



Around the Ranch

AROUNDTHERANCH.COM

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 15, 2025



TEN ... NINE ... EIGHT ... HAPPY NEW YEAR, LAKEWOOD RANCH! Thousands of revelers welcomed 2025 in at Waterside Place. Here's to a wonderful, safe, and prosperous year for Ranch residents, the community, and the U.S. Photo by Danielle Bugel

INSIDE:

**COMMUNITY
ACTIVITIES**

Page 6

**LAKEWOOD RANCH
BLUESFEST**

Page 8

**AT LAST...
A DELI IN LWR**

Page 11

CLEARANCE SALE

We are Overstocked
- Bring your truck or we
will deliver to you.

Now thru Saturday, January 25th

30% - 65% OFF All Clearance Drop Tags



HURRY IN! DON'T MISS OUT

Quality is not expensive, it is priceless.

Sale From
\$1688

Sale From
\$1388



Stressfree Living
with Norway's Finest

AFFORDABLE NORWEGIAN COMFORT

LIFETIME WARRANTY...FRAME • SUSPENSION • MECHANISM • FOAM



OMNIA
LEATHER USA
EST. 1989



Omnia leather is proudly made in the U.S.A.



Since
1984

**LEATHER GALLERY
and
BEDDING CENTER**

www.LeatherGallerySarasota.com

**5251 S. Tamiami Tr. • Sarasota
(1.5 Miles South of Bee Ridge Rd.)**

941-993-1057

Mon.-Fri 10-7 • Sat. 10-6 • Sun. 11-5

Free Financing • 100% Top Grain Leather • We Ship Anywhere

CONTACT INFORMATION

Editor:

Lisa M. Barnott
lisa.barnott@lakewoodranch.com

Contributing Writer:

Ernie Soller
efsoller@hotmail.com

Proofreaders:

Sue Chaney
Chris Westlake

Community Programs:

Keith Pandeloglou
keith@lwrcac.com

Graphic Designer:

Kim Collister
kcollister@localiq.com

Editorial Board

Lisa M. Barnott, Rex Jensen, Sue Chaney

Phone Numbers

Community Services Town Hall:
941-907-0202

LWR Common Area:
Maintenance Requests, 941-727-0899

Lakewood Ranch Medical Center:
941-782-2100

Manatee County Government:
941-748-4501

Sarasota County Government:
941-861-5000

Lakewood Ranch Post Office:
941-758-3537

Community Website:
myLWR.com

Around the Ranch offices are at 14400 Covenant Way, Lakewood Ranch, FL, 34202. The editorial phone number is 941-757-1542. The e-mail address is aroundtheranch@lakewoodranch.com.

Advertising Sales/Circulation: Around the Ranch is published by Lakewood Ranch Media which is solely responsible for its content. The Herald-Tribune is responsible for the printing, distribution and sales production of this newspaper. The articles and editorial viewpoints contained in this publication are written solely by Lakewood Ranch Media with the assistance of the Community Services Office and other offices in Lakewood Ranch, none of which are associated with the Herald-Tribune.

The contents of the Around the Ranch newspaper, including information by Around the Ranch correspondents, and other material contained in Around the Ranch are for informational purposes only and do not render medical advice or professional services. The information provided through Around the Ranch should not be used for diagnosing or treating a health problem or disease. Articles contained in this newspaper are not a substitute for professional care or services. If you have or suspect you may have a problem, you should consult a professional service provider. Never disregard professional medical advice or delay in seeking it because of something you have read in Around the Ranch.



Around the Ranch is an advertising supplement produced by the Advertising Department of the Herald-Tribune Media Group. To advertise, call 361-4000.

Emergency Care That's Always There Sarasota Memorial ER at Lakewood Ranch is

NOW OPEN!



When emergency strikes, every moment matters. With this latest addition to the Sarasota Memorial Health Care System, you and your loved ones can sleep easier knowing that the doctor is in – and just around the corner.

- 21 Exam Rooms
- Full Service Laboratory
- X-ray, MRI, CT, and Ultrasound Imaging
- Board-Certified Emergency Medicine Physicians Available 24/7
- Direct Admission to Sarasota Memorial Hospital or hospital of your choice, if needed

Laboratory and imaging services available - Walk-Ins Welcome

Sarasota Memorial ER at Lakewood Ranch

7250 University Parkway, Sarasota, FL 34240

(941) 262-3000 • smh.com/er

**OPEN
24 HRS
A DAY
7 DAYS
A WEEK**



I Wish I May, I Wish I Might ... Wish Returns to LWR Main Street!

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

When Lakewood Ranch Main Street was young, a store opened that eventually became one of the longest running businesses on the street.

The name of the store was Wish, and over the years since its inception, Wish made for many happy customers on Lakewood Ranch Main Street. Wish carried jewelry, women's clothing, gift items ranging from holiday décor pieces to humorous things to brighten up someone's day, things for grandparents to take home to their grandkids up north after a visit to our Gulf Coast, and so on.

Wish became a sort of "destination locale" for snowbirds and other visitors, not just in winter, but all year long. It was that good, and that loved. Wish was the type of store to which a girl could bring her best friend who'd come down to escape the "up north" winter cold, or the store where you'd go to find an unusual gift for someone special. I remember going to Wish to pick up an addition or two for my wife's charm bracelet.

Wish had a long run on Lakewood Ranch Main Street. Then, about three and a half years ago, the idea of moving the store to a bigger venue seemed like a good idea, and Wish moved over to the University Town Center.

The move offered the possibility of more foot traffic, as that mall was home to many more stores, and, hence more potential customers.

However, that mall was a different sort of place from Lakewood Ranch Main Street. The larger mall had a number of much larger "big box" stores, which garnered a lot of traffic, but they might not have been the sort of stores to complement a store like Wish.

For some, the UTC Wish didn't make for the "Wish experience" they desired. Another issue with the University Town Center area was entrance and egress, along with parking.

The traffic engineers who designed the routes for entering and leaving that entire shopping area have done no one any



favours. Traffic around UTC is almost always congested. The entire area between Honore and I-75 off University Parkway has become, for many potential shoppers, a nightmare to contend with – especially during season, the year-end holidays, rush hour, or just about any other time. Parking at UTC was also often a nightmare. Some folks have made the decision to just avoid the area entirely.

So, yes, the new mall had more traffic, but a lot of the shoppers who were part of that increased traffic might not have been the sort of customers who would prefer to shop at Wish. So, after a hiatus from Lakewood Ranch Main Street, Wish has returned.

