learn more at 941-757-1530 or visit www.lwrcac.com/boofest.

Festa Italiana: This annual festival will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 12, at the Greenbrook Adventure Park in Lakewood Ranch. We will host a full day of stage performers to include Jimmy Mazz and the entertaining Tarantella dancers. What a great day in the park for children to experience Old World Italian traditions, pony rides, a pizza dough making contest, Venetian mask-making, noodle necklaces, magic and face painting and an all NEW kids' zone. There will be exotic Italian cars on display and roving Italian characters such as Mario and Luigi! Plenty of artisan booths will be on hand selling a unique selection of novelty items, but most important will be the wide selection of Italian food booths and wine to purchase and enjoy. For more information visit www.lwrcac.com/festa-italiana. Admission is free and plenty of parking will be available in the park. Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Come early and stay the day! The event address is 13400 Adventure Place, Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202. Head east on State Road 70 past Lakewood Ranch Blvd., right onto Greenbrook Blvd, look for the Adventure Park marquee.

CLUB NEWS AND GATHERINGS!

THE ITALIAN AMERICAN CLUB OF LWR: We are working on the 2016 Italian Fest taking place Nov. 12, as well as our schedule of events such as Sunday dinners, special speakers, winter picnic, club day, etc. we welcome any one who enjoys all things Italian to join us. Ciao...

EVENING MAH JONGG is looking for some new members. They meet Tuesdays and Thursdays at Town Hall. Contact Cindy Tench for details cindytench@gmail.com.

DOUBLE DECK PINOCHLE: All are welcome to join: young, older, married or single, expert or novice, male or female. The only requirement is to have fun! The club meets from 1 to 5 p.m. at rotating members' homes. Contact Val at valen3000@aol.com.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (CERT): All residents should be advised that hurricane season runs through Nov. 30, and we are now in the peak period for extreme weather events. If a hurricane is predicted for our area, your first priority is to

keep yourself safe; keep your family safe.

For information, checklists and useful downloads for family hurricane preparedness, visit the Lakewood Ranch CERT website at www.lwrcert.org. Email us with questions at lwrcert@gmail.com.

At its Nov. 14 general membership meeting, the Lakewood Ranch CERT will be honoring the dedicated group of residents who founded our disaster response organization back in 2006. Over the past 10 years, the organization has grown to more than 250 volunteers, trained and equipped to help their families and their neighbors should a major disaster strike our community. When first responders are spread thin, and there are significant delays before trained emergency personnel can respond, it is comforting to know that CERT volunteers in our neighborhoods are there to help.

Thanks to the foresight of the CERT founding members, our organization is one of the best equipped, best trained and best organized in the state. Each member is equipped with first aid and rescue supplies, protective gear, and radio communications, and each team has backboards, stretchers, lanterns, and additional first aid supplies.

Lakewood Ranch CERT's radio communications system is one of the most technologically advanced and comprehensive emergency communications network. FCC licensed radio operators with high-powered radio transmitters are strategically positioned around Lakewood Ranch and can relay ambulance and other emergency requests to the 911 system if cell and landline telephone systems cannot get through.

For information on disaster preparedness for Lakewood Ranch residents, or how to become a CERT volunteer in your neighborhood, visit our web site at www.lwrcert.org or email lwrcert@gmail.com.

LWR RUNNING CLUB: BooRun is scheduled for

Oct. 29.

THE LUNCH CLUB AT LAKEWOOD RANCH welcomes adults in Lakewood Ranch to enjoy a delicious lunch from the 9th Street Bistro, socialize, and explore a variety of topics presented by guest speakers, and best of all, it's affordable and fun! Exciting topics for October and November include presentations on "The Benefits of Massage," "Manatee County EMS: Do You Really Need Long Term Care Insurance?" and "Conscious Aging, Creating a New Vision of Aging." The Lunch Club meets every Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. Please contact Jackie Godlewski or Sue Taylor at 941-749-0100 for more information or to reserve your seat. Reservations are encouraged, but walk-ins are always welcome.

EVENING MAH JONGG: Evening mah jongg is played on Tuesday nights from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. We are a fun, social group. We follow the national mah jongg rules. Beginners are welcome, as well as couples, men or singles. Please come with a card to play. If you have any questions please call Cindy Tench at 941-961-4224.

BINGO: Due to the election, bingo will be held Thursday, Nov. 10.

