



# Around the Ranch

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THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 2021



**PAYING TRIBUTE TO OUR HEROES** – Lakewood Ranch residents gathered in Greenbrook Adventure Park to remember and honor those heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for the country. For more photos see pages 12 -13. Photo by Aliye Presley

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# Mariposa Nursery:

## THE PLACE TO BLOOM IN LAKEWOOD RANCH!

By Ernie Soller  
Community Correspondent

Many moons ago, in the summer of 2005, my wife and I moved into our then-new home in the Banks neighborhood of Greenbrook in Lakewood Ranch. We were, as we found out, the first couple to move into that particular community.

Not altogether satisfied with the landscaping provided by our builder, and having absolutely no close neighbors to ask for information about where to purchase good plants to supplement what the builder had provided, we ventured forth to locate a nursery that could satisfy our need for additional plants that would provide more color for the beds around our new home.

We lucked out in finding a guy, Francois Brun-Wibaux who, along with his wife, Rondell, was establishing a new nursery not far from our new home – Mariposa Nursery, located on Lorraine Road between state roads 70 and 64.

We bought a number of nice, colorful plants, along with some specimen palms from Francois, which, added to what our builder had planted, soon made our home the “best-dressed” in the neighborhood. Two houses and 16 years later, I’m still doing business with Mariposa Nursery and Garden Center.

So, how did Mariposa Nursery come to be such a great place, not only for residents of Greater Lakewood Ranch, but also for commercial landscapers and other nurseries to get their plants?

Let’s go back to the beginning. Brun-Wibaux, born in the northeast part of France, was the son of an engineer who worked for the French automaker, Peugeot. His father traveled a lot for the company, eventually moving to the United States. Like many dads, Brun-Wibaux’s father had a definite idea as to what sort of career his son should pursue – engineering. Brun-Wibaux started college, but quit after a while because he felt drawn to a different kind of life – one that would allow him to work in the out-of-doors, instead of being stuck working in an office or behind a desk.

After a two-year study of horticulture at a vocational/technical school, Brun-Wibaux began working for a succession of nursery operations. Every two years he’d take a job with another,



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

different company, learning more about the business end of the horticulture trade and at the same time, increasing his income with every job change. Eventually he and Rondell moved to the Sarasota area.

Finally, in 2004, he and Rondell bought 12 acres of cow pasture in Manatee County and began to build their dream business, with the assistance of their friend, Ciro. After selling off two acres, they used the cash from that sale to purchase a Bobcat, which enabled the digging of ponds on the property. Additional ponds were added, along with miles of irrigation piping, which enables the recycling of irrigation and rainwater back into the ponds. Tilapia were introduced to cut down on the growth of vegetation in the ponds. And if you visit Mariposa, you might be lucky enough to see some of the whistling ducks that have made themselves at home there.



As a nursery operation, Mariposa Nursery and Garden Center needs greenhouses, and there are now 24 of them on the property. Further expansion has resulted in more acres added to the original property on the west side of Lorraine Road, along with a large parcel of land on the east side of Lorraine, which is used as a tree farm.

As for the staffing level at Mariposa, from a crew of three people in 2004, Brun-Wibaux’s nursery

has grown to a staff of over 40. In hiring, he looks for associates who have a background in the nursery business and can use their expertise to recommend the best solutions for the customer’s needs. How many salespeople at “big-box” stores have a background in horticulture?

So, what does Mariposa Nursery and Garden Center offer their customers?

For starters, there is a huge variety of plants

from which to choose. How does over 600 varieties sound? And Mariposa can provide different sizes of these varieties, as well as multiple plants of a particular variety for your project. Shopping at Mariposa is easy, since they provide golf carts to take their customers around the property, making selection quick and easy on the feet.

I asked Brun-Wibaux what sort of flowers, trees, or shrubs were in the most demand now, and he said that privacy hedge plants were in high demand, as well as crotons and ixora.

Mariposa Nursery and Garden Center is a true mecca for its customers. Not only do they stock hundreds of varieties of greenery, they have a large inventory of items to go along with the flowers and plants. If, for instance, you need fresh mulch to improve the look of your flower beds, your choices are practically unlimited: eucalyptus, gold mulch, red mulch, black mulch, brown mulch, cypress bark, cypress blend, mini nuggets, standard nuggets – all in one place.

As for accessories and pots, Mariposa buys from overseas in container lots, which saves shipping time and cost. They have a lot of pots, gift items, fountains and statuary. One of the challenges Mariposa has faced in the last year has been getting product delivered. Brun-Wibaux said that it used to take about four months’ lead time to get pots delivered from Asia. Now it can take up to a year, thanks to production and shipping issues from the pandemic.

So, what are you waiting for? The tourist season is pretty much over. Traffic on our local roads is easing up a bit, enabling you to take a short trip to Mariposa and get those flowering shrubs, palms, hedge plants, or whatever you may need to sharpen up your property for the summer. The folks at Mariposa Nursery and Garden Center are primed with lots of inventory, and helpful people who know their products. Your yard will love you for it.

And, congratulations to Francois, Rondell, and the staff at Mariposa, for helping to make Lakewood Ranch the attractive, welcoming community it is.

Mariposa is located at 5020 Lorraine Road. Hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday-Friday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday. For more information call (941)747-0499 or visit [mariposanursery.com](http://mariposanursery.com).



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- CHERYL HEDGER,  
VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR

# Volunteer Opportunities at Turning Points

Ranch residents are being sought for the volunteer team Turning Points, a non-profit which provides a wide variety of services designed to assist individuals and families on their path to financial stability and independence.

They provide day resource services (such as hot showers, laundry services, clothing, food), employment services, rental and utility assistance, veterans' services (employment, housing, and childcare), and free medical and dental care for the uninsured and underinsured. More than 7,700 men, women and children received help last year with critical services targeted to the essential needs of people in crisis. Turning Points can only provide this high standard of service because of its caring, compassionate volunteers and strong community support, officials said.

Volunteers are needed in several areas. The hours that are covered are up to the volunteers, who can come in a few hours a day or a few hours a week. A comprehensive tour is given to each interested volunteer, at which time the positions that the volunteer is interested in are fully discussed with the volunteer coordinator.

