



Around the Ranch

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THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 16, 2022



HAPPY CAMPERS – The annual Lakewood Ranch Community Campout hosted kids, parents, and grandparents for an experience under the stars in February at the Greenbrook Adventure Park. For more information and photos, see pages 12-13. Photo by Ernie Soller.

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Mind the Details during Brain Awareness Week in March

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

There is so much to learn about the brain and how it functions. Yet, there is still so much unknown, even by the most dedicated experts in the field of neuroscience.

March 14-20 is Brain Awareness Week, the perfect time to take stock of what we know and what each of us can do to optimize our brain health and brain performance, while decreasing risk of and preventing brain illness. Brain Awareness Week is a global campaign started by the Dana Foundation to promote public enthusiasm and support for brain science. We at the Brain Health Initiative are in lockstep with the Dana Foundation in this endeavor. It's what we do every day.

Everything we do, every thought, emotion, feeling, behavior, sensation, and words that we've ever communicated, for example, are produced by the human brain. Astrophysicist and author Neil deGrasse Tyson expands by saying, "But exactly how it operates remains one of the biggest unsolved mysteries, and it seems the more we probe its secrets, the more surprises we find."

The BHI receives lots of questions about the brain. This week, in honor of Brain Awareness Week, we are going to address some of the most frequently asked questions related to how the brain develops, how the brain works and one of the most common myths about the brain. Here's a primer to allow you to be one of the smartest people in the room when it comes to the brain:

HOW THE BRAIN DEVELOPS

The brain begins the same way the rest of the human body gets its start: one fertilized cell, which divides into a series of identical stem cells. About three weeks after conception, these stem cells begin multiplying, and specific genes are activated and begin giving instructions to aid in development.

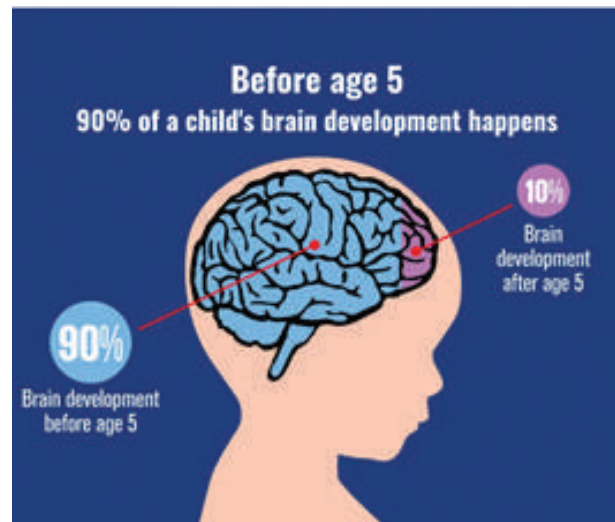
The brain grows at an incredible rate. At times, about 250,000 neurons, the cells that carry information through electrical and chemical signals in the brain, are created every minute. At birth, the brain will have almost all the neurons it will ever have.

The brainstem, which regulates breathing and heart rate, among other subconscious activities, is the first part of the brain to develop. Meanwhile, the cerebral cortex, which controls thought, feeling, behaviors, and the senses, for example, is the last to mature and doesn't begin functioning until shortly before birth.

Newborns' brains are about 25 percent the size of an adult brain. In the first two years of life, the neurons in a person's brain are making trillions of connections that allow for early milestones, such as walking and talking. By age 5, the brain has developed so that a person can ride a bike and express opinions. The brain continues to develop into early adulthood, with the rational part of the brain developing until at least our late 20s.

HOW THE BRAIN WORKS

When we have a fully formed brain, we will have approximately 100 billion neurons ready to share information with each other, making the brain one of the most complex systems



known to man. It's amazing that something so small can do so much, from our five senses, to physical activity, to emotions, to sleep. The brain controls it all.

But how does that happen? In many ways, the brain is like a computer, and the body is like someone inputting information. The body collects data from the outside world through the senses. That information travels as electrical signals through nerves to the brain. Once the signals reach the brain, the brain's neurons communicate with each other and send signals to other parts of the brain to analyze the data.

Input is coming in fast and furious, and it doesn't stop. Fortunately, the brain is organized into lobes to keep all the information straight. Sometimes the lobes work together for complex tasks, like running or making a speech.

Take the example of how the brain processes one event. Say you are walking down the street and an oncoming truck honks its horn. At about the same time you hear the honk, your eyes register the light coming off the big blue truck. The light is turned into an electrical signal and travels down the optic nerve into your brain.

So now your brain has received a sound and a picture to process. The temporal lobe (learning, memory, hearing, language) and occipital lobe (vision) collaborate to identify the object as a truck and the sound of the horn. Other parts of the brain speak up to add information, such as how fast the truck is approaching and whether you might need to adjust your path to get out of the way. The frontal lobe is key in decision-making and emotional response. This all happens in roughly less than one second.

The brain is capable of amazing things, but if you think about it the way our brains handle even the most mundane of our daily activities is pretty incredible.

MYTHS OF THE BRAIN

Educators and employers ask the BHI many questions about their students' or employees' brains and what it means to optimal learning, critical thinking, and enhancing creativity and productivity.

Right brain vs. left brain: finding or fallacy?

Are you right-brained or left-brained? Common thinking

would say you are right-brained if you are creative and emotional, left-brained if you lean more on logic and rationality.

But is this really how the brain works? Or is it a fallacy?

It is a fallacy. The myth of left-brain vs. right-brain seems to come up when we talk about our strengths or weaknesses. For many decades, there has been a common misunderstanding that the left side of the brain supports our logical side and the right side brings out our creative side. Unfortunately, this fallacy stems from split-brain experiments in the mid-late 20th century that were translated and shared with the public.

While it's true that the brain has two distinct hemispheres – the right side directs the left side of the body and vice versa – there is a common misconception about whether one side is responsible for rational thought and the other for creative thought. In reality, brain lateralization is more complicated than that. Plus, the two hemispheres communicate and work together.

The brain is like a file cabinet or library: finding or fallacy?

