



# Around the Ranch

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THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 21, 2023



**TRIBUTE TO HEROES PARADE BACK AND BETTER THAN EVER** – The annual event drew thousands to Lakewood Ranch Main Street, and more important, brought the community together to honor local veterans, and active duty and fallen heroes. For more photos see pages 12-13. Photo by Ryan Angell

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- Brian Higgins, Owner, with son Kyle

# Rotary Of Lakewood Ranch Details Local Grants

By Ernie Soller  
Community Correspondent

OK; first of all, take a look at your calendar. Mark the second Saturday in November in big red letters: Rotary of Lakewood Ranch Suncoast Food and Wine Fest.

Do it NOW, before you, your spouse, or your friends start making plans for other activities, because if you wait, you might just lose out on participating in one of the most fun and good-for-the-community events in the entire year!

Remember the fun you had last year? All that great wine to sample and buy? All that great food, prepared by the best kitchens in the Greater Lakewood Ranch area? Remember that case of succulent red wine you bought at last year's Food and Wine Fest? Did you finish it off yet?

You remembered? AND you marked your calendar? Good, now we can move on to the really big event – the annual awarding of grants by Rotary of Lakewood Ranch to all the special organizations that help to make Manatee and Sarasota counties better places to live – for all of us.

Rotary of Lakewood Ranch has for years had as its main fundraiser the Suncoast Food and Wine Fest. Their first attempt at fundraising was a pancake breakfast years ago, and it didn't raise anywhere near the dollar amount that the Food and Wine Fest now raises.

Since Rotarians believe in giving back to the community, this year, the proceeds from the Suncoast Food and Wine Fest enabled Rotary of Lakewood Ranch to give away \$130,000.

This year's grant recipients are:

## BIG BROTHERS/BIG SISTERS OF THE SUNCOAST – \$4,590

They will use their grant to increase their building capacity and purchase iPads with data packages for their mentors to use.

## BOYS AND GIRLS CLUB OF MANATEE – \$5,000

Their grant will go toward reading program material for at-risk elementary students, including those students who are learning English.

## CHILD PROTECTION CENTER – \$1,500

Their grant goes to providing a safe, non-contentious environment for non-custodial parents to meet with their children.



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

## CHILDREN FIRST – \$3,000

Their grant will go for "learning through play" program materials.

## CHILDRENS' GUARDIAN FUND – \$3,000

This agency serves 1,200 children locally, from infants to age 18 (average age – 5 years) who have been removed from their homes by a judge because the parents were failing to provide a safe environment. This agency also works in conjunction with the Guardian Ad Litem program. The grant will go toward a summer camp for their clients.

## D6960 DISASTER RELIEF – \$25,000

This grant will go to continuing disaster relief for those affected by Hurricane Ian.

## EASTER SEALS – \$7,500

This grant will help kids with disabilities in Manatee and DeSoto counties.

This agency serves 100 kids with disabilities every day, and is now concentrating on the rising number of autism cases. One child in 37 is now afflicted with autism.

## EMBRACING OUR DIFFERENCES – \$5,000

This grant will provide for the cost of busing kids to Embracing Our Differences exhibits, with 15,000 kids in Manatee and Sarasota counties receiving these free rides.

## FOUNDATION FOR DREAMS – \$4,500

The grant will provide supplies for summer camp kids.

## FREEDOM HOUSE – \$4,910

Their grant will provide for the purchase of items such as pillows and toothbrushes, espe-



cially for homeless kids, to give them something of their own.

## FRIENDS OF THE LAKEWOOD RANCH LIBRARY – \$7,500

A new library is being built in Lakewood Ranch, and the grant will go toward purchasing kids' books, and large print books. The library is expected to open in October of this year, and the Friends are looking for donations to complete the collection. Their goal is \$990,000, and Manatee County is putting in \$580,000. So far, they have collected \$377,000 of the balance, and hope to fill the shelves before opening day.

## MEALS ON WHEELS PLUS – \$15,000

Meals on Wheels Plus will use the money for sack lunches for kids this summer.

## PARENTING MATTERS – \$4,000

The grant will go toward its musical motion program. Parenting Matters also gives parents information as to how they can get assistance to help parent and educate the children.

## ROTARY GIFT OF LIFE – \$5,000

This is a program to provide life-saving surgery for kids in developing countries by training local doctors and providing the facilities needed for this work in their home areas.

## SALVATION ARMY – \$5,000

This grant will go to its Young at Heart meal program to feed seniors and provide them with trips, guest speakers, etc.

## STILLPOINT MISSION – \$5,000

This grant will provide for the purchase of diapers for underprivileged families. Last year, Stillpoint went through 230,000 diapers!

## TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN-MANATEE – \$5,000

This grant will provide for a mentoring program, as well as a scholarship for technical education.

