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THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2019



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Lakewood Ranch CDD Boards Approve Final Fiscal 2020 Budgets

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

At their August meetings, the Community Development District boards of Lakewood Ranch approved their final fiscal year 2020 district budgets.

In general, the assessment increases for residents will not go up significantly.

Budgets were increased slightly, even though expenditures in some cases were expected to decrease. One reason for this lies with road work in districts 2 and 5, where extensive repaving and drain correction work has been going on, work which carried with it a large cost. Since much of this work was paid for out of road reserves rather than special assessments, these reserves now have to be built up again, so that money will be available to handle future needed work.

Per Finance Director Steve Zielinski, the budgets of the Lakewood Ranch CDDs are “good, sound budgets.”

In addition to passing their budgets for fiscal 2020, the Lakewood Ranch CDD boards also approved their participation in the Manatee County Property Appraiser nondisclosure agreement. This new measure is intended to keep personal information contained in property assessment records from becoming public.

The boards also approved revised notices of public financing – a move intended to educate residents and prospective home buyers as to the public financing (bond issues, etc.) that they become a part of in purchasing a home in Lakewood Ranch.

District 5 Supervisor Alan Silverglat went on record stating, for the understanding of residents, that Manatee County charges each district a fee for collecting CDD assessments.

District 2 Board Chairman Pete Bokach noted that the area’s infrastructure is getting older, and that additional repairs would certainly be needed in the future as a result of this ageing.

During the District 6 Board meeting, resident Angela Johnson inquired as to a budget item of \$3,900 for signs. Supervisor Robert Crain replied that the district was upgrading certain road signs and, in addition, the electronic radar feedback speed detection signs the district has installed require a certain amount of regular upkeep, such as the replace-

ment of light bulbs.

HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

The boards passed measures allowing contracting for the placement of holiday decorations around district entrances and monument signs.

In District 1, the board discussed whether to place decorations around neighborhood monument signs in addition to the entrance area at Lakewood Ranch Boulevard and State Road 70. The board elected to contract for the intersection display only, while leaving the decision to put up additional decorations to the HOA, after several supervisors gave their opinions as to whether spending money on additional decorations (which had not been put up in previous years) might or might not be supported by some residents.

TRANSPONDERS

The old transponders used to gain access to the Lakewood Ranch Country Club will be deactivated very shortly, as the old sensing equipment is removed from service at the various gates to the Country Club.

A majority of residents have already gotten their new transponders, but slightly over 10% still are using the soon-to-be obsolete units.

Once the old sensing equipment has been removed, the old transponders will not open the gates, and residents who have failed to obtain a new transponder will have to use manned gates only, until they get their new transponders.

PRESIDIO DRAINAGE ISSUE

Engineer Richard Ellis commented on the drainage problem in the Presidio neighborhood, noting that at present, there does not seem to be a solution that will totally solve the problem of rainwater drainage in that area. He stated that in the case of some residents’ yards, there is just nowhere for the water to go.

Operations Director Paul Chetlain, who has had conversations with a contractor on the problem, stated that the challenge is how to collect the rainwater and run it where it needs to go.

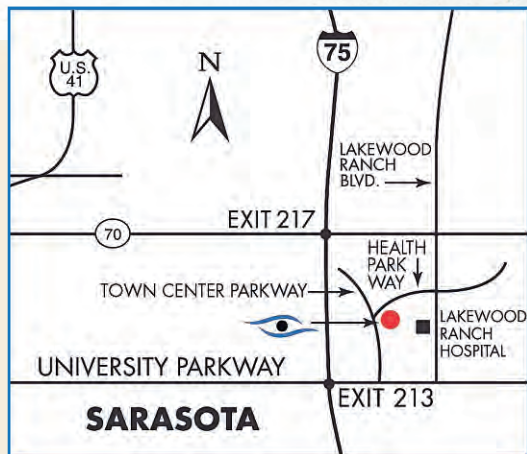
Presidio resident Mike Thompson questioned whether a broken pavement area on Lorraine Road was contributing to the problem.



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Taylor Morrison To Open New Community in LWR

Taylor Morrison is bringing a new community, Azario, to Lakewood Ranch.

Taylor Morrison's Azario Lakewood Ranch will offer two distinctive neighborhoods – Esplanade at Azario Lakewood Ranch, a signature Esplanade resort lifestyle and golf neighborhood, and Park East at Azario, a single-family home neighborhood with dedicated planned amenities.

"Azario Lakewood Ranch is an exciting new addition to Lakewood Ranch, the most desired location for new housing in Sarasota and Manatee counties," said Cammie Longenecker, division president of Taylor Morrison Southwest Florida. "Both our award-winning resort lifestyle neighborhood Esplanade and our Park East neighborhood will offer stunning new homes with quality Taylor Morrison construction, exciting amenities, and a luxurious lifestyle every homebuyer deserves."

Esplanade at Azario Lakewood Ranch plans to offer a "new level of inspired living" with a beautiful selection of homes that perfectly suit the Esplanade lifestyle, officials said. Esplanade at Azario residents will have access to a planned, private 18-hole golf course and planned resort amenities that include a wellness center, culinary center, resort-style pool, Bahama bar, sports courts, state-of-the-art fitness center, fire pits, and a full-time lifestyle manager located on-site to plan special events, parties, and much more for the residents.

Ground was recently broken for the Azario Lakewood Ranch's golf course. Designed by award-winning architect and veteran course designer Chris Wilczynski, ASGCA, in conjunction with Ryangolf Corporation, the 18-hole golf course is expected to be completed in late first quar-



ter/early second quarter of 2020.

The golf course is planned to feature stunning views and tee locations for all players to make it both friendly and challenging. Each fairway will be unique while being fun, playable, and aesthetically beautiful. The course will have six sets of tees and play from 6,900 to 3,600 yards.

"It's always a pleasure to be working with Taylor Morrison, and I am excited about this course," Wilczynski, said. "We are working really hard to design and construct 18 different holes and greens. The detailed planning process and hands on approach during construction allow us to create this. One of our main goals is to create a course that will be enjoyed by players with a range of golf abilities from beginners to experts."

Park East at Azario will offer a selection of distinctive single-family homes paired with planned neighborhood amenities. All floor plans will include features inspired

by Taylor Morrison homeowners, flexible customizing options per plan and architecture that will complement the community. Residents of Park East will have access to planned, dedicated amenities within their neighborhood.

