



Around the Ranch

AROUNDTHERANCH.COM

THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2022

INSIDE:

FINDING INSPIRATION IN THE NEW YEAR

Page 6

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

Page 10

URGENTVET HAS ARRIVED IN LAKEWOOD RANCH

Page 14

TAKOS CANTINA: A SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT TAKE ON MEXICAN CUISINE

Page 19

“CERT”-AINLY SOMETHING TO BE PROUD OF

- The Lakewood Ranch Community Emergency Response Team, or CERT, recently celebrated 15 years of service. The group, including radio operator Frank Giannone, right, hosted a celebration and were lauded by Manatee County's Emergency Management chief. For more information and pictures, see pages 12-13. Photo by Ernie Soller



Finally coming to Lakewood Ranch SOON!

A Playground for Car / RV / Boat / Motorcycle Enthusiasts.



**A Dream Garage you Own,
a Community you'll Love.**



Work. Play. Chill. Escape...
in Private Club House

LUXE
DREAM GARAGE

941 404.9141

LuxeDreamGarage.com



Deluxe Model 24x50 with
Optional Mezzanine

PHASE I & PHASE II **SOLD OUT!**

Releasing PHASE III now at the Exotic Car Show on Lakewood Ranch Main St. - Feb 26

Offering Special **UP TO EVENT DAY** pricing for every unit reservation made
a \$250 donation will go to local charity

Flight To The North Pole

**SCAN TO
WATCH THE
VIDEO TOUR**
> > > >



FOOT EXPERTS ON STANDBY.

Our attentive fit experts will measure your feet for both width and length, then show you an impressive selection of footwear that fits YOU.



Peltz Shoes
a perfect fit

UNIVERSITY PARK
5275 University Pkwy.

WEST BRADENTON
7208 Cortez Road W.

SPRING INTO SAVINGS



Up to 60% OFF
Entire Showroom
thru 2-28-22

HURRY IN-DON'T MISS OUT!
Quality is not expensive, It's Priceless.

 **Fjords®**



\$300-\$500
Any Fjords® Chair
or Sofa

**LEATHER GALLERY
and
BEDDING CENTER**

LeatherGallerySarasota.com

5251 S. Tamiami Trail • Sarasota, FL 34231
(1.5 miles south of Bee Ridge Rd.)

941.993.1057

Mon.-Fri 10-7 • Sat. 10-6 • Sun. Noon-5

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.



★ PRESIDENTS' DAY ★ SALE 48 MONTHS NO INTEREST!*

Visit *Parade of Homes* TODAY - SUN. MAR 13

For Details ParadeOfHomesInfo.com



THE FURNITURE WAREHOUSE GRAND PRIZE SPONSOR
WIN A \$1000 SHOPPING SPREE!

Enter at any of our six locations or on line at
TheFurnitureWarehouse.com



Two-Chaise sectional

You'll be dreaming about coming home and lounge on this large sectional.

\$1299⁹⁹

**NO INTEREST UNTIL
FEBRUARY 2026!***
OR USE ONE OF THESE COUPONS

\$50 OFF
ANY PURCHASE OVER \$499

\$100 OFF
ANY PURCHASE OVER \$999

\$200 OFF
ANY PURCHASE OVER \$1999

\$300 OFF
ANY PURCHASE OVER \$2999

\$400 OFF
ANY PURCHASE OVER \$3999

\$500 OFF
ANY PURCHASE OVER \$4999



Gorgeous and modern

Queen headboard, footboard, rails, dresser and mirror.

\$749⁹⁹



Contemporary casual

Combines modern accents with traditional looks. Includes table and 4 chairs.

\$749⁹⁹
4-PC



Beautyrest

Continuous support

Beautyrest® Daydream Plush Queen Mattress. All Sizes Available.

\$499⁹⁹

PICK UP TODAY OR FREE DOOR DELIVERY TOMORROW**
WE OFFER FULL-SERVICE DELIVERY AND SET-UP
Need Help Shopping Online? Call 941-359-2255

*For financing for 48 months a minimum purchase of \$3000 or more is required to qualify. For financing of 12 months a minimum purchase of \$300 or more is required to qualify. Interest will be charged to your account from the promotional purchase date. Equal Monthly Payments are required. Offer applies to only single-receipt qualifying purchases. No interest will be charged on promo purchase and equal monthly payments are required equal to initial promo purchase amount divided equally by the number of months in promo period until promo is paid in full. The equal monthly payment will be rounded to the next highest whole dollar and may be higher than the minimum payment that would be required if the purchase was a non-promotional purchase. Regular account terms apply to non-promotional purchases. For new accounts: Purchase APR is 29.99%; Minimum Interest Charge is \$2. Existing cardholders should see their credit card agreement for their applicable terms. Subject to credit approval. Furniture must be delivered within 90 days for all financing offers. All prices include Hot Buys or Coupon savings. Terms of promotions - Previous purchase excluded, cannot be combined with any other promotion or discount. Promotion offers exclude Hot Buys, floor models or clearance items, sales tax, furniture protection plans, warranty, delivery, or service charge. **Pick Up Today or Free Door Delivery pertains to in-stock merchandise.



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

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 (NOW OPEN) 550 S Seaboard Ave (on 41 Bypass) 941-485-3211
PORT CHARLOTTE 1241 El Jobean Rd (across Sam's) 941-764-8700



Finding Inspiration in the New Year

By Stephanie Peabody, PsyD,
HSPP, Neuropsychologist,
Founder and Executive Director,
Brain Health Initiative



Those of us in the field of brain health and brain research received a precious holiday gift in the fight against Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) with the addition of a new risk-reduction goal to the National Alzheimer's Plan.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra announced the update on Dec. 27. The goal to accelerate action to promote healthy aging recognizes that reducing risk factors such as hypertension, physical inactivity, and depression may delay the onset or slow progression of ADRD and its symptoms.

Signed into law in 2011, the National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) is an act driven by the increasing number of sufferers of Alzheimer's disease. It resulted in a U.S. National Alzheimer's Plan for increased spending on scientific research, care, and public engagement.

In addition to this year's added goal on healthy aging and risk reduction, the plan has five other existing goals to:

- Prevent and effectively treat Alzheimer's disease and related dementias by 2025
- Enhance care quality and efficiency
- Expand supports for people with ADRD and their families
- Enhance public awareness and engagement
- Improve data to track progress

We at the Brain Health Initiative and many of our colleagues have long contended that more should be done to educate the public about how to reduce risk, delay and perhaps prevent brain illness, including Alzheimer's and dementia through lifestyle changes. This hope and opportunity was the driver of the establishment of the Brain Health Initiative. In July 2020, the BHI was part of a national coalition of organizations and thought leaders called the Brain Health Partnership that issued a call for a federal prevention goal for ADRD. That coalition has now increased to nearly 200 groups and leaders.

"This new goal giving greater priority to prevention is a tremendous victory and a huge step forward in reducing the risk of Alzheimer's and related dementia for people across our nation," said George Vradenburg, chairman and co-founder of UsAgainstAlzheimer's. "I'm proud

of the work led by UsAgainstAlzheimer's and our hundreds of partners that led to this milestone moment in the battle against Alzheimer's."

For too long, people have erroneously believed that cognitive decline is a normal part of aging. This new goal should lead to increased awareness and actions to promote brain health for all ages, bridging the gap between brain-span and lifespan. This additional goal to reduce risk of Alzheimer's calls for the creation of clear strategies to achieve this target; additional research to understand brain health risk and protective factors; strengthening the public health infrastructure; addressing health disparities and the social determinants of health; and turning risk-reduction research findings into practice at the individual, family, community, and clinical levels.

BRAIN ILLNESS IS A PUBLIC HEALTH ISSUE

While Alzheimer's takes a toll on patients and their families, it also has a significant economic impact on this country. Without early intervention and treatment, care costs are projected to exceed \$20 trillion over the next 30 years.

