



Around the Ranch

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THE COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER OF LAKEWOOD RANCH

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 20, 2019



BACK TO NATURE! Lakewood Ranch's inaugural community campout was held February at the Greenbrook Adventure Park, where all experienced a plethora of family fun, including crafts, a campfire, s'mores, stargazing with an astronomer, a nature hike, and food trucks. For more photos see pages 20-21. Photo by Eric Nalpas

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Sirius Day Spa Opens at “The Green” in LWR

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

The business of beauty and relaxation is alive and well at the new Sirius Day Spa, located in the center aisle of The Green shopping center at the corner of State Road 70 and Lakewood Ranch Boulevard.

Karen and Richard Medford jumped at the chance to become part of the Sirius Day Spa network a while back when, as she was driving, Karen heard a radio ad for Sirius Day Spa. The whole idea sounded good to Karen, who had been working in the medical sales field. Because she had children, Karen was looking for an opportunity to own a business that would be not only a good economic fit, but would allow her to be closer to her home so that she could spend more time with her family. Given the amount of travel associated with her sales job, family time was hard to come by.

Karen had a conversation with her husband, discussed the possibilities, told him “we have to get into this.” They flew to Phoenix to meet with Frank Leonesio, of the Leonesio Group, who developed the idea that became Sirius Day Spa. The Leonesio Group pioneered the concept of franchised health clubs, founding clubs such as Scandinavian Health Spas and Bally’s Total Fitness.

The Medfords signed up to establish three franchise locations for Sirius Day Spa, the first of which is in Lakewood Ranch at The Green, with a second to open very shortly in the Cooper Creek area of University Town Center.

The Sirius Day Spa at The Green offers a load of day spa experiences at one location – that’s the “beauty” of the concept. Instead of having to go to one place to get a manicure/pedicure, and another location to get a relaxing massage by a licensed massage therapist, and yet another location to get a facial or a new hairstyle, the Sirius Day Spa client can make it a “one stop-and-done event,” saving lots of time by not driving to multiple locations for services, and lots of money by not having to pay for multiple membership fees.

At Sirius Day Spa, there is one monthly membership fee – which is not in addition to the discounted member costs for their services, but which is applied to the cost of those services. There is no obligation to sign up for a long-term contract. Who wouldn’t want to get this type of deal?

So, what are some of the other available services at Sirius Day Spa, besides the basic “hair-and-nail-salon” items?

Well, for starters, Sirius Day Spa has a “serenity lounge” where you can go, sit in a massage chair, enjoy a beverage of your choice, and even listen to soothing sounds via headphones, all while being given a pretty neat massage by the chair. You can even choose the type of massage you want from a remote control keypad attached to the chair.

My friend, Brenda, raved about the massage chairs that she tried out during her first visit to Sirius Day Spa. So of course, I had to try out the experience on my visit to Sirius. It was quite amazing. These chairs even massage your arms. They have a sort of “pocket” below the top edge of the chair’s arms, into which you slide your own arms ... and then the fun begins as the chair does its thing on your body. If you take your shoes off, the chair



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER



will also give your feet a similar treatment. Neat!

If you desire a custom massage by one of Sirius Day Spa’s licensed massage therapists, you can choose from a private experience in one of the Spa’s multiple massage rooms, or, if you come in with a good friend or significant other, you could share a “couples experience” together. (Karen Medford told me about two women – best friends, both of whom were pregnant – who came in for a “best friends” massage session in the “couples’ room”! Cool idea!)

Sirius Day Spa staffers specialize in all sorts of facial treatments, from anti-aging treatments to LED light therapy, to an ultrasound treatment that drives skin-care products deeper into your face for maximum results.

Then there are the “wrap” treatments, from Dead Sea mud wraps, to a “sauna wrap” used to sweat out the bad stuff from your skin. Or, you might like to enjoy a professional tooth whitening session. All at one place. And, the equipment used at Sirius is state-of-the-art.

One nice example of the care that Sirius Day Spa gives its clients is that, unlike other facilities where the client must move from one area to another to get various services, at Sirius, the client can stay in one private room while the various therapists come to him or her, making for a more “seamless” experience.

In addition to all this professionalism, potential clients should know that the line of skin care products used by Sirius Day Spa is paraben-free and cruelty-free.

Karen and Richard Medford are dedicated not only to growing their business, but in giving back to the community. They’ve held their first grand opening fundraiser already, benefitting Big Cat Habitat, and they are open to hosting future events for charities, including fundraisers for local schools, during which the school would receive 10% of the Spa’s receipts during the “School Spirit” event.

As for other non-charity-related fun events, Sirius is set up to host wedding parties, “princess parties” for little girls, and just about any another group activity you could think of.

So, come on down to the new Sirius Day Spa at The Green, in Lakewood Ranch. You’ll be able to both relax and come out looking – and feeling – better than when you walked into the door.

Oh and guys: the spa is not just for the ladies. That concept got its burial years ago.

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LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

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LAKEWOOD RANCH COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

— Live here, Play here —

Easter is around the corner, and what better way to kick off the celebration early than to bring the kiddos to a community-wide egg hunt! Our annual Eggstravaganza will be held at Greenbrook Adventure Park from 9:30-11:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 13.