Situated off of State Road 64 on Lorraine Road, residents of Azario Lakewood Ranch will have quick access to employment corridors in Lakewood Ranch, Sarasota and Bradenton. School-aged children living at Azario Lakewood Ranch will attend highly-rated Manatee County schools.

For more information about Taylor Morrison and the Azario Lakewood Ranch community, visit AzarioLakewoodRanch.com or call 866-495-6006.



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LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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



Dear growers, harvesters, artisans, bakers, and food vendors alike: The Market is almost here for its third season with a brand-new location, time, and day! The Market will now take place at the Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, located in the heart of Lakewood Ranch across from Main Street and closer to I-75, on Sundays. Activities will be centered on our vendors and their unique offerings, allowing them to capture even more people looking to fill their grocery bags for the week. Rise and shine for the 10 a.m. start, and stay until 2 p.m! This time slot will enable you to capture foot traffic from folks already spending their Sunday mornings and early afternoons on Main Street.



Keith Pandeloglou
Director of LWRCAC

Every Sunday from Nov. 3 through April

26, get ready to enjoy live music, cooking demonstrations, free yoga, and family-friendly activities, all while stocking up on organic produce, meat, poultry, eggs, bread, pasta, juices, and prepared foods. The Market was created in 2017 and is supported by Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, Inc., the developer of Lakewood Ranch. Three years ago, The Market was created to enhance our community's connection with local food and provide a weekly family outing!

If you're a previous lover of The Market, good news – Veggie Box subscriptions are now open! Receive weekly veggie boxes packed with an assortment of organic vegetables, including salad greens, cooking greens, root crops, fruiting vegetables, and culinary herbs delivered right to the Lakewood Ranch Medical Center on Wednesdays. To subscribe and for more information, visit themarketlwr.com.

Vendor applications for The Market are also officially open! And don't wait until the last minute to register, we're expecting this Market season to be the biggest and best yet. Due to the high interest, please allow approximately 30 days for a response to your

application. Visit themarketlwr.com for more information and to fill out the application. For pricing, please email themarket@lakewoodranch.com.

Here's your monthly selection of LWR community groups and social club events to help you find a fun activity. Sign up today to meet new neighbors, get engaged, and have fun!

CLUBS

HISTORY CLUB meets on the third Tuesday of each month at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall to learn about diverse aspects of U.S. and global history. Many of the speakers featured are university professors, lawyers, or other professionals who bring a degree of expertise to the subjects they discuss. For more information contact Rover Toplin at RBTKLB@gmail.com or at (434)229-6958.

ART CLUB invites all LWR residents who love to paint, draw, or sculpt, to join! Are you artistic or creative? Or maybe you're not sure and would just like to try something new? The Art Club meets on Mondays for painting and Fridays for classes at noon at Town Hall. For more information contact Lydia Kaeyer at kaeyer@roadrunner.com or at (207)542-9268.

SUGAR stands for Showing Unconditional Goodwill and Respect. SUGAR is a volunteer-run organization for students looking to earn community service hours, and to inspire children to give back to the community at a young age. For more information and to get involved, contact Stefanie Guido at info@sugarvolunteers.com.

HANDCRAFTS AND MORE CLUB meets every first and third Monday of each month at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall from 10 a.m.-noon. The purpose of this club is to get together in a social setting and share ideas about all types of crafts, while working on your craft of choice and socializing with other women. If you want to learn a craft such as knitting, needlepoint, cross stitch crochet, or beading, this club is for you! For more information, contact Karen Marinoff at kkmarinoff@aol.com or at (941)751-6918.

BRIDGE CLUB meets every second and fourth Tuesday of the month at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. They play from 1-4 p.m. For more information contact Elaine Nutlay at ern918@gmail.com or at (941)907-8457.

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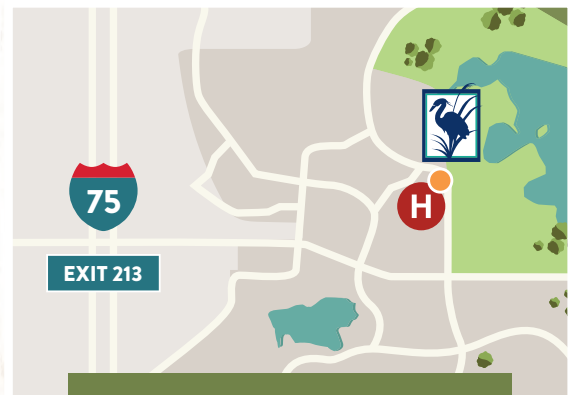


Social media sources for LWR Community Activities: www.lwrcac.com • facebook.com/LWRCommunityActivites

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Our season will begin early this year; just in time for our Market go-ers to have access to everything they will need for the upcoming holidays. Not to mention, an even longer season with a new location, day and time!



NEW LOCATION!

The Market is moving to the Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, conveniently located in the heart of Lakewood Ranch, across from Main Street and closer to I-75.



NEW DAY!

Sundays will be Market days! Activities will be centered on our vendors and their unique offerings, allowing them to spend even more time with Market-goers.



NEW TIME!

Rise and shine for 10 a.m. opening, and stay until 2 p.m. This time slot will enable folks already spending their Sunday mornings and early afternoons on Main Street to come visit.

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Manatee Players' production of *Buddy, The BUDDY HOLLY* Story musical hits Manatee Performing Arts Center main stage

When Buddy Holly died in a plane crash in 1959, along with fellow stars Richie Valens and the Big Bopper, it was known as the "day the music died." Only 22 at the time of his death, Holly already had become a pioneer of rock and roll.

Buddy, The BUDDY HOLLY Story, which premiered in London in 1989 and ran 14 years in the West End tells of the years in which Buddy redefined the music industry. The upcoming Manatee Players' production features over 20 of Buddy Holly's greatest hits, including "Peggy Sue," "That'll be the Day," "Oh Boy," and "Raining in my Heart." This show is sure to be a hit for all who attend.

Director Preston Boyd and Musical Director/Conductor Rick Bogner have assembled top-notch vocalists and a six-member onstage orchestra. Neither Preston Boyd nor Rick Bogner are strangers to our regional theater scene, entertaining audiences for more than 70 years combined.