Another related myth often asked about by educators and employers is that the brain is like a file cabinet or library, sorting and storing information in organized stacks.

In her book, *Neuromyths: Debunking False Ideas About the Brain*, Dr. Tracey Tokuhama-Espinosa, a BHI faculty member, explains that it's not that math is in "x part of the brain and 'art' in another, but information is distributed throughout the brain in complex networks."

BRAIN MYTHS APPLIED TO THE REAL WORLD

So what does this mean for the real world of learning and work productivity? The brain is more like a dynamic and fluid network, with a lot of opportunity for students, employees, and people to grow and learn to be BOTH logical and creative. Our future depends on our employees' and students' future ability to problem solve, so, for example, educators can consider planning STEM lessons while considering adding an A and making it STEAM instead (science, technology, engineering, art, and math).

Employers and educators can recognize and emphasize to students and employees that they are actually whole-brain thinkers with an ability to learn new concepts and ideas. Designing lessons and environments that promote a growth mindset in both logic and creativity better suit how humans learn, understand, and translate that into usable knowledge, creativity, productivity and support overall well-being.

So there you have it. We have shared answers to a few of the frequently asked questions about the brain received by the BHI for Brain Awareness Month. There are only a billion or so inquiries left to solve about the brain and how to use that knowledge to protect the health of your brain and reduce risk for brain illness. Stay tuned.

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. 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.



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Agave Bandido's Pembroke Pines location.
COURTESY PHOTO

Agave Bandido to Bring Fresh Mexican-Inspired Cuisine and Cocktails to Waterside Place at Lakewood Ranch

Mexican-inspired restaurant and tequileria Agave Bandido is the latest restaurant to join the offerings at Waterside Place.

The 4,000 square-foot restaurant, with plans to open in late 2022, will feature an indoor bar as its focal point, offering more than 250 tequilas and mezcals. The 2,000 square feet of patio space includes a separate outdoor bar with a backdrop of the lake.

Conceptualized by Wolverine Management President Mathew Baum and Chief Operating Officer Matt Faul, Agave Bandido will bring a vibrant, city-inspired dining atmosphere to Lakewood Ranch. The duo says most of their personal decision-making inspired the aesthetics of Agave Bandido. Everything from the way food is served to the bar layout is determined based upon what they would prefer as consumers.

“Our focus has always been to grow in highly sought-after suburban areas, which may have minimal hip locations for dining and nightlife,” said Baum. “People want to have an exciting dining experience without driving half an hour into the city. Agave Bandido’s cuisine and atmosphere will offer those lively downtown elements conveniently close to home.”

Recently named the “Best Lifestyle Program in the U.S.” by the

National Association of Homebuilders, Waterside Place’s vibrant lifestyle and suburban Lakewood Ranch location was the logical location for its second restaurant.

Adds Faul, “What excited us most about Lakewood Ranch is its strong sense of community and emphasis on events and lifestyle, which is what we’re all about. Waterside Place is the perfect location for our fun, energetic brand.”

Agave Bandido at Waterside Place will offer patrons handmade cocktails and a full menu of dishes made in-house daily with fresh ingredients. The restaurant will feature many of the same design aesthetics as its flagship location in Pembroke Pines, Fla., including eye-catching murals and décor.

“Our mantra, when it comes to leasing restaurateurs at Waterside Place, is to look for only best-in-class,” said Kirk Boylston, president of Lakewood Ranch Commercial. “The goal is to transform Waterside Place into a regional foodie destination where residents and visitors can enjoy a diverse array of culinary experiences. We’re thrilled to welcome Agave Bandido’s Mexican-inspired cuisine and know the restaurant will be an exciting addition to the Lakewood Ranch lifestyle.”

For more information about Waterside and Waterside Place, visit www.WatersidePlace.com.



In the Pink of Things

Donned in pink and ready to hit the links, the Women’s Golf Association (WGA) of the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club gathered in January to raise more than \$47K for free mammograms and breast health care for local uninsured women. The funds raised at the WGA’s Think Pink golf event will support We Care Manatee’s breast health program. Over 240 people participated in this yearly charity event.

We Care Manatee facilitates free medical care to low-income uninsured residents of Manatee County with the support of more than 70 Manatee County medical specialists, who donate their time to serve Manatee County residents. We Care Manatee is supported by Manatee County Government, Community Foundation of Sarasota County, Manatee Community Foundation, the Lakewood Ranch Community Fund of the Manatee Community Foundation, the Florida Foundation of Free and Charitable Clinics, and many generous donors. For information contact visit wecaremanatee.org.



AR Homes by Arthur Rutenberg named First Custom Homebuilder in Star Farms at LWR

Forestar Group Inc. recently announced AR Homes by Arthur Rutenberg ("AR Homes") as the first luxury homebuilder in Star Farms, a multigenerational lifestyle village in Lakewood Ranch. AR Homes will offer a wide selection of floorplans in various architectural styles and sizes, depending on the buyer's preferences.

The custom homes will range in size from approximately 2,800 to 5,000 square feet, and the most popular designs are expected to showcase an open concept layout. This will be highlighted in the new Grandview model, which is currently scheduled to break ground in the spring of 2022, and will feature over 3,800 square feet of living space, four bedrooms and four bathrooms.

"We at AR Homes by Arthur Rutenberg are honored to be a part of the Star Farms family," said Joe Dweck, vice presidents of sales. "Nelson Homes, Inc., a franchise builder of AR Homes, is again builder of the year for AR Homes, and we are proud of our track record of building quality custom homes in Lakewood Ranch. We continue to be well-known for our 'Everything Included' pricing, customer-friendly building process and our high level of homeowner satisfaction."

Upon completion, the 700-acre gated village that Forestar is developing will be a resort ranch hometown featuring 1,500 single-family homes, paired villa retreats and townhomes with a variety of amenities, clubs and hospitality services.

Visit www.starfarmlwr.com and join the VIP Club for the latest information.

March Programs at Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch

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

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, March 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

Tuesdays, March 22 and 29, 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.

Purim Masquerade

Wednesday, March 16, 8 p.m.

