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WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024

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### Consultations are Always Free !



**Attorney Kevin Pillion** received his Juris Doctorate from Georgetown University Law Center and has been practicing law since 1990. He is licensed to practice law in Florida & Washington, DC and is also a Certified Public Accountant. He is a member of The Florida Bar, Washington DC Bar, American Academy of Estate Planning Attorneys, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, National Elder Law Foundation, Florida Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Life Planning Law Firms Association, and the Florida Institute of Certified Public Accountants. Kevin recently obtained his National Certification in Elder Law (CELA®) from the National Elder Law Foundation, and he is accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs.



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# Hurricane Prep Meeting Very Well-Attended!

By Ernie Soller  
Community Correspondent

In early June, Lakewood Ranch CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) presented a session on Florida hurricanes at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall.

Of the approximately 100 attendees who lined up at the door, a majority had lived in Florida for less than a year. Headlines full of predictions about the upcoming storm season seemed to make folks more vigilant.

Lakewood Ranch CERT President Jim Emanuelson explained that the job of this organization of neighborhood volunteers is to respond before the professional responders show up. In the case of an emergency, it may be a while before the first responders can get to where you may be, due to weather conditions, downed trees or power lines, etc. One thing Emanuelson mentioned was that during Hurricane Ian, the Manatee County 911 system was so overloaded that people could not get through. There are only so many first responders in the County, and they will be extremely busy during any emergency, be it a storm or other catastrophe.

The members of Lakewood Ranch CERT are trained using guidelines provided by FEMA, under the direction of the Manatee County Department of Emergency Management. Right after Hurricane Ian, CERT put 160 volunteers on the street.

The session began with a video spoof of Jim Cantore and The Weather Channel, where Cantore appeared in various areas with people everywhere running away from him. The idea was that if Cantore is in your neighborhood, you don't want to be there – if he's there, something bad is happening or about to happen.

Volunteers Jill and Jordan Perlin led the session, noting that 2023 was the fourth most active storm year on record, and the forecast for 2024 is for more and stronger storms. The average number of named storms during the Atlantic hurricane season is 14. There are 23 named storms predicted for 2024. The average number of hurricanes is seven; this year, the expectation is for 11 hurricanes, with five of those expected to be major storms. Hurricanes can produce not only lots of wind, but can support the formation of tornadoes, and Florida is the lightning capitol of the country, as well!

The wind is a major concern, since the stronger the wind, the more damage to structures, and more downed trees and power lines. More



PHOTO BY ERNIE SOLLER

people, however, are killed by water than wind, partially due to flood surge that occurs when strong winds push huge amounts of water inland, but also from flooding coming from the massive rains that usually accompany hurricanes.

One very important thing to remember – don't try to drive through a flooded area.

Jill Perlin noted several places to get information. Among them were:

Manatee County – [mymanatee.org](http://mymanatee.org)

ABC7 – [mysuncoast.com](http://mysuncoast.com)

Mike's Weather page – [spaghettimodels.com](http://spaghettimodels.com)

FEMA – [FEMA.gov](http://FEMA.gov)

The National Hurricane Center – [nhc.noaa.gov](http://nhc.noaa.gov)

When it comes to hurricanes, you can never eliminate all risks, but you can be prepared.

Every household should have a written plan for the possibility of evacuation that everyone in the home understands. Make sure you have plenty of cash. If the power is out, you won't be able to use credit cards to buy anything. Small bills are a key item; a store clerk may not be able to make change. Make sure you have all your medications and that you have a sufficient supply to last for a while.

If you evacuate, take important documents

with you, including your insurance policies and other important family documents. Make a phone list so you can notify relatives/friends of where you are and/or where you're going.

Make sure you keep the gas tank in your car filled – if a gas station has no power, it will not be able to pump gas. Make sure you have plenty of batteries and flashlights, and a battery-powered or hand-cranked weather radio, so you can get weather updates if you have no power. How about a solar charger for your cell phone?

Harden your home: put up shutters, make sure that doors and windows are sealed and secure. Have food on hand and rotate your stock so what you have is reasonably fresh. Have cleaning supplies ready, including toilet paper, a mop, bucket, cleaning solution, paper towels, and so on.

Water is important! Plan for at least a gallon of fresh water per person per day.

As for supplies, stock up now, rather than when residents hear that a storm is coming their way. Store shelves can empty out fast when that happens. Make sure you have ice and a cooler to store fresh food. Get a non-electric can opener.

Getting flood insurance, even if you don't live in a "flood zone," should be considered. Most homeowner insurance policies do not provide for flood damage.

Prepare a "go bag" to include clothing for several days for each family member. Plan for your pets – food, water, medications, and a crate in case you need to go to a shelter. Remember to check shelters ahead of time, since not all will accept pets! Make sure that you have some entertainment items for the family, as you may not be able to go out for some time. Keep a stock of personal hygiene items, and a first-aid kit and insect repellent – the more wet and humid, the more mosquitos! Have paper maps in case you need to leave, so you know where you're going and how you'll get there.

As for evacuation, if a storm is coming up the west coast of Florida, you might not have to drive to Georgia or parts north. It may be a whole lot easier to go to Miami, for example, and check into a hotel for a few days before returning home.

Florida's upcoming tax holiday for hurricane supplies this year is Aug. 24 to Sept. 6. You can stock up, sales tax-free, during those dates.

And, if you'd like to become a CERT volunteer, contact Lakewood Ranch CERT at [www.lwrcert.org](http://www.lwrcert.org).

# Commissioner Turner Listens To Ranch Concerns

By Ernie Soller  
Community Correspondent

It is hardly a secret that Lakewood Ranchers haven't been totally happy with the service that they've been getting from Manatee County. For an area that produces around 30% of the County's revenue, residents feel that in a number of areas, they are not "getting their money's worth."