Preston who has directed more than 71 full-scale productions over the past 35 years began his involvement with the Manatee Players' in 1980's alongside his sons, Dorian and Colin. "It was only natural that my wife, Priscilla, and I became involved with the theatre when our sons showed a personal interest," said Preston. "I took some directing classes in college and grad school, but didn't really start directing plays until around 1989."

A former Drama and Music teacher at Saint Stephen's Episcopal School (1990-2014) Preston started out as a music major, but realized soon he was getting cast in all the college productions as an actor. So, he decided to switch his

major to Drama, and obtained a Master's degree in Theatre Education. Preston joined Actors' Equity Association in 1976 and worked professionally in several cities before moving to Florida in 1981.

Preston and Rick have worked together on other shows and both are sure to come up with some fresh and surprising ideas for this production. "We enjoy working together in ways that complement our respective visions. It looks like it will be a fun experience to work on this show. If it ain't fun, it ain't worth it," said Preston.

Lakewood Ranch resident, Katie Priest, a recent graduate from Florida State University where she obtained her BA in Music possesses many of the skills needed to perform in a show like this and was ready for auditions. After nearly six years away from the area pursuing her education and career, Katie was excited to be cast as Vi Petty and various other ensemble roles.

The wife of Norman Petty, Vi Petty, has a good heart and sense of humor. Vi can sing and play the piano, so when looking for the right actor to play the part, Katie was a natural fit.

Participating in voice and piano lessons and competitions from an early age, Katie now teaches lessons at Saint Stephen's Episcopal School where she enjoys exposing and educating her students on the craft of music while watching their skill and confidence grow.

In preparing for the role of Vi Petty, Katie will rely on her parents who have always exposed her to the golden age music. Katie also plans on watching an old recording she found of the production to better familiarize herself with the role.

Join us October 24 - November 10 as the cast and crew of *Buddy, The BUDDY HOLLY* Story take us back in time to relive the good old days.

Single tickets for *Buddy, The BUDDY HOLLY* Story are on sale now. To purchase tickets please visit our website or call the Box Office at 941-748-5875.

Save up to 12% off our single ticket prices by choosing to become a season subscriber.



Lakewood Ranch resident and Retired Freedom Elementary Music Teacher, Rick Bogner obtained his BA in Music Education from Montclair State University in New Jersey. An expert in his field, Rick taught for a total of 38 years, 30 of which were here in Manatee County. Most recently Rick was the Musical Director/Conductor of Manatee Players' West Side Story.

With a passion for not only theater but theater education Rick uses his teaching background to train up volunteer actors to professional quality. He believes musical theater provides all participants the opportunity to grow in every area of their lives.



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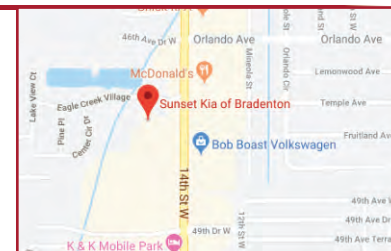


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COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

September/October 2019

**VISIT LAKEWOODRANCHGOV.ORG
FOR THE LATEST UPDATES**

September 20th – Third Friday

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

September 21st – Third Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- CERT first aid refresher setup, Town Hall, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- CERT first aid refresher, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- CERT first aid refresher setup, Town Hall, noon
- CERT first aid refresher, Town Hall, 1 p.m.

September 22nd – Fourth Sunday

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

September 23rd – Fourth Monday

- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Spyglass Card Sharks, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Anglers' Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

September 24th – 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.

September 25th – Fourth Wednesday

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

September 26th – Fourth Thursday

- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- American Asian Women, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

September 27th – Fourth Friday

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

September 28th – Fourth Saturday

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

September 29th – Fifth Sunday

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

September 30th – Fifth Monday

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

October 1st – 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.

October 2nd – First Wednesday

- Bingo, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT training setup, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT training, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

October 3rd – First Thursday

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

October 4th – First Friday

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

October 5th – First Saturday

- CERT training setup, Town Hall, 7:30 a.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- CERT training, Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.
- Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

October 6th – First Sunday

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

October 7th – First Monday

- Gardeners' Out East, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Handcrafts and More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Lakewood Ranch Garden Club board meeting, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Spyglass Sharks, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

October 8th – Second Tuesday

- Bridge on Tuesday, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Women's Club, Blankets for Babies, 1 p.m.
- CERT membership communications committee, Town Hall, 4 p.m.
- Digital Photography board meeting, Town Hall, 5 p.m.
- CERT training setup, Town Hall, 5:30 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT training, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 16

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COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 14

October 9th – Second Wednesday

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

October 10th – Second Thursday

- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 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.

October 11th – Second Friday

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

October 12th – Second Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- Digital Photography, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

October 13th – Second Sunday

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

October 14th – Second Monday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

October 15th – Third Tuesday

- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.

- History Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

October 16th – Third Wednesday

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

October 17th – Third Thursday

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

October 18th – Third Friday

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

October 19th – Third Saturday

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

October 20th – Third Sunday

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

FROM PAGE 6

IDA APPROVES HEAVY-DUTY GENERATOR PURCHASE

The Lakewood Ranch Inter-District Authority board has approved the purchase of a heavy-duty generator for the maintenance building, at a cost not to exceed \$40,000.

During Hurricane Irma, that facility did not lose power for any length of time, but it was felt that in order to provide continuous service to the community during a major storm event, purchasing a new generator was an appropriate move, since the building would be out of commission should there be a long-term power outage. If that should happen, it would seriously limit the Operations Department's ability to work to clean up debris and render assistance where needed.

SAFETY TOWN

District 1 Supervisor Laura Fox reported that the Safety Town event will be held from 9-11 a.m. Oct. 12 at Lakewood Ranch Main Street.

This will be a fun event for kids, intended to educate them in safety, and to familiarize themselves with and get to know and respect the first responders whose job it is to keep the community safe.

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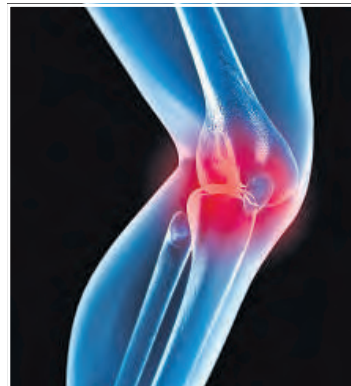


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AROUND THE RANCH



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

Loaded Cannon Distillery Fires Off Its First Shots In LWR

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

Things in Lakewood Ranch are really beginning to liven up as the Suncoast Loaded Cannon Distillery has fired a shot across the bow of every-day life, opening Manatee County's only distillery.