"It is imperative that people living with the disease, caregivers, doctors, and policymakers work together to stop this accelerating trend in its tracks, and this new priority on prevention and risk reduction is a great start," said Dr. Jennifer Bencie, M.D., M.S.A., health officer at the Florida Department of Health in Manatee County.

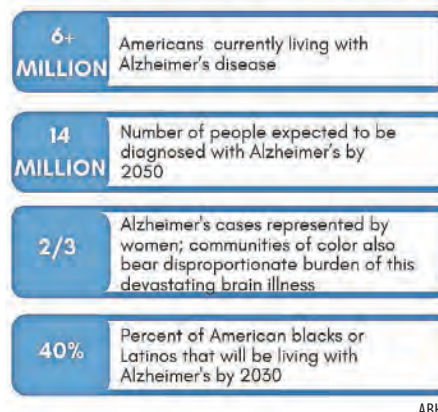
WHAT THIS MEANS TO THE SUNCOAST

Improving brain health, optimizing brain performance, and reducing the risk factors for brain illnesses continue to be at the heart of our efforts at the Brain Health Initiative. We continue to follow emerging research regarding the diagnosis, treatment, and hopefully prevention of Alzheimer's disease and dementia.

In collaboration with Evelyn F. and William L. McKnight Brain Institute of the University of Florida, College of Medicine, University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, and the University of South Florida, the BHI led the development of the Florida Brain Health Consortium. The consortium, in its very early stage of development, has been established to support brain health and prevent brain illness.

"While we remain hopeful that better treatments for Alzheimer's are on the horizon, we know there are things that people can do right now to lower their risk of developing this disease. We hope that this consortium can help

ALZHEIMER'S STATISTICS



ABHP

Florida become a state leader in brain health and prevention," said Michael S. Jaffee, M.D., F.A.A.N., F.A.N.A. vice chair of neurology at the University of Florida and director of UF's Brain Injury, Rehab & Neuroresilience Center.

"The project is bringing together a community of professionals from different disciplines and from across a variety of institutions that believe in the potential of a systematic approach to brain health," said Dr. Kathy Black, Professor of Aging Studies at University of South Florida.

Barbara Coffey, M.D., M.S., Professor and Chairman of the Department of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine, said, "This consortium aims to coordinate a number of brain health projects that focus on education, clinical care, research, and innovative interventions involving public/private/academic collaborations."

Chuck Henry, R.S., M.P.A., health officer at the Florida Department of Health in Sarasota County, said, "As a community leader in Age-Friendly Public Health, we are excited about the public health alignment of integrating ADRD prevention and treatment to improve population health. The creation of a Florida Brain Health Consortium and design and execution of a dementia risk-reduction project is a critical next step to reduce the incidence of brain illness. This project, dedicated to brain health education, research, and innovation, will be a tremendous resource for our greater community and is invaluable to the well-being of our region."

For more information about the Brain Health Initiative or to learn more about how you can become involved in brain health programming, be a Brain Health Scholar, or live a brain healthy lifestyle, please visit brainhealthinitiative.org.

WHAT ARE THE RISK FACTORS?

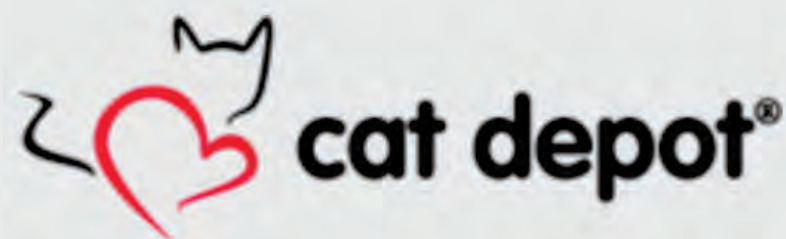
The addition of this new goal reflects a growing body of evidence that shows brain health can be protected, performance can be optimized, and risk of brain illness – like dementia – can be reduced and prevented across the lifespan. The National Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA) Advisory Council has recommended that the new goal seek a 15-percent reduction in prevalence of 10 key risk factors by 2030. This aggressive goal could reduce the number of people with ADRD by 1.2 million by 2050.

10 KEY FACTORS

- High blood pressure
- Physical inactivity
- Diabetes
- Depression
- Hearing loss
- Poor sleep quality and sleep disorders
- Tobacco use
- Traumatic brain injury
- Poor diet quality
- Obesity
- Unhealthy alcohol use

Under the plan's new goal, the federal government will accelerate research on risk factors for ADRD and strengthen the infrastructure that is necessary to rapidly translate and disseminate information about risk factors, interventions to reduce the burden of risk factors, and related health promotion activities to health care providers, community-based providers, caregivers, and public health networks.

Research has found that up to 40 percent of dementia cases can be attributed to modifiable risk factors. On behalf of the Brain Health Initiative, headquartered in Lakewood Ranch, I was part of a Risk Reduction Workgroup of national experts convened by UsAgainstAlzheimer's that published prevention recommendations for reducing the risk of cognitive decline in Alzheimer's & Dementia: The Journal of the Alzheimer's Association (alz-journals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1002/alz.12535).



**Be the cat's
meow.
Donate today.**

Your support changes the destiny of hungry,
homeless, and injured cats.

OSCAR | Orange Tabby

catdepot.org

**Open By Appointment:
7 Days A Week from 10am-6pm**

(941) 366-2404 | 2542 17th St. Sarasota, FL 34234

Trek Bikes: An American Riding Tradition in Lakewood Ranch

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

First, the tradition: About 20 years ago, I had the opportunity to visit several northern European cities on a cruise of the Baltic Sea. We went to numerous places, including Stockholm, Oslo, Helsinki, St. Petersburg, and Copenhagen. It was in Copenhagen that I was taken aback by two things.

The first was the grandeur of that city's rooftops. Many were tiled, but a large percentage were covered in decorative copper. Some had ordinary-looking flat copper roofing, but there were others in which the builders' artistic genius had taken hold, in the form of fanciful designs. For someone like me, who had spent most of his working life in the metals business, it was amazing.

But that wasn't the only thing that amazed me about Copenhagen. I stayed at a very nice small hotel in the center of the business district, and, on waking on the morning after my arrival, I looked out onto the broad streets of that district to see ... hundreds of bicycles. People were actually riding their bikes to work – and not just a few people. The streets were crowded with bikes being ridden by commuters.

Instead of everyone hopping into their cars and driving into the central business district, these folks were getting exercise while riding their bikes to work. At the time, I figured that all of these cyclists must have lived close-by their workplaces but as I found out later, this was not necessarily the case. There are train stations in Europe that have very large parking lots – for bicycles. What this means is that a lot of workers may live out in the suburbs, and take the train into the center of the city, where they grab their bike from its rack at the station and continue on two wheels to their place of employment.

That sort of transportation idea hasn't caught on in the United States – at least not yet. Large-scale bicycle usage in America is often found around college campuses, where cars are either prohibited, or students don't have the cash flow to go out and buy a vehicle with four wheels and an engine.

However, cycling is still popular in America with those who just want to have fun and/or don't like the idea that exercise is something you have to do indoors using a treadmill. And of course, since any of us can remember, it has always been popular with kids, although the types of bikes that have appealed to kids over the years have changed dramatically.

Back in the early 1800s, when bicycles were first invented, they were pretty much toys for the wealthy, and they didn't even have pedals. The rider would sit on the machine and propel himself along by using his feet on the road surface, which resulted on lots of worn-out shoes. Finally, pedals were attached, and that made things a lot easier on the riders' feet.

During the post-World War II era, having a "cool" bike made all the difference to kids. There were a lot of bare-bones, single-speed bikes during that period, but a kid could be the king of the hill in his neighborhood if he came into possession of



a classic Schwinn Roadmaster. The Roadmaster had a spring suspension, a two-tone paint job (a lot like the cars of that era!) and came with a tank-mounted, battery-powered horn – not just a little bell. Sure, the bikes were still single speed, but they were the kid equivalent of owning a Cadillac back in the Fifties.