After all, Lakewood Ranch Main Street has built its reputation as a location filled with stores and restaurants which offer a certain level of pleasant, personal service.

The new Wish location is at 8130 Lakewood Main Street, Suite #102. You can probably find a spot to park either in front of the store, or in pretty close proximity to Wish.

At the new Wish, a woman can find stylish costume jewelry, a nice selection of contemporary clothing for both daytime and evening, nice sportswear, and lots of accessories, such as purses, sandals, and jewelry, along with a friendly sales person to assist you, the customer.



And, yes, there is a nice dressing area where a customer can actually try on an item before buying it. My wife recently went to the new Wish, was assisted by a pleasant salesperson, Dawn, and made a purchase. She also commented on the fact that the new Wish stocks the type of items that every woman needs in her closet – practical items that she can wear more than once, and that Wish has a nice selection of what she calls "girlfriend gifts."

The décor of the new Wish is a little whimsical, with pictures of actresses from old movies, such as Clara Bow, Marilyn Monroe, etc. The sign in the window of the new Wish states: "Life is too short to wear boring clothes."

I agree!

Welcome back, Wish!

Lakewood Ranch Medical Center Earns 2024 Leapfrog Top Hospital Award for Outstanding Quality and Safety

Highlighting its nationally recognized achievements in patient safety and quality, Lakewood Ranch Medical Center was named a Top Teaching Hospital by The Leapfrog Group. Announced in December, the Leapfrog Top Hospital award is widely acknowledged as one of the most competitive awards American hospitals can receive.

The Top Hospital designation is bestowed by The Leapfrog Group, a national watchdog organization of employers and other purchasers known as the toughest standard-setters for health care safety and quality.

Nearly 2,400 hospitals were considered for the award. Among those, Lakewood Ranch Medical Center received a Top Teaching Hospital distinction. A total of 134 Top Hospitals were selected, including:

- 8 Top Children's
- 36 Top General
- 15 Top Rural
- 75 Top Teaching

"We are proud to be one of 134 hospitals nationwide to be recognized as a Leapfrog Top Hospital," said Philip Reber, interim CEO at Lakewood Ranch Medical Center. "We want the people of our community to feel confident in the safe, quality care provided by our hospital's medical providers and team members, and this award reinforces that message."

Earlier this year, Lakewood Ranch Medical Center was recognized on Newsweek's list of America's Best Maternity Hospitals 2024; was named "high performing" in heart attack, knee replacement and hip replacement care by U.S. News & World Report and earned an "A" Hospital Safety Grade from The Leapfrog Group.

The quality of patient care across many areas of hospital performance is considered in establishing the qualifications for the award, including infection rates, practices for safer surgery, maternity care and the hospital's capacity to prevent medication errors. The rigorous standards are defined in each year's Top Hospital Methodology.

"Protecting patients from preventable harm is central to The Leapfrog Group's mission," said Leah Binder, president and CEO of The Leapfrog Group. "Lakewood Ranch Medical Center has set the standard for patient safety, earning the prestigious distinction of a Top Hospital. This elite honor reflects the exceptional efforts of the entire team and Lakewood Ranch Medical Center among the nation's elite in health care. Congratulations to all who made this remarkable achievement possible."

To qualify for the distinction, hospitals must rank top among peers on the Leapfrog Hospital Survey, which assesses hospital performance on the highest standards for quality and patient safety and achieve top performance in their category. To see the full list of institutions honored as 2024 Top Hospitals, visit www.leapfroggroup.org/tophospitals.



We Are Closed Saturday!

Until 12 Noon

So our crews can mark down every item in the store!

DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SAVE LIKE NEVER BEFORE!

NO INTEREST IF PAID IN FULL WITHIN 12 MONTHS*

Pick Up Today Or Next Day Delivery Available

Saturday 12 - 9pm

& Sunday 11 - 6pm

**SATURDAY
& SUNDAY
ONLY!**



SOUTH SARASOTA 5252 S. Tamiami Trail (at Phillippi Creek) 941-260-9601

NORTH SARASOTA 4027 N Washington Blvd (Hwy 301) 941-351-8600

BRADENTON 1100 Cortez Rd W (corner US Hwy 41) 941-749-6069

ELLENTON 5814 18th Street East (across Premium Outlets) 941-479-7900

VENICE 550 S Seaboard Ave (on 41 Bypass) 941-485-3211

PORT CHARLOTTE 1241 El Jobean Rd (across Sam's) 941-764-8700

Stores Hours: Mon-Sat 9-9, Sun 11-6



*On purchases of \$300 or more made with your Furniture Warehouse Synchrony HOME Credit Card made between January 18, 2025 and January 17, 2026. Interest will be charged to your account from the purchase date if the promotional balance is not paid in full within 12 months, by January 2026. Minimum monthly payments required. Down payment is required with different payment type for shipping and sales tax. Qualifying purchase amount must be on one receipt. A Promo Fee does not apply to this offer. No interest will be charged on the promo balance if you pay it off, in full, within the promo period. If you do not, interest will be charged on the promo balance from the purchase date. The required minimum monthly payments may or may not pay off the promo balance before the end of the promo period, depending on purchase amount, promo length and payment allocation. Regular account terms apply to non-promo purchases and, after promo period ends, to the promo balance. New Accounts as of 07/16/2024: Purchase APR 34.99%. Penalty APR 39.99%. Min Interest Charge \$2. A promo fee will be charged equal to 2% of the amount financed on an equal payment no interest promotion of 18 months or more. Existing cardholders: See your credit card agreement terms. Subject to credit approval. Furniture must be delivered within 60 days on all financing offers. All prices include the coupon savings or any promotional discounts. Previous purchases excluded. Cannot be combined with any other promotion or discount. Promotional offers exclude Hots Buys, floor models or clearance items, sales tax, furniture protection plans, warranty, delivery or service charge. One discount offer per household. All in-stock items are available for same day pick up or next day delivery if there is delivery capacity. See store for more details.

LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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



By Danielle Bugel

Our New Year's Eve Celebration at Waterside Place on Dec. 31st was truly unforgettable! We welcomed the new year surrounded by our incredible community, which perfectly embodies our mission here at Lakewood Ranch Community Activities – fostering togetherness, building friendships, and creating lasting memories. A heartfelt thank you goes out to our amazing event sponsors for making this celebration such a success: presenting sponsors Capstan Financial and Waterside Place, Kids' Korner sponsors Grace Community Church and Tropical Thrills, and entertainment sponsor Oh What Fun Party Co.