## TAKE STOCK IN CHILDREN-SARASOTA – \$5,000

This grant will contribute to breaking the cycle of poverty through mentoring, encouragement, and the promise of a college scholarship.

## TEEN COURT – \$5,000

Teen court works to prevent kids from getting into the criminal system. By going through the Teen Court, kids can get criminal charges dismissed, and get themselves on the way to becoming productive adults.

## THE PLAYERS – \$4,500

Community theater – You Can Be On Stage!

## TIDEWELL FOUNDATION – \$5,000

The grant will go to its "Blue Butterfly" program to help Lakewood Ranch kids get through bereavement due to the death of a parent.

Congratulations to those agencies that received grants.

Rotary President Carmen stated it well: "It puts tears in your eyes when we see all the good they do."

# John Cannon Homes Opens The Model Experience Sales Center at Waterside Place in Lakewood Ranch

John Cannon Homes has built a new concept in sales centers. Located at Waterside Place in Lakewood Ranch, The Model Experience is the place where one can get a taste of the quality of homes built by John Cannon and his team. There are seven room vignettes and two large walls of video screens showcasing homes they have built over the past 36 years, so customers can feel like they're in a custom-built John Cannon home. John Cannon feels this is also an opportunity to introduce and showcase one of their newest communities in Waterside – Kingfisher Estates.

With assistance from the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance and the support of Lakewood Ranch Communities, LLC, John Cannon Homes hosted the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for The Model Experience last month. John Cannon welcomed members of the community, local businesses, and realtors, as they cut the ribbon and opened the doors to the sales center.

“This is an exciting day,” said John Cannon, “and we are so thankful for the support we’ve received from all of you.”

John Cannon Homes has constructed more than 2,000 private residences in many of the area's most prestigious neighborhoods and gated golf course communities.

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



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PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

## Lakewood Ranch Shred Day ... The Tradition Continues!

By Ernie Soller  
Community Correspondent

**W**hat is the Lakewood Ranch Shred Day? As both a symbolic gesture and a practical one, Lakewood Ranch Community Activities, in cooperation with Grow Financial, has for several years promoted Shred Day in Lakewood Ranch, with the Shred Day event targeted for Earth Day.

Rather than dumping all that old income tax or old financial paperwork in the trash bin to be hauled off to a landfill, Shred Day gives Lakewood Ranchers the ability to toss a couple of large boxes of paper waste into the back of their cars, which they can then drive to the Town Hall for immediate shredding by way of a large shredding truck, or, if they are closer to the Grow Financial Credit Union branch off Lakewood Ranch Boulevard south of State Road 64, they can go there and dump off the waste paper into a truck, which will take it to a facility for secure shredding.

Residents were requested to also bring non-perishable food for the Food Bank of Manatee.

How successful has Lakewood Ranch Shred Day become? By mid-morning, the Town Hall shredding location had already processed waste paper from around 200 cars!

When I described to one of my neighbors the advantages of Shred Day, he commented that he owned a small office shredding machine. I reminded him that shredding two banker's boxes of old documents was going to take a big chunk of his time if done manually at home, and perhaps might also result in the failure of his shredder, due to over-use.

I told him that this very thing had happened to me in the



past, and that I was most happy to be able to be a part of Shred Day – on Earth Day!

Shred Day was a fun event. There were staffers from the Town Hall, representatives from Grow Financial, volunteers from Lakewood Ranch Community Activities, and more volunteers from the Food Bank of Manatee. There were snacks for the volunteers, and snazzy Grow bags to take home and use at the grocery – instead of those single-use plastic bags! More love for the Earth by Lakewood Ranchers.





# Where Leadership Comes to Grow



The Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance is growing professionals in the region through Leadership Academy in partnership with Game On Nation and Mentor Connect.

## LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

In its ninth year, we are training area executives and emerging leaders in our community! Work force continues to be a significant challenge for businesses and it's important now, more than ever, to grow your leaders and retain them. The Leadership Academy offers executives and emerging leaders the chance to grow, connect, and most importantly, laugh, while learning about leadership from nationally ac-

claimed training firm, Game On Nation, who has trained Hilton Hotels, the U.S. Air Force and even the NBA! This six-week leadership and communication program will cover conflict management, health, wellness, and communications.

## EVENT DETAILS

**Dates:** Fridays, August 11, 18, 25 and September 15, 22 and 29.

**Location:** Nathan Benderson Finishing Tower, 5851 Nathan Benderson Circle

**Price:** (Before July 14) \$1,250 for members and \$1,450 for non-members (After August 4) \$1,450 for members; and \$1,650 for non-members

**Visit:** [lwrba.org/leadership-academy](http://lwrba.org/leadership-academy) for more info

## MENTOR CONNECT

Mentoring the next generation of leaders is essential to growing the business community in the Lakewood Ranch region. Annually, the Young Leaders Alliance, a program of the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance, puts on an event – this year's takes place on July 20th – that matches a young professional with three established business professionals for three 30-minute sessions. This is a great opportunity to establish a connection and mentorship to gain insight from various professionals.