Keith Pandeloglou
Director of LWRCAC

Eggstravaganza is the longest running egg hunt in Lakewood Ranch! This event has over 20,000 eggs spread across the field and separated by your child's age to maximize the thrill of scooping as many as possible. We will also have a separate section for children needing extra time or assistance during their hunt. You won't want to miss the grand arrival of the Easter Bunny, either! We will also have face painting, balloon art, music, and refreshments to enjoy. This fantastic and very affordable community event is open to children 2 to 13 years old and their families. There will be a \$5 admission fee for all attendees.

This event is pulled together with our community partners and dozens of volunteers and we cannot thank them enough. If you're looking for volunteer opportunities for your children 18 and under, check out SUGAR Volunteers.

SUGAR stands for Showing Unconditional Goodwill And Respect. It's a volunteer-run organization that was created for students looking to earn community service hours, internships, and most importantly, to teach children the gift of giving back and performing acts of kindness. From making cat toys for animal shelters to making bag lunches for the homeless, or writing letters to soldiers serving overseas, there are volunteer opportunities for every child! For more information, visit sugarvolunteers.org.

We also want to mention that our **Lakewood Ranch**



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER



Community Campout was a fantastic time (rescheduled from January due to rain)! We had stargazing with an astronomer, family movie time, live music, a nature hike, food trucks, s'mores, treasure hunts and lots of family fun! Thank you to our event partner, Enviroeneers, who provided a discount to all campers who purchased their gear in advance.

Are you new to Lakewood Ranch? Mark your calendars for the **"new resident orientation"** held the first Tuesday of the month at Lakewood Ranch Town Hall, 8175 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. Learn about Lakewood Ranch history, community development and stewardship districts, local businesses, volunteer opportunities, and charitable giving. Find out about the more than 60 clubs, local events, parks and trails,



and the seasonal farmers' market. Connect with your community and meet your Lakewood Ranch team.

All new residents to Lakewood Ranch are welcome to attend this free event. Attendees will also go home with a gift bag sponsored by Lakewood Ranch Community Activities. RSVP at lwrCAC.org.

Join the conversation at the **LWR Talks** speaker series, in conjunction with Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Ringling College. The next date is April 16, which will feature Kathy Flora on "Embracing Life Transitions." A new job, moving, having children, children moving out of the home, parents getting older, retirement, caregiving of parents: We will experience all of these major life transitions if we make

certain choices or are lucky enough to live long enough. Learn how to make experiencing a life transition a joyful experience leading to personal growth. The event begins at 10 a.m. and is held at the Lakewood Ranch Golf and Country Club. Visit lakewoodranch.com to register; cost is \$10 per person.

Stay up to date with all things "Happening in the Ranch" by joining our mailing list. Visit LWRCA.org to sign up!

CLUB NEWS

JEWISH CLUB AT LAKEWOOD RANCH meets monthly. They have a mission to provide an environment that enhances the Jewish community at Lakewood Ranch, focusing on Jewish themes related to social, cultural, and educational opportunities through independent programming and partnerships with other organizations. All Lakewood Ranch residents are welcome to attend and participate. For more information contact Leonard Drexler at lhdrexler@gmail.com or call (941)538-3571.

THE BINGO CLUB meets the first Wednesday of every month at the Lakewood Ranch Town Hall. There are nine games that start at 1 p.m. Prizes for each game are gift cards donated by local merchants. They are always open to new members! For more information contact Chuck Nathan at

bellechuck@tampabay.rr.com or call (941)338-0516.

DEL WEBB LAKEWOOD RANCH ASSOCIATION OF VETERANS AND MILITARY SUPPORTS (aka AVMS) was formed in 2017 by Del Webb residents, for Del Webb residents. For more information contact rick.davis.nc@gmail.com.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM (aka CERT) is a disaster support team that conducts house-by-house search and rescue in the neighborhoods, provides first aid and evacuates the injured, reports the nature and severity of injuries to the County Emergency Operations Center (EOC) for dispatch of emergency services, assesses flooding, accessibility of neighborhood streets, gas leaks and fires, and assists police, fire, and Emergency Medical Services when they arrive on the scene. For more, contact Victor Kline at victorkline@verizon.net or call (941)752-0920.

THE NEWCOMER'S CLUB is a group for new Lakewood Ranch residents who are eager to make friends and meet neighbors. It is primarily a social organization that starts gently with coffee and hopefully expands to many social activities. This club is open to anyone who has moved to LWR within the last two years. For more information contact Carie Schoenfeld at lakewoodranchalking@gmail.com.

PRO-JAM CLUB is for residents of Lakewood Ranch for fun, enjoyment and performances. Musicians are needed in the following areas: keyboard, vocals, guitar, bass, trombone, sax, and percussion. Music is limited to jazz, popular and standards. Experience is a must (no beginners). You must provide your own music and equipment. For more information contact Alan Geller at alanjgeller@hotmail.com or call (941)907-0674.