At the Chabad House

Join Chabad of Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch for a Purim masquerade party! Enjoy Megillah readings, cocktails, music, refreshments, and a masquerade! Event is free. Sponsor for \$180.

Purim in India

Thursday, March 17, 6 p.m.

At the Chabad Tent

Chabad of Bradenton and Lakewood Ranch invites you to "Purim in India." Enjoy an interactive Megillah reading and fun festivities featuring comedy with the rabbi, Indian entertainment, henna artist, Indian-themed masquerade, delicious Indian dinner, and more! Adults: \$18, children 3-12: \$12, CHS students: free. Payments at the door are \$25 per adult and \$18 per child.

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

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LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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What an eventful winter this has been for Lakewood Ranch! We've had the pleasure of interacting with residents in our beautiful parks, virtually, and in-office. We even got to spend the night in Greenbrook Adventure Park for the annual Lakewood Ranch Community Campout! We have lots to reflect on as well as look forward to in our community.



Keith Pandeloglou
Director of LWRCA

ALLIGATOR AWARENESS PROJECT

Local high school student and Girl Scout Sydney Graham worked with LWRCA Executive Director Keith Pandeloglou, Communications Coordinator Aliye Presley, and board vice president Carlene Smith to raise awareness about local alligators and the proper ways to co-exist with these creatures. Sydney identified this need in our community to achieve the highest award in Girl Scouts, the Girl Scout Gold Award. The Girl Scout Gold Award is awarded to Scouts who fix a problem within their community under the guidance of trusted adults and leaders.

Together, Sydney and the team at LWRCA collaborated on ways to disseminate important information regarding safety tips and living in a community where alligators are fundamental to the surrounding ecosystem. Visit the Lakewood



Nature walk at the Lakewood Ranch Community Campout

Ranch Community Activities Facebook page to view Sydney's informational video and learn all about how you can safely co-exist with alligators and learn about what they mean to our environment.

LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY CAMPOUT

We were also very excited to bring back the Lakewood Ranch Community Campout this past February. The LWRCA team, along with more than 200 residents, spent a night at Greenbrook Adventure Park enjoying live music, a campfire, food trucks, a guided nature hike and a family movie. Thank you to everyone who came out to this sold-out event, and we can't wait for next year's Community Campout!

CLUB NEWS

The annual Spring Community Yard Sale hosted by The Lakewood Ranch Garden Club is coming up on April 3, in the

communities of Summerfield, Riverwalk and Greenbrook. Families who wish to participate may pick up a registration form from LWR Town Hall from March 14 through March 31. The last day to return the registration form is March 31. Registration for the yard sale is \$5 per household.

Empty-nester singles and couples are invited to join The Empty Nesters of LWR! This group meets at noon on the first Tuesday of the month at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall for lunch and to discuss future club outings and events. Empty Nesters of LWR is made up of couples, singles, retired and semi-retired LWR residents who enjoy being with people. Planned group events include adventure outings, trips to the Everglades, holiday parties, Sarasota Bay cruises, tours of botanical gardens, mini golf and much more! For more information email the president of Empty Nesters of LWR, Chris Burrows, at chrisburrows1@gmail.com.

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AROUND THE RANCH



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER



LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY CAMPOUT All For Fun And Fun For All!

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

What are some of the most cherished memories of your childhood? Going to a theme park? (Wally World, anyone?) Attending your first major league baseball game? Being part of a Fourth of July parade? Playing on a winning athletic team?

How about camping out under the stars?

Lakewood Ranch Community Activities, under the guidance of executive director Keith Pandeloglou, provided an opportunity for kids, as well as their parents and grandparents, to camp out under the stars at the Lakewood Ranch Community Campout, held in February at Greenbrook's Adventure Park.

The Community Campout was set up to be fun for (primarily) the kids, although there were some adult-related activities. For example, there was a one-man band playing – Justin Layman, a singer/songwriter from Sarasota, who played his acoustic guitar and who had set up his equipment to be able to play in the great outdoors.

Looking around, I found lots of tents set up in rows, and in front of the tents, rows of portable chairs. There were 87 separate campsites, lit by strings of lights hung from poles set up behind the tents, so that those who needed to venture out of their tents in the middle of the night would not have to “go bump in the night.”

Some folks were just sitting, taking in the cooling evening air. Grandparents were spending some quality time with their grandkids while others were heading for the food trucks to get their dinner. Not everyone is an expert at campout cooking and at the Community Campout, you didn't have to be a grill master ... not with food trucks on-site!

Some kids took the opportunity to use the playground equipment; others were happy to simply run around the area, tossing balls and just being kids. Some families brought their own outdoor sports equipment and were taking advantage of the park's size to set up and compete.



There was a display of the planets, which showed the relative size of the planets and their distances from each other, provided by Alex Martin, of Experience Daliana and the Sidewalk Science Center, who also brought a telescope for evening stargazing.

As the sky grew more dim, the eyes of the kids began focusing on the campfire. A circular space, about 10 feet in diameter had been dug down and cleared so that there was no flammable material in the cleared area. A cord of firewood ensured that there was plenty of fuel. As soon as the flames began to rise, the kids started to come around to check out the fire.

So how do you keep the attention of a bunch of small children who aren't ready to jump into their sleeping bags just yet? You show a movie – Disney's “Encanto” – that's what you do!

After the movie, campers drifted off to their tents, and maybe even to sleep.

On Sunday morning, Lakewood Ranch Community Activities provided the classic morning fun food combo for campers – coffee and donuts! The campers then folded their tents, packed up and headed home ... perhaps to get some rest?

Thanks to Lakewood Ranch Community Activities and Keith Pandeloglou for a great event.





DIM SUM KITCHEN: A New and Different Taste for LWR

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

What on earth is dim sum? Well, it is a sort of snack or small plate style of food.

Dim sum is usually cooked or steamed and is served in small quantities, accompanied by hot tea. (Perhaps a good comparison might be the Spanish snack-meal known as tapas.) According to an article published online by the Asia Society, dim sum originated in the southeast Chinese port city of Guangzhou during the latter portion of the nineteenth century. It became popular among travelers who wanted to stop at a teahouse, grab a quick hot small meal, and get on the road again. The article also noted that the popularity of dim sum increased after opium dens were banned in China. I'm not sure what the connection might be, but surely dim sum has got to be a much healthier choice than opium!