ST. GEORGES MAH JONGG: We play a friendly game according to National mah jongg rules from 1 to 4 p.m. at LWR Town Hall. All skill levels are welcome. We do not teach. If you would like to join us please contact Aida Pyle at Ampyle41@aol.com or call 941-907-3846.

THE DEMOCRATIC CLUB meets at 7 p.m. on the second Tuesday of the month at LWR Town Hall. All folks are welcome!

MAH JONGG QUEENS: This group of Lakewood Ranch residents plays competitive mah jongg using the National Mah Jongg League rules as well as a few

2016 Calendar of Events

Oct. 21	Club Day on Main St. Block Party	LWR Main Street
Oct. 22	Merchant Window Painting Day	LWR Main Street
Oct. 28	BOO Fest	LWR Main Street
Nov. 12	Festa Italiana	Greenbrook Adventure Park
Dec. 9	Holidays Around the Ranch	LWR Main Street

For up-to-the-minute activities, events and clubs, visit our website at www.lwrcac.com. You can enjoy past pictures from all our popular events and even join our mailing list. Just enter your email in the "Get Notified" section, located on the right side of the home page.

If Facebook is your social connection of choice, you can "like" our fan page at www.facebook.com/LWRCommunityActivities. Thanks to the hundreds of residents who have already joined, we are well on our way to hearing where you are going and what you're enjoying.

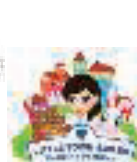
house rules. They meet weekly from 12:30 to 4 p.m. on Fridays at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. For more information about this group, please call Glenda Robertson at 941-907-8990 or email her at glenda-ron1@tampabay.rr.com.

BRIDGE ON TUESDAY GROUP: We meet the second and fourth Tuesday of every month. You are welcome anytime you like. We usually play from 1 to 4 p.m.

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Old information center purchase a dead issue?

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

For several months now, an ad hoc committee that had been established to look into the possible lease or purchase of the old Lakewood Ranch Information Center building, located on Lakewood Ranch Boulevard south of State Road 70, has been meeting among themselves and with representatives of Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, the developer of Lakewood Ranch and the owner of the property. The group was studying the possibility of purchasing or leasing the building for use as a poten-

tial community center.

Apparently, along with unanswered questions relating to security and staffing, no agreement to purchase, lease, or otherwise acquire the property appeared to be in the offing. At its last meeting on Sept. 6, the committee voted to take no further action on the matter.

The District 1 Board of Supervisors (District 1 governs the area where the old information center is located), at their Sept. 15 meeting, voted to dismiss the committee with thanks for their efforts.

District 1 residents had expressed their preference that the structure be turned into a community or youth

center, rather than be converted to commercial use.

STATE ROAD 70/GREENBROOK BOULEVARD WEST SIGNAL LIGHT

At the District 4 CDD Board meeting, Supervisor Keith Davey reported that the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of State Road 70 and Greenbrook Boulevard West, which had originally been scheduled for completion in November of this year, would be pushed back until after the first of the new year.

Residents had been requesting a traffic signal at that intersection for some time, especially since

the development of the apartment complex on the north side of State Road 70 has resulted in a large increase in the number of vehicles turning on to State Road 70 in that area.

LED LIGHTING

Bids have been received for the conversion of street lights in Lakewood Ranch to LED lighting, and a "test area" has been set up on Lakewood Ranch Boulevard to enable officials to select just which variety of LED fixtures they want to have installed. The LED lighting project is seen as a way to promote better street illumination while making for a lower energy cost to residents.

The new fixtures would be installed atop current light poles, so there will be no need to erect new poles, unless a need for new poles in a particular area is seen as warranted.

The test lighting fixtures were installed in September, and a decision as to which type of fixture will be used will be made in October.

TREE TRIMMING/REMOVAL

During the District 2 CDD Board meeting, the board discussed whether the district should get involved in the removal of trees or the trimming of roots on those trees that might be contributing to a safety issue.

Normally the district does not get involved in such trimming, but attorney Andrew Cohen offered his opinion that if a tree is creating a safety issue (such as root growth lifting a section of sidewalk), the district should take appropriate action to ensure public safety.

FINANCIAL AUDITS

Finance Director Steve

Zielinski reported to the district boards that the annual financial audits of district books have begun, and should be completed by year-end.