The Day Resource Center provides a variety of services, assisting clients with improving their living situation and helping them move along a path of stability and independence. Services range from hot showers, laundry, mail, legal documents and haircuts, to clothing, food programs, bike repair and public assistance applications. Volunteers assist with many aspects in this program.

Florida-licensed medical and dental professionals are needed in the free medical and dental clinic. These medical services are available to provide primary care and specialty care. Medical and dental volunteers work on sovereign immunity through the state, so liability insurance is covered. A part-time dental hygienist is most needed in this area.

The health and safety of our volunteers are a top priority for us, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. We are following the safety protocols from the CDC, Florida State Government, Manatee County Government, and the Department of Health.

"Our volunteers are the backbone of our organization," said Cheryl Hedger, volunteer coordinator. "Only because of their dedication and service, we are able to provide these important services in our community."

Turning Points volunteers logged over 40,000 hours over the past year while assisting more than 7,700 men, women, and children in need. They are located at 701 17th Ave. W., in Bradenton.

Interested volunteers should contact Cheryl Hedger at (941)747-1509, Ext. 308, email [chedger@tpmanatee.org](mailto:chedger@tpmanatee.org), or visit [tpmanatee.org/volunteer](http://tpmanatee.org/volunteer).



VOLUNTEER



# Creating the First Brain Healthy Community

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



Creating brain healthy communities is at the core of the Brain

Health Initiative's (BHI) mission. Community engagement is one of three ways the BHI helps Suncoast residents promote and protect their brain health, optimize their brain performance, and prevent brain illness. The other two components include actively involving the community in the full research and innovation process.

The BHI is built on the foundation of science, community, and innovation that supports preventing brain illness, identifying symptoms of brain illness early, developing, identifying, and implementing innovative brain health interventions, and optimizing brain performance for all ages. Research suggests that brain illnesses such as adolescent mental health challenges and yes, even dementia, can often be mitigated, delayed, or possibly even prevented by choosing a brain healthy lifestyle. In other words, for the most part, we are in control of our own brain health and performance.

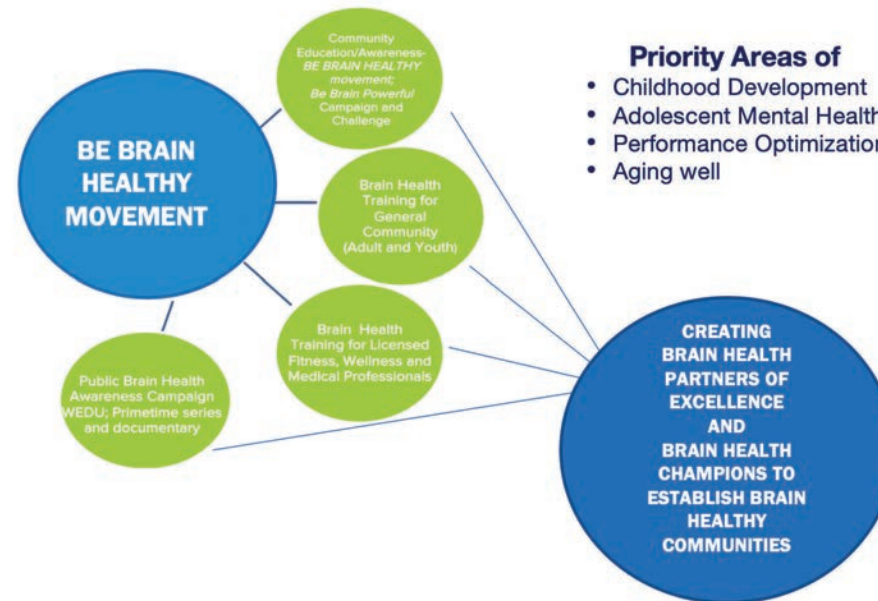
The **Be Brain Healthy** movement, the community engagement component of the initiative, was created by the BHI to mobilize every sector of Florida's Suncoast— government and public policy, health and wellness, early childhood development, PK-12 and higher education, business, arts and cultural, and religious sectors, as well as the general population — that brain diseases can be prevented by taking action to become informed and educated.

To create a fundamental change in the way we care for our brains, BHI is launching the "Be Brain Healthy: Be Brain Powerful" campaign to leverage the power of the community's understanding, emotion, and opinions into actions to begin to change the narrative on brain health and brain illness. With research as its foundation, the "Be Brain Healthy: Be Brain Powerful" movement and campaign aim to:

- Promote and protect lifelong brain health and optimal performance at the individual and community level.
- Elevate the subject of brain health to encourage action-oriented and meaningful conversations.
- Encourage behavior change that science shows us can help improve brain health and optimize brain performance across the lifespan.

Can you imagine the benefits here on the

## BE BRAIN HEALTHY: BE BRAIN POWERFUL MOVEMENT



Suncoast if we knew specifically what steps we could take and when to take them in order to have the most impact on building our brain health, optimizing our brain's performance, and preventing brain illness? We are focused on engaging the community in brain healthy behaviors — and supporting each other in achieving brain healthy outcomes.

Earlier this year the BHI launched the LWR Brain Health pilot study with randomly selected participants to collect data specifically about how residents function mentally, socially, cognitively, and biologically. The study is now open to all who live, work, learn, or play in LWR. Community participation is a critical component of the study as the results will help to inform the science that is essential to building a brain healthy community — one that promotes and protects brain health and fights brain illness.

In the 18 months that it has been in existence, the BHI has developed and launched, or is preparing to launch, a number of programs and activities that bring brain healthy programs to individuals, families, and the community for personal and professional development. For example:

**30-Day BE BRAIN HEALTHY: BE BRAIN POWERFUL Challenge.** Utilizing an evidence-based approach, the challenge is aimed at educating individuals and families about promoting and protecting their brain health. Science shows that encouraging conversations and behavior can help improve brain health

and optimize brain performance across the lifespan. This ongoing effort encourages brain healthy lifestyle changes that support brain health and optimal performance — eating well, staying active, sleeping well, controlling risk, exercising the brain, and connecting with friends and family.

**Brain Health Scholar Program.** Youth leaders over the age of 16 have the opportunity to work with BHI clinicians and scientists in their effort to promote and protect brain health, fight brain illness, and improve performance for all ages throughout the Suncoast region. Primarily working remotely, the scholars spend roughly 20 hours per semester helping carry out the BHI community engagement and research agenda in Sarasota and Bradenton. Their work focuses on helping to raise brain health literacy and to better understand the brain health and well-being concerns, values, priorities, and attitudes of both youth and adults from the region. The Brain Health Scholar program is an inclusive program free to young leaders nominated by BHI partnering organizations with interest in the fields of science, medicine and/or health and well-being.