Dim sum restaurants may offer their patrons choices based on a couple of methods. At some restaurants, the wait staff will push a cart filled with multiple, already-prepared styles of dim sum around the restaurant, inviting patrons to pick and choose what they want from the cart – almost like what you might call a “fast-food” dim sum.

At other restaurants – and Lakewood Ranch's Dim Sum Kitchen is one – the patron is presented with a card-style menu that shows the choices. Also, at the Dim Sum Kitchen, the choices

are also identified in color photographs, so that the uninitiated patron will understand what he or she is ordering.

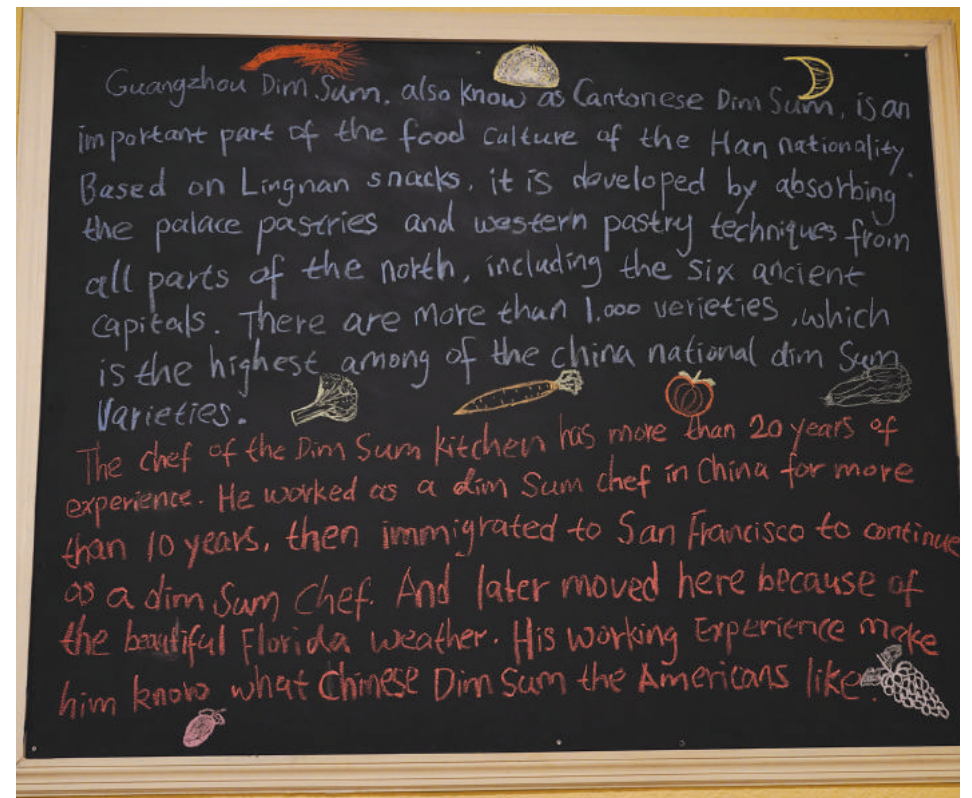
As we had an out-of-town guest for a couple of days and, since we found out that our guest REALLY was into dim sum, we decided to try out the Dim Sum Kitchen. Our friend, a well-traveled Venezuelan businessman who lives and works in Mexico City, informed us that he was a real dim sum aficionado, and described for us several of the dim sum eateries that he liked to frequent in various cities, one of his favorites being in Miami.

The Dim Sum Kitchen is located in the space which once housed the Sea Star Café, in the small commercial center on the southeast corner of Lakewood Ranch Boulevard and State Road 70.

While we originally planned to go to the Dim Sum Kitchen earlier than our “normal” dinner hour, other things intervened and we got there on a Friday evening just after 6 p.m. which, apparently, was the height of their busy period.

It was a dark and rainy evening, and the lights of the Dim Sum Kitchen welcomed us to enter. We found that the parking lot was almost entirely full, and the place was practically packed with customers. Every table was occupied, and the counter seats were all taken.

There were several people waiting to pick up their carry-out orders, and there was a sign-up sheet for those who wanted a table. I put my name on the list, and not long after, we were



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

able to sit down and peruse the menu.

On the wall above one end of the dining area was a blackboard, on which was written a little about dim sum, including the fact that there are more than 100 varieties, and a “capsule history” of the Dim Sum Kitchen's chef, Ming Bo, who learned his craft in China before coming to San Francisco, and eventually to Lakewood Ranch.

It was obvious that this restaurant had employed sufficient staff to properly take care of its customers and our service was, even considering the number of patrons, quite good.

We started out by ordering our tea, which is considered customary at dim sum restaurants, and went from there to look at the menu and pick out our dinner choices of dim sum.

We chose steamed pork and shrimp dumplings, steamed shrimp dumplings, “Shanghai-style” dumplings, and, as a “dessert” type item, fried sesame balls.

Our choices arrived in their traditional bamboo steamers, and we quickly grazed through them, finishing them off in quick time.

As we were, by this time, satisfied that we'd eaten a good meal, and really didn't have a whole lot of room left for any additional specialties, we paid our bill and went home, happy that we'd found another new and different place to dine in Lakewood Ranch.

Interesting note: your bill at the Dim Sum Kitchen has a slightly different look to it. That's because the bill is printed in both English and Chinese!

Dim Sum Kitchen is located at 11544 Palm-



brush Trail in Lane Plaza, Lakewood Ranch. Hours are 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Mondays, closed on Tuesdays, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays and Thursdays, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. Sundays.

For more information call (941)254-1589 or visit dim-sum-kitchen.business.site.