It was during this period that adults in this country started riding "English racing" bikes – lighter-weight bikes with gears and thin racing tires. College students would leave their heavy balloon-tired bikes at home and buy themselves one of the English-style bikes to ride around campus.

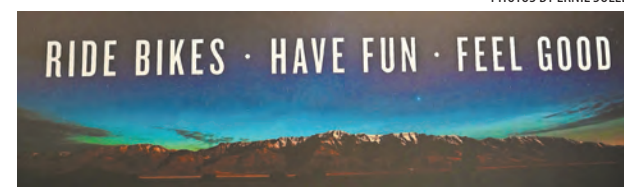
And, as these changes came about, the manufacturers were coming out with new styles, like the smaller-wheel bikes with banana seats, which helped get the BMX craze going.

Later on, folks started getting into mountain bikes, with more durable frames, additional gears, and fatter, knobby tires for improved grip on uneven surfaces. They also featured a more upright riding position, for less strain on the rider's back and shoulders.

Nowadays, there are all sorts of different bikes for the rider to choose from, and there is a place here in Lakewood Ranch where you can get just about anything in the way of a good quality bike – even a bike with an electric motor assist!



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER



Trek Bikes, located at 1849 Lakewood Ranch Boulevard, in the Lakewood Ranch Plaza, can fit you with just the right type of bike for your needs.

Trek Bicycles was started in a small red barn in Waterloo, Wisc. in 1975 by a couple of guys, Dick Burke and Bevil Hogg, who set out to build quality bikes here in America. Trek has expanded over the years not only in the number of different types of bikes they make, but also in the types of materials utilized. From using high-strength steel, Trek Bikes has evolved into using high-strength aluminum and even carbon fiber, which makes for a lighter, more aerodynamic structure. Trek has a history of 25-plus years of carbon fiber bike development.

And yet, they still make and sell bikes for kids. As a matter of fact, Trek has a program that allows for a discounted price on a new Trek kids' bike when the child's old Trek is traded in on a new, larger one.

One very good reason for going to Trek Bikes at Lakewood Ranch Plaza for your new ride is that Dean Jones and his staff will make sure that you are properly fitted to your bike. They make sure that the style and size are right, and that you have the accessories you need, such as the proper seat for your riding style. And possibly the most important advantage in dealing with Trek Bikes is that they will assemble and properly set up your bike before it leaves their shop, so it's ready to ride. You're not just buying a "bike in a box" from Trek.

Whether you're looking for a bike to replace your car for tooling around Lakewood Ranch, or you're looking for a carbon fiber racing bike for your next Ironman attempt, check out Trek Bikes.

The store hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday. For more information call (941)243-3837 or visit trek-bikes.com.

BAER'S
Quality Furniture & Interior Design

Make
A
Everyday
Vacation



FEATURING
Bali Hai By
Tommy Bahama
HOME



Find your nearest showroom at baers.com
Florida's Best Value On The World's Finest Brands Since 1945.

LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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



The cold weather hasn't stopped us from having our most eventful winter to date! It also hasn't stopped determined residents from achieving their goals and making fitness a top priority. Even in 45-degree weather, the attendees of "Strength + Mobility + Balance," our popular senior fitness program, were out there getting in their morning workout. Yogis of Lakewood Ranch have also continuously been out in Waterside Park and Bob Gardner Park for zen-filled mornings. We love to see it!



Keith Pandeloglou
Director of LWRCAC

Not only are the adults of Lakewood Ranch working on their fitness, but we are also so excited to see children and teens participate in fun sports and fitness programs made possible by our incredible Parks & Recreation team, as well as our many partners. The team worked hard to bring programs for kids to The Ranch such as Fit4Kids, Fit4Tweens, Soccer 4 Peewee, Kids Kick-ball, yoga, tennis, volleyball and even more! Make sure to head over to myLWR.com or the Lakewood Ranch app to browse a full catalog of our Parks & Recreation programs – there truly is something for everyone.

Hosted by one of our many Lakewood Ranch clubs, our annual fishing tournaments are right around the corner! The Lake-

wood Ranch Anglers Club is hosting both a Youth Fishing Tournament (ages 5-12,) as well as a Teen Fishing Tournament (ages 13-19,) from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Feb. 26. Entry is only \$10 for residents and \$20 for non-residents. There will also be a "Learn to Fish Seminar" just a week before the tournaments on Feb. 19, with two different time options. Pre-registration is required and can be completed on myLWR.com. Reach out to us via email if you need help with registration at info@lwrca.org.

The Lakewood Ranch Anglers Club is one of our many community groups that represent the diverse interests and backgrounds of Lakewood Ranch residents. Check out the full list of over 60 community groups and clubs that are open to new members by visiting myLWR.com or the Lakewood Ranch app!

Additionally, If you have an idea for a new parks program or community group/club, we want to hear from you! Send us a note at info@lwrca.org and we'll be glad to help. We love working with our LWR-based businesses! We are open to applications for the upcoming session of our Parks & Recreation program. If interested, submit our Park Partner Application. For a link to the application, email us at the address provided above.

Contact us to schedule an in-person, socially distanced pitch, or meet the LWRCA Parks team via Zoom. We can't wait to hear your ideas!



Thank You to our Annual Sponsors!

PRESENTING SPONSORS



SUPPORTING SPONSORS

MEDIA SPONSORS



GET OUT FOR A SUNDAY- FUNDAY!



90+ VENDORS, STREET FOOD + LIVE MUSIC

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



EVERY SUNDAY, 10AM - 2PM

YEAR-ROUND @ WATERSIDE PLACE

1561 LAKEFRONT DRIVE, LAKEWOOD RANCH, FL 34240

THEMARKETLWR.COM | f @

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS: LAKEWOOD RANCH + MYLWR.COM
LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES + HERALD-TRIBUNE | LOCALIQ

AROUND THE RANCH



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER



Lakewood Ranch CERT Celebrates 15 Years of Community Service



By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

Neighbors Helping Neighbors Since 2006

Around 15 years ago, in October of 2006, a group of residents got together and formed what has become the Lakewood Ranch Community Emergency Response Team – better known as CERT – a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit. Their first task was to take part in FEMA’s basic training in emergency response. In January, at Greenbrook’s Adventure Park, LWR’s CERT hosted a celebration of community involvement. The organization assembled quite a collection of people and equipment to showcase the progress that LWR CERT has made over the last 15 years. A lot of that focused on the wide-open eyes of the kids who attended the celebration. There were large animals, such as the horses used by the deputies of the Manatee County Sheriff’s mounted patrol. There were big dogs, brought by Manatee County Search and Rescue to showcase rescue dog techniques, and there was even a live young alligator – about four feet of squirming energy – that was brought in by the Alligator and Wildlife Discovery Center.