**Brain Health Matters! Lecture Series.** The Brain Health Matters! monthly lecture series features world-thought leaders who share evidence-based information and guidance on how to support brain health, brain development, brain aging, and performance across the lifespan

**Brain Health Boosts!** The Brain Health

Boosts! began as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic and have transitioned to twice weekly posts related to relevant and current events in brain health, as well as resources specific to supporting BHI's brain health pillars and protective factors.

**PRIDE Training for Mental Health and Well-Being.** The BHI has evaluated and selected the established Massachusetts General Hospital, and Harvard Medical School PRIDE Training Institute as a partner to help address the mental health challenges facing youth in Sarasota and Manatee counties. The services of the PRIDE Training Institute will initially be offered through the Brain Health Scholar program and aim to increase access to mental health care by training and coaching community paraprofessionals to deliver cognitive behavioral skills to youth.

**BHI Brain Health Community Educator.** This level of engagement is designed for individuals of all ages who want to become trained as a Brain Health Community Educator. These individuals will commit to developing the competencies and confidence to become a BHI educator of brain health.

**Brain Health Training for Professionals.** These programs include BHI education and training designed for licensed medical and health professionals and separate programming for wellness, and fitness professionals. It provides them with brain health education information, skills, and tools they can incorporate into their existing practice with patients and clients. The BHI's hope is to revolutionize the approach to brain health by promoting brain healthy education and lifestyles and offering explicit training regimens for health professionals that increase prevention outcomes and support a community-based brain health continuum of care.

The impact of the BHI's community-based work is designed to be felt across all sectors and across the lifespan of residents. This dedicated focus on brain health has the potential to remedy issues surrounding physical and mental well-being of all ages, to enhance education, the workforce, arts and culture, to revolutionize science for future generations, to aid in healthy aging and care, and to make the Suncoast the living model of a brain healthy community.

For more information about the Brain Health Initiative or to learn more about how you can become involved in brain health programming, or live a brain healthy lifestyle, please visit [brainhealthinitiative.org](http://brainhealthinitiative.org).



# New Supervisor Appointed to District 4 CDD Board

By Ernie Soller  
Community Correspondent

With the resignation of John Freeman from the District 4 Community Development District Board of Supervisors, the remaining members of the District 4 (Greenbrook) board appointed Pete De Angelis to fill the vacancy. Freeman moved out of District 4, and was therefore not eligible to continue as a supervisor for that district.

De Angelis is a longtime resident of the Greenbrook community and has been very active as a member of the HOA board in Greenbrook.

The District 1 board approved a measure to establish a set of pricing standards for the various memorial items that residents wish to have erected, such as tree plantings, memorial benches along walkways, etc. The idea is to make sure that the donors pay the actual cost of the memorials, so that the districts won't lose money in the process.

New trail markers will be installed along the District's trails, similar to the ones recently installed in District 4 along the Braden River.

The District 1 Board also voted to pay for part of the cost of removing a streetlight along Lakewood Ranch Boulevard, in preparation for the eventual installation of a new traffic signal at the intersection of Lakewood Ranch and Balmoral Woods boulevards.

Finance Director Steve Zielinski reported that in District 1 alone, reclaimed water irrigation usage from October 2020 to April 2021 was down by 23%, with part of the decrease credited to the additional use of soil moisture sensors. This may – if the figures stay low – generate a small surplus for this year's fiscal budget.

Zielinski also noted that Braden River Utilities has announced a 2.4% cost increase for irrigation water, effective on Jan. 1, 2022. Continued water conservation on the part of residents will help to defray the increased cost of irrigation water.

## SHRED DAY REPORT

Executive Director Anne Ross reported that 247 cars disgorged their surplus records for

shredding at the Shred Day event in April. In addition, eight barrels of food were donated to the Food Bank of Manatee by Shred Day participants.

## IDA BUDGET

District 1 Supervisor Bob Swiatek reported that the Inter-District Authority budget for the next fiscal year will go up by approximately 2%. Individual district budget changes are not expected to vary much from that of the IDA.

## ALLEGED GATE ISSUES

New security gate hardware and software components have been installed on the gates leading into the Country Club. The new system was tested on the Edgewater gate prior to being installed on the Legacy and Balmoral gates.

Allegedly there are some Country Club residents who seem to be having issues with the gates, predominantly the Balmoral gate in District 6, during "non-open" hours. The Balmoral Gate is open from 10:30 a.m. to 10:30 p.m.

## VOTER COUNT BY DISTRICT

As the number of residents in Lakewood Ranch increases, so does the voter count. Here are the total numbers of voters by CDD as of May 1, 2021:

District 1: 3,565  
District 2: 2,687  
District 4: 3,378  
District 5: 1,787  
District 6: 763

## EROSION REPAIR

Operations Director Chetlain announced that Schroeder-Manatee Ranch will repair the eroded areas along the west bank of Lake Uihlein along an approximately 200 feet stretch of lake bank.

## LANDSCAPE CONTRACTOR CHANGE

In District 6, citing continuing poor quality grades and resident dissatisfaction, the District 6 board decided to terminate the contract with Down to Earth landscaping. The board voted to hire West Coast Landscaping to finish out the remainder of the fiscal year's work at a cost of \$7,550.

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# LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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



Nothing tickles us more than knowing we've made a resident's day a little bit brighter. We thrive on facilitating the environments that help our residents learn, grow, and reach their goals.

## Fit4Kids

Our increasingly popular Fit4Kids program offers a progressive 4-week approach complete with warm-ups, cool-downs, fitness challenges, fundamental calisthenics, and running. Not only have the kids been eager to get to fitness class, but the parents have been raving over the results. One parent came to Chris McComas, our parks activities director, saying she used to hold her breath when her daughter ran, anticipating an inevitable trip and fall. Her daughter had never been athletic or very coordinated, not until Fit4Kids, at least! She can now confidently say her child's coordination and athletic ability have greatly improved, and both mother and daughter are eagerly waiting for the next round of Fit4Kids, which starts July 13 and takes place at Bob Gardner Community Park. Registration is open now!