In June, County Commissioner Ray Turner, whose district includes Lakewood Ranch, came to a special meeting at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall for the express purpose of listening to the concerns of residents, as expressed through their elected Community Development District supervisors of districts 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.

Supervisor Alan Roth of District 1 brought up the issue of cyclists using Hidden River Trail, a winding road that runs between Lorraine Road and Lakewood Ranch Boulevard. According to Roth, this road was put in as a requirement by Manatee County, and is very narrow. He noted the issue is that because the road is narrow, it cannot easily accommodate both cyclists and vehicular traffic at the same time. While currently, the cyclists have the right to use the road, Roth asked if the County could find a way to



PHOTO BY ERNIE SOLLER

prohibit bicycle use on this particular road, considering the very real hazard potential.

Roth also asked what could be done to improve cell phone service in Lakewood Ranch, noting that with many residents cancelling their landline phone service, even the 911 service is compromised. Roth informed Turner of the steps that Lakewood Ranch had taken to improve service, but said that these efforts had failed due to circumstances beyond the control of the community. Turner replied that there are a lot of self-employed people working from home in Lakewood Ranch, and that bad cell service impacts their ability to work.

Next, Pete Bokach, chairman of the District 2 CDD board, commented that non-residents were apparently using commercially available

transponders to enter the Country Club environs, and asked what changes could be made to stop this practice. Turner noted that the County has been looking for ways to stop this.

Bokach also asked what could be done to extend the turn lanes on University, since there is a problem involving vehicles entering the turn lanes in greater numbers, and the increasing numbers of turning vehicles leads to backups in the left traffic lanes, essentially blocking traffic. Commissioner Turner stated that this problem should have a relatively easy fix.

District 4 Chairman Mike Griffin told the Commissioner that the County's response after Hurricane Ian was not all that good with regard to debris removal. Turner requested that residents who see issues like this should take pictures, and use the County's "311" app to communicate the problems to the County. By doing this, he said that residents should expect a faster response.

Griffin also asked why the County allows Petland to continue to sell "puppy mill" animals.

District 4 Supervisor Nancy Johnson followed up on Griffin's comments regarding debris removal, saying that for the amount of taxes that Lakewood Ranch residents pay to the County, it should have a plan in place to hire

additional help to accomplish debris removal, noting that "we shouldn't have to use our CDD revenue" to pay for such work.

District 5 chairman Marty Cohn hit the commissioner on the subject of potholes, questioning why the County repaves by simply grinding off a small portion of pavement and paving over that area with new asphalt, without curing issues under the pavement that may promote the formation of potholes.

Turner replied that one reason for the pothole formation may be the fact that a lot of the roads in Lakewood Ranch that have the most potholes also have landscaped medians. The irrigation of these medians puts more water underneath the roads, he said, which may lead to more potholes.

Regarding the proposed traffic signal to be installed on Lorraine Road, Turner noted that a wall is planned to mitigate traffic noise in that area.

Cohn also commented that with FEMA not being particularly cooperative regarding compensating Lakewood Ranch districts for their costs from the Hurricane Ian cleanup, maybe the County should essentially hire the districts to do the cleanup, leaving only one entity (the

SEE TURNER, PAGE 11

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# District 4 Board Approves Plan for New Pavilion

By Ernie Soller  
Community Correspondent

The District 4 (Greenbrook) Community Development District (CDD) board approved the architectural rendering for the new Adventure Park pavilion at its June board meeting at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall.

Since the old pavilion burned down on July 4, 2023, the board had been discussing possible changes or enhancements to the old design but in the end elected to go with a revised version of the old pavilion.

The main difference between the old design and the proposed new design was the elimination of a roof covering the entire pavilion structure, including the restrooms, instead opting for a design in which the roof covers only the open gathering area, with the restroom area having its own roof. This option will save the district some money in construction costs. The plan will use the existing concrete pad. The exact cost had not yet been determined at the time of the meeting.

During the discussion about the new structure, resident Carlene Smith asked if the District was planning on charging admittance to non-District 4 residents, since District 4 was paying for the structure. She also asked if the board was going to take steps to identify those responsible for the fire and seek damages.

The response from the board was that multiple districts had similar facilities, and that they are used by non-residents of those districts, although the District does charge for the rental of the pavilion for private party use.

Regarding going after those responsible for damages, and seeking additional funds from the insurance company, all options were still on the table, and none had been discarded by the board. The fire has been ruled as accidental by the authorities, and, as Supervisor Nancy Johnson noted, no particular individual or individuals have been identified as responsible.

Resident Karen Johns requested that the Operations Department not use chemical sprays to get rid of invasive pepper trees along a nature trail near her home, as there are endangered eagles living in the area.

The re-decking of the Adventure Park bridge should be completed by early August.

A microforest will be established in Adventure Park, to be called the "Coopers Hawk Microforest."

## POND/LAKE POLICY

After numerous complaints from residents about people fishing behind their homes, and after those who were fishing had been seen evidently taking their freshly-caught fish home to eat, the Lakewood Ranch CDD boards asked that a specific policy on fishing be developed.

Attorney Andrew Cohen developed the new policy, and it was voted on by the district boards at their June meetings. Basically, the policy reaffirms that fishing in Lakewood Ranch ponds and lakes is on a catch-and-release basis only.

During the discussion of the new policy, Operations Director Tom Merrell commented that the ponds and lakes in Lakewood Ranch are part of the drainage system and are essentially retention ponds. As such, they collect whatever runoff comes from resident lots, nearby roads and so on, and may contain contaminants – making the eating of fish caught in the ponds not advisable at any time of year.

In addition, the policy specifies that fishing is only legal behind residences if done by the resident, or the resident's guest who has permission to fish there. Otherwise, fishing is only permissible from common-area banks, and those fishing are not permitted to trespass on resident property in order to fish.

Also, if lightning is present or nearby, fishing is to stop immediately. Fishing should only resume after lightning is out of the area.