WEEKLY OPEN PLAY PICKLEBALL is held at 4 p.m. Fridays and 8:30 a.m. Saturdays at the Lakewood Ranch High School tennis courts, 5500 Lakewood Ranch Blvd. Come join the club for open play. Free beginners' clinic is on the first and third Saturdays at 8:30 a.m. For more information contact Bob Haskin at lwr.pickleball@gmail.com.

LEGACY LADIES' GOLF LEAGUE is held at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays at the Legacy Golf and Country Club, 8255 Legacy Blvd. All ladies are welcome to join the club, which just received first place in the Sarasota Herald-Tribune Readers' Choice Awards for "best public golf course" in Sarasota/Manatee. The club has nine-hole and 18-hole groups. Tuesdays are casual play, counting scores or not, and Thursdays they play some sort of easy game with prizes. For more information call the Legacy Pro Shop at (941)907-7067.

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COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

March/April 2019

PLEASE VISIT THE WEBSITE TO VERIFY DATES

lakewoodranchgov.org/reservations

March 20 – Third Wednesday

- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Women's Book Club, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT Radio Communications Committee, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
- Indivisible LWR, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

March 21 – Third Thursday

- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.

March 22 – Third Friday

- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Optimal Living Club, Town Hall, 11 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon

March 23 – Third Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- CERT Team Captain/Incident Commander Leaders Workshop, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

March 24 – Fourth Sunday

- Ladies' Soccer, soccer field 1 & 2, 2 p.m.
- Italian American Club picnic, pavilions/basketball courts, 3 p.m.

March 25 – Fourth Monday

- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Anglers' Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

March 26 – Fourth Tuesday

- Bridge on Tuesday, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Italian American Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

March 27 – Fourth Wednesday

- Women's Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 8 a.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

March 28 – Fourth Thursday

- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- American Asian Women, Town Hall, 6 p.m.

March 29 – Fourth Friday

- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon
- Pro Jam, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

March 30 – Fourth Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.

March 31 – Fifth Sunday

- Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.

April 1 – First Monday

- Gardeners' Out East, Town Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- Handcrafts and More, Town Hall 10 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Genealogy Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

April 2 – First Tuesday

- Lunch Club, Town Hall, 11 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Anglers' Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

April 3 – First Wednesday

- Bingo, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

April 4 – First Thursday

- Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Thursday Bridge & St. Georges Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT Training, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

April 5 – First Friday

- Women's Club board meeting, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon
- Digital Photography, Town Hall, 5 p.m.

April 6 – First Saturday

- CERT training setup, Town Hall, 7:30 a.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- CERT training, Town Hall, 8:30 a.m.

April 7 – First Sunday

- Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.
- Sunday Duplicate Bridge, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

April 8 – Second Monday

- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Gardener's Out East, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT board meeting, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

April 9 – Second Tuesday

- Bridge on Tuesday, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Women's Club - Blankets for Babies, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Digital Photography board meeting, Town Hall, 5 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- Democratic Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

SEE CALENDAR, PAGE 14



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WEATHER TITE WINDOWS Named by REMODELING Magazine to its 2018 REMODELING 550 List of America's Biggest Remodelers Sarasota, Florida (February, 2019) –

WEATHER TITE WINDOWS ranks 25th on the 2018 REMODELING 550 list of the nation's biggest remodelers, WEATHER TITE WINDOWS announced today. The REMODELING 550 brings together the nation's 550 biggest full-service remodelers, replacement contractor / home improvement firms, insurance restoration firms, and franchisors. Because the full-service and replacement firms operate so differently, the REMODELING 550 lists and ranks them separately.

"We are honored to receive this distinction," said Michael Hollander, President, of Weather Tite Windows. "There are roughly 100,000 remodeling firms in this country with payrolls, so it's great to know that we're among the top 0.5% in the nation."

REMODELING, published by Hanley Wood, is the leading publication in the home improvement industry. REMODELING

editor-in-chief Craig Webb noted there's a high turnover rate in remodeling, with roughly one-sixth of the firms going out of business annually. "In contrast, the bigger firms have a failure rate of less than 2%," he said. "Thus, become a REMODELING 550 company indicates that you have quality and staying power—two traits that customers value most."

In response to this prestigious award,

WEATHER TITE WINDOWS - for a limited time - is offering **THE ULTIMATE WINDOW SALE!** \$100

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COMMUNITY EVENTS & CLUB CALENDAR

FROM PAGE 12

April 10 – Second Wednesday

- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- Women's Club general meeting, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

April 11 – Second Thursday

- Lakewood Ranch Garden Club board meeting, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Thursday Bridge & St. Georges Mah Jongg, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT training, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

April 12 – Second Friday

- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Optimal Living Club, Town Hall, 11 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon
- Pro Jam, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

April 13 – Second Saturday

- Eggstravaganza - Adventure Park, 9:30 a.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Republican Club, Town Hall, 9 a.m.

April 14 – Second Sunday

- Ladies' Soccer, soccer fields 1 & 2, 2 p.m.

April 15 – Third Monday

- Handcrafts & More, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Italian American Club, Town Hall, 10:30 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.

- Creative Arts, Town Hall, 6 p.m.
- Running Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

April 16 – Third Tuesday

- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.
- History Club, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

April 17 – Third Wednesday

- Mah Jongg at One, Town Hall, noon
- Women's Book Club, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 5:30 p.m.
- CERT Radio Communications Committee, Town Hall, 7 p.m.
- Indivisible LWR, Town Hall, 7 p.m.