Michigan native Steve Milligan, a chemical engineer, spent 35 years in the industrial chemical industry. His career took him to multiple states and countries, including a stint spent supervising over 100 Saudis in building a chemical complex in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Living in Saudi Arabia, in a compound filled with expats who were starved for alcoholic beverages, he embarked on something for which he could have gotten in trouble in that ultra-religious country – distilling spirits. He began with mango wine, then moved on to brandy, vodka, and finally, whiskey, using a handmade still. Ingredients and parts for the still had to be purchased in small amounts over time, lest the authorities get wind of what was going on in the compound.

The experience was successful, and Milligan began to like the idea of opening his own distillery. After deciding on Lakewood Ranch as the ideal location for his new business, Milligan spent a long period of time obtaining the needed licenses from the federal government (eight months) and the State of Florida (another two months).

With his experience and background, Milligan had the proper equipment made for his new distillery, technologically state-of-the-art and aesthetically pleasing to the eye.

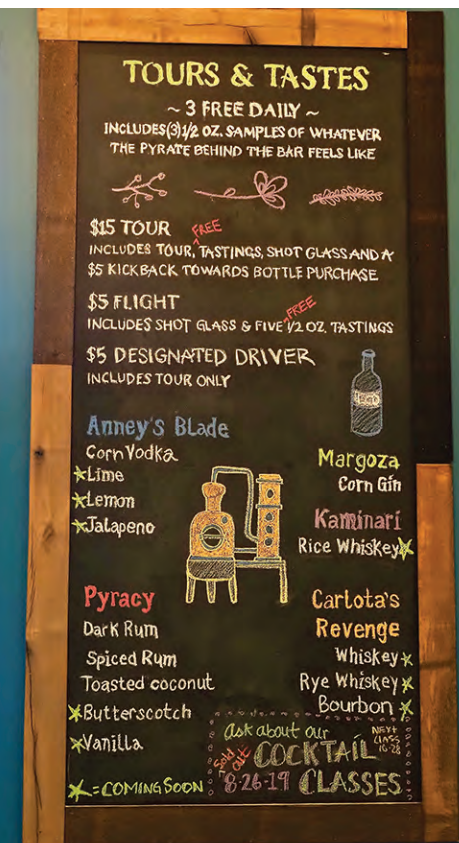
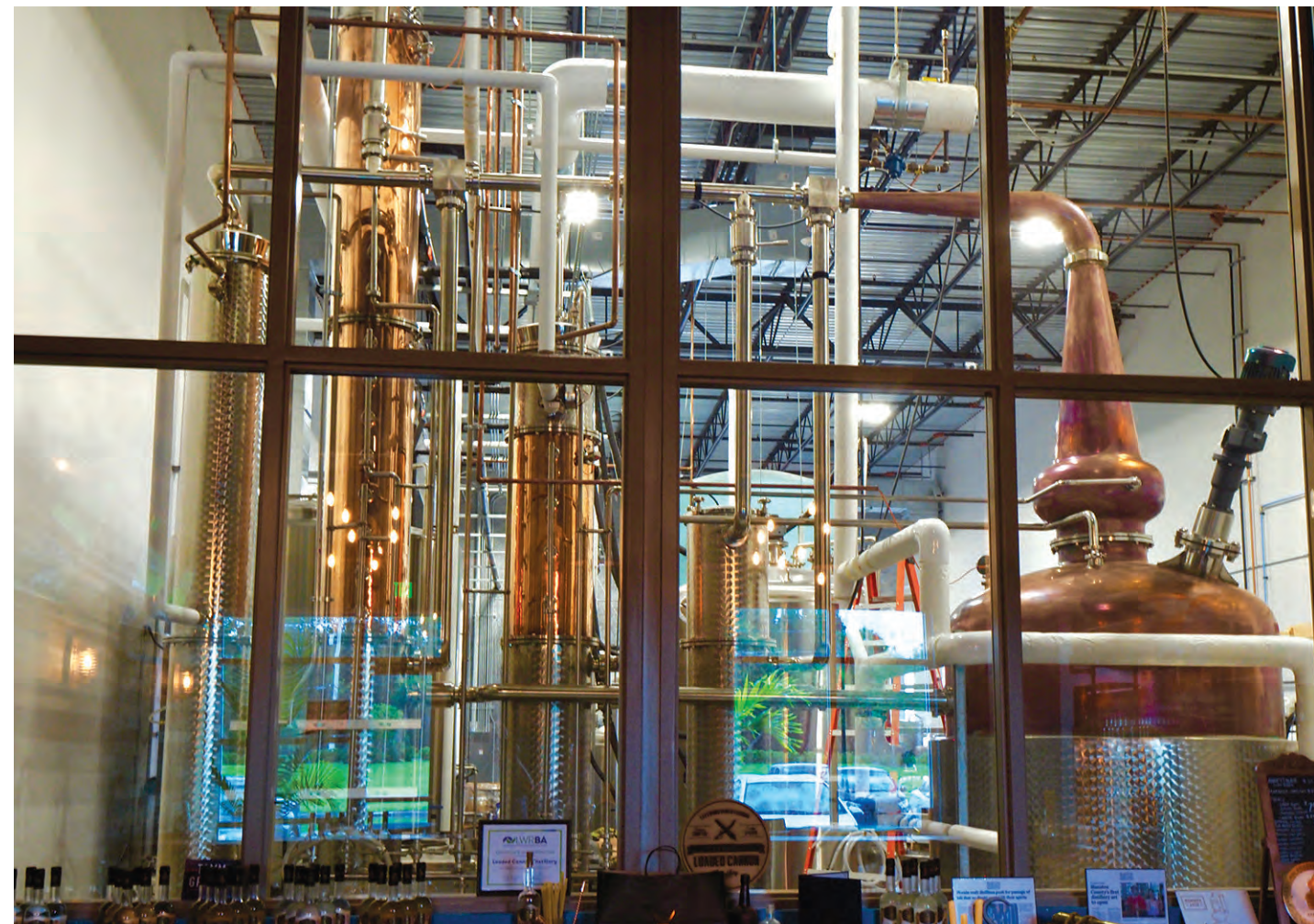
When a new customer walks into the Distillery, the first thing he or she sees is a large windowed wall behind the bar. Behind the window is a large 500-gallon capacity copper still, accented with machine-turned, finished stainless steel. The still has a name: Anney Bonney, after a famous female pirate who lived during the "Golden Age of Piracy," and died, supposedly in prison, around 1720.