And then there was all that emergency equipment: East Manatee Fire Rescue brought a couple of big fire trucks, open to show all the specialized equipment they carry, such as the “Jaws of Life,” which allow firefighters and other rescue workers to pry open the doors of vehicles that have been involved in accidents where a person is trapped and can’t otherwise get out. The firefighters allowed the kids to climb aboard and check out the trucks in a “hands-on” manner. Kids and fire trucks have always gone together famously, and these kids had a ball, with some of the firefighters allowing them to hold items like the big hoses. Manatee County EMS brought out an ambulance and the kids got to inspect the gurney, which had been rolled out into the parking lot; they seemed mystified at all the strange-looking equipment that the ambulance carries. (Speaking of ambulances, one guy brought out his classic 1957 DeSoto ambulance, long and low, complete with the big fins of that automotive era.) Not to be overlooked, there were several Manatee County Sheriff’s Office vehicles on the scene. The parking lot at Adventure Park was a small sea of flashing red, yellow and blue lights. The field at Adventure Park, on the other hand, was decked out with multiple food trucks, as well as a musician at the pavilion to entertain the crowd. CERT president Jim Emanuelson presented awards to long-time members, past presidents, and so on. The Ranch’s CERT is the largest such organization in Manatee County. The next largest has only around 30 members. Chief Steve Litschauer, of Manatee County Emergency Management, presented a plaque to Lakewood Ranch CERT, noting that “The government can’t do it all.” So what does CERT do for Lakewood Ranch? Essentially, CERT teams deal with the aftermath of a disaster – be it a hurricane,

tornado, flood, or similar event – in what has come to be known as the Phase One area of Lakewood Ranch, comprised of community development districts 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6. The Lakewood Ranch CERT crew consists of 200 members, divided into 21 teams, each with its own captain – a local resident who has agreed to lead his or her team. The idea is that the ranks of regular first responders, faced with a widespread disaster, would be stretched very thin and the sort of assistance provided by CERT takes care of more minor issues so that the police, firefighters, emergency rescue people, etc., can take care of the major issues. CERT also provides radio communication ability, so that if you lose your phone service, CERT may be able to help you communicate with loved ones through their emergency communication radio network.

Every year, Lakewood Ranch CERT presents a program at Town Hall on preparation for hurricanes. The presenters at this event, which is scheduled for around the beginning of hurricane season, educate the public on what to expect when a storm is expected to come our way. They detail such things as family preparedness, a plan to evacuate if that seems to be the best option, and what supplies to load up on before a disaster may strike. One of the primary efforts of LWR CERT is the training of their members. Each member goes through “basic training” using FEMA-approved materials. In addition, Lakewood Ranch CERT members are encouraged to attend refresher courses in first aid. If this great organization sounds like a good fit for you, email cert@lwrcert.org for additional information and a schedule of training sessions. The equipment you will need is provided for you. What they need is your time.



UrgentVet Has Arrived in Lakewood Ranch

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

New Concept in Veterinary Medicine Offers Care When your Pet Needs It!

It happened late in the afternoon on a Saturday. My wife and I noticed that our dog just “wasn’t quite right.” He was not his usual energetic terrier self – ready to play, eager to head outside. He acted almost as if he was drunk, moving in a staggering fashion. He wasn’t even interested in food – a most unusual thing in itself.

We called our regular veterinarian’s office, and got a voice message stating that the office was closed after mid-day on Saturdays, and all day on Sunday.

We ended up taking our pet to an emergency vet hospital that was open on weekends, and they managed to get him stabilized, although it was only later in the day that we figured out what he’d ingested – a small plastic vial of eye drops that had fallen on the floor. The experience was scary ... and quite expensive.

Now there is a veterinary service in Greater Lakewood Ranch that is open only late in the day, and on weekends and even holidays!

It’s called UrgentVet, and the whole idea behind it is to provide veterinary services during hours when your regular vet’s office is not open.

UrgentVet is the brainchild of Dr. Jim Dobies, who grew up in West Virginia and, from the age of 10, wanted only to become a veterinarian. He worked in a local animal clinic as a volunteer for 10 years and was so intent on this career path that his parents actually moved to Ohio so that he could pursue it, as there was no university in West Virginia that offered a veterinary medicine curriculum.

After graduating from the veterinary medicine program at Ohio State, Dobies moved to Charlotte, N.C., where he founded South Point Pet Hospital in 2005.

Dobies eventually came to the realization that there was a need for a veterinary practice that could take care of routine and semi-serious cases during the off-hours when the standard animal hospital facilities weren’t open – like nights, weekends, and holidays.

Dobies opened the first UrgentVet hospital in Charlotte in 2015, and the Lakewood Ranch location is the eighth in the system.



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER



This new type of practice wasn’t an animal emergency room, but more like human “urgent care” practices: a trusted place to go when your regular doctor’s office is closed, and you’re not in bad enough shape to head for the nearest hospital emergency room but you know that you need to see a qualified medical professional ... NOW. Indeed, UrgentVet was modeled after human “urgent care” facilities.

Part of the need for this new type of veterinary hospital was the cost factor. A trip to an animal emergency room may cost, on average, around \$1,000, and possibly more.

This is too much for many pet owners to handle just to deal with an animal medical issue such as vomiting or a minor wound, or



something else that may not be life-threatening, but that needs to be handled right away. At UrgentVet, the average cost for an “after hours” visit is \$250.

So what does UrgentVet provide for you and your little (or maybe not so little) best friend?

First of all, you can go online and make an appointment with UrgentVet, so that the staff knows you’re coming and can prepare for you and your pet’s arrival beforehand. Or you can simply come on down to UrgentVet with your pet. There is a monitor in the lobby that will show you the wait time for your pet to be checked out.

Upon your arrival you’ll find that the layout at UrgentVet is such that your pet will be

directed to an examination room that is suitable for the size and type of pet you own. That means that if your pup is a St. Bernard, your dog will be directed to an exam room that is set up to deal with large dogs.

And UrgentVet is set up to deal with the special needs of cats.

As Dr. Dobies noted, cats need a place with subdued lighting, and respond better to a more calming atmosphere – and one with no doggy odors. The cat exam room at UrgentVet is almost akin to a cozy home den. There is even a feline pheromone system in place to calm your cat. UrgentVet is considered a cat-friendly, fear-free place.

Once your pet has been examined, if surgery or wound treatment is needed, he will be transferred to the larger procedural room, which is not only set up for minor surgical procedures, but also is equipped with an in-house pharmacy, so that if your pet needs medication, it will be available right away.

UrgentVet features digital X-ray and ultrasound services, as well as an in-house lab.

If you’re concerned about your UrgentVet records getting to your regular vet, be not afraid, as UrgentVet will absolutely communicate the results of your pet’s visit to your regular vet within 24 hours.

UrgentVet locations are established in communities that value pets as family members, and as practically everyone in Lakewood Ranch knows, there are a lot of dogs and cats here, providing emotional support to our families.

The veterinarian in charge of the UrgentVet hospital in Lakewood Ranch is Dr. Megan Joyce, a graduate of the veterinary medicine program at the University of Florida. The clinic manager is Janette Blanco, a certified veterinary assistant, who recently moved here from Miami to work at UrgentVet.

So, if your pet is having medical issues, and your regular vet’s office is closed, give UrgentVet a try.

The Lakewood Ranch UrgentVet hospital is located on the south side of State Road 64, at 9620 S.R. 64 E., in the Schoolhouse Plaza west of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard, and across the road from Haile Middle School.

They are open 365 days a year, from 3 to 11 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, and from noon to 8 p.m. on holidays.

For further information call (941)277-9700 or visit urgentvet.com.

Lakewood Ranch Feels the Hiring Pinch

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

During the monthly Lakewood Ranch Community Development District board meetings in January, Ranch Finance Director/Interim Executive Director Steve Zielinski commented that Lakewood Ranch, because of its great resident services, may have created its own staffing problems. People who move to Lakewood Ranch have come to expect outstanding services, and they have been getting them. In moving to Lakewood Ranch, they are buying into a lifestyle.

However as anyone who has seen a TV news broadcast or read a newspaper lately knows, it has been more difficult lately not only to hire good people to continue to provide such services, but to retain them. Currently, the Inter District Authority (IDA) is trying to fill vacancies, from that of the executive director on down, but the tight job market is hampering those efforts.

As an example, it was reported during the meeting that Colin Benziger and Associates, the search firm that has been working on developing a list of candidates for the executive director position, expected to have already come up with the names of about 15 qualified candidates to be interviewed by the IDA board. So far, they have come up with a third of that number.

In order to become more competitive not only in hiring, but in retaining good people, the IDA has approved pay increases for employees.

At least one primary job has been filled "in-house." Tom Merrill, who had been the assistant operations director, has been named operations director.