Keith Pandeloglou  
Director of LWRAC



The VFW presenting the colors, and the Del Webb Veterans presenting the flags of our armed forces.

## Tribute to Heroes

Along with programs that have become beloved Community Activities classics, we've been beyond excited to offer new event concepts and programming to Lakewood Ranch residents. In lieu of our annual Tribute to Heroes Parade, we remembered and paid tribute to those who have given the ultimate sacrifice for our nation by holding our first ever Tribute to Heroes Concert at Greenbrook Adventure Park. We're honored to have been joined by The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 12055 and The Del Webb Lakewood Ranch Association of Veterans and Military Supporters.

The event was kicked off with our VFW post presenting the colors, and the Del Webb Veterans presenting the flags of our armed forces. Later, residents danced to rock-n-roll music by local Bradenton band Whiskey Blind, while also enjoying refreshments from food trucks at the event.

We were all in for a special surprise when the founder of



Founder of The Del Webb LWR Association of Veterans, Herman Martinez, playing the drums for Whiskey Blind.

The Del Webb Lakewood Ranch Association of Veterans, Herman Martinez, hopped on stage to showcase his talent by taking over as drummer for Whiskey Blind! This was his first time playing drums in over two years, and there wasn't a face in sight not lit up with a smile.

## Silver Singles

Our Tribute to Heroes Concert wasn't the only fresh idea brought to fruition by the Community Activities team as of late. After meeting with a resident who saw a need in our community that was yet to be met, we hosted our first Silver Singles Mixer at The GROVE on Lakewood Main Street. We were joined by local matchmaker Shana Tibi of Curated Connections who helped to lead the event with an icebreaker that led to attendees forming organic conversations with new friends and potential love interests.

SEE COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES, PAGE 14

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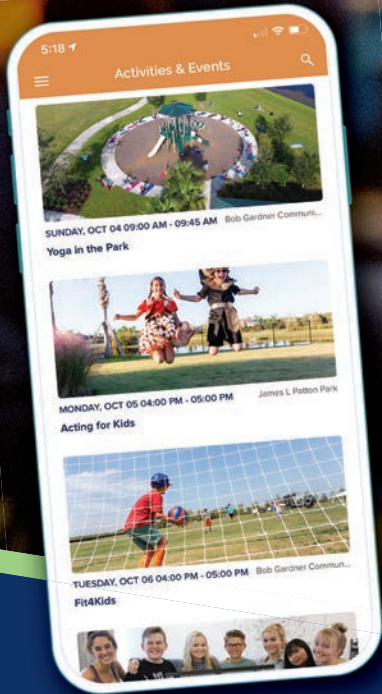




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# AROUND THE RANCH



PHOTOS BY ALIVE PRESLEY



## Tribute to Heroes Concert

Lakewood Ranch Community Activities and Lakewood Ranch residents gathered on May 22 to remember and honor those heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice for the country, and the freedoms we hold dear. The event was held from 5-7 p.m. at Greenbrook Adventure Park, 13010 Adventure Place.

Tickets were free for residents who preregistered; parking was free for veterans and was a \$5 donation for all other cars,

with proceeds from parking going to local veterans' groups. "Our Tribute to Heroes parade launched over 10 years ago and has been a way for us to celebrate our local heroes," said Keith Pandeloglou, executive director of Lakewood Ranch Community Activities. "Unfortunately, the parade wasn't feasible this year, due to the pandemic. With the concert, we were able to remember those we have lost, while enjoying a day of music at one of our beautiful parks."







## Lakewood Ranch Medical Center Receives Five-Star Rating

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently announced that Lakewood Ranch Medical Center (LWRMC) is the first and only hospital in Manatee County to be awarded the CMS Five-Star Rating. For 2021, more than 4,500 hospitals were eligible to receive star ratings, giving 455 hospital a rating of five stars, and awarding only 25 hospital in the State of Florida with the five-star rating.

“Lakewood Ranch Medical Center is proud to be the first and only hospital in Manatee County to receive The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services Five-Star Rating,” said Andy Guz, chief executive officer of LWRMC. “This achievement recognizes the high levels of quality and service that we provide to patients and their families.”

CMS assigned star ratings to hospital nationwide based on their performance across five quality categories. This is the first star ratings update since January 2020.

- 204 hospitals received a one-star rating



- 690 received a two-star rating
- 1,018 received a three-star rating
- 988 received a four-star rating
- 455 received a five-star rating

CMS updated data for the following measures, measure groups and quality reporting and payment programs:

- Timely and effective care
- Unplanned hospital visits
- Hospital Acquired Conditions Reduction Program
- Hospital Value-Based Purchasing Program
- Hospital Readmission Reduction Program
- Inpatient Psychiatric Facility Quality Reporting Program
- Ambulatory Surgical Center Quality Reporting Program
- Prospective payment System-Exempt Cancer Hospital Quality Reporting Program

For more information about LWRMC, visit [lwrmc.com](http://lwrmc.com). For a full list of 2021 Five-Star Hospitals, visit <https://bit.ly/2SccSImH>.

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES FROM PAGE 10

What became a successful mixer started as a small meeting amongst us, the Lakewood Ranch Community Activities team, and a local resident. This is how our community groups are brought to life, when an idea is proposed to us that we can then execute in collaboration with residents. If you've ever thought to yourself "why isn't there a club around here for this?" we want to hear from you! Submit community group ideas by email to [info@lwrca.org](mailto:info@lwrca.org) or attend our monthly office hours on the fourth Monday of each month from 2 – 3 p.m.

### More Parks and Rec Programs!

In May, we released our highly anticipated Summer Parks & Rec Guide! We're back with resident favorites such as Yoga in the Park, Strength + Mobility + Balance, and Acting for Kids, just to name a few.

We are also thrilled to bring new programming to the



*Coach Marie of Training with Marie coaching Strength + Mobility + Balance at Summerfield Park*

parks of Lakewood Ranch, such as our multi-level adult volleyball offerings this quarter! If you're new to volleyball, join us at 10 a.m. on July 31 to learn the basics and play a casual game. Immediately following Beginner Volleyball will be Intermediate Volleyball, for those who are more comfortable with the rules and movements. Intermediate Volleyball will start at 11 a.m. and both programs will be at Summerfield Community Park. Additionally, Midday Volleyball will continue every Wednesday at 11 a.m. through Sept. 1, also at Summerfield Community Park.