If you have interest in learning more about this program and how you can participate visit [lwrba.org/Mentor-connect](http://lwrba.org/Mentor-connect).

If you are looking to engage with other businesses in the region, we welcome you to visit our website or reach out to our team. For more information on joining the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance, visit [lwrba.org](http://lwrba.org).



*Brittany Lamont, President/CEO*

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# LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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



What an exciting summer it has been here in Lakewood Ranch!

We ended spring with what members of our community have called our best Tribute to Heroes Parade yet. On Sunday, May 28th, thousands of families lined Lakewood Main Street to honor all who have made the ultimate sacrifice while fighting for the freedoms that so many of us take for granted.



Alexandra Presley  
Marketing & Events  
Coordinator

We are proud to say that due to the efforts of LWRCA staff, the dedicated Tribute to Heroes Parade Committee team led by Nicole Hackel, the dozens of businesses who participated in the event, as well as each attendee who made a beverage purchase or donation during the event, we were able to donate over \$6,000 back into our community to non-profit organizations including veteran-run and veteran-supporting organizations.

We are grateful to each committee member, volunteer, staff member, and participating businesses

and attendees that made this year our best year yet. We can't wait to come back even better next year!

With event season behind us, LWRCA still has plenty of engaging and fun activities planned for residents this summer. Just this week and weekend alone, you can find us in the parks for Casual Cornhole, Field Bocce, Star Gazing, and Yoga in the Park!

If you're new to Lakewood Ranch or looking to get more involved in the community, you won't want to miss out on our upcoming Newcomers Meetup. Join us under the shady pavilion at Greenbrook Adventure Park to meet the Parks & Rec team, find out about lifestyle events and programs available to you within your community, and even meet some of your neighbors!

To register for events and see our full list of programming, visit [mylwr.com](http://mylwr.com) or download the Lakewood Ranch app. See you in the parks!



Thousands of Lakewood Ranch residents and families lined Lakewood Main Street to honor veterans

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# AROUND THE RANCH



PHOTOS BY RYAN ANGELL



## Tribute to Heroes Parade Draws Community Together

The annual Tribute to Heroes Parade, held May 28, was a resounding success.

Thousands of attendees lined Lakewood Ranch Main Street to honor local veterans, and active duty and fallen heroes. The event started with a block party at 6 p.m., followed by a parade with more than 65 entrants, at 7. People brought chairs and enjoyed food and drinks, activities for children, and more, including a bike parade, decorated cars, floats, and vendor booths.

Non-profits and veterans' groups, schools, Lakewood Ranch clubs, and various neighborhoods participated.

U.S. Army Ret. Col. Gill Ruderman was the grand marshal of the parade, an active VFW member who also volunteers for organizations that support veterans, such as Southeastern Guide Dogs and Tidewell Hospice. He was named Manatee County's

Veteran of the Year in 2016, and was inducted into the Florida Veterans Hall of Fame in 2021.

Many of the veterans in attendance enjoyed a free meal provided by Kelly's Roast Beef, McGrath's, Ed's Tavern, Remy's on Main and Detwiler's Farm Market. The pre-parade event was held at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall.

The Tribute to Heroes parade was a joint effort of Lakewood Ranch Community Activities – including Keith Pandeloglou, Aliye Presley, Joanna Bailey and Paige Venuto – and the Lakewood Ranch Communities' team, led by Nicole Hackel.

More than \$6,000 was raised to benefit non-profits, including The Del Webb Lakewood Ranch Association of Veterans and Military Supporters, and Braden River VFW Post 12055, and the Denis V Cooper Foundation – Wishes for Heroes.



# Tournament Raises Record More than \$20K for Hospice

The fifth annual Chad Day Memorial Fishing Tournament raised a record \$20,559 for the Tidewell Hospice this year.

Chad was the son of Joann Day, a 14-year employee of Schröder-Manatee Ranch. In 2014, Day's son, 23 at the time, had a seizure while fishing. A brain tumor was revealed by testing, and surgery indicated that his cancer was glioblastoma, an extremely aggressive form of cancer that begins in the brain. Chad underwent radiology and chemotherapy, but died in May of 2015, less than a year and a half after his diagnosis.

His mother, Joann, decided to memorialize Chad with a tournament in his name, as fishing was one of his favorite pastimes. The catch-and-release tournament awards prize money for first, second and third for snook, redfish and trout, and was held at Tarpon Bay Grill and Tiki Bar in Sarasota. This year's event – which is a one-day tournament, two-day charity event – raised almost \$4,000 more than 2022's total, and featured raffle baskets, a 50/50 drawing, and silent auctions for those who didn't fish.