Next to "Anney Bonney" are several large, tall copper stacks, which are the distillation columns for the various spirits produced at Loaded Cannon.

At the end of the line there is a tubular glass structure housing what looks like a thermometer. This is the "parrot," and is used to determine the alcohol level of the product.

That's not all of the equipment needed. There are several fermentation tanks and outside in the rear of the work area is a huge silo, which can hold 45,000 pounds of corn. The silo also contains a funnel mechanism and in the bottom section, two mills for grinding corn, wheat and rye.

After the fermentation and distilling is done, the



newly crafted spirits are put into oak barrels to age. As a number of other distillers are doing, Milligan is utilizing barrels previously used for other spirits to age his product, such as old Buffalo Trace whiskey barrels, to age his rum.

Currently, the Suncoast Loaded Cannon Distillery is producing gin, rum, and vodka. Very soon, the whiskey I saw being put into barrels on my visit will be bottled and available to taste and purchase. The names of the spirits reflect the pirate theme of the distillery: Anney's Blade vodka, Piracy rum, and so on.

Loaded Cannon doesn't just make fine spirits at their Ranch location, they have a very nicely furnished tasting room out front where a visitor can come in, take a tour of the facility, taste a selection of Loaded Cannon's spirits, and have a great time.

The tasting room has been designed by Michelle Russell, a woman who knows liquor – she is an accomplished mixologist – as well as art and design; she has a fine arts degree in graphics and web design.

Russell's talents are evident in the tasting room, and that even extends to the restrooms, which are accented with wrought copper sinks and nautical artifacts.

The bar in the tasting room is covered in wrought copper sheathing, with the Loaded Cannon logo stamped into the metal. There are

small tables, made of barrels topped with the company logo burned into the wood. The walls are loaded with all sorts of Loaded Cannon goodies: T-shirts, hats, shot glasses, mugs, etc.

There are also several antique pieces decorating the tasting room area, such as an old grime-encrusted Gilbey's Gin bottle from Linden, N.J. (the town name and the state are molded into the bottle), and a miniature bronze cannon dating from the 19th century which, Russell claims, really works!

Then there are the three copper "thieves" on the wall next to the entrance to the work area. Per Russell, the longest is a "wine thief," the middle one a "whiskey thief," and the smallest a "dippin' dog." These were used to extract small amounts of spirits from their barrels, and the "dippin' dog" would be used to grab a few ounces of the distillery's finest, which would then be stuck in a worker's boot, to provide a hearty private tasting after dinner.

So have yourself some fun, taste the "local product" and bring home a selection of Lakewood Ranch's finest spirits, at the Suncoast Loaded Cannon Distillery – the newest place for fun in Lakewood Ranch. Sign up for a libations class, or just come in for a tasting.

You can get details at loadedcannondistillery.com or call (941)900-1482.

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GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

September 19 – October 16, 2019

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

- September 19** 8:30 a.m. CDD 1 Board Meeting 907-0202
9 a.m. CDD 5 Board Meeting 907-0202
9:30 a.m. CDD 2 Board Meeting 907-0202
11 a.m. CDD 6 Board Meeting 907-0202
2 p.m. CEVA Fining Committee Meeting 907-0202
3 p.m. CEVA Safety Meeting 850-396-2695
- September 23** 10 a.m. CEVA Finance Committee Meeting 907-0202
3 p.m. Augusta/Oakmont Neighborhood Committee Mtg. 941-907-3448
5:30 p.m. Hollow Board Meeting 921-5393
- September 24** 8:30 a.m. SRVA Modifications 907-0202
3 p.m. CEVA Board Meeting 907-0202
- September 25** 1 p.m. Country Club Modifications 907-0202
3 p.m. Edgewater Modifications 907-0202
7 p.m. SRVA Board Meeting 907-0202
- September 26** 1:30 p.m. Whitmarsh Neighborhood Committee Meeting 907-0202
- October 1** 5 p.m. SRVA Compliance Meeting 907-0202
- October 2** 4 p.m. GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
- October 3** 3 p.m. CEVA Restrictions Revision Meeting 907-0202
- October 7** 9 a.m. CEVA Landscape Committee Meeting 907-0202
3 p.m. CEVA Board Workshop 907-0202
5 p.m. GBVA Compliance Meeting 907-0202
7 p.m. Brier Creek Neighborhood Meeting 907-1169
7 p.m. CDD 4 Safety Workshop/GBVA Safety Committee 907-0202
- October 8** 8:30 a.m. SRVA Modifications 907-0202
- October 9** 1 p.m. Country Club Modifications 907-0202
3 p.m. Edgewater Modifications 907-0202
- October 15** 8 a.m. IDA Board Meeting 907-0202
10 a.m. CDD 1 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
1 p.m. CDD 5 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
2:30 p.m. CDD 2 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
- October 16** 8 a.m. CDD 6 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
10 a.m. CDD 4 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
10:15 a.m. CDD 4 Board Meeting 907-0202
2:30 p.m. GBVA Restrictions Revision Meeting 907-0202
4 p.m. GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
4 p.m. Mizner Reserve Neighborhood Committee Meeting 941-373-3898
4 p.m. Sandhills Neighborhood Committee 907-0202
6 p.m. Board Meeting 907-0202

*Meeting dates and times are subject to change

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Li'l Nancy's At The Ranch Grows Up

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

Remember Li'l Nancy's at the Ranch?

Li'l Nancy's was a small barbecue restaurant – an offshoot of Nancy Krohngold's Nancy's Bar-B-Que, a local institution that has stood in downtown Sarasota for several years now – a kind of “down home” looking place on Pineapple Avenue sitting among the “high-art-and-culture” venues and pricey restaurants of downtown Sarasota.