Along with the previously mentioned children's programs, Fit4Kids and Acting for Kids, the youth of Lakewood Ranch can look forward to Kids Kickball, Kids Volleyball, Kids Cornhole, and more! Check out the Summer Parks & Rec Guide at [myLWR.com](http://myLWR.com) or grab a physical copy from the Lakewood Ranch Information Center. To register for our summer programs, download the Lakewood Ranch mobile app on the App Store or Google play, or head to [myLWR.com](http://myLWR.com).



# Community Partners Continue To Offer COVID-19 Testing

The Florida Department of Health in Manatee County (DOH-Manatee) and its network of community partners continue to offer COVID-19 testing as state-supported sites in Manatee County close down.

MCR Health is booking appointments for testing at its locations around Manatee County. To book an appointment, call (941)776-4000.

Additional testing sites include:

- Walgreens, 930 Eighth Ave. W., Palmetto, (941)729-5250
- CVS, 945 Eighth Ave. W., Palmetto, (941)722-0529
- CVS, 520 First St. W., Bradenton, (941)746-9259
- CVS, 4302 Cortez Road, Bradenton, (941)794-2899
- Ellenton Urgent Care, 4015 US 301 N., Ellenton, (941)531-2800

If you think you've been exposed to COVID-19 and have a mild fever and symptoms such as a cough, call MCR Health at (941)776-4000. If you're experiencing any of the following emergency signs of COVID-19, call 9-1-1:

- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- Confusion
- Bluish lips or face

For additional information on COVID-19 testing and vaccination sites, visit [www.floridahealthcovid19.gov](http://www.floridahealthcovid19.gov).



## June Programs at Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch

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

### Talmud Classes

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

*At the virtual Chabad House*

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

### Torah Studies

**Saturday mornings, 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

*At the Chabad tent*

**Friday nights, 7 p.m.; Saturday mornings at 9:30 a.m., Shabbat Kiddush at 11 a.m.**

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

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



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# GO! FISH!!

By Ernie Soller  
Community Correspondent

How many times have you heard this saying about fishing: “Give a man a fish and he’ll eat for a day; teach a man to fish and he’ll eat for the rest of his life”?

The Lakewood Ranch Anglers Club is dedicated to the fun of fishing, and that includes teaching kids how to fish, so that they can not only enjoy the sport of fishing, but also so that they can learn proper techniques, understand the laws which govern fishing, and, yes, so that they can eat for the rest of their lives.

To that end, the Lakewood Ranch Anglers Club held a two-hour-long Learn to Fish seminar for approximately 50 kids at Summerfield Park.

At the seminar, kids learned a few important fishing skills, such as tying knots so that your hook or lure doesn’t fall off the line – which of course, is kind of important if you want to actually catch the fish. And the kids received their own rods and reels from Fish Florida, so that they could go right out and practice what they learned.

They also learned about the art of casting your line so that you can place the hook just where it will (hopefully) attract fish. And of course, the angler needs to know how to accomplish his or her cast so that their line lands in the water ... and not in a tree branch, or stuck in someone else’s T-shirt!

The seminar also featured learning about ecology – in order to preserve our Florida fish species – and about laws intended to accomplish that goal. After all, no angler wants to be caught by a Fish and Wildlife officer with a cooler full of what might be an illegal catch. Lastly, the Learn to Fish seminar taught kids about being respectful while fishing.

The Learn to Fish seminar was put on by the Lakewood Ranch Anglers Club in cooperation with Lakewood Ranch Community Activities and an organization called Fish Florida, which is dedicated to promoting fishing in Florida’s waters, and teaching folks how to fish.

You may have seen special Florida automobile license plates which feature a big sailfish, with the words “Fish Florida” at the lower portion of the plate.

The sale of these license plates does two things: part of the fee goes to the State of Florida to pay for the usual state license charges, but

the rest of the cost goes to the Fish Florida organization to help pay for their educational programs, such as fishing clinics, along with covering the cost of the equipment that Fish Florida provides to kids – like the ones who attended the Learn to Fish seminar here in Lakewood Ranch. Fish Florida has provided education and equipment to between 50,000 and 100,000 kids since the Fish Florida license plate program was started, and they also use the money for grants and education opportunities for students interested in marine sciences at several Florida universities, including the University of South Florida, Nova Southeastern, Florida Gulf Coast, and the University of Miami.

Having attended the Learn to Fish seminar, the kids received certificates noting their accomplishment, and were invited by the Lakewood Ranch Anglers Club to a Youth Fishing Tournament, which was held right behind the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall on the shores of Lake Uihlein. It was one of the first large events held by the Anglers Club since the COVID pandemic hit last year.

The kids and their families spread out along the shores of Lake Uihlein so that they wouldn’t be casting right next to each other, and there were actually a few fish caught – although one Lakewood Ranch Anglers Club member theorized that since a lot of the fish in Lake Uihlein were somewhat on the small side, these smaller fish might have been less inclined to bite.

However, some fish did bite, and several kids took home trophies. The first-place winners in each age category were awarded trophies, along with ribbons and \$25 gift certificates.

The first-place winner in the 5- to 8-year-old category was Lily Alexander. In the 9- to 12-year-old category the winner was Even Quinn, and in the 13- to 15-year-old category it was Ava Gomes.

In addition, each participating child got a free meal at Ed’s Tavern, when accompanied by an adult.

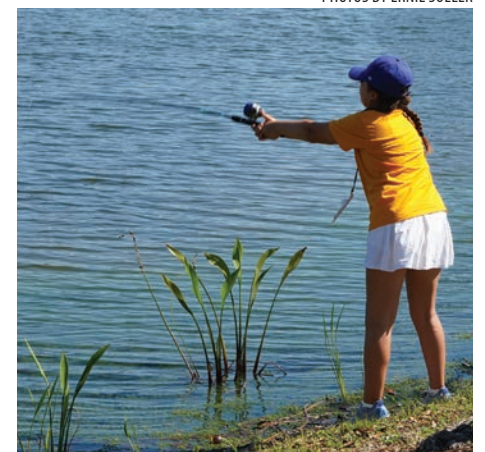
The Lakewood Ranch Anglers Club holds a fishing clinic every third Saturday at Patton Park. Registration is mandatory. They meet at the Town Hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m., conditions permitting.