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PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

Back in the day, barber shops were called tonsorial parlors; the term “tonsorial” being derived from the Latin noun “tonsor,” meaning clipper, and the Latin verb, “tondere,” meaning to shear. In the days when gentlemen had the time to spend a while at their local tonsorial parlor, getting a haircut or a shave was part of a social ritual and these tonsorial parlors were, among other things, places where all the barbers were men (think: all-male “barbershop quartets”), and the mere presence of women was frowned upon. I remember my mom, back when I was a young kid, driving me to our local barbershop, giving me a couple of dollars to pay the barber and leaving me there, expecting that when he’d finished making me presentable, I’d then walk the three blocks back to our home.

Here in Greater Lakewood Ranch, things are changing. Guys don’t always have the time for a long, mellow, barbering experience. And women have not only become customers of

THE URBAN SHAVE

“Clean Cuts and Close Shaves”



barber shops, but many of today’s barbers are themselves female, with many opening their own shops.

Also, today’s barbershop customer has many choices of the type of haircutting experience he or she desires. There are a number of quickie “in-and-out” chain haircutting establishments around, and there are still a few older-style barbering shops that offer a quiet, sedate, and more traditional approach to the craft.

Enter The Urban Shave, which opened in December of 2020 in the Ranch Lake Plaza, right between the Cutting Loose salon and CB’s restaurant.

The Urban Shave is part of what might be called the “new wave” in barbering. At the time of its opening last December, the shop had only three barbers, but the word started getting around that this was a barber shop that could cater to a more modern, hip, clientele, as well as a guy who just wants a more traditional haircut.

At The Urban Shave, the décor starts with traditional barber poles, and a display of antique straight razors and old barbershop signs, sprinkled with a number of classic photographs. There’s a metal sign advertising Wild-root Crème Oil – one of the “greasy kid stuff” hair products of the last century, along with a sign proclaiming “Shave and a Haircut – Two Bits.” There’s an old sign stating that the establishment where it hung was a Union Shop, and another – probably my favorite – which read “You can trust your BARBER with secrets you can’t tell your wife.”

As you enter the rest of the shop, the décor changes to an almost industrial look, with bright red and chrome barber chairs, and lots of lighting, including several large ring lights, traditionally used by portrait photographers to eliminate glare in their pictures, but here used to eliminate glare and shadows and put an even

light on a client’s head, in order to make for a more professional cut. The background music is upbeat and modern, but not overly loud, and there are several wall-mounted flat screen TVs, just in case the client’s favorite team is playing during his or her haircut. At The Urban Shave, clients can also get a refreshing cold beverage, such as water, beer, or soda, to sip on while they are waiting or in the barber chair.

The shop is managed by retired U.S. Marine Corps Gunnery Sergeant Denver Inopiquez, who now rides herd on 12 barbers, aiming at providing impeccable customer service. Inopiquez remembers that very soon after the shop opened with three barbers, it became quite obvious that he was going to have to get more staff – and quickly.

Inopiquez is keen on hiring veterans, and Crystal, the lady who cut my hair, is a veteran of the U.S. Army with multiple deployments, most notably to several Near East locations. She took her time in order to do a good job, and I was impressed at the effort she put into making sure that some of the stray hairs which have crept into areas where they aren’t wanted, were removed. I came out of The Urban Shave feeling that she’d done a good job, and I enjoyed talking with her about her Army experiences.

In addition to hiring veterans, Inopiquez commented that he discovered that there were contests for barbers, held in Tampa, especially for those who had specialized in certain types of cuts – such as fades, pompadours, special shaves, artistic designs, and so on. These contests have become a recruiting asset for Inopiquez, and as a result, he has recruited a staff of barbers with different skills who can give a great haircut in almost any style, to almost anyone, and they come from all over. He noted that one member of his staff hails from Zimbabwe, while another trained at Manatee Tech, right here in town.

I noticed one guy who came into the shop with unruly hair, and a not-too-well trimmed beard. His barber was crafting a much sharper look for him!

So, if you aren’t the “old style” barber client, or just want to try something different, check out The Urban Shave. They’ll be happy to help you attain your new look.

If you’d like to make an appointment at the Urban Shave, their phone number is (941)900-1026. Hours are 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday, and 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday. For more information visit vagaro.com/theurbanshaveatlakewoodranch.



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Audit Reports to CDD Boards: All District Records Are Good!

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

At the February Community Development District board meetings for the Phase I Lakewood Ranch districts, the auditing firm of Purvis Gray & Company presented their findings as to the fiscal 2021 financial records of those districts, and residents can feel confident that their community leaders have kept good financial records.

Helen Painter of Purvis Gray noted that the Town Hall financial staff had done a very good job of record keeping, and that their findings enabled them to issue a "unmodified opinion" (the highest grade) report, with no discrepancies or issues.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SEARCH

Five candidates for the position of executive director have been selected to go through final interviews with Inter-District Authority board members. If the board decides that they wish to consider additional candidates, then it will be "back to the drawing board" for the search firm.

GATE EXITING

After a lot of discussion on the part of the Country Club CDD boards (districts 2, 5, and 6), the general consensus appears to be that exits will be allowed at the Masters/Lorraine Road gate in the near future for those who do not possess a Country Club transponder. At this point, only those residents who have a Country Club transponder, or a paid vendor transponder, can exit through any gate. Other drivers have had to exit via the manned gates. This move is seen as leading to a reduction of traffic inside the Country Club.

Also, the district plans to change the configuration of the Balmoral Gate area by putting in a turn lane that will enable drivers who are not going through the gate to turn around prior to passing the gate arms. This work is expected to be coordinated with the construction needed to allow the installation of a traffic signal at the intersection of Balmoral Woods and Lakewood Ranch Boulevard. The traffic signal project has been delayed, and is now not expected to be finished until at least late in 2022, or early 2023.

In addition, Manatee County plans to install a traffic signal at the intersection of Players and Lorraine Road. This is scheduled for a 2023 completion.

COUNTRY CLUB PAVING PROJECTS

The Country Club districts all have major paving projects scheduled for this fiscal year. Per Finance Director Steve Zielinski, Gator Paving was the low bidder on two out of the three projects, with Ajax Paving the low bidder on the third. Zielinski noted that it might not be a bad idea to have more than one contractor working on these projects, as they might get the work

done faster than if one vendor was doing the entire job.