April 18 – Third Thursday

- Thursday Bridge, Town Hall, 1 p.m.
- Football Club, soccer field/baseball diamond, 5:30 p.m.

April 19 – Third Friday

- Women's Exercise Class, Town Hall, 9 a.m.
- Shanti Yoga, Town Hall, 10 a.m.
- Art League Club, Town Hall, noon
- Mah Jongg Queens, Town Hall, noon
- Wine Club, Town Hall, 6:30 p.m.

April 20 – Third Saturday

- Adult Soccer, soccer field, 8 a.m.
- Football Club, soccer field #1, 8 a.m.
- Scribes, Town Hall, 10 a.m.

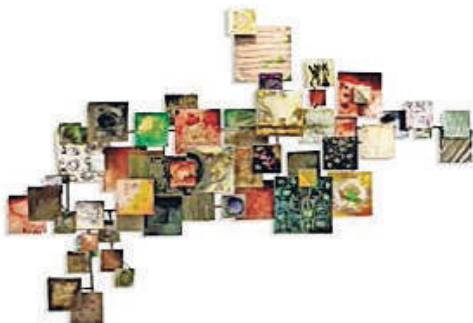
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March Programs at Chabad of Bradenton & Lakewood Ranch

Please note that all events take place at The Chabad House located on 5712 Lorraine Road, Lakewood Ranch, unless otherwise noted.

Torah Studies

Saturdays, 9-9:30 a.m.

Participate in a fascinating class on the Torah portion of the week. Discover the mystical meanings and lessons behind ancient stories. Admission is free.

Torah and Tea

Tuesdays, 11 a.m.-noon

Join Chanie Bukiet in her home for a weekly dose of delicious tea and refreshments and learn about the meanings of our daily prayers.

Weekly Shabbat Services

Friday night, 6:30 p.m.; Saturday mornings, 9:30 a.m.

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

Talmud classes

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

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

CKids Shabbat Club

Saturday mornings, 11 a.m.-noon

Includes prayer, games, songs for children ages 3-13, and is followed by a Kiddush luncheon

Chabad Hebrew School of the Arts

Sunday mornings, 9:30 a.m.-noon

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.

For more information on any of the ongoing events, call Rabbi Mendy Bukiet at (941)752-3030 or e-mail rabbi@chabadofbradenton.com.

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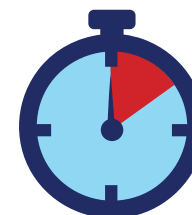
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Ranch CDDs and IDA Get High Marks in Annual Audits

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

All the Lakewood Ranch Community Development Districts (CDD)s, as well as the Inter-District Authority (IDA), passed their annual financial audits for the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2018, resulting in “clean” opinions of their financial dealings from the auditors of Purvis Gray and Company, auditors for all the Lakewood Ranch CDDs and the IDA.

Chief Auditor Helen Painter stated in her presentations at the February CDD and IDA boards of supervisors meetings that her company had tested the districts controls of transactions, that the accounting records were fairly stated, and that expenditures were within budgets.

There were no “exceptions” or “findings” that would indicate that remedial action might need to take place.

The only other question which came up during the audit had to do with retirement health benefits for employees, a matter which could require clarification from the Florida Auditor General’s office, along with an actuarial study, in order to assure that Lakewood Ranch is in compliance with laws regarding employee retirement health benefits regulations. (To date, Lakewood Ranch has never had a retiree stay on the IDA’s health plan.)

EROSION AND TORTOISES IN THE BLUFFS NEIGHBORHOOD IN SUMMERFIELD

Concern has been raised for a number of years about what some Bluffs’ neighborhood residents fear might be the lessening of their property due to erosion from the Braden River during periods of heavy rain. There are several lots which front on the river.

Compounding this is the presence of endangered gopher tortoises in the area along the river. The tortoises dig burrows deep underground, and even after they abandon a particular burrow, it can become a habitat for many other species. A required annual count of tortoise burrows has confirmed that there are more potentially active burrows this year than in previous years in the area along the river. A grant has been applied for, and District 1’s engineering and legal advisors are working on a plan to determine whether the

district can legitimately assist in the effort to both control flood damage and assist the tortoise population without creating a “slippery slope” effect of helping to pay for work which might be seen as benefitting only a very small number of households.

The plan, as it is envisioned, would have the District pay 25% of the cost.

CELL PHONE SERVICE

The various districts and the IDA have agreed to an extension of the contract termination date for USA CRAN to establish a workable means of actually constructing a series of cell towers in Lakewood Ranch. The contract termination date has been extended to May 29.

PARK USAGE POLICY AND FEE STRUCTURE CHANGES

A revised park usage policy and park fee structure was endorsed by the various boards. This move will clarify the terms of park and facility rentals in Lakewood Ranch, and will designate different fees for residents, non-residents, and business usage.