Li'l Nancy's was located on Lakewood Ranch Main Street, an area replete with dining offerings, so competition was tough there. But Li'l Nancy's did well – so well, in fact, that Nancy decided to enlarge and upgrade her Lakewood Ranch location by moving to the corner of State Road 70 and Lorraine Road, in an area of Lakewood Ranch which has experienced a lot of recent growth.

The new Nancy's Bar-B-Que is located in the building which had been the Ranch Grill restaurant, and features carryout and inside dining, as well as a good-sized outdoor seating area.

I had eaten pulled pork sandwiches at Li'l Nancy's on Lakewood Ranch Main Street, so I was somewhat prepared for the menu at the new Nancy's location.

The new place is quite a change from the small place on Lakewood Ranch Main Street. First of all, the new Nancy's is about four to five

times the size of the old Li'l Nancy's, with a large, uncrowded seating area indoors, featuring large wooden tables reminiscent of a big farmhouse kitchen. There are a lot of visual clues that this place is, indeed, a barbecue joint. There are old metal tractor seats hung over the bar, and an American flag-type banner made from burlap on one wall. The napkin holders on the tables are fashioned from pieces of iron pipe.

If you want something to drink other than soft drinks or water, there is a full bar in the restaurant, complete with TV screens, for those who need their news or sports with their libations.

One other thing that is very obvious is a room off to the side, containing two huge 500-lb. smokers for the preparation of the meat. From what staff members told me, Nancy's has been going through a LOT of meat at the new location!

But, enough about the décor and the bar. One comes to a barbecue joint to eat – and not cogitate on one's caloric intake, either. My friend who joined me for this barbecue feast had been to the new Nancy's a few days prior, and ordered the pulled



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

rather than the more creamy texture I'd long associated with grits. They were also served a bit on the cool side – not cold exactly, but certainly not all that hot.

Overall, though, I thought my meal was great!

Nancy's Bar-B-Que at Lorraine Corners has many other offerings, including other pork choices, ribs, salmon, salads, and beef brisket. The restaurant also offers combo trays and “Signature Feasts,” which appear to be the perfect choice for those “What do we do to feed the team after the soccer match?” nights.

Nancy's also has a kids' menu, and will fill your bulk order for the next big party.

So, what's not to like? Large portions, tasty food, and a convenient location with close-by parking.

I'll be back!

Nancy's hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday, and 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday (closed Sundays). For more information visit nancysbarbq.com.

chicken tray, otherwise advertised on the Nancy's menu as “more meat, no roll,” along with collard greens and baked mac and cheese. On her previous visit, she found the mac and cheese to have been served a bit on the cool side, but pronounced the mac and cheese on her tray as being just fine.

I, on the other hand, decided that I wanted to get the “full pork experience,” and ordered a meal called the “Swine Squared,” described as “6 ounces of pulled pork, tossed with bacon and BBQ sauce, topped with almond crunch slaw and sweet pickle slices on a toasted Nancy's roll.” For my side item, I ordered the cheesy grits, figuring that if you're going South, you might as well get grits!

I'm not sure that I was prepared for the food that was soon placed before me. Here was this GIANT pile of pork, which practically dwarfed the bun, a serving large enough that I quickly realized that there was absolutely no way that I was going to be able to eat this feast as a sandwich. I'd have to use my knife and fork to cut it into manageable pieces. I did just that and, after eating about half of this delightful meal, I found that I could eat no more (at least at that sitting), and asked for a box to take the rest home with me. As for my side dish of cheesy grits, I found them to be heavier than I'd expected, with a consistency approximating that of slightly dry mashed potatoes,

Chabad Of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch Offers Free Services for the Jewish High Holidays

With just a few weeks before the onset of the Jewish New Year, many Jews have no plans to attend synagogue services this High Holiday season. With this in mind, Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch will offer their services for free for those of all ages in the Manatee County Jewish community.

While some may not be affiliated with a synagogue, others may find the cost to attend unaffordable, particularly in light of today's economy. For a family of five, services can run upwards of \$1,000. A great number of these would-be worshippers are feeling the pangs associated with being left out of the holiest days of the Jewish calendar.

By providing free Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur services in a warm and inclusive setting, Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch hopes to accommodate those who may otherwise not be celebrating the holiday, officials said. Chabad's “user-friendly” services make it enjoyable and meaningful for both the beginner and the advanced. Song, commentary and the use of English-Hebrew prayer books enable those of all levels to become active participants in services.

“According to Jewish tradition, on the Jewish New Year, the doors of Heaven are open. G-d accepts prayers from everyone,” said Rabbi Mendy Bukiet of Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch, who is hosting the free services in Lakewood Ranch. “The least we can do is open our doors as well to the entire community.

“The Lubavitcher Rebbe – Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, of righteous memory, insisted that Judaism is accessible to all Jews,” Bukiet continued. “During the High Holidays, accessibility can translate into different factors for different people, such as a nonjudgmental atmosphere, affordability of the services or the ability for a beginner to follow along. Our goal is to lower the barriers of entry, and encourage each and every Jew to actively participate in these most holy and introspective days.”

This year, services will be held at GROVE on Lakewood Ranch Main Street to fit the hundreds of people that attend holiday services every year. GROVE will accommodate the Jewish community and koshering a part of their kitchen to provide kosher food following services.

Chabad is also providing children's programs aimed at giving youth a positive Jewish experience and giving parents the chance to pray in peace. Buffets will be served after Rosh Hashanah services and a “Break the Fast” at Yom Kippur's conclusion.

For decades, Chabad-Lubavitch – an international Jewish organization that firmly believes Jewish traditions and customs are the birthright of every Jew, and that every Jew should have access to them – has made High Holiday services available free of charge, a model other synagogues and organizations around the world are aiming to replicate.

Rosh Hashanah begins this year at sundown on Sept. 29 and extends until nightfall on Oct. 1. Yom Kippur begins this year after sundown on Oct. 8 and extends until nightfall on Oct. 9.

For more information about Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch's services or to reserve a space, visit www.ChabadofBradenton.com or call (941) 752-3030.

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Lakewood Ranch Remains The #1 Best-Selling Multi-Generational Community In The Nation

Lakewood Ranch has been recognized as the second best-selling, master-planned community in the country for mid-year 2019, and first for multi-generational communities, according to Maryland-based real estate consulting firm RCLCO.