Joann Day's reason for selecting Tidewell as the recipient is simple. "I'm raising money for the Tidewell Foundation to support them for all the help they gave me in caring for my son," she said. "We spent the last two weeks of his life at Tidewell Hospice in Bradenton. I was able to stay there with him the entire time. They not only took excellent care of my son but also made sure I was comfortable and had everything I needed. Because of all the generous donations from throughout the community to the Tidewell Foundation, my son and I received all this care at no cost."



PHOTOS BY MARK ODELL



# Lakewood Ranch CDDs Approve Revised Rules of Procedure

By Ernie Soller  
Community Correspondent

The supervisors of the Lakewood Ranch Community Development Districts (CDDs), as well as the Inter District Authority (IDA) have approved new procedural rules. These new rules were developed by the attorneys for the districts and the IDA over the last few months to replace rules that had been in place since 2007. They provide an update to help deal with current business practices, as well as a means of strengthening Lakewood Ranch's position with regards to its vendor contracts. One point in the new rules specifies that Lakewood Ranch is not bound to accept the lowest dollar amount bid on contracts, but that price is only one of several items to be considered in the awarding of contracts.

## RAINFALL

The rainfall totals for April for the districts have been in the 2-1/2" range, which is slightly higher than average. However, the rainfall totals for the year are still considerably below normal for the first four months of 2023.

The steps that Lakewood Ranch has taken, including the use of soil moisture sensors (SMS), has made for a positive impact on irrigation costs. Every Lakewood Ranch district currently has a positive variance in irrigation water expenses except District 2, which has a very minimal deficit.

## HURRICANE IAN EXPENDITURES

Negotiations are ongoing with FEMA regarding the compensation for costs to Lakewood Ranch districts resulting from the damage caused by Hurricane Ian.

## REGISTERED VOTERS BY DISTRICT

Here is a count of the registered voters in the Lakewood Ranch CDDs as of May 1, 2023:

- District 1 - 3,438 registered voters
- District 2 - 2,630 registered voters
- District 4 - 3,266 registered voters
- District 5 - 1,737 registered voters
- District 6 - 756 registered voters

One supervisor commented that the overall slight increase in the number of registered voters may very well be a result of snowbirds deciding to become permanent residents, or people buying homes with the idea of establishing Florida as their prime residence.

## GOLF CART USAGE

Golf cart usage – especially by young people – in a dangerous manner, has been an issue in Florida for some time.

The Florida legislature has passed, and the governor has signed, a new law regarding the use of golf carts, which goes into effect on October 1, 2023.

The main provisions are that a golf cart cannot be legally operated by anyone under 18 years unless he or she possesses a valid driver license or valid learners permit.

Anyone 18 years old or older cannot legally operate a golf cart unless he or she possesses a valid government-issued photo ID.

Golf carts cannot be used on any public roads unless the road has been specifically designated for their use.

## SHRED DAY RESULTS

Executive Director Steve Zielinski reported that this year's Shred Day netted over 3,000 pounds of paper for shredding, in addition to over a thousand pounds of donated food for the food bank, and almost \$500 in cash contributions for food.

He noted that at 9 a.m. on Shred Day, there was a lineup of cars from the Town Hall parking lot all the way back to the movie theater on Main Street.

## DISTRICT 1

There have been a number of complaints from residents about some groups who use the District 1 recreation areas. The complaints primarily involve use of alcohol and foul language, both of which are prohibited. The district has determined that a number of these groups may have registered as residents, but in fact a large number of the people involved are apparently non-residents.

The district will be requesting that Lakewood Ranch Community Activities require rosters of participants on a yearly basis, to make sure that those groups which are primarily composed of non-residents are paying the non-resident fees.

The district is looking at a project to be included in the next fiscal year's budget to provide for improved drainage overflow from the Braden River at times of flooding. There is currently a system in place, but it has deteriorated over time and needs to be upgraded.

SEE CDD, PAGE 17

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# Your LWR Story

By Maggie Milne

Meet Lakewood Ranch resident Timothy Szykula. Prior to his move to Lakewood Ranch, Timothy lived primarily in the northern and northeastern U.S., growing up in Michigan, then attending Columbia University for his undergraduate degree in chemical engineering, and graduate degree in business. After obtaining his MBA, Timothy lived and worked in New Jersey, New York, and Minnesota before his move to Lakewood Ranch.

Minnesota winters were not awesome for Timothy. He recalls “escaping” Minnesota each winter for warmer climates such as Arizona, California, Costa Rica, Hawaii, and Florida. The benefits of his travels to warm climates were not only fun and relaxing, but informative: Timothy’s vacations influenced his decision to consider a move. In 2020, when COVID required him to work remotely, Timothy began considering the possibility of working from home, in one of his preferred vacation destinations. A difficult part of winter in Minnesota during COVID was his inability to get outside for leisure or play.