We kicked off 2025 with our annual "New Year, New You" Health & Wellness Expo, which took place on Jan. 11 at the UTC Mall. A big thank you to all the sponsors, including our presenting sponsor, Lakewood Ranch Medical Center; and supporting sponsors, Florida Cancer Specialists, Nurse Holly Aesthetics, Lotus Women's Health, and Mind Body Medicine of Florida, for helping make this event a fantastic success! With over 50 vendors in attendance, the expo was both informative and enjoyable for all who joined us!

Excited for the amazing year we have ahead of us on The Ranch, we continue our exciting lineup of large-scale Signature Events starting with our LWR Community Campout scheduled for Feb. 15-16 at Greenbrook Adventure Park. Get ready for a full day and night of fun and family togetherness! From 3 p.m. - 9 a.m, come enjoy live music, food truck dinner for purchase, guided nature walk, star gazing through telescopes, huge campfire perfect for roasting s'mores, live movie showing, and complimentary breakfast to end an unforgettable time! This event sells out FAST, so head over to MyLWR.com/calendar to secure your tickets! We can't wait to see you there!

Following the Community Campout, the fun continues with our Irish Celtic Festival on March 15 at Greenbrook Adventure Park and our EGGstravaganza event on April 12 at Waterside Park. Stay tuned for all the details for those awesome events!

In addition to our Signature Events, we run a full Parks & Recreation calendar all year long. We have a variety of NEW park programs alongside returning community favorites that will further enrich your experience here in Lakewood Ranch. Some exciting Parks & Rec programs to look forward to include:

- Soccer Stars for ages 1 - 7 years



- Learn to Fish Saturdays for all ages
- Focused Tai Chi and Qigong for 18+ adults
- Sunset Stretch by Jazzercise for 18+ adults
- Pilates for 18+ adults
- Bracelet making for kids
- Tie-dye making class for kids
- Yoga in the Park for 18+ adults
- Intro to dance classes for 18+ adults
- Intro to disc golf classes for all ages
- And so much more!

This year holds special significance for us at LWRCA as we proudly commemorate our 25th year anniversary! What an incredible journey it has been that began on Nov. 22, 2000. Over the past 25 years, we have worked tirelessly to strengthen bonds within our vibrant community, and we're immensely grateful for our devoted residents, community sponsors, and volunteers who have been part of this journey.

Thank you, Ranchers, for being part of this incredible adventure! We're excited for the upcoming festivities and another year filled with togetherness and unforgettable moments. See you around The Ranch!



ANNUAL PRESENTING SPONSORS



ANNUAL SUPPORTING SPONSORS



Lakewood Ranch Lights Up for the Holidays Once Again

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

Some things could only happen in a special place like Lakewood Ranch.

Do you recall the old Christmas cards from the '50s that showed a little red pickup truck rolling down a wintry, snow-covered road, with a Christmas tree in its bed? In Lakewood Ranch, we may have done that beloved scene one better – or at least with a more “modern” look.

As I walked down the street at Waterside Place, I saw a couple of guys in a red car tooling down the street with a Christmas tree tied on the top. And then I realized the car was ... a shiny red Ferrari! Some things are just done in unique ways in Lakewood Ranch.

These events were the start of a couple of evenings of experiencing the holiday magic of Lakewood Ranch.

At the Waterside Place pavilion, the Lakewood Ranch Aloha Ukulele Club Band was belting out holiday hits in their inimitable way! The band members had on holiday-styled Hawaiian shirts – heavy on the color red – along with various interesting forms of headgear, from a straw hat festooned with colored lights to elf hats; one shaped like a Christmas tree, a fuzzy “Rudolph” hat, a giant red bow, and a red cowboy hat, its brim ringed with white faux fur.

It was obvious that these musicians were having a great time entertaining the folks who took the time to spend part of their pre-holiday at Waterside Place. They would play a tune on their ukuleles and then, all of a sudden, the ukuleles went silent ... the kazoos came out, and the music kept on coming. Great fun was had by all.

Lights were sparkling on the big tree at Waterside Place, and on many other areas of the district.

Next, I traveled over to Lakewood Ranch Main Street, where there was this big guy with a big white beard in a red suit trimmed with white, wearing black boots and beaming cheerfully at the parents and kids who came his way.

It was Santa Claus, of course, the guy who had been keeping a list all year and checking it twice to see if you've been naughty or nice.

Santa presided over the scene in a cheerful, pleasant manner, and he had a real talent, Santa did, for dealing with even the littlest children



who came his way. It is perhaps no secret that really little kids often get scared when mom or dad hands them over to the big guy in the red suit.

Santa took care of this problem in an interesting manner. Instead of taking the little kids out of their parents' arms, possibly provoking a tantrum, he invited mom and/or dad to hold on to their child while sitting in Santa's own chair! He would then either stand on the side of the chair or behind it, enabling friends or relatives to get several shots of the child's first experience with The Big Guy himself. I watched Santa take care of several families in this manner. Good show, Santa!

Lights twinkled all over, even at the Town Hall, and a big snowman and a little penguin guarded one of the corners of Main Street in front of Naples Soap Co. Singer Steve Junot entertained outside Percoco's, while a duo played in front of Remy's.

The next evening I wandered back to Waterside Place to take in a solo concert by country, rock, and soul singer/guitarist Jesse Daniels. The night was quickly becoming a cold one (at least by Florida standards), but those who braved the cold and wind were well entertained.

After a few minutes out in the cold, I retreated to one of the Waterside Place businesses and



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER



partook of the tasty edibles and good wine they were serving at Cileone Jewelers to mark the holidays. How could I resist? The door to the store was marked with a pile of inviting colored oversize decorations, and the sparkle inside ... let's just say that there were lots of shiny objects.

Speaking of decorations, along the walkway by Kingfisher Lake, a large lit Star of David marked the fact that the Jewish feast of Chanukah was also coming soon. As a matter of fact, the first night of Chanukah fell on the same date as Christmas Day!

Holidays in Lakewood Ranch are something special.

The Lakewood Ranch Bluesfest

This Music Has Come A Long Way, Baby!

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

As someone who grew up on '50s-'60s rock and roll and pop music, along with a healthy dose of classical music, I hadn't given much thought to the music referred to as "The Blues."

However, I have learned that the music known as the Blues has formed the basis for a large segment of what might be called "American" music. The origin of the Blues may be a bit fuzzy but appears to have been based on the songs of oppressed Blacks in the south, especially after the Civil War.