Lakewood Ranch maintained its 2018 mid- and year-end position of No. 2 and continues to outpace many other recognizable and well-known communities throughout the country, including those in Arizona, California, Colorado, Nevada, Texas, and even Florida.

The Ranch secured 824 new home sales through the end of June of 2019, putting Lakewood Ranch among the top-selling master-planned communities in the country for eight consecutive years.

Lakewood Ranch's new home sales success is attributed broadly to favorable market conditions, exceptional location, multi-generational approach, diversity of neighborhoods, and an unbeatable blend of daily conveniences and peak experiences. "Lakewood Ranch has enjoyed sustained growth by maintaining its vision and providing complementary services and amenities in support—and oftentimes in advance—of the growing number of rooftops in the community," said Laura Cole, senior vice president for LWR Communities, LLC.

Recently, Lakewood Ranch delivered two new community parks (Bob Gardner Park and Pat-



ton Park), added two new shopping centers (The Green at CORE and Publix Shopping Center on Lorraine and University), and added 1.1M square feet of commercial development, which resulted in 222 new businesses and 2,631 additional jobs. The developer, Schroeder-Manatee Ranch (SMR), has enhanced public services in the community by spearheading over 28 miles of road expansions, adding a new police station on SR70, and introducing a new Town Hall for residents (Town Hall North). In addition, existing institutions and business are expanding to accommodate demand. For example, Lakewood Ranch Medical Center hosted the grand opening of its hospital expansion on July 10th and Dr. Mona Jain Middle School opened for the 2019-'20 school year.

Sales in Lakewood Ranch are coming from throughout Florida, including an influx of buyers from Tampa, Orlando, and the state's east coast. Outside of Florida, The Ranch continues to draw from high tax markets in the Northeast, specifically New York and New Jersey, which account for almost a quarter of all outside new home purchases. There has been growing activity from the Mid-Atlantic, including Washington, D.C., Virginia and Maryland, as well as from California.

RCLCO has been ranking master-planned communities since 1994; for more information, visit www.rclco.com.

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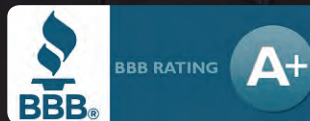
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LAKEWOOD RANCH BUSINESS ALLIANCE

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 650+ member businesses reflect a wide variety of small and large businesses across all industries in and around Lakewood Ranch. More information is available online at www.LWRBA.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS

(Please visit www.LWRBA.org to sign up for these events.)

East Meets West Expo 2019

Thursday, Sept. 19, 4:30-7 p.m.

Robarts Arena, 3000 Ringling Blvd.

Attendee tickets in advance \$5

(Tickets at the door \$10)

www.EastMeetsWestExpo.com

Join us for our largest event of the year, the 2019 East Meets West Regional Business Expo. Connect with business professionals from across Sarasota and Manatee counties and catch a glimpse of the latest products and services from nearly 100 local businesses. This trade show event brings together businesses from the Alliance and our neighbors at the Longboat Key Chamber.

Luncheon: Uncovering Your Blind Spots

Friday, Sept. 27, 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

The Ballroom at GROVE, 10670 Boardwalk Loop

LWRBA members \$27, non-members \$37

With so many distractions competing for

our attention, having a clear vision is a must-have for long-term business and personal success. In this program, Velma Knowles describes the five blind spots that could be clouding your vision and holding you back from accomplishing your goals.

Networking Social

Wednesday, Oct. 2, 5-7 p.m.

First Citizens Bank

6230 University Pkwy., Ste. 101

Free for members; \$10 non-members

Come connect with fellow Alliance members after hours at First Citizens Bank. First Citizens provides a full range of banking products and services to meet your individual or business financial needs. Enjoy complimentary appetizers and a cash bar.

2019 Lakewood Ranch Block Party

Friday, Oct. 18, 5-8 p.m.

Main Street at Lakewood Ranch

Free to attend; open to the public

Get a taste of life on The Ranch! Meet Lakewood Ranch builders, businesses and clubs, and celebrate the grand opening of LWR's new information center on Main Street. Beer, food and fun! Hosted by Lakewood Ranch Communities, Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance, Lakewood Ranch Community Activities, and Main Street at Lakewood Ranch. More info at www.lwrba.org.

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September Programs at Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch

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

Torah Studies

Saturdays, 9-9:30 a.m.

Participate in a fascinating class on the Torah portion of the week. Discover the mystical meanings and lessons behind ancient stories. Admission is free.

Weekly Shabbat Services

Friday night, 7 p.m.;

Saturday mornings, 9:30 a.m.

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

Talmud classes

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

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

Chabad Hebrew School of the Arts

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.-noon, Sept. 22

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

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Lakewood Ranch Medical Center Unveils New Facilities

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

The staff of Lakewood Ranch Medical Center (LRMC) held a special celebration in July, complete with many guests, lots of food, and a chance to check out the hospital's newest facilities: two new operating rooms, a new cardiac catheterization lab with a "holding area," and a new daVinci surgical robot!

Dr. Robert Hillstrom, chairman of the LRMC board, said that in September of 2004, when the hospital opened, there were only 160 doctors affiliated with the new facility, and only about 30-40 available beds. At the time, he said, there wasn't much interaction between the medical community in Sarasota County with the medical community of Manatee County. Now, 15 years later, the hospital boasts over 500 physicians from both Manatee and Sarasota counties, and 120 beds, with possibilities for continued expansion.

At the celebration of the opening of LRMC's new operating rooms and new catheterization lab, I actually got the chance to sit down at a robotic surgery console and manipulate the arms and tools of the hospital's new daVinci surgical robot. The robotic surgery staff had set up the console and the robotic tools in the lobby of the hospital, with a very small tray holding some really tiny rubber bands and small pointed posts.

I sat down at the console and under the direction of Elizabeth Burke, LRMC's robotic coordinator, put my thumbs and forefingers into the manipulation arms, looked through what looks like a microscope eyepiece, and was able to pick up a very tiny rubber band with one tool, grab the other end with another tool, and slice through the band. Yes, there is a cutter on the end of the tool, as I found out!

To the naked eye, these tools appear to be extremely small, but, viewed through the lenses of the console, they appeared large enough to make it far easier for a surgeon to perform an operation.

While observing the goings-on at the event, I happened to meet resident Sue Lelli, who spoke of her own robotic surgery experience. She said that she would recommend robotic surgery to anyone who could benefit from it.