DISTRICT 1

The District 1 board of supervisors debated the idea of installing rip-rap on the banks of the Braden River, in the Bluffs neighborhood, to help stop erosion in what was, in engineering firm Kimley-Horn's report, designated as "Area A." The evaluation by Kimley-Horn indicated that such work would not provide a special benefit to certain homeowners but would benefit the entire District. The engineering report indicated that part of the cause of the erosion behind the Area A homes could be due to runoff from roofs on those properties. One of the homeowners commented that

he could put in more gutters to make more of the drainage flow toward the street rather than to the rear of the lot, but said that the erosion at the back of his lot had been happening for the last 20 years.

Supervisor Laurie Fox commented that the District needed to "take care of our homeowners" and said that "our reputation as Lakewood Ranch needs to be upheld." Supervisor Bob Swiatek noted that the District does a lot of things that don't benefit specific residents, and that doing this repair will stop long-term damage.

The Board voted to approve the work in Area A, pending research into whether the work could be done at a lower price.

As for "Area F," the Kimley-Horn report indicated that work in that area would be of benefit only to a couple of homeowners. The District has decided to table that matter for now, especially since the owners of those properties have not replied to Attorney Chris van Hise's request for their input.

DISTRICT 2

Supervisor Don Avolio commented that, in certain soil moisture sensors (SMS) made by Toro, there has been a problem related to the life of the special batteries needed to operate these systems. Apparently some Toro batteries have been reported as failing after only two to three months of service. In addition, it appears that these special batteries are not the easiest items for homeowners to find. This could become a larger issue since homeowners, as part of their SMS agreements, are required to maintain their systems, and this includes replacing worn-out batteries.

Operations Director Merrill informed the supervisors that December rainfall had been below average.

DISTRICT 4

A resident of the Greenbrook Crossings neighborhood asked that the District construct a noise barrier between that neighborhood and State Road 70, which is adjacent to the Crossings. The increase in vehicular traffic on SR 70 has increased the highway noise level in the neighborhood, and this is one area along SR 70 which does not currently have a noise barrier wall.

The District installed additional trees and shrubs several years ago to mitigate the noise

SEE HIRING, PAGE 19

Get Your Tickets NOW!

2022

CIRCUS SARASOTA™

NOW - SUN MAR 6, 2022



Featuring
BELLO NOCK!

Tickets \$20 - \$60

20% OFF All Tickets for the First 10 Shows!

(Fri, Feb 11 - Fri, Feb 18)



NEW LOCATION!

Under the air-conditioned Big Top on Regatta Island at Nathan Benderson Park



THE CIRCUS ARTS CONSERVATORY
PERFORMANCE. TRAINING. OUTREACH. LEGACY.



See website for safety protocols.

CircusArts.org | 941.355.9805



Herald-Tribune
LOCALIQ



Sarasota County
Tourist Development Tax
Paid for in part by Sarasota County



Lakewood Ranch Remains The Best-Selling All-Ages Community In The Nation

Lakewood Ranch had another record-setting sales year, bolstered by the opening of new villages, its third town center, expanded restaurant and retail offerings, and plans for new schools and a public library.

The Ranch saw 2,574 new home sales in 2021, up from 2,149 in 2020 – a 20 percent increase year-over-year and the best sales year on record. Lakewood Ranch was recognized as the best-selling, master-planned multi-generational community in the country for the fourth year in a row by RCLCO and John Burns, two independent real estate consulting firms.

Much excitement centered on Waterside Place, which is on its way to becoming one of the area's most popular dining, retail, and experiential destinations. Lakewood Ranch's newest town center opened for business in November, featuring not only shops and restaurants but becoming the new home of

The Farmers' Market and Ranch Nite Wednesdays, perennial favorites of the community for more than four years.

Waterside Place is the centerpiece of Waterside Village, located in the Sarasota County portion of The Ranch. Waterside currently offers single family homes in LakeHouse Cove and Shoreview as well as rental townhomes, apartments, and senior living options in a variety of waterfront neighborhoods. Demand has been extremely brisk for Waterside and builders will be introducing townhomes, cottages, single family rentals, and large custom homes in the next phase of development.

Sales were robust throughout the more than 20 actively-selling villages in Lakewood Ranch – including newly opened Esplanade and Park East at Azario, Lorraine Lakes, Sapphire Point, and Solera – with the range of housing types and pricing addressing the growing demand. New models also opened in LakeHouse Cove,



Savanna, and The Lake Club. Star Farms and Sweetwater both broke ground in 2021, with models opening in 2022. Furthering the multi-generational culture, more senior and assisted living options are being explored, to serve the growing needs of families who move to Lakewood Ranch with their aging parents.

"Lakewood Ranch was in a strong position to capitalize on migration trends boosted by the pandemic," said Laura Cole, senior vice president of LWR Communities, LLC., the residential arm of Lakewood Ranch. "Our housing diversity, multi-generational appeal, and expanded amenities drew buyers from high tax markets across the U.S., buyers with accelerated retirement plans, and buyers untethered to their jobs." "We have not seen a slowdown in prospect activity in recent months," Cole continued, "however buyers are gaining acceptance of the longer lead and build times for new homes as well as price increases, all induced by the pandemic's labor and supply woes."

Activity in the multi-family housing market has surged as well, with new apartment offerings at The Summerhouse and Botanic, and Artesia, a single-family rental development, with much more to come. Leading the nation in the build-to-rent space, The Ranch has seven single family rental projects in various

stages of leasing and development, segmented to meet a broad spectrum of the market, from workforce to luxury.

The Ranch's growing population has driven expanded educational offerings. Additions to the existing Lakewood Ranch High School and R. Dan Nolan Middle School are planned, and a new K-8 school is scheduled to be finished by 2024. The Lakewood Ranch Preparatory Academy, a new K-12 charter school, projects a lower school opening in the fall of 2022, with construction of the high school to start in 2023.

The County, recognizing the population shift, broke ground in Lakewood Ranch for the newest library in the Manatee County system in December, and plans were announced for expanding the Premier Sports Campus at Lakewood Ranch, including a new aquatic center.

Lakewood Ranch's award-winning lifestyle program also expanded, including large community events, more community groups and clubs, virtual programming, and the addition of a dynamic parks and recreation program.

Lakewood Ranch's commercial landscape grew by leaps and bounds as well, with numerous new restaurants, retail stores, and office space opening or breaking ground, including both local and national names.



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 03/31/22

100% SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

941-548-1888

The-Handyman-Company.com





CBC1258366
Bonded/Insured



Lakewood Ranch Women's Club Donates over \$53,000 to their Adopted Charities

The Lakewood Ranch Women's Club (LWRWC) presented its donation of \$32,000 in cash and more than \$21,000 in-kind to its 501(c)(3) adopted charities at the general meeting in January at the LWR Townhall. The charities included HOPE Family Services, SMART (Sarasota Manatee Association for Riding Therapy), Solve Maternity Homes, and Children's Guardian Fund (CGF). The donations marked the culmination of a successful year of charity fundraising in spite of the pandemic.

All the executive directors thanked the LWRWC for their support and explained the positive impact that the donations made in the lives of the people they serve.

Rebecca Blitz, executive director of SMART, shared that the empathetic SMART horses used in the therapeutic horseback riding and carriage driving programs help enhance the physical, emotional, and cognitive growth of children and adults with special needs.

Svetlana Ivashchenko, executive director of the Children's Guardian Fund, explained that CGF immediately responds to the needs of children removed from abusive or neglectful homes. CGF partners with the Guardian ad Litem program and provides funding to meet emergency needs of 1,200 children in foster and state care in Florida's 12th Judicial Circuit.



LWRWC donates \$32,000 to its adopted charities. Pictured, from left: Rebecca Blitz, executive director of SMART; Svetlana Ivashchenko, executive director, Children's Guardian Fund; Laurel Lynch, executive director of HOPE Family Services; and Peggy Kerwin, executive director, Solve Maternity Homes.