New signs will be posted to advise potential anglers of the policy.

## LAKE BANK EROSION CONTROL PROJECTS

The projects to control erosion of lake banks in districts 1 and 2 were set to be started by the end of June, and expected to be completed by the end of September.

## BUDGETS

All of the Lakewood Ranch CDD boards passed their preliminary fiscal year 2025 budgets. Final budget approval will take place at the August CDD board meetings.

## AUGUST CDD BOARD MEETINGS – DATE CHANGE

Due to the primary election taking place on Aug. 20, the CDD board meetings for districts 1, 2, and 5 will take place on Monday, Aug. 19.

SEE CDD, PAGE 7



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CDD FROM PAGE 6

### VISIT BY MANATEE COUNTY COMMISSIONER RAY TURNER

The visit to the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall in June by Manatee County Commissioner Ray Turner was described by Executive Director Steve Zielinski as a success, noting the Commissioner Turner listened to the concerns of the CDD board members present, and was well-prepared for the meeting. Zielinski stated that he was working on a plan to have such meetings on a quarterly basis, so that our local officials can have a better dialogue with the County.

### STAFF VACANCIES

There are no staff vacancies at this time!

### FEMA REIMBURSEMENT

Executive Director Zielinski reported that there has been no word from FEMA regarding reimbursement for Hurricane Ian cleanup expenses incurred by Lakewood Ranch districts.

### ETHICS, PUBLIC RECORDS, SUNSHINE LAW SESSIONS FOR SUPERVISORS

Florida law now requires that CDD super-

visors take a yearly educational course on the subjects of ethics, public records and Florida's Sunshine Law. These sessions for the supervisors will be chaired by the attorneys who advise the boards.

The ethics session was scheduled to take place July 11. The public records and Sunshine Law session is slated for 9 a.m. Aug. 7. All sessions will be held at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall.

### INSURANCE FOR DISTRICT-OWNED PROPERTY

Due to the discovery that "replacement value" for the destroyed Adventure Park Pavilion in District 4 didn't exactly mean "replacement value" to the district's insurance carrier, Executive Director Zielinski is taking a look at the policies covering other district properties in Lakewood Ranch to see if they are truly covered, or if there is some sort of "Catch 22" in place.

### RAINFALL

Operations Director Merrell reported that the rainfall amount for Lakewood Ranch in May was zero, continuing the recent trend of lack of rain. The normal rainfall for May is 2-1/2".



The Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance is committed to supporting the success of our members through unparalleled access to business connections, resources, and advocacy, and we have some exciting news that will aide in continuing that mission! The LWRBA has been hard at work behind the scenes, and we are so excited to announce that we have officially moved to our new office space to 5391 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. N., in partnership with Lakewood Ranch Community Activities! A lot of time, energy and love went into creating this space to continue to serve our members and the Lakewood Ranch community. This new space comes equipped with a full-service conference room that we can use for committee meetings, events, celebrations and more! Additionally, the new office will allow our team room to expand and thrive as we continue to help connect, educate, and advocate for businesses in our region. We can't wait to welcome you on July 22 at our upcoming ribbon cutting celebration!



Brittany Lamont

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# Inner Compass Brewery – Direct Yourself Here!

By Ernie Soller  
*Community Correspondent*

Don't look now, but Lakewood Ranch is fast becoming a destination for lovers of craft beer and brew pubs. The latest is the recently opened Inner Compass Brewing Company location at 10316 Technology Terrace, in the business park west of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard and north of 44th Avenue East.

If this seems to be an out-of-the-way place for a brewpub, consider that 44th Avenue East in this particular area currently carries almost no traffic. However, construction is currently going on that will extend 44th Avenue East across I-75, connecting The Ranch community to Bradenton and points west. That means that the new Inner Compass Brewing Company location is in a perfect area for future growth.

I made not one, but two trips to the new brewpub over several days. We had out-of-town company that week and so, while the ladies went shopping, Dan and I went to the brewery!

We'd planned on going there for lunch but were delayed until later in the afternoon. We decided to forego a larger meal and make do with warm pretzels and a couple of cold pints of Inner Compass' finest. Dan picked a pint of something called "Control Freak Ale," and I chose a dark "Stout's Honor Cherry," and yes, my Stout's Honor did have flavors of dark cherries. Pretty unique, not to mention pretty tasty.

In getting there, we managed to find the brewpub with no problems, and took in the

aspects of the new location. The building is fairly large and includes the working area plus a good-sized dining and drinking area, plus a large room toward the back of the building that can be used for dining overflow, or reserved for private parties. Smart move!

The folks at Inner Compass have taken steps to accommodate families with kids, as they have set up a swing set in the back of the brewpub, along with slides and other kid-friendly amenities. They have also prepared for the idea of entertaining folks outside, since they have erected a small stage that is suitable for a small band or soloist. There are also tables outside, complete with large umbrellas, so folks can eat and drink outside if the weather is good.

The entrance to the place has a woody lodge look, with a brick façade framed by big wooden beams. Once inside, you can check out the cartoon-style mural on the wall that illustrates the brewing process.

On entering the main area, you can take your choice of sitting at the long bar or one of many tables. I counted 30 stools lined up in front of the bar, and this number coincided with the 30 taps located on the wall behind the bar, so you could conceivably take a different stool at each visit, and have the bartender pour a different beer for that particular day, for essentially an entire month.

And speaking of choices, there are two large lit-up beer menu boards behind the bar, so patrons can make their choices of brews, both those made by Inner Compass and other local and regional breweries.



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

In any case, after our company departed for points north, my wife and I returned for a dinner experience. One thing that we noticed was that the patrons on that evening ranged from a couple of guys drinking at the bar and watching golf on TV, to families with small children. No one seemed out of place here.