Zielinski also noted that irrigation water bills from Braden River Utilities had gone down in August, but not as much as expected, given the large amount of rainfall. One reason may be the discovery of a major leak in a main pipe along State Road 70.

The District 6 CDD Board did not meet in September due to the lack of a quorum.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Executive Director Anne Ross noted that the annual Lakewood Ranch Shred Day would take place Oct. 22.
- Early voting for the November general election starts at the Town Hall on Oct. 24.

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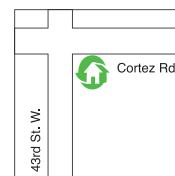
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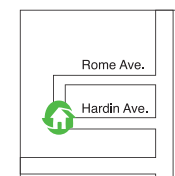


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CareNet Manasota.

Lakewood Ranch Community Fund Awards Grants

At a ceremony in September, the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund announced the recipients of 24 grants totaling \$82,500, as well as the honorees for the Humanitarian of the Year award.

Organizations as diverse as food pantries and an animal welfare group were awarded monies ranging from \$500 to more than \$6,000. John Fain and Angela Massaro Fain

were named the 2017 recipients of the C. John A. Clarke Humanitarian Award, which is presented each year to honor individuals who have distinguished themselves through their high professional standards, unwavering ethical and moral values, and steadfast dedication to improve the quality of life for people in our community. The couple owns Grapevine Com-

munications, and have given some \$1.7 million to area nonprofits. They will be formally recognized at the March 18, Dixieland jazz-themed Community Fund Gala, held at Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club.

In 2000, the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund was developed to serve the people and interests of the Lakewood Ranch community, and allow

donor-allocated funds to stay in the region, serving a variety of charitable interests.

The LWR Community Fund's mission is to "enhance the quality of life in and near our community by promoting philanthropy, responding to community needs and granting funds."

The fund is set up under the umbrella of the larger Manatee Community Foun-

dation to reduce management costs and allow more assets to remain in the community. A board of advisors is responsible for seeking out donations, reviewing grant proposals and distributing funding.

Since 2002 the Fund has awarded more than \$1.1 million in grants to 100 local nonprofit organizations. For more information about the fund, visit lwrfund.org



Early Learning Coalition.



St. Joseph Food Pantry.



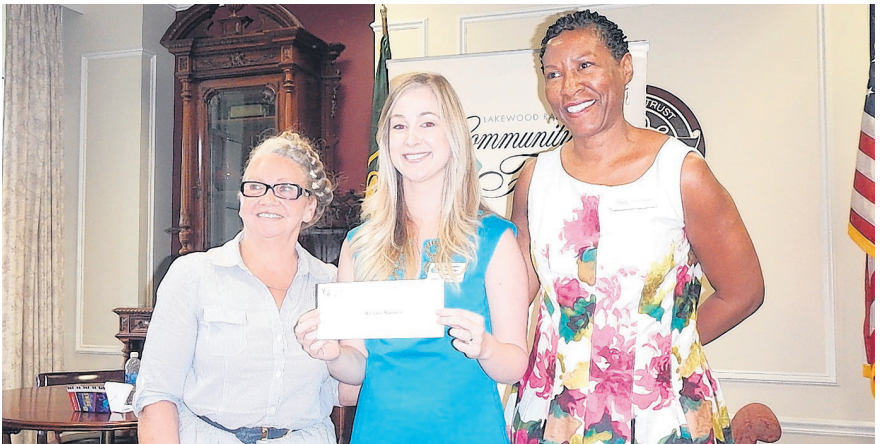
Visible Men Academy.



Girl Scouts.



Stillpoint.



We Care Manatee.