Other than the robotic surgery equipment, the new operating rooms and the new



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER



cath lab are amazing in themselves. The operating rooms, for example, use what is called "indigo lighting" – lighting that kills bacteria while the patient is being operated on. They also have a Laminair system that creates a positive air flow in the operating room, in order to keep airborne contaminants out of the surgical area. The new cath lab has electro-physiology equipment to better monitor heart electrical issues. Hospital staff attended week-long sessions to learn how to use the new equipment.

These are state-of-the-art new facilities. LRMC now has seven available operating rooms and two catheterization labs to serve residents of Greater Lakewood Ranch.

In his comments, Andy Guz, CEO of LRMC, thanked the contractors, staff and supporters who made the new facilities possible. "Without a solid, stable hospital," Guz said, "you can't have a solid, stable community."



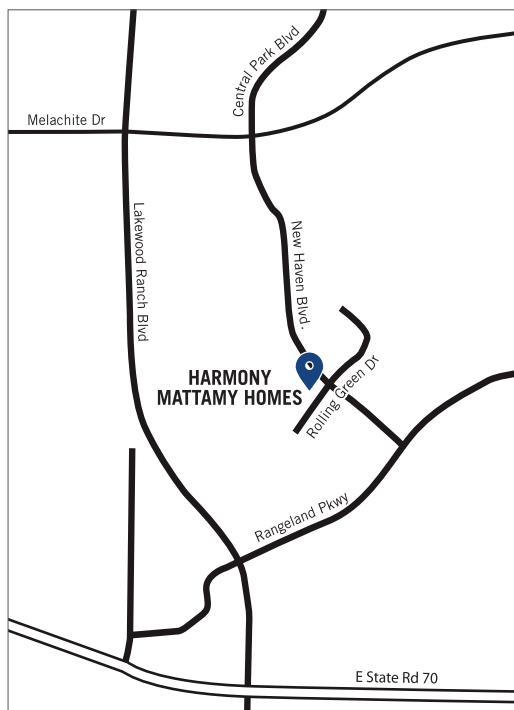


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LWR's Maureen Flaherty – Saving Puppies and Warming Hearts

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

The title of one of her books says a lot about Maureen “Mo” Flaherty. It reads: “Foster: Saving the World One Pooch at a Time.”

This lady is a one-woman dynamo. She works at a “day job” for Lakewood Ranch’s TechHouse. She works with a youth group. She’s worked for a home furnishings store. She writes for magazines and newspapers, and dog sits. She acted in an Emmy-nominated short film and was a cast member in other television programs and ... she fosters puppies until they’re ready to go out into the big world. There’s probably nothing that this lady can’t do – and do well.

Talk to Flaherty for even a very short time, and you’ll get the distinct impression that dogs, and especially puppies, are a major part of her life.

Flaherty provides a unique service to the community by fostering puppies. She’ll take on a mother dog and a whole litter of puppies, bring them to her home, and nurture them until they are old enough to go home with their new families. In doing this, Flaherty works with several local animal assistance agencies, such as Nate’s Honor Animal Rescue, The Humane Society of Manatee County, The Humane Society at Lakewood Ranch, Safe Haven, and Last Chance Rescue, all of which know that if they give a litter of puppies over to her care, those pups will come away well-cared-for, healthy, and beautifully socialized.

Flaherty also participated in caring for some of the Napier Farm animals, which were confiscated a few years ago by the Sheriff’s Office due to extreme neglect and malnourishment.

As an example of the type of canine personalities that Flaherty has a hand in developing in her charges, she invited me to come to her home to meet and greet several of the now-grown puppies that she’s fostered recently. The dogs ranged from small, maximum cute fluffball “Sean Patrick” (the “cover dog” for Flaherty’s book on fostering dogs), to “Mikey,” a giant Great Dane (This dog, at 140+ lbs., defines the term “big dog”!) to “Mina,” a black cocker spaniel, and Flaherty’s own black Lab, “Theo.”

What amazed me about the interaction of these dogs, not only with Flaherty, but with each other was the total ease that they exhibited. There was no nervousness, no barking, no jumping on people other than their owners. There was just this aura of calm – the sense that these dogs, of various sizes and lineages, could interact so well. Of course, as befits a canine party, treats were handed out. This



PHOTO BY ERNIE SOLLER

truly is a credit to Flaherty’s fostering talents!

So, how does all this love of puppies happen?

When a shelter takes in a pregnant dog, soon after the dog gives birth (usually at least three days) they will call Flaherty and ask her if she can foster the litter. Pups cannot stay at the shelter for any length of time, as they have no immunity from diseases. She goes to the shelter and picks up not only the puppies, but also the mother dog. Flaherty then works to nurture both the mom and her litter until the puppies are ready to be adopted. In the case of larger breed dogs, this may happen at 8 to 9 weeks. For smaller dogs, the process may be a little longer – as many as 11 weeks. There are also times when Flaherty cares for older puppies who may have been brought to a shelter.

In fostering the puppies, Flaherty also provides an opportunity for school students to assist her in caring for the puppies, and the kids get community service credit for the time they put in helping the foster pups, providing various services, including leash-training the puppies. Before the puppies are adopted, they will have had their shots, and been thoroughly checked by a veterinarian.

That means that a Flaherty-fostered puppy will have a terrific experience to prepare him or her for a great life with a caring family or individual. Having Flaherty foster your new puppy is like giving the pup a big “head start” in life.

So how did this energetic woman get started in puppy fostering?

Apparently, she wandered into Nate’s Honor Animal Rescue one day, and noticed that a female dog who had recently given birth to her puppies was in a segregated room, with a sign on the door asking that visitors not enter.

Mo, being Mo, asked if she could go into the room with the mom and her pups, and that act began what could be called a “beautiful relationship.”

She started to foster puppies and became the “go-to” individual for our area shelters and rescue agencies. Flaherty said she fostered 200 dogs during the first 5 years of her work ... and she’s coming up on 10 years now.

If you’d like to learn more about Flaherty and her amazing puppy-raising, I recommend that you check out her book, “Foster, Or Saving the World One Pooch at a Time, Or 10 Other Ways You Can Help.”

The book is available on Amazon and from local booksellers. Happiness is a Mo Flaherty-fostered warm puppy!

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