This state of being on the low end of the economic scale led to singers lamenting their status in song, which ended up being called "The Blues." They might not have been able to do much about their financial and social state but they could, and did, sing about it.

For a long time, this genre was centered on the South. After the turn of the 20th century, it became more widely known in the North and was soon mixed with northern (white) popular music. The movement got a huge boost around the time of the Great Depression, when thousands of Blacks left the South for work in the industrial plants of northern cities, an event which has come to be known as the "Great Migration" and, especially in Chicago, the Blues took hold in a big way, with many musicians, including New Orleans jazz phenom Louis Armstrong, becoming famous.

As time went on, the Blues became a part of American music as we know it, and has influenced jazz, rock, country, and especially R&B.

The popularity of the Blues has only grown, and the Lakewood Ranch Bluesfest became part of that in December of last year. The event took place at Waterside Park just west of the Waterfront shopping and dining venues.

I arrived early and walked around, noting all the sponsor booths, along with food opportunities. A Bluesfest attendee would certainly not have to go without sustenance at this event.

In addition to the food opportunities, there were booths offering jewelry, honey, cigars, and loads of other items. The sponsor booths, in many cases, were giving out freebies to ticket holders. Bluesfest-goers could also buy raffle tickets to win a guitar signed by the artists.



Prior to the start of performances came the all-important sound checks. For an event such as this, it is not sufficient just to adjust the sound for general loudness. The sound mixers need to balance the sound so that no one instrument is booming out loudly above the others in a particular band. It wouldn't be good to have the lead singer's voice blown away by a grossly overamped bass guitar.

The music started with Melody Angel setting the air on fire with her singing and guitar action. Interesting note: her backup singer and tambourine player was ... her mom!

On it went all day, until there were not more acts to present.

Part of the fun of attending a festival is the acquisition of festival attire. A large percentage of attendees either wore loud, colorful outfits,



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

or sported various clothing items from other festival events they had attended. Lots of attendees had shirts or hats from the Bradenton Blues Festival.

This was fun! We'll see you again next year!



LWR Community Foundation Grants Announced

The Lakewood Ranch Community Foundation (LWRCF) recently recognized the 20 organizations that received its grants in 2024. Initiatives that helped fund the LWRCF's mission included the Builders Give Back program, in conjunction with Lakewood Ranch Communities, and Community Business Partners and Friends of the Foundation. The grants included:

- **Breaking Chains Foundation** – To help implement programs in LWR directly benefiting individuals affected by human trafficking and exploitation including survivor-led mentorship initiatives, advocacy campaigns, and prevention and awareness programs tailored to local context.
- **Forty Carrots of Sarasota, Inc.** – Provided crucial support for their Partners in Play program in order to be able to extend this program to the new Lakewood Ranch Library and reach 200 LWR families.
- **Easterseals Southwest FL** – The funds covered the gap of \$1,000 per autism diagnostic evaluation for 25 children whose families reside in LWR.

- **Sisters Sowing Seeds** – Supported 10 high-risk young women who attended Braden River Middle School with their Sisters in Schools program. This comprehensive afterschool program fosters academic achievement, positive community impact, life skills and leadership potential.

- **Healthy Teens, Inc.** – To support 16 teens attending the ongoing Teen Health Educator Program, which recruits and trains high school students to provide high-quality peer education and mentoring programs to at-risk youth in the LWR community.

- **Florida Cancer Specialists Foundation** – Provided non-medical financial aid for one year for one cancer patient living in LWR in dire need of help to cover essential living expenses to avoid eviction as well as repossession of their critical transportation.

- **Take Stock Manatee** – Provided one technical school scholarship to an underserved student in LWR. Our funding was matched dollar for dollar by the Florida Prepaid College Foundation.

- **Feeding Empty Little Tummies** – Pro-

vided 946 weekend backpacks of food for children during the school year.

- **Sea of Strengths** – Funded the construction of a new playground for this new school located in LWR, which is a private, independent special education school serving 31 students grades 2-9 with learning disabilities such as dyslexia, ADHD, speech-language impairment as well as high functioning students on the spectrum.

- **Mark Wandall Foundation** – Sent four children to attend the Comfort Zone Camp for children 7-17 who have experienced the death of a parent or guardian.

- **Children's Guardian Fund** – Funded 111 individualized tutoring sessions for five foster or state care children who live in LWR.

- **Stillpoint Mission** – Provided 25,000 diapers for 1,000 low-income families.

- **Tidewell Foundation** – Supported 38 children ages 5-18 to attend a family grief counseling program at the Blue Butterfly Family Grief Counseling Center located in LWR.

- **Big Brothers Big Sisters** – Provided

mentoring for 67 disadvantaged youth in the LWR area.

- **Manatee Children's Services** – Funded a transporter for 40 foster children who live in LWR to be able to continue to attend their schools of origin.

- **Care Net Manasota** – Funded educational classes on parenting, breastfeeding, labor and delivery for 25 low-income families.

- **The Out-of-Door Academy** – This grant provided service project materials to students benefiting 10-12 non-profits in LWR.

HURRICANE RELIEF FUNDS

- **FELT \$10,000** – Helped to cover 66% (the majority) of their deductible for their lost roof from the storm

- **SMART \$10,000** – Funds helped with farm repairs, as their roof, barn and well were damaged by the storm.

- **Habitat for Humanity Sarasota, Inc. \$10,000** – The funds served 10 low-income families with critical home repair needs.

For more information or to apply for a grant, visit lwrcf.org.



100+ VENDORS + STREET FOOD + LIVE MUSIC + KIDS' ZONE = SUNDAY FUNDAY

VOTED THE #1 FARMERS' MARKET IN FLORIDA – AGAIN!*

MARKET PRODUCE | MEAT & POULTRY | FRESH FLOWERS | FRESH BREADS & BAKED GOODS
LOCAL HONEY | PREPARED FOODS | COFFEE & TEAS | SPECIALTY GIFTS & TRINKETS

* American Farmland Trust and the Farmers Market Coalition.

EVERY SUNDAY, 10AM – 2PM YEAR-ROUND @ WATERSIDE PLACE

1561 LAKEFRONT DRIVE, LAKEWOOD RANCH, FL 34240 | FOLLOW OUR SOCIALS  

FOR A LIST OF OUR VENDORS, VISIT THEMARKETLWR.COM

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS: HERALD-TRIBUNE + LOCALIQ



LARGEST SELECTION OF INDOOR & OUTDOOR FANS ANYWHERE!