TRANSPONDERS FOR LWR COUNTRY CLUB RESIDENTS

Community Associations Director Gary Glass reported that his department is issuing new transponders to Country Club residents. He recommended that residents hold on to their old transponders for a while (with regard to entry into Country Club East) and noted that the old transponder readers at the gates of the Country Club will be retired from service in June or July, making the old transponders non-functional after that time. The old readers are being retired because the model that had been used has been discontinued, and replacement reader units and parts are no longer available.

SEWERS

District 6 supervisors learned that plans are in motion to turn the sewer system in the district over to Manatee County at the earliest possible time. The District has been working to make sure that all aspects of the turnover are completed in order to accomplish this.

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Little Greek Fresh Grill – Fast/Casual Greek Food on the Ranch

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

So, what comes to your mind when you contemplate the idea of going to a Greek restaurant?

Is it a vision of a sunny square in the middle of a small town on a Greek island, sipping a glass of wine while munching on stuffed grape leaves in the shade of a tree, sheltered from the Mediterranean sun? Is it the image of boisterous diners drinking ouzo, dancing around in a big circle and subsequently smashing plates in their exuberance – “Zorba the Greek” style?

Or, is it something different, and perhaps more in keeping with our modern, fast-paced urban lifestyle in the U.S.?

The Little Greek Fresh Grill is more attuned to the latter. As the name may indicate, the food is freshly prepared, and the service is fast. There is no Greek Island square, no plate smashing, and no ouzo consumption. The view from the front of the restaurant is not of the Parthenon, but, then, we’re not really in Greece.

This is a place with few frills, but then who needs a lot of frills when the food is good, when the food is served up quickly, and the selections are excellent.

In order to test out the aspects of dining at the Little Greek restaurant, I invited my niece, her husband and their teenage son to join me in checking out the offerings of the Little Greek. (They were in town for a little soccer action and the required trip to Orlando.)

Looking at the extensive menu at the Little Greek, the diner can see that there are selections for every palette, and each of us chose a different dish to try.

Ordering your meal at the Little Greek is simple – you walk up to the counter in the rear of the dining area, check out the extensive menu, order and pay for your meal, and then you can get your drink, if you’ve ordered one, and proceed to sit down and wait for a very brief period of time while your meal is prepared and brought to your table by a smiling member of the Little Greek staff. Or, if you want to do take out, you simply order and wait for your food, then grab it and go. (The Little Greek also does catering for events.)

I picked the salmon skewers from the “Light Meals” area of the Little Greek’s menu. The “Light Meals” portion of the menu offers a somewhat lesser quantity of food for a lower price. That does not, as I found out, mean that the light meal you get at the Little Greek is going to be a miniature portion. No, indeed! The two skewers of salmon on my plate were accompanied by rice and a nice portion of Greek salad, with pita bread on the side. Not too shabby!

As for the taste, I thought that it was great – not too much food, yet enough to make me feel satisfied with my selection. (And, of course, I really needed to leave room for dessert.)

As part of the “Light Meals” section of the menu, my meal included two skewers of salmon. Had I ordered the regular “dinner” portion, I would have gotten three skewers of salmon instead, with everything else remaining the same.

My niece, Andrea, ordered the spinach pie (spanakopita) with



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER

tzatziki sauce, along with a cup of lemon chicken soup. She pronounced that both the spinach pie and the soup were first-rate.

Her husband, Chris, ordered the “Olympian Pita,” which combines both chicken and traditional gyro meat in one large pita, with lettuce, tomatoes, onions and tzatziki sauce.

Chris, too, was quite pleased with his meal, and had no complaints about the quality of the food nor the quantity.

Their son, Zach, ordered the basic gyro pita, which came with lettuce, tomatoes and tzatziki. When I asked Zach how he liked his food, his response was to give his meal a “9.” He also ordered a couple of cannoli – after all, one shouldn’t live with only healthy food, right?

If you’re looking at limiting calories, the Little Greek may be a quality choice for you. The salmon skewer dish I had is listed on their website at only 348 calories, while the Olympian pita comes in at a total of only 548. Not bad for an “almost fast-food” restaurant.

As for dessert, as I mentioned, Zach had his own order of cannoli, but I knew that I really NEEDED a bit of baklava, so I ordered a slice, and divided it among the three adults, making sure that all three of us had a chance to savor its sweetness, while at the same time enabling each of us to state that none of us had “eaten the whole thing” – although I must admit that after one very small bite, I was very tempted to go back and order another slice – or two, or three ...



The Little Greek Fresh Grill is located at 8310 Market Street in the northern section of the Market Street shopping center area, between Publix and First Watch. It is open from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day.

So, go Greek – at the Little Greek Fresh Grill, in Lakewood Ranch, of course! For more information visit littlegreekrestaurant.com or call (941)210-4560.

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AROUND THE RANCH



PHOTOS BY ERIC NALPAS



Lakewood Ranch Community Campout A Crowd-Pleaser

Originally scheduled for January but postponed due to weather, the inaugural Lakewood Ranch Community Campout was held February 23 and 24, at the Greenbrook Adventure Park. Neighbors came together for a night of family fun, including tent-pitching demos, a

campfire, s'mores, stargazing with an astronomer, family movie, treasure hunts, live music, a nature hike, and food trucks. For more information about community activities, visit lwccac.com.