We first we had an appetizer of fried cheese curds – a great combination with the tomato-based cocktail sauce that was served with it. For our meal, she picked a Cobb salad, and asked our server, Grace, if it could be made with Romaine lettuce and balsamic vinaigrette dressing. Her wish was granted, and she proclaimed her salad "excellent." I picked the fish and chips dinner, which arrived a bit over-fried. This was the only glitch of the evening, and Grace quickly took care of replacing the too-well-done fish. Problem solved, and I enjoyed my meal, especially the house-made chips.

Of course, we could not just leave without tasting an Inner Compass dessert. She chose a slice of Warm Butter Toffee Cake, which was

indeed served warm. Of course I had to take a bite, and it was definitely tasty.

I asked Grace just how spicy the Warm Apple Habanero Cake was, and she replied that it was pretty spicy. I decided to take a chance and go for it. It was worth it. Yes, this was perhaps the spiciest cake I'd ever eaten, but it was very good, a very interesting combination of the apples and the hot spice and yes, I'd order it again. It was that good.

The folks at Inner Compass Brewing have a hit on their hands, and the place is a fine addition to the list of places in Lakewood Ranch to dine and consume craft beverages. I can't wait to go back and check out their list of burgers and other brews!

Hours are 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday; 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday; and 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Sunday. Happy hour, from 4-6 p.m. Tuesday through Thursday, features \$1 off house wines and Inner Compass beers. For more information visit [innercompassbrewingcompany.com](http://innercompassbrewingcompany.com) or call (941)900-1102.



# AROUND THE RANCH

## Lakewood Ranch Enhances Community Engagement with Innovative New App

Lakewood Ranch has launched the new myLWR, the first integrated digital platform for resident engagement and community management. Developed by property technology firm Cecilian Partners, this groundbreaking tool underscores Lakewood Ranch's commitment to creating an exceptional resident experience.

The myLWR app and website bring all the critical elements of the resident experience into one place. The app and website have the same user login credentials; no matter which way users engage with the platform, they have full access.

Users can access everything from a full calendar of events to information on parks and community facilities. Other highlights of myLWR include connection with organizations in Lakewood Ranch, including clubs hosted by Community Activities; and opportunities to volunteer in the community through the Lakewood Ranch Community Foundation, Lakewood Ranch Community Activities, and the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance.

When residents register with their home address, they are linked to their HOA contact information and provided specific utility ser-

vice information. Residents also receive special pricing for Lakewood Ranch Community Activities' signature events, like the Parks and Rec programs, and reservations for park spaces.

Although some features were designed with residents in mind, users do not have to live in Lakewood Ranch to register for the app and website.

"With MyLWR, we're excited to provide a more streamlined and user-friendly experience for our community," said Keith Pandeloglou, president and CEO of Lakewood Ranch Community Activities. "In just a few short months, there are upwards of 4,000 residents and 1,500 nonresidents registered – our goal is every resident, whether you own a home here or rent!

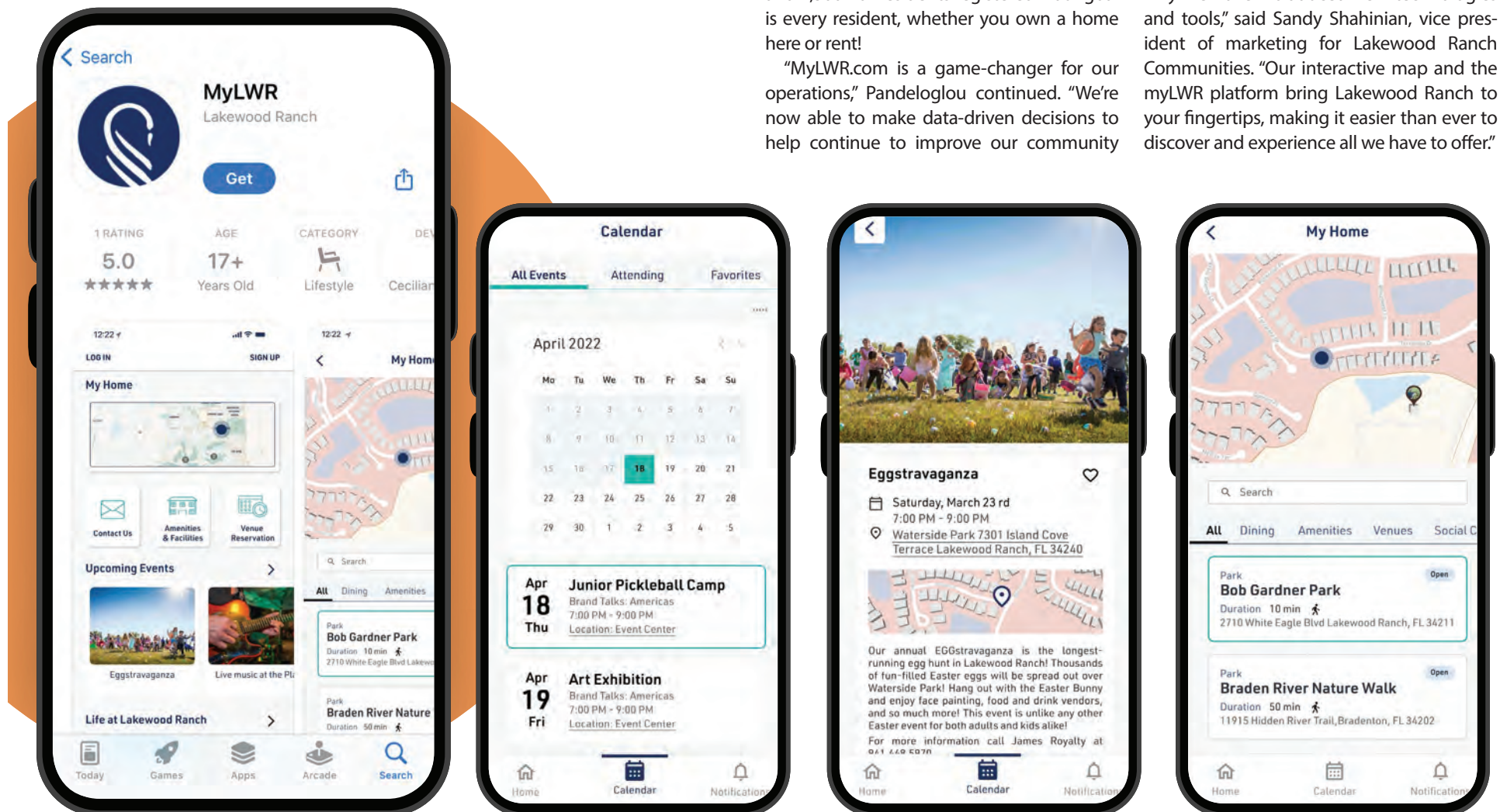
"MyLWR.com is a game-changer for our operations," Pandeloglou continued. "We're now able to make data-driven decisions to help continue to improve our community