In December 2021, Timothy told his employer that he would be moving to Southwest Florida, Texas, or South Carolina. He knew that making that proclamation was a gamble – he could have lost his job – however living in a warm climate was worth the risk. Luckily, Timothy was able to make arrangements to continue to work remotely with certain conditions. The process of negotiating a win-win for both Timothy and his employer took six months.

During his exploration trip to the Sarasota area prior to his move, Timothy visited several rental communities in the Southwest Florida area. It was during this trip that Timothy discovered Lakewood Ranch. Not only did he explore the rental options throughout The Ranch, he also attended Ranch Nite Wednesday at Waterside Place town center. He embraced everything about that night: the location, and specifically the rental community located at the Waterside Place. Timothy also visited the Lakewood Ranch Information Center; after his overview with a Lakewood Ranch community specialist, he visited new construction residential villages and model homes.

Timothy felt at home within Lakewood Ranch immediately, as if he found what he had been looking for. He met friends during his Sarasota visit and when he moved into his Waterside Place apartment. Timothy celebrated the beginning of his Lakewood Ranch life in July 2022, with his employer’s endorsement. When not working, Timothy connects with the numerous resident social clubs and groups available in Lakewood Ranch. He joined the disc golf league, which plays weekly at Bob Gardener Park. He attends social events at his Waterside apartment community. He considers Lakewood Ranch laidback, welcoming, and active. With golf courses in and around Lakewood Ranch, Timothy gets out to the local driving ranges for golf and more socializing.

Timothy describes the Lakewood Ranch aesthetic as attractive, pristine, and lush, which is what he wants for his community and home. Being an active person, he enjoys the choice to

run or walk safely for miles without the interference of traffic or noise. Timothy jokes that the local weather forecast is a simple one; “it’s beautiful every day!”

From his home office, Timothy works with his team of colleagues throughout the U.S. in Minnesota, Texas, and Connecticut. He has never met members of his team in person, he said. After his workday and on the weekends, his evenings include dining out at one of the many restaurants in Waterside Place or Main Street. Timothy has his favorites and has developed friendships with owners of the restaurants he enjoys. Recently he attended a dining event held by a local restaurant at the University Town Center Mall, a short drive from Lakewood Ranch. The event offered guests an eight-course meal and an opportunity to meet new friends who are also appreciate the local food scene.

Timothy is also a car aficionado, regularly attending the “Cars and Coffee” event and Main Street car show, held the first Wednesday each month. Recently he attended a Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium fundraiser and enjoyed seeing the progress of the project, while sampling fare from local chefs.

Most exciting is his recent purchase of a new home in Waterside’s LakeHouse Cove. Timothy spent eight months researching and visiting the local housing markets, both Lakewood Ranch and beyond. He finally decided on LakeHouse Cove because of the proximity to the Waterside Place Town Center, the price, home design, and specific floor plan.

Now that his home search is complete, Timothy looks forward to his next move – to his new home. He plans to move into his home in January of 2024. He cannot wait! And while he enjoys his Lakewood Ranch life, Timothy also plans to take road trips to local attractions in Tampa (the Tampa Zoo,

specifically), downtown Sarasota, Saint Petersburg, and surroundings. He loves that there is so much to do: ballet and opera, to name a couple.

Recently Timothy hosted family who were visiting, touring his dad around Lakewood Ranch. His dad could see Timothy is thriving here.

To learn more about Timothy text or call: 941-529-4852.



*We would like to share Your LWR Story! Include who you are, why you chose Lakewood Ranch, your Lakewood Ranch life now, and what excites you about your Lakewood Ranch future.*

*Send Your LWR Story and photos to [yourlwrstory@lakewoodranch.com](mailto:yourlwrstory@lakewoodranch.com).*

## CDD FROM PAGE 15

A “disc golf” course has been proposed for the Heron’s Nest area of the district. This course would require that a large portion of land be set aside for this purpose, and would likely involve a certain amount of time and money to set it up. Proponents of this project envision tournaments that could increase vehicular traffic in the district and take up some parking space.

The District 1 Board of Supervisors will decide on the viability of this proposed project at a later date.

## DISTRICT 2

John Moelhmaan is a relatively new resident of District 2, having moved into his Miramar residence in February of this year. He came to the District 2 board meeting in May to ask what could be done about an area abutting his neighborhood that he identified as being less than aesthetically pleasing: the Legacy Golf Course maintenance facility. Moelhmaan and his neighbors feel that the lack of landscaping around the facility makes for an eyesore in an otherwise pleasing surrounding. “I’ve seen auto wrecking yards more covered from sight,” he said.