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GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

March 21 – April 17, 2019

Please note that all meetings will be held at Town Hall unless otherwise specified.

March 21	8:30 a.m.	CDD 1 Board Meeting 907-0202
	9 a.m.	CDD 5 Board Meeting 907-0202
	9:30 a.m.	CDD 2 Board Meeting 907-0202
	11 a.m.	CDD 6 Board Meeting 907-0202
	2 p.m.	CEVA Fining Committee 907-0202
	3 p.m.	CEVA Safety Committee 850-396-2695
	7 p.m.	SRVA Landscape Meeting 907-0202
March 25	10 a.m.	CEVA Finance Committee Meeting 907-7279
	3 p.m.	Augusta/Oakmont Neighborhood Comm. Mtg. 907-3448
	4 p.m.	CDD 1 Budget Workshop 907-0202
	5:30 p.m.	Hollow Board Meeting 921-5393
March 26	8:30 a.m.	SRVA Modifications 907-0202
	10 a.m.	CDD 6 Budget Workshop 907-0202
	3 p.m.	CEVA Board Meeting 907-0202
March 27	1 p.m.	Country Club Modifications 907-0202
	3 p.m.	Edgewater Modifications 907-0202
	4 p.m.	Sandhills Neighborhood Committee 907-0820
	4 p.m.	CDD 4 Budget Workshop 907-0202
	7 p.m.	SRVA Board Meeting 907-0202
March 28	10:30 a.m.	CDD 5 Budget Workshop 907-0202
	1:30 p.m.	Whitemarsh Neighborhood Comm. Mtg. 412-389-0033
	3 p.m.	CDD 2 Budget Workshop 907-0202
	5:45 p.m.	Watercrest Annual Members Meeting 907-0948
April 1	9 a.m.	CEVA Landscape Committee Meeting 907-0202
	5 p.m.	SRVA Compliance Meeting
	7 p.m.	Brier Creek Neighborhood Meeting 907-1169
	7 p.m.	CDD 4 Safety Workshop/GBVA Safety Comm. 907-0202
April 3	4 p.m.	GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
April 4	3 p.m.	CEVA Restrictions Revision Meeting 907-0202
April 8	5 p.m.	GBVA Compliance Meeting 907-0202
	6 p.m.	Walk Annual Meeting 758-9454
April 9	8:30 a.m.	SRVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
April 10	1 p.m.	Country Club Modifications Meeting 907-0202
	3 p.m.	Edgewater Modifications Meeting 907-0202
April 15	9 a.m.	CDD 6 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	3 p.m.	CEVA Board Workshop 907-0202
April 16	8 a.m.	IDA Board Meeting 907-0202
	10 a.m.	CDD 1 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	1 p.m.	CDD 5 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	2:30 p.m.	CDD 2 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
April 17	10 a.m.	CDD 4 Agenda Review Workshop 907-0202
	10:15 a.m.	CDD 4 Board Meeting 907-0202
	2:30 p.m.	GBVA Restrictions Revision Meeting 907-0202
	4 p.m.	Mizner Reserve Neighborhood Comm. Meeting 373-3898
	4 p.m.	GBVA Modifications Meeting 907-0202
	6 p.m.	GBVA Board Meeting 907-0202

**Meeting dates and times are subject to change*

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LECOM Suncoast Classic Hits Lakewood National

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

There is something mysterious, some may call it magical, about a fine golf course in early morning. And that goes double for a tournament course.

The rising sun paints the surroundings with what photographers call "golden hour" light. The previous night's heavy dew lingers on the grass, seemingly turning it silver, and the movements of the groundskeepers in the early morning leave "trails" in the dew on the fairways.

Golfers eager to get that last kink out of their swing, or just limber up for the day's action, can be seen on the practice tees, swinging away, stroke after stroke. The skills of these pro tournament players can be admired even by non-golfers. I once watched Sam Snead, one of the greats who successfully played on the PGA Tour when I was younger, stand on the practice tee at Oakland Hills in Michigan, and put ball after ball into a circle so tight that I thought it almost unbelievable.

From the practice tee, the action moves to the course itself, testing the skills and endurance of the players, each hoping to gain a place on the PGA Tour. The tournament itself was put on in cooperation with sponsors such as LECOM (Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine), and staffed by PGA professionals and many local volunteers. The fact that the Web.com tour came to Lakewood Ranch is an example of how our community has emerged as a "destination" sports location.

This February, the Web.com Tour brought aspiring pro golfers to Lakewood Ranch and, specifically, the Lakewood National course, for the LECOM Suncoast Classic.

The Web.com Tour is the stepping stone to the PGA Tour, so those who ventured out to Lakewood National were able to see golfers who would very likely be listed on the leaderboards of the PGA Tour in the future, enabling them to tell their kids and grandkids that they saw a famous PGA Tour champion back when he was just a "flat-bellied kid with a great swing."



PHOTOS BY ERNIE SOLLER



web.com TOUR THE PATH TO THE PGA TOUR.