TRADITIONAL | MODERN | TROPICAL | LARGE FANS

Old Towne
DC Motor
WiFi Enabled
CCT LED Light
Solid Wood Blades

299⁹⁹

New Fans Now Available!

DAN'S FAN CITY

- ✓ Design Your Own Fan
- ✓ Parts & Services Available
- ✓ In-Store Warranties

Celebrating 45 Years of Staying Cool!

Brandon 1943 W. Brandon Blvd (813) 685-6130	Bradenton 1808 Cortez Rd (941) 755-3262	East Sarasota 5150 University Pkwy (941) 355-1153	Sarasota 6728 U.S. 41 (941) 924-9611
--	--	--	---

www.DansFanCity.com

LIC#EC13004528

Repairs to Begin on Heron's Nest/Braden River Breach

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

During the Community Development District (CDD) #1 December board of supervisors meeting, it was decided by the Board that a contract be awarded to Cross Creek for the repairs needed to correct the breach between Heron's Nest Lake and the Braden River.

The breach occurred as a result of the huge amount of rainfall produced by Hurricane Debby. Debby dropped at least 17-1/2" of rain on Lakewood Ranch in two days after hitting the Gulf Coast on Aug. 3, 2024.

Work was expected to start in December, and be completed in approximately 30 days, at a cost of \$382,000. An amendment to the District 1 fiscal year 2025 budget will probably be necessary to pay for this emergency repair.

Application has been made to FEMA for funds to pay for the repairs needed after Debby, but there is so far no indication as to whether the funds will be approved or when the money may be available from FEMA.

Lakewood Ranch is still trying to get compensation from FEMA for cleanup costs incurred after Hurricane Ian two years ago!

RAINFALL

We appear to have reached our winter schedule for rainfall. Operations Director Tom Merrill reported zero rainfall in November.

COMMUNICATION WITH MANATEE COUNTY

Executive Director Steve Zielinski has communicated the desire that Lakewood Ranch be able to maintain close communications with our Manatee County District 5 newly-elected County Commissioner McCann. It is hoped that joint meetings with our district supervisors and Dr. McCann can be held on a regular basis, starting in early 2025.

PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT STUDY PROGRESS

Town Hall staff is reviewing the recommendations contained in the pavement management study. The initial cost figures appear to be overly low. Depending on the extent of the pavement repairs, Districts 2 and 5 may end up either increasing their assessments, or if the expected repair costs appear to be much larger than expected, resorting to bond issue financing.

NEW HOLIDAY DECORATIONS

Based on a proposal from District 5 Chairman Marty Cohn, the boards of Districts 2 and 5 have authorized the placement of a lighted dreidel, a four-sided top which is used in games played at Chanukah, in front of the Legacy gatehouse during the holiday season. The cost will be only a few hundred dollars, compared to the thousands of dollars spent on putting up garlands and Christmas wreaths.

HURRICANE DEBRIS CLEANUP

Many residents are understandably upset at the apparent slow pace of the cleanup of storm debris. Manatee County has hired over 20 private contractors to help with the cleanup, but there are some areas which had such huge amounts of damage that the progress has been slower than some people would like to see.

Lakewood Ranch has taken the stand that Manatee County should be the main agent for cleanup. This is because it has become very difficult for smaller entities like our districts to get relief from FEMA for such expenses. (Lakewood Ranch is still waiting for final word from FEMA for compensation regarding cleanup cost from Hurricane Ian two years ago.)

In any case, our community has hired Brown's Tree Service to deal with dangerous conditions, such as broken limbs and branches which may still be hanging from trees.

The word from Executive Director Zielinski is to remain patient. The work is ongoing and the County establishes the schedules, not Lakewood Ranch.

PRESENTATION TO TOM LEAVEY

The Board of Supervisors of District 5 presented outgoing Supervisor Tom Leavey with a custom set of golf balls in recognition of his 18 years of service to Lakewood Ranch Community Development District 5.

Leavey is a past director general of the Universal Postal Union, an agency of the United Nations, and former Assistant Postmaster General of the United States.

TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT PLAYERS DRIVE AND LORRAINE ROAD UPDATE

Manatee County has decided to put in a golf cart crossing as part of the new traffic regulation setup at this intersection.

However the County has apparently decided

The Handyman Company

- ✓ A Trusted Company Since 1999
- ✓ One Year Warranty
- ✓ Guaranteed Price

Residential & Commercial

- Handyman Jobs
- Doors & Windows
- Soffit, Facia & Deck Repairs
- Carpentry & Fencing
- Drywall & Painting
- Flooring & Much More...

SAVE \$50
OFF OF ANY JOB
OVER \$250
Not valid with other offers.
Expires 3/31/25

100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

941-548-1888

The-Handyman-Company.com



CBC1258366
Bonded/Insured

At Last – A Deli in Lakewood Ranch!

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

As a kid growing up in northwest Detroit, there were several choices of delis to quell one's desire for a good hot corned beef sandwich, pastrami, smoked salmon, etc.

I found myself frequenting one such local establishment – Lou's Deli on West McNichols Road. I took some photography darkroom classes across the street from Lou's, and it was a convenient place to grab a sandwich after work and before my classes. I still remember Lou's slogan ... "Lou's Deli-Good for the Belly!"

My friend Alex and I have, since we both moved to Florida 20 years ago, frequently complained between ourselves about the lack of a good deli in Lakewood Ranch. We longed for a place where you could go and have a great hot corned beef sandwich on rye, with a big dill pickle spear, and a small dose of potato chips on the side, but there was no such place in Lakewood Ranch. We used to go down to the mall at U.S. 41 and Bee Ridge and eat at the old Toojay's, but along with a lot of the other stores and restaurants in that mall, it closed several years ago, and we lost our semi-local go-to deli lunch spot.

Well, someone must have heard the concerns of Lakewood Ranch's deli lovers, because yes folks, at last a new deli has opened in Lakewood Ranch.

It is called, appropriately, the Lakewood Ranch Deli, and is located right in the center of San Marco, at 8225 Nature's Way, Unit 111, in a location which was originally a wine shop.

The Lakewood Ranch Deli is currently open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and is set up for either dine-in or carry-out, with a dozen tables inside plus a handful of outside tables.