If that parcel of land were on District 2 property, the district could authorize the installation of plantings to minimize the appearance of the

area. However, the parcel belongs to the golf course, and so the Operations Department can reach out to Legacy, but it will depend on the Legacy owners to remedy the situation.

Regarding the D.R. Horton proposal to build townhouses on part of the Legacy property, SMR has mandated a title report as well as architectural drawings from Horton. At a recent meeting between SMR and Horton, D.R. Horton agreed to put tile roofs on the proposed structures.

Costs for repair work on the Edgewater gate have been reduced, and the previously allotted unused funds have been directed to other projects within Edgewater.

## DISTRICT 4

The nature trail bridge will be repaired using a non-deteriorating material that will be installed over the existing structure, which has been deemed safe for this work.

The Community Association office has been studying the relationship between HOA code violations and whether the properties in question are owner-occupied or rentals. The result of the study: rental properties account for double the number of violations.

Apparently, landlords are skirting their legal responsibilities for maintaining the condition of

homes and the surrounding landscaping.

Supervisor Bonnie Sidiski noted that the Little Free Library at Adventure Park has had some vandalism; video surveillance will be intensified so as to catch any future perpetrators.

## DISTRICT 5

Operations Director Tom Merrell reported that the light pole damaged by a vehicle accident at Arnold Palmer Green and Legends Walk has been replaced.

Supervisor Alan Silverglat announced that the June board meeting will be his last as a supervisor, as he is moving out of the district. Silverglat also offered his opinion that District 5 may be looking at a deficit of as much as \$100,000 at the end of the current fiscal year. Chief Financial Officer Susan Wiggins has estimated that most Lakewood Ranch districts will end the fiscal year in the black, with an estimated deficit of \$22,000 for District 5.

Supervisor Dave Emison reported that the Manatee County Sheriff’s Office had issued several violation warnings in the district last month, as well as four citations for lack of insurance evidence and lack of a driver license.

## DISTRICT 6

The District 6 board accepted the resignation,

as of May 1, 2023, of Supervisor E. Wayne Turnblom, thanking him for his years of service. The board then appointed Michael Ferro to serve the remainder of Turnblom’s term.

Executive Director Zielinski is continuing to work on the transfer of the district’s potable water system to Manatee County. The district’s sewer system has already been turned over to the County.

## GATE ISSUE

Supervisor Sandy Keenan reported an event at the Balmoral Gate. At 10:30 a.m., several days prior to the board meeting, she observed traffic backed up at the gate, with no guard in sight. She pulled her car over to check out the situation, and the guard finally showed up – late. She questioned him as to why he was not on duty at the proper time, taking pictures of the situation. The guard became irritated and told Keenan that he didn’t appreciate her photographing him.

Steve Zielinski and Tom Merrell have been working with the guard company to correct these issues.

Merrell noted that the security company’s area manager is trying to make sure that their on-site supervisor is well-trained so that he/she can train the individual guards properly.



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# Florida Provisions Company: For Your Local Expeditions

By Ernie Soller  
Community Correspondent

The inclusion of the term “Provisions” in the name of the new Florida Provisions Company might conjure up visions of southwest desert prospectors, wagon train settlers, or maybe Alaska Gold Rush mushers, making sure that they have all the appropriate supplies they needed for their arduous journeys through the frontier.

The Florida Provisions Company, on the other hand is a little bit different. Rather than outfitting their patrons for a grueling journey into the unknown, the Florida Provisions Company will happily set you up for a journey to ...

(Choose one or more):

The beach

Your kitchen

A day hike through Myakka River State Park

A lounge chair on the plaza at Waterside Place in Lakewood Ranch, or

A get-together with friends on your lanai.

No, you won't find work boots and pickaxes. What you will find are Yeti products to keep your cold drinks cold, cookbooks to enable you to throw together a seafood feast in your own Lakewood Ranch kitchen – whether you're cooking a whole fish or preparing oysters (you can even find a special oyster-cooking griddle!), special kitchen tools to maximize your enjoyment of foods like crab and lobster, and a whole

gamut of specialty cocktail fixins' – so you can wow your guests with your bartending expertise.

Speaking of those specialty cocktail items, the Florida Provisions Company has a large selection of custom margarita mixes – from the classic to the habanero infused.

And should you come in thirsty, after a leisurely Waterside Place walk in the sun along Lakefront Drive, The Florida Provisions Company has several selections of wine on tap, as well as several on-tap beer selections, plus wine by the bottle and a vast array of cold craft beers –including some of those beers that have endured the test of time, and come out winners – such as Coors Banquet Beer in those stubby bottles. So even if you can't be a character on “Yellowstone,” you can drink the same suds that the cowboys and cowgirls drink in the bunkhouse!