For additional information call Larry Nadeo at (941)567-4552, or Jeanette Wirz at (941)807-8364.

And Go Fish!



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER





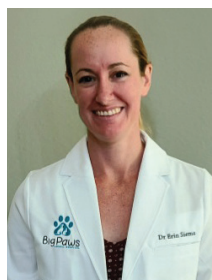
## THE PET DOC IS IN!

By Erin Siems, DVM

Summer is here again and it is set to be another scorcher! Don't forget our four-legged friends are still wearing their fur coats and can be at risk for overheating and heat stroke. While dogs and cats have a naturally higher body temperature than humans (around 100-102), it only takes a few degrees for them to start overheating (104-105). Just like us, pets need to remain healthy and active during the summer but we need to make sure we all do it in a safe way.

Tweaking normal exercise routines so that pets are outside earlier in the morning and later in the evening will avoid the brunt of heat and humidity. Consider decreasing the intensity of the exercise to make it easier for our athletic pups to still have fun but not overdo it. Try to find a shady spot to take a break when needed. Always take water for yourself and your companions if you are going on a longer outing. And don't forget to protect those pads – sensitive paw pads can get ripped or burnt on hot pavement. Alternatively, consider indoor or water activities to keep cool during the day.

Signs of heat stroke include heavy panting, red gums, vomiting, diarrhea and exhaustion to the point of not being able to get up. Heat stroke is more than just overdoing it. Heat stroke can be a medical emergency, lead to blood abnormalities, and even be fatal. If you think your pet has



overdone it, the best thing to do is take its temperature rectally (it's not glorious but it's a part of life) and call your vet for advice. You can help decrease the temperature by directing fans towards your pet, putting rubbing alcohol on the paw pads and putting a towel soaked in cool, not cold water on them. Offer water but do not force them to drink as this can lead to aspiration.

The goal is to try to prevent heat stroke by being aware of the environment and our pet's limitations. However, if they do overdo it, act quickly and to seek medical advice. It could save a life!

*Dr. Erin Siems graduated from Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine in 2010, and has enjoyed working in both general practice and emergency care. She has been practicing in the Lakewood Ranch/Bradenton area for the past seven years. She enjoys general practice because it gives her the ability to build relationships with her patients and their families. Dr. Siems opened her own practice, Big Paws Animal Hospital in Lakewood Ranch, in May 2020. Email pet questions to [reception@BigPawsAnimalHospital.com](mailto:reception@BigPawsAnimalHospital.com).*



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## THE UNASSUMING WINE BROS.




# Happy Anniversary Our Best for the Past Year

Believe it or not, it's been one year since our wine adventures began gracing the pages of *Around the Ranch*. We've traveled (journalistically) through Europe, South America, Oregon, Washington, California, and New York State in search of the best affordable wines to drink, talk about, and share with you – our readers. We have expanded our growing wine empire (ha-ha) to social media with our webpage, Facebook profile, and Instagram account! Now that we have hit the one-year mark, it's time to talk about the best affordable wines we have sampled this year: the UWB's best of the best.

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.

This article could be a three-page spread with our favorites throughout the year. To keep it at around one page, we decided to highlight our favorite red, white, and sparkling wines that we sampled and profiled this year.

## Rating System:

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

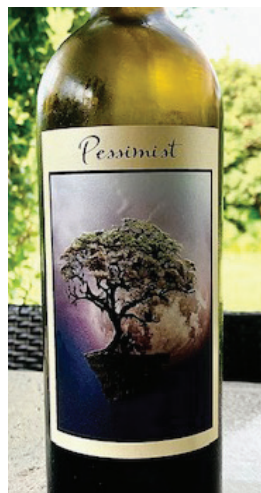
## RED WINE CATEGORY

### 2017 ELK COVE VINEYARDS ESTATE PINOT NOIR

Willamette Valley, Oregon; \$28.99 U.S.; 13.5% ABV

**Vigo:** When I first reviewed the Elk Cove Estate Pinot Noir in January 2020, I gave this delicious wine a 4.5 out of 5 Bros rating. I think my decision to underrate this pinot noir was based on the mistaken attitude that something better would come later. Needless to say, although there were many suitors, none compared to the Elk Coves Estate Pinot Noir's balance, smoothness, and taste. I'm sheepishly seeing the error in my ways and giving it the rating it deserves.

**Vigo's rating:**     



### 2018 DAOU VINEYARDS, PESSIMIST RED BLEND

Paso Robles, California; \$25 U.S.; 15.5% ABV

**Patrick:** My favorite selection this year was Daou Vineyards' 2017 Pessimist Red Blend. I'm not sure I have ever tasted a bottle of wine at this price point with so much complexity in every sip. At this price, it makes for a fantastic wine full of juicy fruit, rich chocolate, tannins, acidity, and finish.

**Patrick's Rating:**    

## WHITE WINE CATEGORY

### 2018 COOPER MOUNTAIN CHARDONNAY

Willamette Valley, Oregon; \$20.54 U.S.; 13.5% ABV

**Vigo:** I'm sure you see a pattern that I'm a big fan of Willamette Valley wines. With all the great chardonnays being made throughout the world, it was a huge surprise that a beautiful chardonnay was being produced in Oregon. The 2018 Cooper Mountain Chardonnay was never featured in our monthly article – it was instead highlighted on our Instagram page (if you're an Instagram

user, you're missing out if you're not following the UWB site). If you're a fan of oaky, buttery chardonnays, this isn't for you, but if you like notes of tart green apples, lush fruit, and creamy lemons in your chardonnay, then race as fast as you can to your local wine store to pick up this delightful, expertly crafted wine.

## Vigo's rating:

### #1A: 2019 ELK COVE VINEYARDS ESTATE PINOT GRIS

Willamette Valley, Oregon; \$16.99 U.S.; 13% ABV





**Patrick:** I had two whites this year that both stood out above the rest. The first was the 2018 Elk Cove Estate Pinot Gris. Crisp, complex, with a great mix of tartness and sweeter fruit, minerality, and a zesty finish. I love complex wines, and this had a mesmerizing tangy, clean deliciousness that blew me away.