PHOTO BY ERNIE SOLLER

My wife and I went there for lunch, and what we found was promising. Yes, I could get a hot corned beef sandwich on rye with a big pickle spear, so of course I went up to the counter and ordered one, while my wife also went with corned beef, but she took a slightly different route and ordered a corned beef Reuben sandwich. The sandwiches were delivered quickly to our table in small baskets lined with red-and-white checked deli paper, with the requisite pickle, but no chips (extra cost here).

We both enjoyed our sandwiches. One thing I really liked about mine – and this was duplicated on hers, too, was the fact that the corned beef was not only really nice and lean (no large concentrations of fat) but it was sliced thin; not so thin that it would come apart in your hands, but thin enough to make for

no-problem eating. If you've ever tried to bite into a sandwich that contained heavy-sliced meat, you'll know what I mean!

The marble rye bread, which was sliced fairly thick, was fresh and tasty and made for a very nice combination.

The meat thickness of the corned beef on our sandwiches was evidence that some thought had gone into planning for these sandwiches. There was lots of it, and it was quite satisfying. No tiny "ladies at lunch" portions! We got good-sized food for our money.

My wife loved her Reuben sandwich, but her appetite wasn't quite as big as mine (Yes, I ate the whole thing!), and she took half home. A day later, I took advantage of the little box with the Reuben in it, and finished it off for her – as a courtesy, of course. And, yes, even re-heated a day later, it was great!

We also ordered cookies for dessert. They came two in a pack, and were also a big hit with both of us. Here again – not skimpy portions.

I predict that the Lakewood Ranch Deli will become a big success, as I've already heard reports of other residents going there and being happy with their food.

The Lakewood Ranch Deli serves breakfast food, including breakfast burritos, salads, multiple styles of deli sandwiches, and other deli treats.

I'm going to be calling Alex to set a time for us to enjoy another good deli lunch. Maybe I'll go with a soup-and-sandwich combo.

The Lakewood Ranch Deli's phone number is: (941)500-1082, and you can find the Deli at lakewoodranchdeli.com.

Oh ... the Lakewood Ranch Deli also has a slogan ... "Delightfully Delicious?"

I think it fits.

CDD FROM PAGE 10

to reverse its decision to build a sound abatement wall along Lorraine Road in the area of the new signal. Lakewood Ranch officials will be discussing this move with County personnel, since Lakewood Ranch was informed that the wall construction had been approved by Manatee County months ago.

GREENBROOK ADVENTURE PARK PAVILION

The Greenbrook Adventure Park Pavilion construction is coming along. The structural sections are currently being manufactured, and the bathroom facilities are expected to be put into place soon. Estimated time of completion is March of 2025.

The Greenbrook Village Association has voted to contribute \$150,000 to District 4 to help pay for the new pavilion.

SCOOTERS AND ELECTRIC BICYCLES

There has been concern raised in District

4 regarding the dangers of young people operating scooters and electric bicycles on sidewalks in the community. Because some of these two-wheelers are pretty quiet, there is a risk of pedestrians being struck by such conveyances, either because the pedestrians can't hear the oncoming danger, or the person on the scooter or electric bike never called out, or rang a bell or horn, to warn those in their path to beware of oncoming traffic on the sidewalk.

Supervisor Keith Davey recommended that the district contact school officials in the local area to request that they provide guidance to scooter and electric bike riders regarding these safety concerns.

AUDITS

Per Chief Financial Officer Liliya Sablukova, auditors are working at Town Hall at this time to check everything from payroll records to investments to district finances. Audit results for the previous fiscal year will be presented at February IDA and district board meetings.

CONFLICT BETWEEN CEVA AND COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

The Lakewood Ranch Community Activities Corporation was founded to put on activities for the entire Lakewood Ranch community.

Recently, a vote was taken by the board of directors of the Country Club/Edgewater Village Association (CEVA) to defund Community Activities, possibly because an individual or individuals felt that they were not personally getting a benefit from Community Activities. They were allowed to do this because, many years ago, when the original HOA documents were drawn up, there was no specific requirement in those documents that the HOA contribute to funding Community Activities.

The cost for CEVA residents to participate with Community Activities is \$16 per year.

This move by the CEVA board could trigger changes in the use of Town Hall facilities for CEVA residents. They might be asked to pay additional fees to belong to clubs that operate

as part of Community Activities and which meet at the Town Hall.

Community Activities exists to provide for activities which enhance the Lakewood Ranch Experience, and the existence of Community Activities, even for those who may be non-participants, makes for the enhancement of our home values for all Lakewood Ranch residents.

NEW AND RE-ELECTED SUPERVISORS SWORN IN

During the December Lakewood Ranch CDD board meetings, several new and re-elected supervisors were sworn in.

They are:

District 1 – Kris Hoekman and Alan Roth

District 2 – Don Avolio, Peter Bokach and Michael Finney

District 4 – Michael Griffin and James Murphy

District 5 – Sharon Defferding, Michael Miller, and Steven Peters

District 6 – Sandra Keenan

Enjoy a terrific new year!

Annual Car Show/Cookout Adds More Fun This Year!

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

The Knights of Columbus of Council #13349 held its annual Car Show/Cookout at our Lady of the Angels in Lakewood Ranch in November.

As usual, there were a lot of really great cars to talk about, drool over, and generally, appreciate.

As a kid growing up in Detroit, I looked forward to the annual introduction of the new car models, an event which provided an almost holiday-like spirit. Back then, the car companies would take pains to not let the public check out their new models until their official introduction date, which generally fell in late September or October. When driving the main highways of the period, you would see large car hauling trucks with new cars on their trailers – and those new cars would be shrouded in canvas covers, to make sure that the “secrecy” was observed.

And then, come introduction day, the local car dealers would pull out all the stops. They would have raffles and giveaways at their dealerships. They would hire companies to bring out giant searchlights to light up the night sky and, they hoped, lead potential customers directly to their showrooms.

Those days are long gone, but at the annual Knights Car Show/Cookout, we can relive the awe by admiring the classic cars of that era.

Over 130 cars were on display in this year’s show, and I got to see some newer road machines, along with some oldies but goodies.

Back in the mid-to-late 1950s, after Chrysler came out with the design trend which they called “the forward look,” almost all the car companies began designing cars with fins – emulating the new jet fighter planes of the time.

Gone were the fairly stubby car bodies of the early ‘50s. New cars had to look like they were moving – even when standing still. After a handful of years, some of those cars grew such huge fins that their designs now look way too overdone.

General Motors, which had celebrated building its 50 millionth car in 1958, made cars in that model year that were some of the most massive and over-chromed cars of the era, but bigger things were still to come. In 1959, GM produced some of the most fin-intensive cars of the era.