At the Florida Provisions Company, you can “belly up to the bar” or take it outside while soaking up a few rays. I chose the former and enjoyed a mango-flavored beer. I just had to try it, since it was so different from my usual beer menu, which favors dark, heavy, European brews – the kind that my friend, Chuck, who spent most of his Army career in Europe, referred to as “liquid bread.”

And while you're considering venturing into the Florida sunshine, remember that the Florida Provisions Company is looking out for your welfare, with plenty of wide brim straw hats (or ball caps, if you prefer), plus quality sunglasses galore

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER





PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

– at least a couple of big cases of them. Remember that Florida sun is a whole lot more intense than the sun you may have left up north, so be prepared!

If those big heavy shoes you brought with you to Florida are getting heavier by the hour, the Florida Provisions Company has lots and lots of sandals to give you that “beach feeling.”

If you brought sweatshirts instead of T-shirts, don’t worry, since the Florida Provisions company has lots of lightweight items to help make you feel like a native Floridian – even if you’re from someplace like Ontario ... or ... Ohio.

At the entrance to the Florida Provisions Company store there is a large blackboard, emblazoned with the head of an alligator ... wearing sunglasses.

This place is the headquarters for those who want to increase their enjoyment of the laid-back Florida lifestyle.

The idea for the Florida Provisions Company came from Michelle and Mark Thomas, a couple who both loved being around the water and the beach. Mark grew up in Texas, and Michelle here in Florida. They met in Tampa and decided to create a business having to do with the water and the Florida lifestyle. They originally opened a store in St. Petersburg, but decided that St. Pete wasn’t the right location for their business. So, they ventured south of the Manatee River, and here they are in Lakewood Ranch. They love being a part of the action at Waterside Place, including the Farmers’ Market on Sundays and Ranch Nites on Wednesdays, and these activities have been a great boost to their business, bringing lots of people into their store.

The Florida Provisions Company is located at 1561 Lakefront Drive, Ste. 109 in Waterside Place, Lakewood Ranch. Hours are 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Wednesday; 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. They’re closed Monday. For more contact 941.274.0470 or visit their Facebook or Instagram sites.

Check out the Florida Provisions Company. Stop in, enjoy perusing their merchandise, have a cold one, and ... relax.



## Ranch Resident to Take Part in Envision’s Junior National Young Leaders Conference

This summer, Eddie Grayson, from Lorraine Lakes in Lakewood Ranch, will join outstanding middle school students from across the nation to take part in a unique academic and career-oriented development experience – The Junior National Young Leaders Conference in Washington, D.C.

The Junior National Young Leaders Conference is one of the Envision by WorldStrides family of programs that enable students to explore their interests and experience learning beyond the classroom.

Grayson is currently an 8th grade student at Dr. Mona Jain Middle School in Manatee County. He is a member of the National Junior Honor Society and has excelled both academically and as a leader in school clubs, volunteering efforts, and as a peer tutor. This past January, he represented his school and won the public speaking award at the Palmetto Youth Center for his speech on Dr. Martin Luther King. He loves sports, plays football (both tackle and flag) and is excited to begin his high school journey at Lakewood Ranch HS next year.



## THE (PET) DOCTOR IS IN!

By Erin Siems, DVM

The “dog days” of summer are here! Florida’s notorious heat and humidity have settled in for the long haul. Don’t fear! You don’t have to be cooped up inside with your four-legged friends 24/7. However, we do have to be smart and a little more creative about getting our physical and mental stimulation outdoors.



One of the best ways to keep your pets (and yourself) safe from heat is to stay indoors during the hotter parts of the day. You may have to sacrifice some sleep or some coffee and pajama time to get out on those early strolls, but it’s definitely worth the quality time. Also remember to hydrate! During hotter days pets lose more moisture through panting and even just breathing. Make sure to offer plenty of fresh water throughout the day and especially on hot walk – and take that advice for yourself too!

If you are going on walks, try to find paths with shady spots to rest. A lesser known fact is that dogs (and cats) can get sunburnt too. There are pet-friendly sunscreens out there if your pet seems to turn pink and burn in certain spots.

Some of our pets will tell us when they have had enough outdoor time but some just can’t seem to stop. Of course, we think of those crazy kids that just don’t run out of energy but there are others at risk too. Our overweight and smoochy faced



breeds are at higher risk and need special attention paid to them. Even sunbathers can overdo it without ever running around. Always monitor for signs of overheating including heavy panting, drooling, bright pink gums and weakness. Anyone displaying these signs needs to be taken into the a/c to cool off to avoid heat

exhaustion or heat stroke. Offer a cool place with water and a fan if possible. If they do not recover within a few minutes, call your veterinarian to make sure this is not progressing to something more concerning. Knowing how to keep your companions and yourself safe during the summer will allow you both to enjoy Florida’s most challenging season.