**Patrick's Rating:**     

### #1B: 2018 FORGE CELLARS CLASSIQUE DRY RIESLING

Seneca Lake, New York State; \$14 U.S.; 12% ABV

**Patrick:** This 2018 Forge Cellars Dry Riesling was perhaps the most significant source of disagreement between Vigo and me to date. I found this wine excellent; Vigo ... not so much. I ENJOY BALANCE when I drink white wine, which means equal parts pronounced apple notes with acidity carrying the wine through to its finish. This wine hit the mark for me in every way. Check it out and let us know whether you agree with Vigo or me on this one.

**Patrick's Rating:**    

## SPARKLING WINE CATEGORY

### GRAHAM BECK, BRUT ROSE' SPARKLING WINE, 2018

West Cape Winelands, South Africa, \$20.99 U.S., 12% ABV

**Vigo:** I'm sure as you're reading this, you're asking, "why South Africa?" It's a great question, and I'll answer with price point, taste, and structure of this magnificent sparkling wine. Being that it's a brut rosé, it will be dry on the palate, but it also brings in a delicious raspberry sherbet flavor that feels creamy and decadent. The bubbles in this sparkling wine are tight and effervescent and almost feel like you have a packet of Pop Rocks in your mouth. Patrick introduced me to this sparkling wine, and I have to give him full credit every time someone has complimented me for selecting it. The Graham Beck Brut Rose Sparkling Wine is a sports car of sparkling wine at an economy car price.

**Vigo's rating:**     





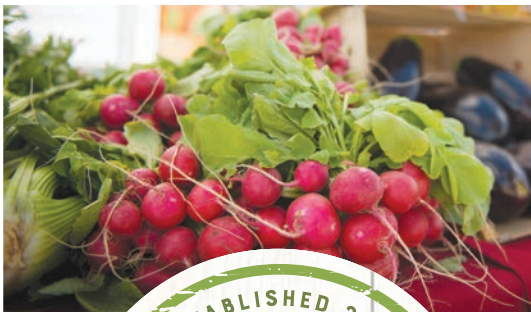
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## HEALTH OF WEALTH

# Mid-year Checkpoint

By Huldah Mathis  
Northwestern Mutual



**H**appy summer! As our routines start to shift again with summer vacations and a transition to the second half of 2021, we thought it might be helpful to revisit a few points. Let's break it down month by month with some questions to consider and some tips to stay the course with what you set out to accomplish this year.

**JUNE** – you're halfway through the year! Look back and recall everything you have already accomplished and celebrate that. Now is also a good time to reassess. Do you need to adjust anything? Are you sticking to the budget you set? Have you broken down your long-range goals to something more tangible? Do you have a plan for maximizing your tax-deductible savings or funding a Roth IRA this year?

**JULY** – for many people this is a slower time at work. If updating your estate plan was on your to-do list this year, have you set up a meeting with an attorney? Have you and your spouse

thought about what changes you want to make now that your kids are grown? If you're going through this process for this first time, have you thought about what kind of legacy you would want to leave for those you love?

**AUGUST** – being well into the second half of the year, now is a good time to revisit your investment strategy. If you manage your own portfolio, make sure that any planned rebalancing or trading has been executed properly so you aren't positioned in more cash than you intended. If you're just starting out, don't overcomplicate it. A target date fund is a great single fund solution for a long time horizon. For any investor, it is important to choose a program that fits your timeframe for using this money and to stick to your plan. You can ride the waves of the market without changing course if you know your end game.

**SEPTEMBER** – Slow down and take the time to be a tourist in our own great town. So many people wait all year to vacation here and enjoy the arts, beaches, and beauty that we have access to year-round. Are you taking full advantage of all that our local community has to offer?

**OCTOBER** – while this may seem early, holiday season will be here before you know it. So many people start January feel-

ing stressed about "paying off" the holidays. Have you thought about how you plan to stick to your budget this year? Can you spread out some of the year-end pile up by starting some gift shopping early and spreading out the expense?

**NOVEMBER** – for many this is a timeframe of open enrollment for benefits through work. Have you taken the time to read through next year's offering? If you are either approaching Medicare eligibility or are already enrolled, this is a good time for you also to look ahead to next year and have a plan for either enrolling initially or re-evaluating your current plan to make sure it still fits today's life circumstances.

**DECEMBER** – as the year closes and holidays approach, take the time to revisit your gifting and charitable giving. Have you completed what you planned to in those areas? Make sure to talk to your financial advisor and your accountant early this month to ensure you have taken advantage of the most tax efficient ways to accomplish these objectives before year-end.

*Huldah C. Mathis is an agent of NM and registered representative of the NMIS based in Sarasota. To contact her, please call (941) 957-4518, email [huldah.mathis@nm.com](mailto:huldah.mathis@nm.com), or visit [huldahmathis.nm.com](http://huldahmathis.nm.com).*

WINE FROM PAGE 18

## 2016 DOMAINE CARNEROS BRUT SPARKLING WINE

Carneros, California; \$28 U.S.; 12.5 ABV

**Patrick:** This sparkling California wine requires qualification – it is made by French Champagne maker Taittinger in the French method but with California chardonnay grapes in Carneros. It dazzles with apple and lemon flavors with a toasty, nutty finish. If it was made in France, it would easily cost double. Since discovering this sparkling wine, it has become a "go-to" staple at our home for dinner parties. Dinner parties at my home always start with two bottles of the Domaine Carneros Brut Sparkling Wine as a conversation primer for the rest of the evening.

**Patrick's Rating:**

**Vigo's Overall Impressions:** We've come a long way from that Saturday afternoon on Longboat Key, chatting about the wines we enjoy then asking each other, "Why don't we write a wine article?" That conversation turned



into both Patrick and me hustling every month to come up with new ideas that the communities around Lakewood Ranch would like to read about. Wine isn't a beverage; it's a piece of art that we get not only to see and feel, but also consume. We are honored that *Around the Ranch* gives us a forum to share our love of wine.

We also enjoy it when people come up to us and say, "Hey, I read your wine article in *Around the Ranch*; it is great." The UWBs look forward to writing about new wines over the next year and hope you continue to enjoy the wines we cover.

**Patrick's Overall Impressions:** It has been a fun year writing this article. We both work full-time in demanding professions and have families, so trust me – it's not always easy or convenient to hit our monthly publishing deadline. However, it is a labor of love, and we have a blast doing it. We hope the fun we have is evident in our monthly wine musings.