Who can forget the 1959 Chevrolet with its “cat’s eye” taillights and “eyebrow” fins. Then came the ‘59 Cadillac, with higher and pointier fins that held those bullet-shaped tail lights. There was a massive ‘59 Caddy at the show. But, in my opinion, the champion fin master of the lot came in the form of the 1959 Buicks. Their design was much more sleek than the heavy-looking 1958 model. Up front it sported a massive grille that looked like it might eat you alive, and the body line from the top of that grille ran all the way down the body to the huge squared-off angled tail fins, which were positioned above big round taillights.

The look was almost an “in your face” styling exercise. For all its bulk, the ‘59 Buick looked like it could take off like a fighter jet.

Other cars included a ‘38 Ford that appeared to be just another heavy-duty rustmobile – until you looked under the hood and found the Ford racing engine.

You might have found Inspector Clouseau at the car show,



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER



looking for his Citroen 2CV6, but he probably would have had an easier time catching bad guys in the white Austin-Healy roadster.

Local Corvette lovers came out in force with their machines, which included a wildly painted Indy 500 1998 pace car. And, if you love Italian hot rods, you could check out a Lamborghini.

Perhaps the finest example of the classic big 1960’s car at the show was Tom Rokosz’s 1964 candy-apple red Chevy Impala SS. Custom wheels. Great trim quality. Fantastic paint job. Beautiful! A lot of work and love went into this magnificent machine. Maybe if I’m lucky, I’ll get a chance to ride in it.

But the car show and cookout was only the beginning of this fun day. After the show was over, and after most of the cars had been driven away (with the exception of that gorgeous ‘64 Chevy), something else was happening. A sock hop!!

Yes, after the Knights brought us the Car Show/Cookout, the Women’s Guild came up with the ultimate cap to a fun ‘50s-‘60s car-culture weekend -- the sock hop.

Car lovers returned for a fun night of dancing to the oldies but goodies. Guys sported slicked-back hair with the trademark fifties “greasy kid stuff” look, along with tight jeans, white socks and penny loafers. Some wore white t-shirts with cigarette packs tucked into the sleeves.



Girls came in with poodle skirts, saddle shoes, and teardrop glasses. One “teenager” came with a vintage poodle purse to match her poodle skirt and saddle shoes – all ORIGINAL!

After a few turns around the dance floor ... out came the Hula Hoops! As in the ‘50s, some could use them very well and some, well ...

For those who got just a little bit tired after all that exercise and needed something cold and sweet, several “soda jerks” were on hand to dispense root beer floats. Wow! What a day – and night.

CORNHOLE - CONCERTS - COCKTAILS



RANCH NITE

• *Wednesdays* •

Waterside Place
1561 LAKEFRONT DRIVE
LAKEWOOD RANCH, FL 34240

6:00 PM to 9:00 PM

WEEKLY PROGRAMMING AT

GATEWAY PARK

OCT 2ND thru MAY 28TH



FOOD TRUCKS *Live Music*
COCKTAILS and CORNHOLE



Follow
FOR MORE DETAILS!



LAKEWOOD RANCH



WATERSIDE
PLACE

Voted One of

Sarasota's Best

30 Years in a Row!

Celebrating
36
YEARS

SONNETTE® CELLULAR ROLLER SHADES

HunterDouglas Gallery

M&M

MATTSON & MATTSON

Wallcoverings & Blinds, Inc.... since 1989

Janet and Curt Mattson
Owners

Blinds • Shutters • Draperies • Wallcoverings
4801 S. Tamiami Trail, Sarasota
Across from the Landings

941-925-7800 • mmwallcoveringsblinds.com

Host A Food Drive!

AS EASY AS 1-2-3!

1. Register online or call to schedule drop-off and pickup of food barrels.
2. Print supplied marketing materials to advertise food drive.
3. Collect non-perishable food to help feed those in need.



Critically Needed Items

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned Vegetables | <input type="checkbox"/> Jelly | <input type="checkbox"/> Canned Meat | <input type="checkbox"/> Powdered Milk |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Canned Fruits | <input type="checkbox"/> Boxed Rice | <input type="checkbox"/> 100% Fruit Juices | <input type="checkbox"/> Applesauce |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mac 'n' Cheese | <input type="checkbox"/> Boxed Pasta | <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast Bars | <input type="checkbox"/> Dried Beans |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Peanut Butter | <input type="checkbox"/> Canned Soups | <input type="checkbox"/> Oatmeal | <input type="checkbox"/> Trail Mix |

Non-perishable food items can also be dropped off at:

All Manatee County Goodwill locations, Manatee County Public Library locations, the Manatee Chamber of Commerce Lakewood Ranch Office, or anywhere you see yellow Food Bank of Manatee donation barrels. Donations can also be dropped off at:

Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee
811 23rd Ave. East
Bradenton, FL 34208

8:30am - 4 pm Monday through Friday. *Limited operations on holidays.*



Daybreak Adult Day Center
10920 State Road 70 E
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202



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

MealsOnWheelsPLUS.org

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 within the state. Registration does not imply endorsement, approval, or recommendation by the state.

Second Annual Kosher Food Festival Coming to Ranch

After its success last year, Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch will bring back the Kosher Food Festival to Lakewood Ranch for the second time! The event will take place from 1-3 p.m. on Feb. 9 at the Chabad property, located at 5712 Lorraine Road. The unique event will bring kosher foods to the community.

Kosher foods available for purchase will include fan favorites such as potato knishes, chicken soup with matzah balls, sourdough challah, eggplant dip, pastrami or corned beef on rye, kosher hot dogs and sausages, stuffed cabbage, falafel with Yoav, babka, rugelach, and much more. This year, attendees will also have the opportunity to pre-order kosher Super Bowl party packages, featuring kosher buffalo wings and deli sandwich combo platters.

The Kosher Food Festival will bring the community together with music, crafts, a trackless train, inflatable fun for the children, and much more!

Admission is free for this event, but attend-

ees can save time and avoid waiting in line by pre-ordering food and activity tickets online at chabadofbradenton.com/kosher.

The Hebrew word "kosher" literally means "fit." It has come to refer more broadly to anything that is "above board" or "legitimate." The laws of kosher define the foods that are fit for consumption by a Jewish person.

"As more kosher observers move into Lakewood Ranch, we thought this was an opportune time to provide the community with more kosher food options! There is no better way to bring people together than food, and we look forward to a day of unity and enjoyment at the Kosher Food Festival," said Rabbi Mendy Bukiet, spiritual leader at Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch.