Lakewood Ranch Community Fund Fall Grants 2016		
Organization	Grant Amount	ProgramName
Bashaw Elementary School	\$500.00	To purchase (8) Earthbox kits, plants and seeds.
Braden River Elementary School	\$2,534.00	To purchase ESE classroom therapeutic equipment
Care Net Manasota Pregnancy Center, Inc.	\$2,500.00	To purchase diapers, Pack n Play cribs, and "Earn While You Learn" lesson materials
Childrens Guardian Fund, Inc.	\$3,000.00	To support enrichmnet for children in foster and state care
Community Haven for Adults and Children with Disabilities	\$3,500.00	To support the "Transitions" program for Manatee County special needs students aged 14-22
Early Learning Coalition of Manatee County, Inc.	\$1,500.00	To purchase "Raising a Reader" book-kits
Easter Seals Southwest Florida, Inc.	\$5,000.00	To support "Project Rainbow" providing respite care and case management service
Family Network on Disabilities of Manatee/Sarasota	\$3,500.00	To provide 8 hours a month of in-home respite care services to Lakewood Ranch families
Foundation for Dreams, Inc.	\$5,000.00	To support Dream Oaks Camp
Girl Scouts of Gulfcoast Florida, Inc.	\$2,500.00	To support "STEAM Saturday" program
Giving Alliance of Myakka City, Inc.	\$1,000.00	To support the annual "Angel Tree" program
Healthy Start Coalition of Manatee County, Inc.	\$2,100.00	To purchase pack n' play cribs for infants - Infant Safe Sleep Campaign
Humane Society at Lakewood Ranch, Inc.	\$5,000.00	To provide spay/neuter vouchers at the Remote Area Medical Pet Clinic in November
InStride Therapy, Inc.	\$3,600.00	To provide hippotherapy sessions to Lakewood Ranch resident(s)
Mark Wandall Foundation, Inc.	\$2,400.00	To support/underwrite two children with clinical care and a private camp experience
Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee, Inc.	\$3,766.00	To purchase an electric slicer/bowl cutter for the kitchen
Neuro Challenge Foundation, Inc.	\$5,000.00	To support the expansion of Parkinson's services and programs into Lakewood Ranch
Project Light of Manatee, Inc.	\$4,800.00	To purchase instructional materials and office supplies
Samaritan Counseling Services of the Gulf Coast, Inc.	\$3,000.00	To support mental health counseling for low-income, underinsured or uninsured LWR residents
St. Joseph Food Pantry	\$3,000.00	To provide nutritious food bags to the homeless in Manatee County
Stillpoint House of Prayer	\$6,500.00	To support the community outreach program
Tidewell Hospice, Inc.	\$3,000.00	To support grief and bereavement counseling for residents of Lakewood Ranch
Visible Men Academy	\$4,800.00	To purchase iReady reading and math on line curriculum software licenses
We Care Manatee, Inc.	\$5,000.00	To support diabetes and asthma disease management program and services
24 Grants Totaling:		\$82,500.00

COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

October 21st – Third Friday

- Art Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- CLUB DAY ON MAIN STREET/BLOCK PARTY 5 to 8 p.m.

October 22nd – Fourth Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field 1, 9 a.m.

October 23rd – Fourth Sunday

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

October 24th – Fourth Monday

- Women's Exercise, Woodland Baptist, 9 a.m.
- Art Club, Town Hall, noon
- Adult Soccer, soccer field 1, 5:30 p.m.
- Jewish Club, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

October 25th – Fourth Tuesday

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

October 26th – Fourth Wednesday

- Woman'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 27th – Fourth Thursday

- Women's Golf, Legacy, 7:30 a.m.
- Ladies' Devotional Hour, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday Bridge Club, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.

October 28th – Fourth Friday

- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.

October 29th – Fourth Saturday

- Adult Soccer, Summerfield Park, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field 1, 9 a.m.

October 30th – Fifth Sunday

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

October 31st – Fifth Monday

- Art Club, Town Hall, noon
- Adult Soccer, soccer field 1, 5:30 p.m.

November 1st – First Tuesday

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

November 2nd – First Wednesday

- Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, Summerfield Park, 5:30 p.m.

November 3rd – First Thursday

- Ladies' Devotional Hour, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.

November 4th – First Friday

- Women's Club, board meeting, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- MUSIC ON MAIN STREET, 6-9 p.m.

November 5th – First Saturday

- Adult Soccer, Summerfield Park, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field 1, 9 a.m.
- Scribes Club, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

November 6th – First Sunday

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

November 7th – First Monday

- Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art Club, Town Hall, noon
- Garden Club board meeting, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Genealogy Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

November 8th – Second Tuesday

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

November 9th – Second Wednesday

- Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Community Activities, Town Hall, 5 p.m.
- Digital Photography, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

November 10th – Second Thursday

- Financial Forum, Caddy Shack in River Club, 9 a.m.
- Ladies' Devotional Hour, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Thursday Bridge Club, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Bingo, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Women's Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

November 11th – Second Friday

- Art Club, Town Hall, noon

November 12th – Second Saturday

- Adult Soccer, Summerfield Park, 8 a.m.
- Creative Arts Annual Fall Show, Town Hall, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field 1, 9 a.m.
- FESTA ITALIANA, Adventure Park, 11 a.m.