amenities and programs."

The launch of myLWR follows last year's implementation of the interactive map tool at Lakewood Ranch's Information Center at Main Street.

The tool allows users to learn about the region, get the "big picture" of Lakewood Ranch and where community features like parks, schools, and town centers are located; explore the features that are important to them, such as golf, parks and trails, etc.; and narrow down prospective villages that match their search criteria.

"We continually strive to evolve with our prospective and current residents, and that's why we have introduced new technologies and tools," said Sandy Shahinian, vice president of marketing for Lakewood Ranch Communities. "Our interactive map and the myLWR platform bring Lakewood Ranch to your fingertips, making it easier than ever to discover and experience all we have to offer."



# LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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



By Daniell Bugel

Summer is in full swing on The Ranch and there's no shortage of activities to enjoy! From outdoor adventures and social gatherings to fitness classes and community connections, Lakewood Ranch is the perfect place to soak up the sunshine and make lasting memories with friends and neighbors.

Before we dive into the juicy details, the Lakewood Ranch Community Activities team has some big news we're excited to share with our amazing community: WE'VE MOVED! In our new space in Lakewood Ranch, we'll continue to create and deliver engaging and inclusive experiences that bring people together, foster a sense of belonging, and enhance the quality of life for our community. We do this through large-scale Signature events, over 60+ groups and clubs, and Parks & Rec programming that inspire connection and make Lakewood Ranch a truly special place to call home. Our new space is in partnership with the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance, and we're thrilled for a new adventure!

Now, let's heat up your social calendars ...

Get active and get moving with some amazing Parks & Rec programs! We're rolling out fun and fitness programs, both new and returning, and you're invited to join in on the action. Whether you're a fitness enthusiast, an adventure-seeker, or just looking to try something new, there's something for everyone in our lineup of summer programs.

Get ready to tone up and stretch out with Pilates in the Park on July 20 at Country Club Park. Starting at 8 a.m., this free-for-residents class is open to all levels and is the perfect way to kick off your summer fitness routine.

If you're looking for a new summer hobby, Intro to Disc Golf is happening Aug. 3 at Bob Gardner Community Park. At 10 a.m., learn the basics of this fun and social sport in a relaxed and supportive environment.

For those who love to dance, get ready to salsa the afternoon away on Aug. 10 at Waterside Place! Starting at 4 p.m., Arthur Murray Dance Studio is bringing their expertise to the community for an Intro to Salsa Dance class. Learn the rhythm and moves of this high-energy dance style in a fun and social setting.

These are just a few of the many ways Lakewood Ranch is bringing the community together this summer. To register and view all our park programs, visit [LWRCA.org](http://LWRCA.org). If you want to be the first to know what's happening around The Ranch, join our biweekly newsletter by selecting "Get Connected" right on our home page!



Looking for a group of individuals who share your interests? Look no further than any of our groups and clubs! Some great options to consider joining include the LWR Pickleball Club, Lakewood Ranch Running Club, and LWR Garden Club. There are over 60 to choose from; just visit [mylwr.com/groups-and-clubs](http://mylwr.com/groups-and-clubs) to find your tribe and get involved.

Stay connected with everything Lakewood Ranch has to offer by downloading the brand new MyLWR App. With the app, you'll have access to event registration, park and venue reservations, dog park information, group and club listings, and volunteer opportunities – all in one convenient place. Download and sign up today for the full Ranch experience!

Whether you're looking for adventure, community, or just a way to stay active, Lakewood Ranch has something for everyone. Let's get out there together and make summer memories together. See you around The Ranch!



## PRESENTING SPONSORS



## SUPPORTING SPONSORS



TURNER FROM PAGE 5

County) seeking compensation from FEMA.

“I like your idea!” Turner said.

Cohn also expressed concern about golf cart users being able to cross Lorraine Road to play golf without getting a citation.

District 6 Supervisor Sandy Keenan asked about how the “non-roundabout” on Market Street could be fixed. Turner replied that there are something like four property owners in that area that would need to be brought together to make changes.

District 1 Supervisor Laura Fox expressed her concern for people driving golf carts on sidewalks with kids hanging off the back of the carts, as well as kids driving golf carts and racing dirt bikes, leading to potential and real injury. Turner noted that his mother-in-law had been hit by a golf cart and needed to be hospitalized.

Several people commented on the new commercial construction on the south side of University Parkway, which they said was creating light pollution coming from the signage and parking lot lighting for the residents living on the north side of that road.

Turner promised to contact a member of the Sarasota County Board of Commissioners, as those commercial buildings are located in Sarasota County.

One resident complained that a construction crew doing work for the County had disturbed her driveway and had replaced the concrete with a mix that wasn't close to the original color. When she called the County to question this, she was given a story that maybe the ground below the new concrete had stained it. Turner promised to find out what went wrong and to get back to her.

Regarding the size and capacity of future roads, Turner noted that the County is trying to make any new roadways to the east four-lane, citing Uihlein Road as an example.