**ATTENTION READERS:** Like our Facebook page "The Unassuming Wine Bros," follow us on Instagram @theunassumingwinebros, or email us at [vigoandpatrick@gmail.com](mailto:vigoandpatrick@gmail.com). Let us know what you think about this article, these bottles, or suggestions for upcoming articles.

## Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club's PGA Junior League Wins Again

Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club's (LWRG&CC) PGA Junior League team recently won the spring 2021 season. The team competes in the Sarasota/Manatee County League against other clubs in the area, and won the fall 2020 season as well as spring 2021.

"Congrats to coach Brian Goff and his ridiculously successful PGA Junior League program," said Bryan McManis, director of golf at the LWRG&CC. "Two seasons in and two championships won. What a testament to the fruits of our commitment to growing the game of golf and providing this opportunity for young men and women to learn a fantastic sport while gaining life skills such as honesty, integrity and a true appreciation for the camaraderie of team sports."

The Sarasota/Manatee County League All Stars will now compete in a Tampa section qualifier, and if they do well they can reach the PGA Junior League National Championship, which will be covered by ESPN.



*The Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club team, pictured with the trophy after their fall of 2020 win.*



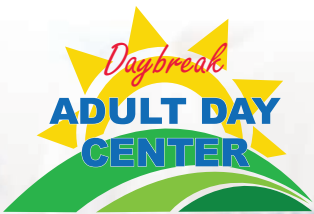


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# Sales at Pulte Homes' Shoreview at LWR Waterside Increase

**D**emand at Pulte Homes' Shoreview at Lakewood Ranch Waterside continues to surge.

Located within walking and biking distance from Lakewood Ranch's new Waterside Place – the town center set to open in late 2021 – Pulte's Shoreview neighborhood blends a selection of nine one- and two-story home designs. Additional flexible living spaces and personalized design features and finishes are also available.

The opening of Lakewood Ranch's new 36-acre retail, dining, wellness and entertainment hub enhances Shoreview's nearby offerings, officials said. Soon, Shoreview residents can take a short stroll or bike ride to the new lifestyle destination to meet with friends at O&A Coffee Supply, CROP Juice and Good Liquid Brewing Co., Korê, Duck Donuts and Kilwins. With offerings from The Yoga Shack, 3 Form Fitness, Derek The Salon, ManCave for Men, and PAINT Nail Bar, it will be easy for Shoreview residents to keep looking their best. And eventually, every Sunday, the popular Farmers' Market at Lakewood Ranch will be held at Waterside Place. The Players Center for Performing Arts plans to call Waterside Place home, with plans for a new 70,000-square-foot performing arts center underway.

Within Shoreview, residents experience an every-day-is-vacation lifestyle with a lakefront, resort-style amenity campus featuring a heated resort-style pool and spa complemented with an outdoor bar area for poolside entertaining.

Health and fitness options include a state-of-the-art fitness center with cardio and strength training equipment. A community gathering room serves as headquarters for game nights and special events coordinated by the community's lifestyle manager. The space can also be reserved for private parties.

Situated around a pair of lakes totaling 144 acres creates a fresh-air lifestyle at Shoreview. A beach area offers chaise lounges, while a multi-purpose turf lawn is available for bocce and corn hole games. Tennis and pickleball courts offer both seasoned players and first-time players a chance to join their neighbors. A kayak launch and fire pit seating area round out Shoreview's amenity offerings.

"Shoreview appeals to today's homebuyers seeking new construction in Lakewood Ranch



Waterside and a broad selection of amenities, both within the neighborhood and in the community beyond," said Josh Graeve, vice president of sales for PulteGroup's Southwest Florida Division.

Shoreview's home designs accommodate families of all sizes and empty nesters alike, with

open floor plans from 2,007 to 4,700 square feet.

Offering two to five bedrooms and up to four-and-a-half baths, new homes in Shoreview feature open gathering spaces that blend living and dining areas for ease of living, entertaining and activity. Pro-style kitchens with large islands provide additional casual seating,

while outdoor living spaces provide a setting for long lake views and custom pools and spas.

Three furnished models are open daily. New homes at Shoreview at Lakewood Ranch Waterside are priced from the \$600,000s to over \$1 million. For more information, visit [Pulte.com/Shoreview](https://Pulte.com/Shoreview) or call 941-315-8556.





# LAKEWOOD RANCH CHARGERS 2021 SOCCER PROGRAMS

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## FALL 2021 RECREATION PROGRAM

The LWR Chargers SC is committed to providing the best opportunities for all ages to learn and play soccer through our recreation soccer program. Our goal is to create and offer a FUN and positive experience to all players in the Lakewood Ranch and Manatee County areas.

### 2021 FALL SCHEDULE & SEASON DETAILS

- Open to Boys & Girls - Ages: 4 - 14
- Practices Begin: End of August
- Games Begin: After Labor Day Weekend
- Saturday Morning Games
- Games are played from Sept - Nov
- Training once a week
- Cost includes complete uniforms (shirts, shorts & socks)

**Program Cost: \$145**  
ENTIRE SEASON

**DEADLINE TO REGISTER**  
8/31/2021

BASED LOCALLY AT THE PREMIER SPORTS CAMPUS AT LAKEWOOD RANCH

**WWW.CHARGERSOCCER.COM/LWR**



Thank you to our sponsors:

**Nick & Moes** Lakewood Ranch, FL  
**COASTAL ORTHOPEDICS**  
**UBS**  
**Lakewood Auto Collision**  
 www.lakewoodautocollision.com

PROGRAM IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH MANATEE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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For more information or to schedule your one time evaluation, visit: [manatee.ifas.ufl.edu](http://manatee.ifas.ufl.edu) or call 941-722-4524, Ext. 1828.

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Payments are based on 36 month Lincoln AFS lease. Leases are based on 7500 miles per year. \$3500 due at signing on the 2021 LINCOLN CORSAIR. \$5000 due at signing on the 2021 LINCOLN NAUTILUS. \$5,550 due at signing for the 2021 LINCOLN AVIATOR RESERVE. Price's and payments include either owner loyalty or competitive make customer cash. Security deposit waived. Payments exclude taxes, tags and state / lease fees. Price's exclude taxes, tags and \$495 delivery fee. Photos are for illustration purposes only. Offer expires 06/30/2021.