November 13th – Second Sunday

- Digital Photography, Town Hall, 8 a.m.
- Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 and 2, 2 p.m.
- Jewish Club, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

November 14th – Second Monday

- Garden Club, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Art Club, Town Hall, noon
- Democratic Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

November 15th – Third Tuesday

- Lunch Club, Town Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- Empty Nesters, Town Hall, 12:30 p.m.
- Evening Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

November 16th – Third Wednesday

- Women's Club new member coffee, Town Hall, 9:30 p.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Women's Book Club, Town Hall, 1 p.m.

November 17th – Third Thursday

- Ladies' Devotional Hour, Town Hall, 9:30 p.m.
- St. George's Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 1 p.m.

- History Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
- Jewish Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
- Financial Forum, Caddy Shack in River Club, 9 a.m.

November 18th – Third Friday

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

November 19th – Third Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field 1, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field 1, 9 a.m.
- Scribes Club, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

November 20th – Third Sunday

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

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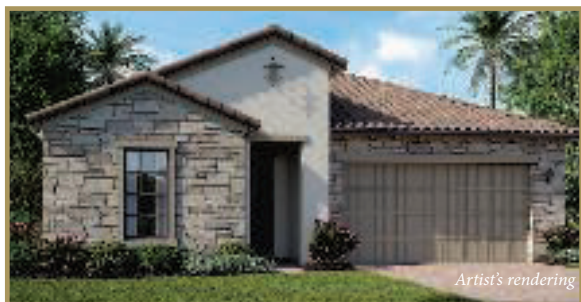


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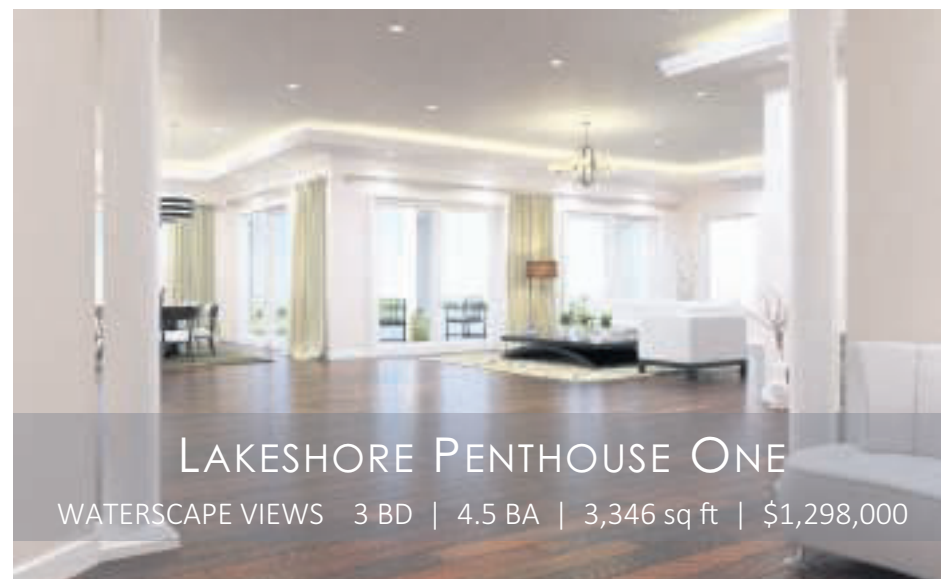


GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

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

October 19	10 a.m.	CDD 4 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	10:15 a.m.	CDD 4 Board Meeting 907-0202
	3 p.m.	CEVA Safety Meeting 907-6999
	4 p.m.	GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
	6 p.m.	GBVA Board Meeting 907-0202
	7 p.m.	SRVA Landscape Meeting 296-4028
October 20	8:30 a.m.	CDD 1 Board Meeting 907-0202
	9 a.m.	CDD 2 & 5 Board Meetings 907-0202
	10:30 a.m.	CDD 6 Board Meeting 907-0202
	2 p.m.	CEVA Violations 907-0202
October 24	4 p.m.	Augusta/Oakmont Neighborhood Meeting 907-6999
	5:30 p.m.	Hollow Board Meeting 752-4812
October 25	8:30 a.m.	SRVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
	3 p.m.	CEVA Board Meeting 907-0202
October 26	1 p.m.	Country Club Modifications Meeting 907-0202
	3 p.m.	Edgewater Modifications Meeting 907-0202
	7 p.m.	SRVA Board Meeting 907-0202
November 2	4 p.m.	GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
November 3	3 p.m.	CEVA Restriction Revisions Meeting 907-9745
	7 p.m.	Weston Neighborhood Committee Meeting 587-7245
November 8	8:30 a.m.	SRVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
November 9	1 p.m.	Country Club Modifications Meeting 907-0202
	3 p.m.	Edgewater Modifications Meeting 907-0202
	7 p.m.	Gleneagles Neighborhood Meeting 306-5107
	7 p.m.	Stone Ridge Neighborhood Annual Meeting 306-5083
	9 a.m.	CDD 6 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
November 14	3 p.m.	CEVA Board Workshop 907-0202
	8 a.m.	IDA Board Meeting 907-0202
November 15	10 a.m.	CDD 1 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	1 p.m.	CDD 2 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	2:30 p.m.	CDD 5 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	7 p.m.	SRVA Annual Board Meeting 907-0202

*Meeting dates and times are subject to change



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Fruit of the vine: Taste a few at Cheers to Wine

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

The ancient Romans had a saying, "In Vino Veritas," which they got from the ancient Greeks (like a lot of other things, such as whole pantheon of gods).

"In Vino Veritas" translates into "In wine there is truth," which may be the reason that people are expected, after a few glasses, to be more truthful than they might be without the taking of the grape.

But whether wine succeeds in producing truth or not, there is a place right here in Lakewood Ranch that caters to the discriminating wine enthusiast, as well as to those whose past wine experience runs to the likes of the cheap, screw-top-bottle stuff they bought in college when the aim was quantity, and not necessarily quality.

Cheers To Wine, located in the San Marco Plaza, is the creation of Robin and Carmen Spagnola, whose wine loving credentials go back to their early years in Connecticut. They were formerly co-chairs of the Fairfield County chapter of the American Wine Society. Carmen's experience also includes teaching both winemaking classes and wine appreciation classes, along with being an officer of the American Wine Society's national executive board. He's also a member of the Society of Wine Educators!

Robin notes that when they were checking out



Photo by Ernie Soller

communities in Florida in planning for their retirement adventures, they had seen several other areas, but she remembers that she fell in love with Lakewood Ranch. When Carmen suggested that they continue their search, she told him that she wanted a home in the Lakewood Ranch Country Club – period – and that she was not at all interested in looking at any other locations! So they came to Lakewood Ranch, and later established Cheers To Wine in San Marco.

Now just what sort of wine shop is Cheers To Wine?

For starters, part of the fun of Cheers To Wine comes from the fact that a

customer can actually learn about wine, wine-making, and the various types of wine, in an atmosphere of fun. You see, Cheers To Wine has a weekly wine tasting event, held around their in-house wine bar, from 6 to 8 p.m. every Friday night. For the princely sum of five bucks, you'll be able to taste several choice wines of various types. One woman, who described herself as a regular attendee, commented that the weekly wine tastings were like a gathering of old friends – very casual and convivial.

I decided to take advantage of this event one evening, and not only did I get to try out several interesting wines, I also got

to have a conversation with the distributor of the particular Italian wines being served, who told me a lot about the vineyards they came from and how some of the wine was created. For instance, I learned that one wine (I actually bought a bottle of this delightful stuff!) was created from grapes picked over a total of seven harvests, running from September to December, in order to heighten the sweetness of the product. The reason for the several harvests is that the winemaker waited until a certain number of grapes had attained their full sweetness right on the vine before harvesting them. Some grapes ma-

tured earlier, and so were picked earlier. Others were picked later. The distributor also noted that the vineyard that produced this wine was probably smaller in area than the entire "footprint" of San Marco Plaza!

Now, as to what goes with wine, Cheers To Wine carries a number of goodies to accentuate your wine enjoyment. Your Cheers To Wine staffer can guide you in choosing from a selection of meats, cheeses, and even chocolate. That's right – CHOCOLATE! After all, chocolate is one of the major food groups, isn't it? Believe it or not, Cheers To Wine carries Brix chocolates, which are specially formulated to perfectly match up with different varieties of wine. As the saying goes ... "Try it! You'll like it!"