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1	HUBBARD	-21	12:55	T6	LAMB	-15	12:33
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T2	MCNEALY	-19	12:44	T8	GREYSERMA	-14	12:22
4	GRIFFIN	-17	12:44	T8	WHALEY	-14	12:11
5	SEIFFERT	-16	12:33	T10	LEDESMA	-13	12:11

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Fantasy Flowers of Lakewood Ranch: Fulfilling A Lifetime Dream for Owner

BY ERNIE SOLLER,
Community Correspondent

Michelle Bridges grew up in very urban Philadelphia. Her life began to change when she enrolled in the W.B. Saul Agricultural Sciences High School, a “magnet” school located in a Philadelphia suburb.

This was no ordinary high school. First, students had to go through an admissions procedure to enroll. In order to be admitted, students had to keep their grades up – up HIGH, that is! Then there was the fact that this high school, founded in 1957, operated as a full, working farm, and is the largest agricultural-based high school in the United States. Saul High School had an equine department, dairy cows, and an animal laboratory, where students learned to care for lab animals.

Saul High School also operated a full, working flower shop, complete with an operating greenhouse, and possessed a Floral Culture Club, affiliated with Four-H, which Bridges became a part of.

As part of her studies at Saul, Bridges was placed in a commercial flower shop – Rose Velt Florists – at the age of 14, to learn the flower business. And learn it she did.

Bridges went on to manage the 1-800-Flowers fulfillment center in Philadelphia, and, after moving to England, was a wedding flower consultant there for 15 years.

She won a silver medal at the Royal Horticultural Society’s Chelsea Flower Show in England for an arrangement she was commissioned to prepare for the government of Ecuador. (Note: This show is a VERY big deal in England!)

After moving back to the States with her family, she worked at Cortez Floral for several years, and became the head buyer for Manatee Floral – a large, wholesale flower source in this region of Florida that had been in business since 1892.

So how did Bridges arrive in Lakewood Ranch as the owner of Fantasy flowers?

Fantasy Flowers of Lakewood Ranch was opened earlier in 2018 by previous owner Debbie Sanders. One day this past fall, Bridges got a call from Sanders telling her that she needed to sell the business, and asking if Bridges would be interested.

Of course she was interested, and Bridges is now running the floral show at Fantasy Flowers of Lakewood Ranch.

How successful has the transition been?

Well, Bridges noted that people in Lakewood



PHOTO BY ERNIE SOLLER

Ranch do a lot of entertaining and generally, even though the Thanksgiving holiday is not known as a “floral holiday,” she was pleasantly surprised that Fantasy Flowers delivered over 100 Thanksgiving floral items for Lakewood Ranch clients this year!

The Christmas/Chanukah/New Year season also went well at Fantasy Flowers, with all sorts of great floral items for the table, or for hostess gifts. Bridges and her elves at Fantasy Flowers worked hard to make the homes of Lakewood Ranch sparkle with gorgeous centerpieces, decorated trees, wreaths, etc.

Bridges knew that in order to be a successful florist, she had to not only learn the floral design part of the business, but also the “business end” of the floral trade, and learn it she did – very successfully.

So come on down to the Lakewood Ranch Main Street area and pop into Fantasy Flowers. You’ll find a smiling, knowledgeable florist in Michelle Bridges who will be happy to make your floral dreams – be they for a wedding, a special occasion, Easter, Mother’s Day, or just for fun – come true. Fantasy Flowers also offers specialty gourmet and fruit baskets. They deliver to any location in the local area, and of course can send your floral items to your friends and loved ones across the country.

Fantasy Flowers of Lakewood Ranch is located next to Let’s Create Art, and directly across the street from Ed’s Tavern in the Lakewood Ranch Main street shopping area. For more information visit fantasyflowerslwr.com, or call (941)500-1000.

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“AROUND THE RANCH” LOCALS HELP PREPARE FOR NEXT MAINSTAGE MUSICAL

Cast as Ringmaster, of Manatee Players' musical production of *Barnum* --Tanner Fults is no stranger to the stage. First cast in *Little Women* in the winter of 2018, Tanner has taken to acting like a duck to water; starring in five roles and logging over 600 hours as a volunteer actor since first joining the Manatee Performing Arts Center family!

Tanners' enthusiasm for the stage is infectious, just asks his dad, Michael Fults. Michael, who was once simply a father supporting his son from the audience; is now an active volunteer member of the production and public relations teams.

What started off as taking a few headshots for an upcoming show quickly became a budding passion to help and serve alongside his son. Now, with the help of two additional volunteers, Diane Broda and LeMoyn Johnson, the trio photograph all the Broadway and Studio Series technical rehearsals for public relations and historical archive purposes. Michael has also taken on the responsibility of taking all the cast headshots for Manatee Players' and DraMature productions.

Photographs taken by Michael capture the heart and spirit of each show, in its own right, and assist in building our “theater family” photo album.

“I love getting so close I can see him sweat.” --Michael Fults
Mike and his wife Cheryl are the proud owners and operators of fotofinitySRQ, a local family operated full-service photography studio specializing in many areas including professional and actor headshots and event and live performance photography, to name a few.