## THE (PET) DOCTOR IS IN!

By Erin Siems, DVM

**D**id you know that July is National Lost Pet Prevention Month? Why? This time of year there are lots of celebrations, get-togethers, vacations and fireworks (not to mention hurricane season) creating a perfect storm for our furry friends to get spooked, bolt, and not be able to find their way back home.

Sadly, most pets that run away or go missing do not find their way back home. This is part of the reason millions of animals enter shelters each year. Lost Pet Prevention Month was created 10 years ago and has helped bring light to an often-overlooked problem.

What can we do? As a pet parent, it is important from the beginning to use positive reinforcement to encourage your pet to run towards you, not away, when they are scared. This creates a great foundation and bond, rather than defaulting to running the opposite direction because they think they will get punished. When you do take them outside, make sure pets are secured by a properly fitting harness or collar with identification and don't leave them outside unattended, especially in a new environment. Microchipping also goes a long way in helping pets that are lost get reconnected with their family.

Once a pet is lost, it is important to reunite them as soon as possible. The more time that goes by the less likely they are to find their way home. If you find a lost pet who is friendly, try to coax



them over and see if they look familiar or have identification. If you see a lost pet who is panicked or nervous, don't chase them! It is best to call the authorities as they are trained to handle the situation best.

And don't forget about social media! Pages like Nextdoor and Facebook are a great way to reach out to your local community to help. It is heartbreaking to lose a pet and so heartwarming to be a part of their safe return home. Pet Lost Prevention Months is here to raise awareness and reduce the number of lost pets out there!

*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.*



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# Waterside Place's Cileone Jewelers

## 35 Years and Still in Love with the Jewelry Business

By Ernie Soller  
Community Correspondent

Joe Cileone was a sophomore in high school in Philadelphia when his father – as many fathers have done – suggested that it was time he got a part-time job. So, he got an after-school job with a mom-and-pop jeweler in his neighborhood. Cileone had not, at this point, considered the jewelry business as his life's work, but he found that he really enjoyed working there and loved dealing with the merchandise and the people who patronized the store.

He continued to work there and while attending college at Temple University, he met a girl at a local Starbucks – an exchange student from Ukraine. Her name was Alyona, and they've been together ever since. One problem – by the terms of her exchange student status, she had to return to Ukraine for two years before she could return to the United States. A lot of letters went back and forth during that period. As Cileone puts it, he was a poor college student and couldn't afford to jet back and forth to Ukraine. She did return, and they married in Philadelphia.

How did Alyona get interested in being in the jewelry business with Joe? The store where he'd worked since high school wanted to hire an additional person to work at the business. Joe suggested Alyona, and she went to work at that same store and like Joe, found that she loved dealing with jewelry.

After college, Joe stayed in the business, becoming, among other things, a sales rep for a bridal jewelry company. He also worked for an estate jewelry buyer in New York City, all the while gaining more experience in the business and the know-how to run his own jewelry store. For about six months, Joe tried his hand at the investment business, but ended up returning to the jewelry trade he loved.

To this day, Joe travels often to various cities, hosting jewelry buying events, in order to select new items for Cileone Jewelers.

At Cileone Jewelers, Joe and Alyona try to acquire unique, one-of-a-kind pieces of jewelry, deliberately staying away from some of the "mass market" items sold by big box stores. Some jewelry stores in the area have only a minimal selection of estate pieces and men's jewelry, other than wedding rings and the like. Cileone Jewelers has a much larger than aver-



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER



age selection, and some of both women's and men's rings, for example, are truly unique, one-of-a-kind "drool worthy" pieces.

The same is true for fine watches. Go into an average jewelry store, and you might find a number of new higher-end watches and perhaps a handful of pre-owned Swiss watches. Not at Cileone Jewelers. There is a display case with a nice collection of fine, collectable, pre-owned Swiss timepieces, from multiple varieties of Rolexes to Breitling, Omega, Piaget, Patek Philippe, etc. There are watches there of a type that I've never seen before! You say you might want a vintage Breitling, but don't like the heavy weight? How about one made of titanium? It still has the bold, "big watch" look – at



about one-third the weight! Cileone Jewelers offers a one-year mechanical service warranty on their pre-owned watches.

As I listened to Alyona and Joe Cileone talk about jewelry and their new store, I heard some new jewelry terms that I hadn't heard before.

One item that has apparently caught on recently is the men's engagement ring. Women

are now buying engagement rings for their guys. Apparently this trend started out with celebrities, and has taken off. I guess I'll have to have a conversation with my wife, as she has not presented me with such a gift. Hmmm! I would think that this makes a certain amount of sense. If a woman wears an engagement ring, that ring identifies her as "off limits" to anyone but her guy. Why shouldn't a man display a similar symbol?

Another item which has entered the jewelry trade (not so recently, though) is the "push ring." This is a special ring given as a gift by a man to his wife after she gives birth to their child, to commemorate that momentous occasion.

And, speaking of bridal rings and diamonds, Cileone Jewelers deals in GIA certified diamonds. Why? Because that organization is the industry standard for grading diamonds. Cileone Jewelers also offers the opportunity for a couple to design their own rings.

As to why the Cileones moved from Philadelphia to Lakewood Ranch, they informed me that they loved Philly ... until they didn't.

They owned their own jewelry store in Philadelphia, and they had been discussing the idea of moving to the suburbs, but the more they discussed it, the more they found themselves talking about locations where they might want to live permanently.

They did their homework, researching family-friendly places to live, and the name Lakewood Ranch came up. They visited Lakewood Ranch and fell in love with it. So they moved to Lakewood Ranch, and opened Cileone Jewelers at Waterside Place a week before Christmas, in 2023.

They love living here in our community, and really like being at Waterside Place, where they can leave their store at closing time and walk a few steps to a restaurant, or they can check out the food trucks or go to a live concert at Waterside Place. They also love the fact that they have only a very short commute from their home to their store.