Peggy Kerwin, executive director of SOLVE, accompanied by Angie, a courageous young mother, told how SOLVE Maternity Homes provides pregnant women in need with safe housing, a structured program, and the tools needed to be successful in life. In her remarks, Angie described the trauma of being pregnant and homeless. She credits SOLVE with "loving her back to life" and saving her baby. Angie is now part of the Evolve program for new mothers pursuing a higher education. SOLVE has been assisting pregnant women in need and their babies for over 45 years and just welcomed their 1,410th baby.

Laurel Lynch, who has been executive director of Hope Family Services for 25 years, told the group that HOPE is in the business of saving lives and offers a safe place 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for victims and survivors of domestic violence. HOPE also provides advocacy, counseling, and children's services. Throughout the pandemic, HOPE had to pivot to address the needs of victims who were literally trapped with their abusers. Victims can now speak to HOPE without saying a word by texting "survivor" to 69922.

In 2022, LWRWC will celebrate 25 years of charitable giving to those in need. For more information about LWRWC or to join visit www.lwrwc.org.



Siesta Key Campus
Pre-K - Grade 5

Uihlein Campus
in Lakewood Ranch
Grades 6 - 12



LEARN MORE
941-203-3640
ODA.edu/discover



THE UNASSUMING WINE BROS.




“From Spain with Love” Spanish Rioja Red Blended Wine

It's February, a time for love and a time to sample some rich red wines while the Florida temperatures are still cool. So, as we brought our collective Bros brains together to figure out what would be a great combination of love and weather, Patrick came up with a wine stroke of genius, “Why not a Spanish wine adventure, why not Rioja? It was our monthly eureka moment. So, let's giddy up and take our taste buds for a wild and spicy ride to Rioja, Spain.

We are The Unassuming Wine Bros (UWB) – Patrick and Vigo – two regular guys who love everything about wine, including writing about it. Our goal is to explore the nuances of wine, share our adventures with you, and have a little fun along the way.

Rioja is the region of Spain that makes blended red wine with the varietals of tempranillo, viura, garnacha, graciano, and mazuelo (a lot of grape varieties) full of body as the northern region it comes from. Though not as popular as a Cabernet Sauvignon, Rioja wines bring a different twist to red wines that we think is worth taking the wine road less traveled.

Rating system:  – ratings are given on a 1-5 scale, with five being the highest

2014 MONTECILLO RIOJA RESERVA

Rioja, ESP; 13% ABV; \$22:

Vigo: I've always wanted to sample Rioja red blends since my WSET-1 certification (email us about WSET certification if interested). So, with much excitement and anticipation, I uncorked the 2014 Montecillo Rioja Reserva. The color of this wine is a beautiful dark maroon, and its aroma is of fully ripe red fruits, on the palate, cherry, black plum, ripe black currants, and baking spice. This is a full-bodied, dry, tart, and slightly acidic wine that matches the wild northern area of Spain it comes from. A great and unassuming Rioja is perfect for those who want to explore Spanish wines at a great value.

Vigo's rating:     

Patrick: This medium-bodied Rioja had a nose of cherry and red licorice, which set the tone for what was to come. A pleasant combination of red fruit and toasty oak with a subtle dryness. Excellent balance and easy to drink. A nice value at this price point.

Patrick's rating:    

2011 LAN RIOJA GRAN RESERVA

Rioja, ESP; 14.5% ABV; \$25:

Vigo: Okay, we went from Reserva to Gran Reserva, so it must be better, right? The difference is this: A “reserva” has been aged at least three years, with at least one of those in barrel. “Gran reserva” means that it was aged at least five years, with a minimum of two years in oak. In addition, gran reserva wines are typically made in only outstanding vintages. The 2011 Lan Rioja Gran Reserva has a dark ruby color, and its aroma is dark and fruity and on the palate, dark fruits, vanilla, tobacco, leather with a rich earthy and smoky note. Bold, dry, and tart are the three words that can describe this wine, but



2014 Montecillo



2011 Lan



2013 Marques

experiencing its bold and rich flavors is better done and experienced on its own.

Vigo's rating:    

Patrick: This full-bodied Rioja had an uncommon complexity and richness for a Rioja. Dark cherry and raspberry gave it a balanced fruit profile that was rounded out by oak, vanilla, and baking spice. There is a lot to like with this decadent, flavorful wine. Yum.

Patrick's rating:    

2013 MARQUES DE LA CONCORDIA “VIÑA ALARDE” RIOJA GRAN RESERVA

Rioja, ESP; 13.5% ABV; \$29:

Vigo: Since this wine has sat in an oak barrel for nine years, it is the most mature and complex Rioja we reviewed this month. The Marques de La Concordia “Viña Alarde” Rioja Gran Reserva has a dark ruby color, and its aroma is of plums, dark fruit, and vanilla. This Gran Reserva on the palette is bold, tart, acidic, and dry. Of this month's three selections, this was the most daring and most flavorful. If you like your wines spicy and bold, this is the Rioja for you

Vigo's rating:    

Patrick: This was my favorite of this month's selections. This medium to full-bodied Rioja (80% tempranillo, 20% garnacha) was surprisingly soft on the palate, making for

an easy-drinking wine. Ripe berries and baked cherry with warm, mildly oaky vanilla and sneaky acidity made for a nicely balanced and overall delightful wine.

Patrick rating:    

Vigo's overall impression: Thank you, Spain, for making our February so rich and spicy. Rioja red blends are a fun change from the typical red blends you can get at our favorite wine/grocery store. Rioja was an exciting trip of discovery and flavor. It's always good to depart from your flavor norm, and if you are ready to expand your red blend favorites, Spanish Rioja is a great place to start.

Patrick's overall impression: I let these bottles breathe for about one hour, and they opened up nicely, exposing their nuances. They each showed red fruit, but the fruit was hardly the predominant characteristic in any of them. Structure and smoothness were the hallmarks of each. All three were enjoyable and constituted nice value at their respective price points. I would gladly drink any of them again.

FANS AND READERS:

Like our Facebook page, “The Unassuming Wine Bros”; follow us on Instagram @theunassumingwinebros, or email us at vigo-andpatrick@gmail.com. Let us know what you think about this article, these bottles, or suggestions for upcoming articles.

Takos Cantina: A Slightly Different Twist on Mexican Cuisine

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

What do you know about the Day of the Dead? The Day of the Dead, or Dia de Los Muertos, is a Mexican holiday that celebrates the lives of the deceased, and is often associated with symbols such as skulls and skeletons, offerings of food and water, paper banners to catch the wind, and multiple candles arranged in the form of a cross.

The folks who have recently opened Takos Cantina, the newest Mexican restaurant in the Lakewood Ranch area, have taken Day of the Dead art to a whole new level in the interior design of their establishment.

You will have a hard time finding paintings of bullfights here, nor will you find furniture made to look old, or floors paved with red Mexican tile. What you will find is a lot of what might be called "Day of the Dead chic."

On walking into Takos Cantina, the first thing that will catch your eye is a six-foot-tall "well-dressed" ceramic female skeleton, complete with a "picture hat" featuring big leaves and birds.

This thing is a real work of art – imagine some of the small ceramic birds and animals made in Mexico for the tourist trade. Then, imagine something so large, so well-designed, and so colorful, that it absolutely commands your attention. I've seen a lot of cute Mexican ceramic pieces, but never anything like this!

Consider yourself welcomed, but the motif doesn't stop there. There are nicely made chairs – black with off-white upholstery, featuring a skull carved into the back. There are large paintings on the wall of ... you guessed it ... skeletons and skulls. There are colorful light fixtures, again unlike anything to be found around here, but the whole thing looks very well done.