If you're a new customer, you might notice that at Cheers To Wine, the bottles are not displayed in groups based on the particular variety of wine, such as Cabernet, Chardonnay, etc. Instead, they are grouped by whether they are red or white wines, and whether the particular wine is, for red wines, bold, mellow or fruity, and for white wines, whether the wine is crisp, silky or rich. There are other categories for champagnes and extra sweet wines.

Cheers To Wine offers customers the opportunity to become members of their Wine Club. Wine Club membership allows the customer to purchase wine at a lower price than non-members, and the

weekly wine tastings are included as a no-charge perk.

Admittedly, there are some among us who aren't all that fond of wine. To enable these fine folks to enjoy some liquid refreshment either on their own, or while their friends are partaking of the wine tasting event, Cheers to Wine carries a good stock of craft beers, in bottles large enough to satisfy a big thirst. These beers are also categorized as to their type, be it robust, earthy, or sweet. If you want to sit down for a while and drink your beer (or wine) chilled, just say the word and Cheers To Wine will happily chill it for you in a jiffy – while you wait!

I have certain friends who are definitely confirmed wine enthusiasts. So, what to get them for a gift which won't duplicate something they might already have?

Cheers To Wine carries a selection of items which will make your friends take notice of your imagination, from wine-related cocktail napkins printed with snappy sayings ("It's Wine Thirty!"), to decanters, corkscrews, wine carriers, glasses of various types and sizes, etc.

So, if you know someone whom you feel might need to be more truthful, or you just want to procure a great bottle of wine, check out Cheers To Wine, in San Marco Plaza.

Cheers To Wine is open Monday and Saturday from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Tuesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m., and is closed on Sunday. Visit cheers-to-wine.com.

Southeastern Guide Dogs holds graduation at LWR's Polo Grill

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

Is there any dog more beautiful than a golden retriever? That rich, brilliant color; that flowing, long-haired image when the golden takes off running after a Frisbee. That calm grace and unending love.

Well, perhaps there is something better, and it comes in the form of a Southeastern Guide Dogs trained dog, be it a golden retriever, Labrador retriever, or a mix of golden and Lab.

Southeastern Guide Dogs is the only certified guide dog training school in the southeastern region of the United States, and one of only around 20 nationwide.

This summer, Southeastern Guide Dogs held a graduation ceremony for the most recent teams of sight-limited students and their guide dogs at Lakewood Ranch's Polo Grill ballroom.

One of the graduates, along with his new guide dog, Kevin, was Chris McNamee, a Lakewood Ranch resident, who had been a manufacturing executive back in Wisconsin, but was forced by the effects of retinitis pigmentosa, a progressively degenerative eye disease, to retire. McNamee had been paired early on with his now-retired guide dog,

Max, who had helped him walk his daughter down the aisle at her wedding in Italy. Every one of the graduates made comments on their experiences, and McNamee noted that Southeastern Guide Dogs was "an incredible organization." McNamee is now a board member at Southeastern, and was the chairman of the recent walkathon, held in ... Lakewood Ranch, of course!

Southeastern specializes in two prime types of trained dogs: The first type are those dogs that are trained to be the sight and "leader" for an individual who is blind, or whose sight has been compromised by disease to the point that they are not able to function without assistance.

The second type are those which, through Southeastern's Paws for Patriots program, are trained to work with members of our military who have been either rendered blind by their combat experience, have severe physical limitations from those experiences, or those whose lives have been scarred by Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

All this training takes place at Southeastern Guide Dogs' campus located in Palmetto. There, puppies are bred, using scientific breeding methods in order to produce

the healthiest, most intelligent, trainable dogs. The puppies are given the opportunity to play with visitors to the Southeastern campus, and after "preschool and kindergarten" are then given over to "puppy raisers" - volunteers who take the puppies home and socialize them, in their own family setting, taking the puppies out into the world in order to prepare them for their training.

At 14-18 months, the dogs are returned to the Southeastern campus to undergo their "college education." At this stage, they are assessed to determine what "major" they will pursue in their careers.

A guide dog major involves six months of formal training, plus a 26-day session together with a student-handler, who will graduate with the dog as a team.