Cileone Jewelers is located at 1561 Lakefront Drive, Suite 105, at Waterside Place in Lakewood Ranch. Hours are Wednesday – Friday, 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. and 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. For more information visit [cileone.com](http://cileone.com) or call (941)351-8792.

Come and see for yourself.

# LWR Medical Center Celebrates 20 Years, Breaks Ground for New Tower

By Ernie Soller  
Community Correspondent

It may seem hard to believe, but the Lakewood Ranch Medical Center (LWRMC) opened its doors in 2004 – 20 years ago. Since then, it has grown along with the community, from what started as a smaller 120-bed hospital to what, with the new tower, will become a 180-bed hospital. The tower will include shell space for an additional 60 patient beds as the hospital continues to grow and add services.

Along the way, additional facilities and services have been added, such as the Women's Center, which has become the premier place to give birth in Manatee County.

Several years ago, at a health fair which was then held at the Medical Center, one of the featured items was a demonstration of a fairly recently acquired surgical robot. Under the direction of one of the nurses, I actually got to manipulate the controls of the surgical robot, and it was an amazing experience, especially since I'd attended a talk not long before by a surgeon who specialized in prostate surgery, and who had stressed that using the robot enabled him to perform more delicate surgeries, with far greater precision than he'd experienced using the "old method."

I've experienced the professionalism and skill of the hospital's cath lab team, as I found myself in their capable hands after having a small heart attack. I arrived at LWRMC after a morning of doing yard work at my home, after which I experienced chest pains and a feeling of pressure. The emergency room staff got me right in, checked my condition, and almost before I knew it, had me in the cath lab and performed an angioplasty. Back then, there was only one cath lab at the Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. There are now two.

A friend managed to break the bone in his leg that connects with the hip joint a few months ago and, after a ride to the Medical Center by ambulance, was operated on the very next day, and has been recovering.

In June, LWRMC celebrated the groundbreaking for a new \$120 million, five-story tower. The first phase will add 60 additional beds (30 for intensive care patients and 30 for progressive care patients), along with space to add 60 more in the future (by adding two additional floors), at which point the hospital will attain a 240-bed patient capacity.

The construction area will be located just to the left of the present main entrance to LWRMC, and will permit the establishment of specialized care units.

The new tower also allows for the expansion of the laboratory, pharmacy, pre-admission testing, and food and nutrition services departments.

The project is expected to be completed by December of 2025, and it is projected that an additional 100 new jobs will be created through this expansion.

LWRMC has been the recipient of numerous awards, among them the Joint Commission's Gold Seal of Approval for Advanced Primary Heart Attack Care and the Joint Commission and American Heart Association's Gold Seal of Approval for the hospital's Fruitville Emergency Room.

The Medical Center has also been awarded a spot on Newsweek's list of Best Maternity Hospitals, and has been listed as a Top General Hospital for Outstanding Quality and Safety by



At the groundbreaking, from left: Renee Shopoff, CFO, LWRMC; Phillip Reber, COO, LWRMC; Edward Sim, president, acute care division, UHC; Andy Guz, CEO of LWRMC; Ryan Chandler, UHS Group Vice President Florida Region; and Judy Young, chief nursing officer, LWRMC. PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

the Leapfrog Group.

Twenty years is a long time, but our LWRMC has made a mark for itself, not only in our community but in the greater Lakewood Ranch area.

While at the groundbreaking, I met a LWRMC nurse who has been employed there since even before it opened 20 years ago. She had some interesting comments, both as to how she came to work at the hospital, and also regarding some of the happenings that took place during her 20-year tenure.

Paddi Juliano had been working as a firefighter in Buffalo, NY. When her husband got a new job in the Sarasota area, and after falling in love with Siesta Key beach, she made the decision to change careers and go to nursing school.

For a while, she worked at Sarasota Memorial while studying nursing at State College of Florida. When she heard that Lakewood Ranch Medical Center was opening, she applied to work as an emergency room tech, as she had not quite completed her nursing studies. She was actually hired before the new hospital opened, and after finishing her nursing studies, became an emergency room nurse at LWRMC.

I asked Paddi about what she considered major events in



Nurse Paddi Juliano

her career at the hospital. She immediately began talking about events surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic of a few years ago. She talked about how the hospital had backed up the staff, and about people in the community bringing in masks for the staff – even masks they'd used for painting their homes were brought in. They also brought food for the staff ... including lots of pizza!

She noted that the Medical Center had garnered lots of awards and made a point of saying that LWRMC has made a definite effort to keep up with technological advances, and has maintained a high quality of care. She mentioned that LWRMC works with nursing colleges in our area both to train and recruit.

Paddi is no stranger to awards either, as she's been Nurse of the Year at LWRMC for 2023 and has also been named Employee of the Year. She wears two distinct pins on her RN identity card: a "COVID-19 Hero" pin, and a pin commemorating her 20 years of service as part of the "Opening Team," back in 2004.

The Lakewood Ranch Medical Center has become a great resource for our community. Congratulations on all the awards and continued success, here in Lakewood Ranch.

# Forestar Opens Star Farms at Lakewood Ranch First Amenity Campus

Forestar Group Inc. celebrated the phase one opening of The Resort Club, the first amenity campus for Star Farms at Lakewood Ranch.

The social hub of Star Farms, The Resort Club is an innovative, amenity-rich campus including a hospitality-staffed clubhouse. The first phase features a resort-style pool and spa, poolside cabanas and beach areas, pet park, Trade Route Coffee Shop, Star Fit Wellness Complex - Fitness and Performance Centers, community lawn, courtyard, and golf cart parking. A poolside bar and grill, outdoor activities area, event center, The Terrace - Chef's Patio and a mail kiosk are planned for future phases. Upon completion, Star Farms will offer four resort campuses: The Resort Club, Junction Place, Adventure Retreat and Cabana Corner, in addition to greenways and trails.