Prospective attendees can pre-order tickets, view the menu, or find out more information online at chabadofbradenton.com/kosher. They can also contact Chabad at 941-752-3030 or info@chabadofbradenton.com with any questions.

January 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, unless otherwise noted.

Talmud Classes
Mondays, 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.
At Chabad House and on 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, 6:30 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, 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.

Chabad Hebrew School of the Arts
Sunday, Jan. 19 and 26, 9:30 a.m. to noon.

At the Chabad House
Give your child the experience of a lifetime at CHS featuring an outstanding curriculum, professional and warm teachers, hands-on lessons, CKids motivational system, and an innovative Hebrew reading Aleph Champ program.

Torah & Tea
Tuesday, Jan. 21 and 28, 11 a.m. to noon
At the Chabad Tent at 5712 Lorraine Road and the virtual Chabad House.

Join Chanie Bukiet either in person outdoors or on Zoom for a weekly dose of Torah

spiced with lessons on the "The End of Times." Cost is free. Sponsor a class in someone's memory or honor for \$36

CTeen International Kosher Cooking

Tuesday, Jan. 21, 7 p.m.

At the Chabad House
Compete in a master chef international themed cooking event while you taste delicious kosher food from around the world. Cost is \$25 or CTeen members free. CTeen annual membership is \$200.

Men's Club Steak and Scotch

Tuesday, Jan. 28, 7:30 p.m.
At the home of Steve Weinsel
Enjoy delicious grilled steak (fish option available), cigars, whiskey, bourbon and scotch for the ultimate grilling and chilling experience. Cost: \$30 per person.

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

THE (PET) DOCTOR IS IN!

By Erin Siems, DVM

Can you believe it's 2025? The New Year has rung in and is off to a flying start! Most years, the top New Year's resolution is to get fit, lose weight and exercise more. Interestingly, this year's top resolution is to travel more. Now the question is, if you are planning on traveling more, is it with or without your pets? Both options can be rewarding depending on how you want to spend your time.

While it is fun to travel with you pets and make them part of new experiences and adventures, it also comes with added responsibility and limitations. There is the obvious planning of pet friendly lodging and activities but there is also the consideration of bringing enough food, medication, toys and other daily needs. Of course, it is important to have your veterinarian's information handy and be familiar with any medical issues your pet may have in case of emergencies. It is also a good idea to look up local pet emergency clinics once you get to your destination. It's better to have that information handy and hope you never need it than try to figure it out when your pet needs medical attention.

On the other hand, traveling without your pets can be



less stressful if you know they are going to be well taken care of at home. These days, boarding facilities have all the bells and whistles to spoil your fur baby when you are away. Gone are the days of animals sitting in cages all day. Now the focus is on comfy individual suites with beds, enrichment with group or individual play time, special cuddle and treat time and just about any extras you can think of. Another popular option is to have a pet sitter come into your home or take your fuzzy buddy to their home so they can have as normal a routine as possible. Pet sitting has come a long way and it is common to get text updates and picture so you can enjoy your vacation knowing they are enjoying their stay-cation.

However you travel, a little planning will go a long way to keeping it fun and minimizing stress. Don't forget, the point is to have fun with new experiences in a new year!

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.



By Brittany Lamont

Happy New Year! The new year is an opportunity to start fresh, but it's also an opportunity to reflect.

Over the last two decades we have been dedicated to supporting the success of our members through unparalleled access to business connections, resources, and advocacy and we are excited to kick off our 20th Anniversary with a year-long celebration at the Annual Membership Luncheon on Jan. 24.

Join us for a celebratory champagne toast as we reflect on the last 20 years and look forward with excitement to the future. We will welcome Chairman of the Board Julie Fanning with Benderson Development, and celebrate the successes of Past Chairman David Otterness with Willis Smith Construction, award the



coveted Chairman's Award, honor outgoing and incoming board members. You may even see these new members there!

- Big Robot AI
- FlowPartner Consulting LLC
- From The Heart Fundraising
- Her Health Gynecology
- HiPo Talent Partners
- Latham, The Pool Company
- Project 24 Climbing LLC
- ROOF MAXX SRQ
- Saint Pauls Roofing LLC
- Sarasota Orchestra

If you want to start your year strong, consider joining the Alliance as we reflect on 20 years of success and look forward to 20 more! To learn more about membership and how the LWRBA can support your business, visit LWRBA.org or contact our Membership Development Manager, Tim Estep, at TimEstep@LWRBA.org.



© 2024 Lakewood Ranch

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.

KEY CHORALE: THE LUBBEN BROTHERS: Thursday, January 16th @ 6 pm

SARASOTA OPERA STUDIO ARTISTS: Friday, January 24th @ 6 pm

OUT-OF-DOOR ACADEMY: JAZZ UNDER THE STARS: Tuesday, February 11th @ 6 pm

Check out all of the events happening around The Ranch!



LAKWOOD RANCH®.com



Ring In 2025 With The Year's **BEST SAVINGS** On **ALL ARMORVUE** Windows and Doors!



NO INTEREST AND NO PAYMENTS IF PAID IN FULL WITHIN 12 MONTHS!†
OR LOW MONTHLY PAYMENTS**

Trust the Experts at **ARMORVUE**
 The Clearly Stronger Choice For You

- ★ Category 5 Impact Rated
- ★ Non-Impact ★ Energy Star Rated
- ★ Noise Reducing
- ★ Increased Security
- ★ Lifetime Limited Transferable Warranty

ALL ARMORVUE PRODUCTS

40% OFF

EXPIRES 1/31/2025

SHTROP125



BIG thanks to the team at Armorvue! From the initial planning & costing with Levi, we were able to get exactly what we wanted for a very reasonable price! (helps that there are finance options too)...What we really appreciated during the install was the team's attention to detail and kept everything clean during/after the install. We cannot recommend Armorvue enough for doors/window projects!

- Bernard

BRING IN YOUR MEASUREMENTS AND PICTURES FOR ON THE SPOT PRICING.

Location	Width x Height	
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		
6.		
7.		
8.		

Call for A Free Estimate **844-277-8752**

Visit Our Showroom:

7509 Pennsylvania Ave Suite 101 Sarasota FL 34243

Sarasota: 941-223-8263

www.armorvue.com

Mon-Fri 9am-5pm • Sat 9am-2pm



Licensed & Insured SCC131152241

CALL, **CLICK,** **VISIT OR SCAN**