The service dog major involves a similar six-month period of training followed by a specialized session to enable the dog and their veteran-partner overcome the effects of PTSD.

Some dogs are selected for the facility therapy major. These dogs will be working in military medical centers to interact with both injured soldiers and their families in aiding their recovery.

Since the quality of the guide and service dogs



Photo by Ernie Soller

trained by Southeastern is of prime importance, some dogs are placed into the breeding program. Volunteers assist in this phase by taking the mother dogs into their homes.

In addition to the four major "career paths," some dogs are selected to be public service dogs,

which may involve training in areas such as explosives detection and arson investigation. Other dogs can become companion dogs to children with vision problems, while still others may become "ambassador dogs," helping to educate the public about Southeastern Guide Dogs.

After their "work lives" are completed, the former guide or service dogs are retired, and some go back to their puppy raisers to live out their retirement.

The keynote speaker for the graduation ceremony at the Polo Grill was Tracey Rhodes, a former paramedic in Charlotte, N.C. Rhodes told how she was a functioning paramedic one day, driving an ambulance around Charlotte, and the next day was judged legally blind. She found herself without a career, and had originally relied on her children to help her navigate through her life. But her children got older, and developed lives of their own. Rhodes realized that she could not rely on her kids forever and, having remembered meeting puppy raisers years before at Disney World, finally applied to get a guide dog. Today, with her guide dog Gary, a golden retriever, Rhodes has, in her words, "gained a measure of independence she didn't know was possible." Her experience at Southeastern was so life-changing that Rhodes moved to Florida and now works at Southeastern.

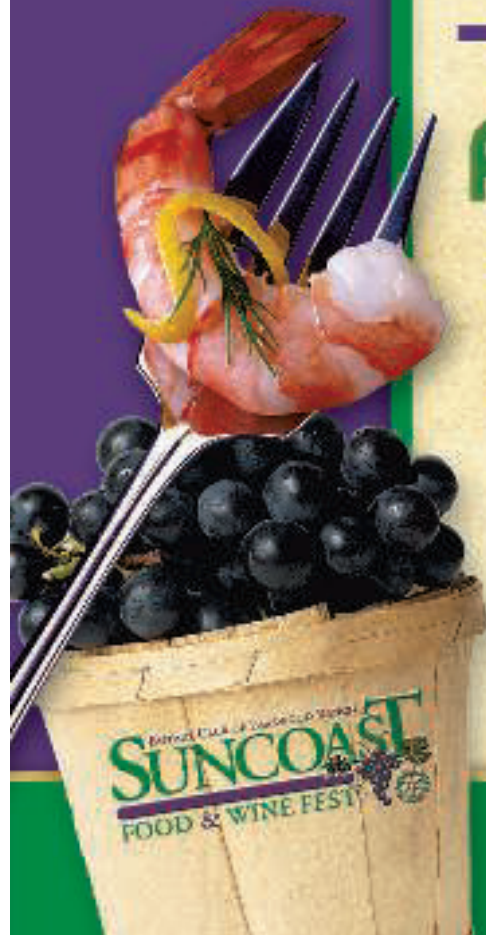
Rhodes' challenge to the graduates: "Let every day be an adventure." She noted that as Southeastern grads, they are "part of the pack, and it takes a pack to create a superhero."

Southeastern Guide Dogs offers tours of their training campus, and playing with a bunch of little furry puppies as part of your tour is a treat not to be missed.

You can become a volunteer, and a member of the pack! For more information on Southeastern Guide Dogs, go to GuideDogs.org



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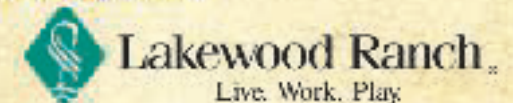
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WE'VE GOT A FRIEND!

Antonio Saviano, director of Premier Sports Campus, received the Friends of Soccer award from the Florida Youth Soccer Association (FYSA) on Aug. 13. The award represents a partnership with FYSA and his continued support of the youth programs. Saviano has worked hard to grow the soccer programs at the Premier Sports Campus and is committed to its future success.



Photo Provided

Premier Sports Campus Little Star

Name:

Austin Downing

What school do you attend?

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What grade are you in?

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What is your favorite food?

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SHREK

FEBRUARY 24, 2017 (PG)

RIO

MARCH 31, 2017 (PG)

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