"We are pleased to share a touch of hospitality with our residents and guests in our new bakery and coffee kitchen along with the fit-



ness programs and resort-style pool," said Tony Squitieri, Forestar Region vice president and

West Florida Region division president. "Filled with local partnerships for goods and services,

our residents enjoy our attention to detail, unique amenities and special touches."

Surrounded by the natural beauty of Southwest Florida, Star Farms at Lakewood Ranch is a multigenerational lifestyle community that offers a unique experience tailored to residents. The 700-acre, gated village is a resort ranch hometown featuring 1,500 single-family homes, paired villa retreats and townhomes with a variety of amenities, clubs and hospitality services. Positioned within Lakewood Ranch, Star Farms is minutes from dining, shopping and cultural activities as well as top-rated beaches.

"Star Farms has done a masterful job of integrating amenities that promote wellness, social interaction, and relaxation in a hometown environment," said Laura Cole, senior vice president of Lakewood Ranch Communities. "They epitomize the 'live your best life' ethos for residents of all ages."

For more information visit [www.starfarms.com](http://www.starfarms.com) or [lwr.com](http://lwr.com).



## JOIN US AT OUR NEXT SHOW!

Every month at Lakewood Ranch, we host the best of local music, visual and performance art the Sarasota region offers.

**SUNCOAST SWING BAND:** Friday, July 19th @ 7pm

**MANATEE COMMUNITY CONCERT BAND:** Tuesday, August 27th @ 7pm

**LWR WIND ENSEMBLE & CHORAL ARTISTS:** Friday, September 27th @ 6pm

*Check out all of the events  
happening around The Ranch!*



**LAKEWOOD RANCH®.com**



## HEALTH AND WELLNESS

By Lori A. Boyd  
Director of Marketing

### When Patient Presents with Rare and Acute Blood Clotting Condition, Lakewood Ranch Medical Center Staff Is Responsive and Reassuring

Mark Mattis, 66, of Lakewood Ranch, a U.S. Air Force veteran and former sales executive, was enjoying his retirement, biking, golfing, taking walks and working on to-do-list tasks for his wife of 40 years. Then, suddenly, on Oct. 26, 2023, he began to experience breathlessness.

"I would literally walk down the street and start gasping for air," Mattis said.

He nearly collapsed upon arrival at his primary care doctor's office a few days later. After receiving an EKG with concerning results, his doctor confirmed there was no wait time at the freestanding emergency department, ER at Fruitville, an extension of Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. He instructed Mattis to go there for additional testing and care.

Mattis was seen immediately at the ER at Fruitville where he received oxygen and a CT scan. He was diagnosed with a saddle pulmonary embolism, a rare, life-threatening condition that occurs when a large blood clot gets stuck in the main pulmonary artery, restricting blood flow. Mattis was taken by ambulance to Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, where he would have an endovascular thrombectomy, a minimally invasive surgical procedure to remove the clot, performed by Amit Bhakoo, M.D., a vascular/interventional radiologist.

Mattis reports a big difference following the procedure. "I was able to breathe again," he said. "I really appreciated how they took care of my wife, too. She was very concerned. While I was



in recovery, Dr. Bhakoo used a computer to show my wife the procedure. This was helpful to the conversations that my wife and I would later have about the experience."

What Mattis appreciated most was the sense of urgency by both the ER at Fruitville and hospital staff in their delivery of care, while also conveying professionalism and reassurance.

"I felt I was in good hands," said Mattis.

For more information about their services, visit [lakewoodranchmedicalcenter.com](http://lakewoodranchmedicalcenter.com).

*In an emergency, call 911 or go to the nearest emergency room. ER at Fruitville is part of Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. This is not an urgent care center. Its services and care are billed at hospital emergency department rates. Physicians are on the medical staff of Lakewood Ranch Medical Center, but, with limited exceptions, are independent practitioners, who are not employees or agents of Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. The hospital shall not be liable for actions or treatments provided by physicians. For language assistance, disability accommodations and the nondiscrimination notice, visit our website.*

## July 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](http://chabadofbradenton.com/zoom), unless otherwise noted.

### Talmud Classes

**Mondays, July 22 and 29, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.**

**At the virtual Chabad House**

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, July 20 and 27, 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, July 19 and 26, 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

**Thursday mornings, July 18 and 25, 9-9:30 a.m.**

**At the virtual Chabad House**

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

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



# SUMMER CAMP



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## Hunger has no place on the list of things kids should be experiencing this summer!

On Fridays during the summer months, The Food Bank of Manatee, one of our PLUS programs, provides Food4Families bags at summer Break Spots to families in need of vital nutrition. These bags contain breakfast, lunch, and dinner to feed a family of five for two or more days. That is 30 meals—keeping families fed through the weekend. In the summer of 2024, our goal is to provide at least 22,000 meals each week for children and their families, right here in Manatee County. During the nine-week summer break, that is nearly 200,000 meals!

Of the 50,000 students in Manatee County who will not have access to school meals when classes get out for summer break, there are nearly 20,000 students who are at critical risk of food-insecurity this summer. That is where The Food Bank of Manatee steps in to fill the gaps of those nutritional needs. Please give today to feed kids and families this summer!



**DONATE TODAY!**

**Will you help us *cross hunger off the list* this summer?**

All donations stay local to help right here in our community.  
We need your support today!

**[www.MealsOnWheelsPLUS.org](http://www.MealsOnWheelsPLUS.org)**

**The Food Bank of Manatee is a PLUS program of  
Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee**

The Florida Registration number for Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee is #CH1420. A copy of the official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Division of Consumer Services by calling toll-free (800-435-7352) or at [www.800helpfla.com](http://www.800helpfla.com) within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

  
**Meals on Wheels PLUS**  
OF MANATEE

  
**The Food Bank**  
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