IRRIGATION

January was a big month for irrigation water usage. Operations Director Tom Merrill said that Lakewood Ranch's rain gauges registered a rainfall amount for the month at 1.1" or less, in various areas of Lakewood Ranch. The average for January is over 2".

In a related development, Supervisor Don Avolio, who has been following up on the Soil Moisture Sensor (SMS) program, reported that there had been a high rate of failures of the batteries used in the Toro-brand sensors. After a meeting with Toro, that company decided to replace the bad batteries, which were of the alkaline variety, and install lithium batteries in their place. Avolio noted that one problem with the original batteries was that they leaked inside their enclosures.

WORK ORDERS

Operations Director Merrill reported that there were no requests for action from residents that had taken more than 30 days to address.

PET LIMITATIONS

During the District 1 board meeting a discussion took place regarding the HOA's limitation on the number of pets allowed per residence. Supervisor Preston Olinger noted that the HOA should not make any regulations that they cannot enforce, and Supervisor Bob Dapper commented that any discussion on regulating reptiles should be tabled.

Dapper also commented on a resident's emotional plea for help in protecting young children in the district. She had reported that her children had been playing in the Strand and Heron's Nest areas and had come home with inappropriate items that they found there.

The supervisors discussed the matter, noting that there was not a whole lot they could legally do to prevent this sort of thing from happening.

"MATURE TREES"

Two residents from the Gleneagles neighborhood in District 2, Jon Jetel and Mark Henderson, made a request that a significant number of "old growth" trees be removed, indicating that some of these trees had, in their opinion, reached the "end of life" stage.

Another resident, Arthur Taber, countered that he appreciated the more mature plantings, and that those who wanted the trees removed represented only a very small percentage of neighborhood residents.

District 2 board chairman Pete Bokach commented that trees planted in common areas are within the responsibility of operations staff to evaluate, assess requests, and to work to promote what is best for the community.

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MUSIC ON MAIN: The Best Kind of Surprise!

By Ernie Soller
Community Correspondent

My wife's birthday falls in the first week in February. Her best friend came down from up north to help her celebrate, and her daughter had secretly made arrangements for their entire family to come down. I told my wife that I was going to be covering February's Music on Main on Lakewood Ranch Main Street and offered to come down early and buy her a couple of glasses of wine at Fine Wines and Tastings on Main, her favorite local wine bar. She sat down at the bar and was ordering her wine when her daughter and her entire family walked in the door. My wife was ecstatic.

But then the rest of a very fun evening began. After consuming a little wine and the contents of a nice charcuterie board, the whole crew took to Main Street, checking out the booths, doing a goodly amount of people watching, and listening to the music of the "Good Bye Eddie" band rocking away at the west end of Main.

It was as if the dourness of the COVID-laced past months had disappeared, and everyone was in the mood for a good time. The restaurants were doing a booming business, from Ed's Tavern, Pincher's and McGrath's Irish Pub on the east end of Main to the newest of the Main Street eateries, Remy's On Main, to Grove – they were all busy.

Various booths for both commercial businesses and charitable causes lined the street from one end to the other. The charity of the



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER



month for February's Music on Main was The Players Centre for Performing Arts, which was raising funds for its new facility. Its members were out in force, manning a raffle ticket booth and selling beer from a couple of portable bar trailers.

The ladies from Fifi's Fine Resale were there, telling everyone about the opening of their new store. Folks from the Van Wezel were talking up their winter concert season. A crew from the Lakewood Ranch Cinemas was selling popcorn and other movie theater "grub" outside the front of the theater. A potter was working her clay on a wheel outside the front of the ceramics store.

Grace Church brought a host of activities. There was a big bounce house, complete with obstacles, a giant slide, and a "TV ninja"-style setup featuring a huge, tethered ball ... the better to knock your friends over with! There was even a mechanical bull for the braver kids to ride.

As for people-watching, Music On Main was a feast for the eyes. There were young people, older residents, little kids doing their thing, and lots of dogs, including an absolutely huge St. Bernard. I wonder how many kids asked if they could ride this puppy.

Altogether a terrific fun evening in Lakewood Ranch!

Music On Main happens on the first Friday of every month at Lakewood Ranch Main Street. Mark the event on your calendar and come on down!



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Chablis, Yes Please!

Chablis is stereotypically known as the white wine of pampered celebrities, elite socialites, and aristocrats – in other words, wine that is not for the Unassuming Wine Bros! Although often viewed as highbrow white wine, at its core, Chablis is nothing more than white wine made with 100% chardonnay grapes – albeit from the renowned northernmost part of the Burgundy wine region. So if you have been searching for a white wine varietal with acidity, subtle fruit characteristics, minerality and a complex finish, then a Chablis may be the perfect white wine for you.

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.

Although Chablis can be pricey, affordable gems do exist. In order to bring you three outstanding selections this month, the Unassuming Wine Bros scoured the shelves of our local wine providers to obtain delicious but affordable Chablis. Even on a budget we found diverse selections each priced under \$30 that showed Chablis' full range and dynamic characteristics. Following are our thoughts on this month's selections.

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

2019 WILLIAM FEVRE CHABLIS

\$29.49 U.S.; ABV 13%:

Vigo: I've got to be honest; I thought Chablis would be a challenging subject to write about, especially when we conducted our tasting for this article during the first half of Super Bowl LVI. Tasting Chablis while watching football was a good "macho" counterbalance for my preconceived notion that I was sipping pampered Hollywood starlet juice. As proven repeatedly throughout our almost two-year wine odyssey, I was wrong again. The William Fevre Chablis displayed a beautiful pale straw color and had a citrus aroma and a slight hint of tobacco. The tart apples and freshly picked lemons mellowed on its finish. The acidy and flinty minerals from the William Fevre will get your attention, but its finish is like a Sunday drive in the French countryside.