*Dr. Erin Siems graduated from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2010, and has enjoyed working in both general practice and emergency care. She has been practicing in the Lakewood Ranch/Bradenton area for the past seven years. She enjoys general practice because it*

*gives her the ability to build relationships with her patients and their families. Dr. Siems opened her own practice, Big Paws Animal Hospital in Lakewood Ranch, in May 2020. Email pet questions to [reception@BigPawsAnimalHospital.com](mailto:reception@BigPawsAnimalHospital.com).*

## June Programs at Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch

Please note that all events will take place at the Chabad House at 5712 Lorraine Road, or at the virtual Chabad House at [chabadofbradenton.com/zoom](https://chabadofbradenton.com/zoom), unless otherwise noted.

### Talmud Classes

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

*At the Chabad House and via Zoom*

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

### Torah Studies

**Saturday mornings, 9 - 9:30 a.m.**

*At the Chabad House*

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 nights, 7 p.m.; Saturday mornings**

**at 9:30 a.m., Shabbat Kiddush at noon**

*At the Chabad House*

Enjoy warm, family friendly services at The

Chabad House. Saturday morning services are followed by a delicious buffet Kiddush.

### Tanya Class

**Thursdays, 9-9:30 a.m.**

*At the Chabad House and on Zoom*

Delve into the secrets of the soul with Rabbi Mendy at this weekly Tanya class. Admission is free.

### Community Friday Night Dinner

**Friday, June 23, 7 p.m.**

*At the Chabad House*

Join the Chabad community for a Shabbat meal honoring the Lubavitcher Rebbe, OBM on the occasion of the anniversary of his passing! Enjoy delicious food, stories, discussion, and songs! Cost: \$36 for adults; \$18 for children.

For more information on any of the ongoing events or to reserve, call Rabbi Mendy Bukiet at (941)752-3030, email [rabbim@chabadofbradenton.com](mailto:rabbim@chabadofbradenton.com), or visit the Chabad website at [chabadofbradenton.com](https://chabadofbradenton.com).

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## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

# Diabetes Basics and Your Healthy Lifestyle

If you or a loved one is newly diagnosed with diabetes, you're not alone. About 28.7 million people in the United States have diabetes, according to the Centers for Disease Control.

## WHAT IS DIABETES?

Your pancreas makes a hormone called insulin, which helps to regulate the sugars from the food you eat that become energy for your body. Diabetes occurs when the body stops making insulin on its own (type 1) or is not able to properly regulate insulin levels (type 2). Type 1 is currently unpreventable, often based on family history and typically develops in young people. About 95% of those with diabetes have the more common type 2.

### Common symptoms:

- Frequent nighttime urination
- Blurred vision
- Sudden weight loss (type 1)
- Extreme thirst
- Extreme hunger
- Fatigue
- Tingling or numbness in hands or feet
- Frequent infections



Dr. Lisa Zapotocky, M.D.

## RISK FACTORS

### Type 2

- Prediabetes (blood glucose levels are high, but not yet high enough to be diagnosed with type 2)
- Family history of diabetes or history of hyperglycemia (blood glucose levels falling too low), gestational diabetes (diabetes while pregnant)
- Overweight or obesity
- Physical inactivity
- Poor diet (lots of red meat, high-sugar, processed foods and drinks)
  - High blood pressure
  - High cholesterol
  - Person of African American, Hispanic or Latino, American Indian, or Alaska Native descent

## DIABETES AND YOUR BEST HEALTH

According to Dr. Zapotocky, diabetes treatment goals aim to help you feel well day-to-day and to prevent or delay the long-term health concerns of diabetes, including kidney and heart disease and stroke. Blood sugar control and management of related conditions (high blood pressure and cholesterol) can significantly reduce complications. Regular appointments with

your physician to monitor hemoglobin a1C (average blood sugar level over a three-month period) is recommended.

“For type 1 diabetes, survival depends on taking insulin daily and checking blood glucose levels regularly. For both type 1 and type 2, taking prescribed medications and planning meals (knowing what you will eat, how much and when) helps to keep blood glucose levels in a target range,” said Dr. Zapotocky.

“Work with your healthcare provider on a plan for staying as physically active as possible and seek guidance on taking special care of your skin, feet, mouth and eye health, as diabetes puts these areas at greater risk for infection.”

## PREVENTION

For adults aged 40-70 who are overweight/obese, screening for abnormal blood glucose and type 2 diabetes is recommended. A Mediterranean-style diet rich in vegetables, fruits, whole grains, nuts and heart-healthy fats lowers risk.

“After a diabetes diagnosis, patients often ask if they'll be able to live normally. The answer is, yes. Seeking the support you need for managing stress and mental health may also help,” said Dr. Zapotocky.

If you need a doctor, visit [doctors.lakewoodranchmedicalcenter.com](http://doctors.lakewoodranchmedicalcenter.com), or call 800-816-4145.

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