The bar at Takos Cantina makes the bar area at any other Mexican restaurant in the area look, well, rather small. I can see the "after work singles" crowding into Takos when they discover the place, since there's room for a three-deep



PHOTO BY ERNIE SOLLER

crowd at the bar at Takos.

Now, you don't go to a Mexican restaurant just to examine the art, right? You come for the food, or maybe a margarita, or a great Mexican beer.

And yes, you will find good Mexican food. I might go as far as to say that Takos Cantina is an attempt to introduce the Lakewood Ranch dining public to what might be called a more gourmet Mexican fare. And this is because the menu at Takos is considerably more refined than your "average" Mexican joint.

Consider this: I ordered Monterrey Fajitas, and the shrimp was wrapped in bacon, kind of like one of my favorite appetizers at cocktail parties. It was paired with pieces of red and green peppers, onions, and cheese, served with small flour tortillas. It was delicious, and I didn't feel that I'd been short-changed on the portions.

My friend, Don, ordered a type of taco sal-

ad, made with a large red/orange colored tortilla. I've never seen anything like that before, but Don proclaimed it very tasty, and Don likes good food!

Another friend ordered a seafood ceviche, made with fish, shrimp and octopus. Interesting ... and he had no complaints.

There are a number of interestingly different menu items at Takos Cantina, including one that I plan on trying soon: spinach enchiladas.

Takos Cantina has fun food for the smaller folks too, such as burritos, hamburgers, chicken fingers, and how about those \$2 Shirley Temples!

As for coffee and dessert, Takos Cantina has again attempted to crank up the refined taste buds of their clientele. Sure, they serve fried ice cream, but they also offer flans and sopapillas, which I plan on sampling on my next visit.

Don't let the skeletons scare you! Enjoy!

Takos Cantina is located at 5770 Ranch Lake Blvd., #116, on the east end of the plaza, around the corner from Wal-Mart. Hours are 11 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. There's plenty of parking! For more information call (941)201-6594 or visit takoscantinaflorida.com.

HIRING FROM PAGE 15

level, but that has only cut the noise level down by a small amount. It is also expected that that portion of SR 70 will soon be widened to handle additional traffic, and this will increase the noise even more.

The District will be consulting with its engineering partners to see what can be done to alleviate the situation, one possibility being the installation of a high berm topped with a wall.

DISTRICT 5

During the District 5 board meeting, one resident outlined out her frustration at what happened to her and to her car while she was attempting to exit the Country Club at the Players gate. She said that a non-resident, who didn't have a Country Club transponder, was blocked from exiting at that gate, and had to back up – with several cars stacked up behind their vehicle. During the ensuing shuffle, the resident's car was damaged by another driver who then took off without stopping.

The resident asked that the Board change the gate equipment in order to allow non-residents to exit through any Country Club gate,



PHOTO BY ERNIE SOLLER

so as to avoid such situations in the future.

Supervisor Marty Cohn noted that some of the problem of non-residents attempting to exit at gates where they are blocked from doing so is at least partially a result of the companies that manufacture and market GPS equipment. The GPS equipment apparently directs drivers to those gates where they are blocked from exiting if they are non-residents.

DISTRICT 6

During the District 6 board meeting, two "old business" items resurfaced.

The Board asked attorney Andrew Cohen to again contact the "powers that be" at Manatee County to finalize the sewer turnover from the District to Manatee County.

Also, they asked the District engineer to check into why the new traffic signal at the intersection of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard and Balmoral has yet to be installed. The District was given a completion date of the end of December, 2021 for this project several months ago, and no work has been done on the project as of this writing.

DAN'S FAN CITY

WHEN YOU THINK FANS
THINK DAN'S!

**Come In & See the
LARGEST SELECTION
OF FANS ANYWHERE!**

- Design Your Own Fan
- DC Motor Fans Available
- Parts & Services Available
- Locally Owned & Operated
- Designs For Every Style
- WiFi Enabled Fans Available

**Reduce Your
A/C Bill
With DC Fans!**

www.DansFanCity.com

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
--	--	--	---

February 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 the 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 p.m.; Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m., Shabbat Kiddush at noon

At the Chabad House

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

Tanya Class

Thursdays, 9-9:30 a.m.

At the Chabad 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

Sundays, Feb. 20 and 27, 9:30 a.m.-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. Virtual and in-person tracks available.

Torah & Tea

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 11 a.m.

At the home of Chanie Bukiet and on Zoom

Join Chanie Bukiet for a weekly dose of delicious tea and refreshments spiced with lessons on the classical and timeless work authored by the eleventh-century Spanish scholar Rabbeinu Bachya ibn Pekuda, The Gates of Trust. Gates of Trust takes us on a transformational journey towards genuine trust, building us to a state of tranquil reliance on the all-powerful and compassionate God. Studying this vital work shows us how to confront and even transform unpredictable and challenging events by exercising and implementing the messages of genuine unyielding trust in God. Admission is free. Sponsor a class in someone's memory or honor for \$25.

JLI – Meditation from Sinai

Wednesdays, Feb. 16 and 23, 7:30 p.m.

The Chabad House and Zoom

Judaism places great emphasis on action. As a result, many Jews are unaware of another important facet of the Jewish tradition: deeply meaningful teachings about mindfulness, spirituality, and meditative practices. This six-week course advances the uniquely Jewish approaches to these fascinating topics. This course will both inspire and practically guide you so that you can reap the benefits of a more spiritual and mindful life. Fee: \$75 (text-book included).

Men's Club Steaks & Treats

Tuesday, Feb. 22, 7:30 p.m.

Location given upon RSVP

Join Chabad of Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch Men's Club for an evening of delicious grilled steaks, and whiskey, bourbon, and scotch tasting with the ultimate grilling and chilling experience! Fee: \$25 per person.

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

Local Group to hold Spring Concert

The Lakewood Ranch Wind Ensemble (LRWE) will hold its spring concert at 2 p.m. March 27, at Peace Presbyterian Church, 12705 S.R. 64 E., Lakewood Ranch. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$10 per person.

LRWE was founded in 2019 as a professional-level community band with the intent of providing a vehicle for professional wind and percussion players to perform concert band and wind ensemble literature at a high level. The LRWE is dedicated to serving the community by providing Suncoast audiences with “a unique opportunity to hear and appreciate high quality wind ensemble literature played at a professional level. Additionally, the LRWE serves as a role model for young student musicians.”

The program for the Winter Concert is as follows:

National Anthem	
Colossus of Columbia	R. Alexander
Suite from Pineapple Poll	Sullivan/Machereas
Concertino	Chaminade
Satiric Dances	Dello Joio
Symphonic March	Bonelli/Falcone
Fugue on Yankee Doodle	Sousa/ Schissel
American Civil War Fantasy	Bilik
Washington Grays	Grafulla/Reeves
The Phantom of the Opera	arr. Warren Barker

For more information visit lwrwindensemble.org.



Lakewood Ranch
GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

BETTER BUSINESS starts here

Whether you're planning a corporate banquet or an offsite team meeting, when you want to be sure your event will be flawless, trust it to the stunning settings and professional staff at Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club.



CORPORATE EVENTS | BANQUETS | WEDDINGS | MEMBERSHIP NOT REQUIRED

7650 LEGACY BLVD., LAKEWOOD RANCH, FL 34202 | 941.907.4700 | LAKWOODRANCHGOLF.COM | © 2019 LWRGCC

Pulte Homes Recognized as Builder of the Year by Florida Green Building Coalition

Pulte Homes has garnered the top honor as Builder of the Year from the Florida Green Building Coalition (FGBC) for the most single-family homes certified in 2020.

FGBC, the state's leading certifier of green residential and commercial construction and local governments, recognized the homebuilder for its commitment to utilizing environmentally friendly green products, best practices, and sustainable techniques.