Vigo's rating:    

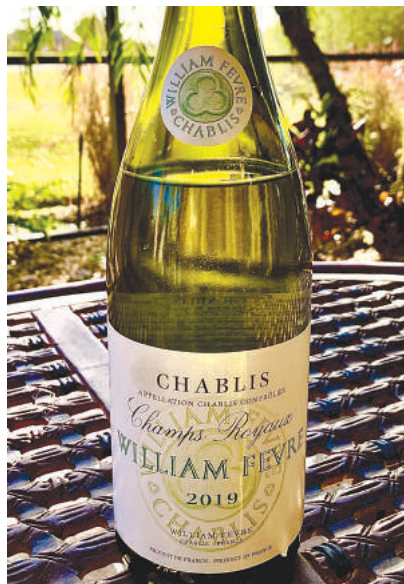
Patrick: I picked up this bottle – the 2019 William Fevre Chablis – at Whole Foods. I found it to have both the most body and flavor of this month's three selections. This wine showed citrus and stone with a yeasty bread-like characteristic. It had nice acidity and finish. Overall I found this wine very interesting and enjoyable. It definitely grew on me after it opened up.

Patrick's rating:    

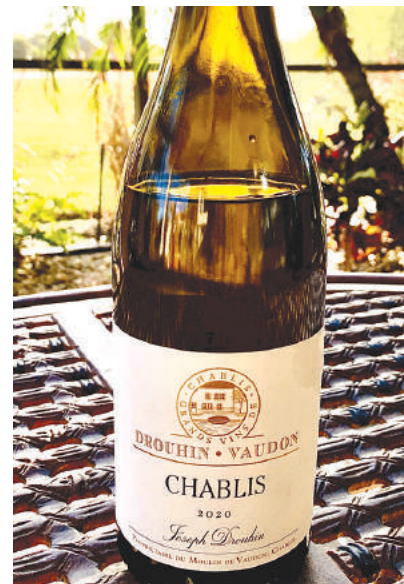
2020 DOMAINE DROUHIN VAUDON CHABLIS

\$27.99 U.S.; ABV 12.5 %:

Vigo: "Good grief, I think I became a Chablis lover," I proclaimed to Patrick as I drew in this pale gold Burgundy beauty. Patrick responds in usual Patrick manner, "That's awesome, and FYI the Rams just scored again." After Patrick's "get ahold of



2019 William Fevre Chablis



2020 Domaine Drouhin Vaudon Chablis



2019 Domaine Laroche Saint Martin Chablis

yourself and man up" moment, I got back to work experiencing what I think a well-crafted Chablis should taste like. The 2020 Domaine Drouhin Vaudon Chablis has a beautiful aroma of lemons, green apples, and grapefruit. On the palate it has a mild acidity, with ripe green apples, peaches, lemons with a smooth mineral finish. It's Florida sunshine in a wine glass. Every sip of the 2020 Domaine Drouhin Vaudon Chablis was perfectly balanced from the first sip to the last drink.

Vigo's rating:    





Patrick: The 2020 Domaine Drouhin Vaudon Chablis was excellent. Fruity – with citrus, apple, and some peach to soften it up – and balanced with acidity to match the fruit. It had really great flavor. Had it finished with just a bit more pizzazz, it would have been one of my favorite white wines of the COVID era. Notwithstanding, I really enjoyed this bottle and will definitely swing in to Total Wine where I purchased it again so I can drink it again.

Patrick's rating:    

2019 DOMAINE LAROCHE SAINT MARTIN CHABLIS

\$28.95 U.S.; ABV 12.5%:

Vigo: Saint Martin is the patron saint of Chablis, and it is fitting for Domaine Laroche's vineyards to name this Chablis after him. Unlike the two other Chablis we reviewed, the 2019 Domaine Laroche Saint Martin Chablis is a light-colored wine with acidity and nice flavor. The smoothness could be attributed to 30-year-old oak barrels during the fermentation process. When you draw this Chablis into your palate, you will be greeted with the taste of green apples with a hint of lemon and apricot. If you like your white wines smooth with a touch of citrus and minerals, then the 2019 Domaine Laroche Saint Martin Chablis might be something to consider.

Vigo's rating:    

Patrick: Vigo and I typically agree more often than not on wine. However, when it came to this bottle, we could not have

disagreed more. The 2019 Domaine Laroche Saint Martin Chablis was my favorite of this month's selections. The more I drank it, the more I thoroughly enjoyed it and longed for more. With notes of citrus and tart apple, loads of acidity, and a lengthy citrus finish, this wine was balanced and dynamic. This was perhaps my favorite bottle of white wine I have sampled in the past year. It definitely lived up to the recommendation from the staff at Michael's Wine Cellar in Sarasota.

Patrick's rating:    

Vigo's overall impressions: It was a bit painful for me to drink Chablis while Super Bowl LVI was being televised. I felt like I was trodding on hallowed ground, but I think Saint Martin, a Roman calvary officer, gave me a pass. Although the stigma of Chablis is that it is "a wine that real men can't enjoy," I can say as a 24-year Army/Iraq combat veteran that being macho is being yourself, and if you enjoy Chablis (which I now discovered I do), then drink them with pride. Out of all the fine Chablis we sampled this month, I highly recommend the 2020 Domaine Drouhin Vaudon. It will be on my short list for this year's best white wines of the year article.

Patrick's overall impressions: I really enjoyed each of this month's selections. Considering that each bottle came from the same wine region in France and each was comprised of 100% chardonnay grapes, these three selections were diverse and really exemplified the full range of French Chablis. From complex and bready; to fruity; to tart apple, acidic, and citrusy, these wines each delivered. In a different month, each of these wines could have my top selection.

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.

LEMOND BICYCLES AT WATERSIDE PLACE IN LWR

LeMond Bicycles recently visited Waterside Place to showcase its new, lightweight carbon fiber electric bicycles, The Prolog & The Dutch. During the free demonstration event, guests were invited to demo bicycles, designed by three-time Tour de France champion Greg LeMond.

The LeMond Bicycles team was on hand to answer questions regarding its new electric bicycles.

Other LeMond bicycle models are soon to arrive once patents are formalized. The Road bike, in particular, will combine revolutionary components and quintessential LeMond aesthetics.