Presented on the main stage at Manatee Performing Arts Center April 25 - May 12 *Barnum* is the story of Phineas Taylor Barnum who, despite his wife's objections, created a show highlighting the freaks of society: the oldest living woman, the smallest man, and a glamorous Swedish

songbird, Jenny Lind. He leaves the show to lead a “normal life,” but once his wife dies, he partners with James A. Bailey to form “*The Greatest Show on Earth*.”



In order to pull-off this full-scale production, like the circus acts that traveled with the original *Barnum and Bailey*, we rely on the time, talent, and expertise of many.

“This show will require extra safety, care, and rehearsals based on the circus skills and elements we will be adding.”
-Producing Artistic Director Rick Kerby

With an expected cast size of 30 and a technical crew of 10 this show will be made up of multiple set changes within the concept of a circus.

We anticipate the preparation to consist of:

- 3,710 volunteer actor and stage crew hours (rehearsals)

- 1,600 hours in preparation/performance
- 1,800 hours of technical preparation/performance
- 2,800 volunteer hours (set and costume design)

That is nearly 10,000 hours of dedication and time, to produce this one production alone!

We are very grateful for the professional services, time, talent, and expertise donated to our theater, in so many ways, by so many individuals to ensure each production is put on with the excellence our patrons have grown to know and love. Thanks to the continued support and generosity of individuals, like the Fults, we are able to continue towards achieving our mission:

“To represent, enrich and promote diverse artists and art forms, The Manatee Players, Inc. and its performance venue, Manatee Performing Arts Center, serve as a significant cultural, educational and economic resource for the Florida Gulf Coast region.”

Haven't seen a show at the Manatee Performing Arts Center yet? Come in and check out, one of the many, variety of productions the Manatee Performing Art Center has to offer.



For additional information about getting involved or to purchase tickets please visit our website at www.ManateePerformingArtsCenter.com or call our Box Office at 941-748-5875



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LWRBA

LAKEWOOD RANCH BUSINESS ALLIANCE

The Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance (LWRBA) is a business organization committed to connecting, educating and strengthening the business community in the Lakewood Ranch region. The LWRBA's 700+ member businesses reflect a wide variety of small and large businesses across all industries in and around Lakewood Ranch, Florida. More information is available online at www.LWRBA.org.

UPCOMING EVENT

(Please visit www.LWRBA.org to sign up for this event.)

Young Leaders Alliance Social:

Glory Days Grill
Thursday, March 28

5:30-7:30 p.m.

Glory Days Grill, 8253 Cooper Creek Blvd.
Free for YLA members; \$10 non-members

Join us for a night of networking with Lakewood Ranch's Young Leaders Alliance at Glory Days Grill. This is a great opportunity to build connections with fellow young professionals in a low-key way, and over some drinks and complimentary appetizers. This event is free for members of the Lakewood Ranch Business Alliance under 40. Register at www.LWRYLA.com.

Networking Social: The Market at Lakewood Ranch

Wednesday, April 3

5-7 p.m.

Sarasota Polo Club, 8201 Polo Club Lane
Free for LWRBA members; \$15 non-members

Join us for a special networking social at The Market at Lakewood Ranch. Far from the typical farmers' market, this is a curated gathering of the best flavors in the region, combined with live music, cooking demonstrations, sunset yoga and all kinds of family-friendly activities. Offering organic produce, meat, poultry, eggs, breads, pasta, juices, and prepared foods from over 40 vendors.

Executive Briefing: The Art & Science of Negotiation

Wednesday, April 10
7:30-9 a.m.

Keiser University, 6151 Lake Osprey Drive
\$10 LWRBA members; \$20 non-members

Bill Curphey, a business litigation attorney for over 40 years, has negotiated hundreds of settlements, contracts and business deals throughout the U.S. and abroad. As a former trial attorney for the U.S. Department of Labor and Associate General Counsel for a Fortune 200 company, Curphey formed his own firm 20 years ago litigating and negotiating around the world. Start your day by learning how Curphey's negotiation strategies can "Get You to Yes." You will leave knowing how to prepare for a negotiation, establishing standards of fairness in determining what's in it for the other side, and the different negotiating styles – what works and what doesn't.

Luncheon: Creating a Thriving Organization: It's a Two-Way Street

Wednesday, April 24
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m.

Lakewood Ranch Golf & Country Club, 7650 Legacy Blvd.
\$27 LWRBA members; \$37 non-members

Developing a "culture of wellness" is a popular topic in business, but research has proven that the conventional approach falls short and does not usually lead to greater health, engagement or productivity. Creating a high-performing company that can sustain the test of time requires a comprehensive and integrated approach to both culture and well-being. Come hear organizational and individual well-being experts Rebecca Johnson and Natalie Johnson on identifying three major reasons the conventional approach to employee health, engagement and productivity fails. Come learn about the key elements of a comprehensive approach that integrates organizational development and a new paradigm of employee well-being. You will leave with a visual model that will support communication with others about this new, integrated approach.

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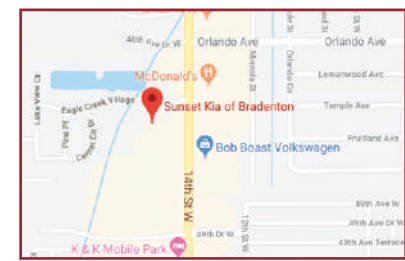
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