"At Pulte Homes, our goal is to offer consumers the powerful combination of quality, affordability, and sustainability," said Richard McCormick, area president of PulteGroup's Florida Divisions. "We are routinely testing new ideas and initiatives. Working with valued trade partners, Pulte Homes is applying what we learn to incorporate green, efficient, cost-competitive solutions in our communities."

To date, FGBC has certified over 26,000 residential, commercial, high-rise, land developments and local governments participating in its certification programs. FGBC certification programs are the only standards developed



with state specific criteria to address Florida's hot-humid environment, climate, distinctive topography, unique geology, resiliency, and natural disasters.

Certification is based on more than 300 factors in eight categories, including energy performance, water conservation, lot choice, site conditions, health, materials, disaster mitigation and general. The homes are then provided a certification as a bronze, silver, gold, or platinum green home.

Leading the state in overall certified green

homes, with more than half of its homes achieving platinum status, Pulte Homes' recognition demonstrates the builder's commitment to innovation, energy efficiency and healthier homes that create healthier environments.

"Homes provide more than just shelter. As demonstrated by the slate of FGBC annual award recipients, FGBC 'Florida Green' homes improve the health and wellbeing of the occupants while saving energy, environmental resources, and money," said FGBC Executive Director C.J. Davila. "We praise innovative and integrative builders and developers like Pulte for advancing our state's residential green building movement."

In Lakewood Ranch, Pulte Homes builds in the Sapphire Point and Shoreview at Waterside neighborhoods. For more information visit lakewoodranch.com or pulte.com.

To browse Pulte's new, energy efficient homes and communities across Southwest Florida, visit www.Pulte.com/Sarasota, www.Pulte.com/FortMyers, and www.Pulte.com/Naples.

Creative Arts Association of Lakewood Ranch to Hold Show

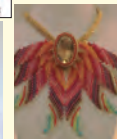
The Creative Arts Association of Lakewood Ranch (CAALR) will present its annual Spring Art Show from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 19 at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, 8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd.

The art and gifts show will feature original works of art by local artists and artisans in various media, including watercolor, jewelry, pottery, ceramic, wood turning, pastels, acrylics, mixed media and more. Each one-of-a-kind art piece is unique and designed to enhance any home or office decor. If you are looking for a special gift, this diverse art show is a must.

Parking and admission are free; face masks must be worn inside the Town Hall.



5th Annual
Spring Art Show & Sale



SATURDAY, MARCH 19, 2022 9 AM - 4 PM
Lakewood Ranch Town Hall

LAKEWOOD RANCH CHARGERS

2022 SOCCER PROGRAMS

THE BEST FACILITIES & LOWEST COMPETITIVE PROGRAM RATES!

2022 SOCCER CAMPS SERIES

SPRING BREAK CAMP: March 11 - March 18, 2022 * Time: 9AM - 1PM
 SUMMER SOCCER CAMP #1: May 30 - June 3, 2022 * Time: 9AM - 1PM
 SUMMER SOCCER CAMP #2: June 27 - July 1, 2022 * Time: 9AM - 1PM
 SUMMER SOCCER CAMP #3: July 18 - July 22, 2021 * Time: 9AM - 1PM
 Cost: \$150 (includes a tshirt)

COMPETITIVE PLAYERS CAMP

Open ONLY to Competitive Players
 July 25 - July 29, 2022 * Time: 9AM - 12PM
 Cost: \$180 (includes a tshirt)

NEW

To get more information and to register visit our website:
WWW.CHARGERSOCCER.COM/LWR



THE PET DOCTOR IS IN

Oh, the things dogs will eat! The weird, the wacky, the just plain gross. We are always amazed by the things our four-legged friends are willing to put in their mouth and swallow – until you try to hide a pill in it! Most of the things we hear about are amusing and typically harmless and we shake our heads and comment on how weird they are. However, there are some major pitfalls we need to try to avoid.



Sometimes we are the culprit, by giving in to those big, sweet eyes begging for foods that are toxic to dogs. No matter what your dog says, never give raisins, chocolate, onions, garlic, anything labeled “sugar free” (as it may contain xylitol), uncooked dough or macadamia nuts. There are other no-no foods but these are the most common.

Sometimes dogs are the culprit, by being opportunistic scavengers. Dogs have a natural curiosity and tend to explore the world with their mouths. Some of the common household items that have gotten them in trouble are jewelry, hearing aids, remotes, human clothing, pieces of (or sometimes whole) toys, and bones. We have even seen whole spoons swallowed when an overzealous licker was offered a dab of peanut butter on the end. If they are lucky, they may pass with just an upset tummy. Often these objects have to be removed surgically.

We can't protect our furry babies from all the dangers of the world but you can try to make it easier for them to make better decisions by making sure any tempting household items are kept out of reach or behind closed doors. Be cognizant in the kitchen of what drops on the floor and who may be there to get it. And certainly avoid the temptation of offering them



anything you are not 100% sure is safe for dogs. Finally, if they do tend to make bad decisions, consider a crate when you are not able to supervise them. The crate is not a punishment; it is a tool to protect them.

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.

Local Business to Host Art Exhibit

ComCenter Lakewood Ranch will host an exhibit from the Lakewood Ranch Art League, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, from April 1 to August 31. Under normal circumstances, ComCenter hosts welcome receptions for the artists at the beginning of each exhibit, and if conditions improve, an April 5 reception is tentatively scheduled for the upcoming event.

Located at 9040 Town Center Parkway, ComCenter Lakewood Ranch regularly hosts local art groups, who exhibit in the main lobby area of the building. The exhibits are open to the public to view and the majority of the art, with a few exceptions, are for sale.

The exhibits change about every four to six months, so there is always something new to see. Upcoming exhibits include Anna Maria Island artists/groups.

ComCenter, locally owned and operated since 1999, offers executive offices, various virtual office service plans, and meeting rooms. For more information call 941-782-1234 or email info@comcenters.net.



Save the Date



Divas & Dogs in Paris

Benefiting The Humane Society at Lakewood Ranch

Friday, March 18th, 2022
11:30 AM

Lakewood Ranch Country Club
Tickets \$95

Fashion Show & Luncheon
Featuring looks from Twist Boutique and SunBug in Venice, FL
For More Information Contact:
Susan Giroux 401-935-3710

TROPICAL NIGHTS

A Royal Affair

an elegant evening benefiting



Meals on Wheels PLUS
OF MANATEE

The **28th Annual Tropical Nights, A Royal Affair**, benefiting **Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee**, will take place on Saturday, March 26, 2022, at The Grove Ballroom in Lakewood Ranch. This event promises to be a unique experience! We are happy to return to an in-person event to celebrate with our guests. We hope you will join us as we have some jolly, good fun! All proceeds from **Tropical Nights** benefit the programs of Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee and stay right here in our local community. Get ready to put on your crowns and tiaras and join **A Royal Affair!**

TROPICAL NIGHTS ONLINE SILENT AUCTION

Start Date: Friday, March 18, 2022

Start Time: 12:00pm

Website: MealsonWheelsPLUS.org/TropicalNights

TROPICAL NIGHTS DINNER

Date: Saturday, March 26, 2022

Location: The Grove Ballroom
10670 Boardwalk Loop
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202

Can't attend? Make a donation in support of the event or bid online.

Visit **www.MealsOnWheelsPLUS.org** for more information

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.

ALEX KARRAS



L I N C O L N

**SERVING FLORIDA'S
SUNCOAST SINCE 1978**

2022

**LINCOLN
AVIATOR RESERVE**



**IN STOCK AND
READY FOR
IMMEDIATE
DELIVERY**

5L/NGL08127

ALEX KARRAS LINCOLN

6760 14TH STREET WEST - ON US 41
2 MILES NORTH OF THE AIRPORT

(941) 756-4004

KARRASLINCOLN.COM

Security deposit waived. Payments exclude taxes, tags, \$495 delivery and state fees. Photos are for illustration purposes only. Offer expires 2/28/22.