Greg LeMond, a three-time Tour De France champion and two-time World Champion, has since pivoted his career towards the research and development of disruptive carbon fiber technology. As the founder and visionary of LeMond Bicycles, he has created a bicycle company that is "setting the pace for its breathtaking design, engineering, and unique identity." His desire to make biking accessible to all has resulted in the revolutionary Prolog & Dutch models.

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Ranch Receives National Gold Award For Lifestyle

Lakewood Ranch was recognized with a gold award for best lifestyle program by the National Association of Home Builders' National Sales and Marketing Council at its recent annual 2022 awards ceremony.

Lakewood Ranch's Waterside Place was awarded the top honor for community lifestyle program of the year. Waterside Place is home to the popular Lakewood Ranch Farmers' Market, which draws more than 5,000 visitors each week, and Ranch Nite Wednesdays, which hosts a food truck rally and the largest amateur cornhole league in the state, as well as a night market on the second Wednesday of each month. The lakeside town center has quickly become a beloved destination for the community since opening at the end of 2021.

The Waterside Place program is part of Lakewood Ranch's overall emphasis on lifestyle, which includes two other town centers, a sports campus, nine community parks, 150 miles of sidewalks and trails, more than 60 clubs, and a parks and recreation program. Activities include both virtual and in-person options, and range in age from toddlers to Boomers. There are also annual festivals and celebrations like the Irish Celtic Fest,



Tribute to Heroes Parade, Boo Fest, and Holidays Around the Ranch.

"Lifestyle is one of the primary drivers when prospective buyers are choosing where to live," said Laura Cole, senior vice president of LWR Communities. "People select the community first, then the home. There has been a growing emphasis on creating and nurturing a multi-faceted lifestyle experience within Lakewood Ranch, including markets, sports leagues, holiday celebrations, clubs, and classes. This focus is a prime contributor to the

fact that Lakewood Ranch was named the best-selling master-planned community for all ages in the country for 2021."

The awards, known as "The Nationals," honor the best in the building industry for "their determination, integrity, creativity and resilience." Started in 1982 as the Institute of Residential Marketing Awards, The Nationals recognizes honorees across various disciplines of the new home industry by individuals and sales teams. During a four-day judging process, a panel of 13 industry professionals from across the country determined the award winners from a field of over 1200 entries.

For more information visit lakewoodranch.com.

Lakewood Ranch Wind Ensemble to Perform

The Lakewood Ranch Wind Ensemble (LRWE) will perform its spring concert beginning at 2 p.m. on March 27, at Peace Presbyterian Church, 12705 S.R.64, in Lakewood Ranch. Tickets will be sold at the door for \$10 per person. The program for the concert includes Barnum and Bailey's Favorite, Chester Overture, Chaminade Concertino, Il Guarany Overture, Pas Redouble, American Civil War Fantasy, Semper Fidelis, and "The Phantom of the Opera," arranged by Warren Barker.

The 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 PET DOCTOR IS IN

By Erin Siems, DVM

Dogs have jobs too! While my dog's job is to eat, drool and make me laugh, some of our canines have real jobs and put in a lot of hard work. This month, I'd

like to take a moment to salute our active duty and veteran canines. These four-legged heroes often put their lives on the line for their human handlers and fellow soldiers.

Dogs have been used in military campaigns as far back as the seventh century BCE. Although they served long before being officially recognized, the US K9 Corps was created on March 13, 1942. They were often used for message delivery, tracking, patrol, and gas and explosive detection. During World War I, military dogs were so popular that many families were signing up their pets for service. One such pet, Sargent Stubby, was the most decorated dog of WWI. He served in multiple battles, saved many lives and even earned a display at the Smithsonian Institute in his honor.

Modern day military dogs go through ex-



tensive training and are stationed all over the world. Their jobs vary from front lines to search-and-rescue, and from scent detection and border patrol to sled and pack transport, just to name a few. What they do for our country and their fellow soldiers is truly amazing. Thanks to Robby's Law, a bill passed in 2000, canine veterans have the right to live out their retired lives with an appropriate family. Often these heroes get to retire with their handler they spent so much time working with.

Joe Wallace, an Air Force veteran of Jacksonville, Fla., created K9 Veterans Day to honor these amazing pooches. He chose March 13 to coordinate with the creation of the US K9 Corps. While it is not yet a national holiday, several states – including Florida – do recognize it. If you are interested in learning more about military dogs, there is a great Facebook community @NationalK9VeteransDay dedicated to supporting their cause.

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 prac-



tice because it gives her the ability to build relationships with her patients and their families. Dr. Siems opened her own practice, Big Paws

Animal Hospital in Lakewood Ranch, in May 2020. Email pet questions to reception@BigPawsAnimalHospital.com.

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2. Print supplied marketing materials to advertise food drive
3. COLLECT FOOD!



The Food Bank of Manatee is the only food bank located in Manatee County and the largest hunger-relief organization based in Manatee County, helping our local neighbors in need. The Food Bank of Manatee is an independent Food Bank. That means we rely 100% on the support of our community to make sure the shelves are always stocked! We need businesses, organizations, neighborhoods, faith groups and families to help feed food-insecure families. You can greatly impact our community by coordinating a Food Drive!

Food donations can also be dropped off at any Manatee County Goodwill or Public Library as well as at The Food Bank of Manatee



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

CRITICALLY NEEDED ITEMS:

- | | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| ■ CANNED VEGETABLES | ■ BOXED RICE | ■ OATMEAL |
| ■ BABY CEREAL & FORMULA | ■ BOXED PASTA | ■ POWDERED MILK |
| ■ CANNED FRUITS | ■ CANNED SOUPS | ■ APPLESAUCE |
| ■ MAC 'N' CHEESE | ■ CANNED MEAT | ■ DRIED BEANS |
| ■ PEANUT BUTTER | ■ 100% FRUIT JUICES | ■ TRAIL MIX |
| ■ JELLY | ■ BREAKFAST BARS | ■ HEALTHY CEREALS |

811 23rd Avenue East
Bradenton, FL 34208
[MealsOnWheelsPLUS.org](https://www.MealsOnWheelsPLUS.org)

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

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