



Lakewood Ranch

LWR COMMUNITIES, LLC

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### **LAKWOOD RANCH WINS BALA AWARD**

*Professional Builder* magazine and the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) has congratulated LWR Communities, LLC, for winning the 2005 Best in American Living Award (BALA) for its Lakewood Ranch Information Center. Public announcement of the 2005 winners was made at the 62nd NAHB International Builders' Show, Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2006 during an award ceremony at Hard Rock "LIVE" in Universal Studios. LWR Communities' Vice President of Project Management Tom Howe and Information Center Manager Lynn Halk were present to accept the award.

The BALA is recognized as one of the most prestigious design competitions in the industry. The annual competition is open to builders, architects, designers, developers, land planners and interior designers nationwide. LWR Communities, LLC entered the awards contest in the Best Amenity/Facility up to and including 5,000 sq. ft. category. The entry acknowledged Lawson Group Architects, Dunn & Denham Construction, and Renaissance Creative Services for their efforts.

The Information Center is the point of entry for those considering a move to Lakewood Ranch. Visitors are welcomed and educated about the community, its many amenities, the history of Schroeder-Manatee Ranch, and the Florida Green Building program before being directed to the community's 40 builder model homes.

The state-of-the-art center has interactive stations, Mitsubishi Megaview Video Wall, hands-on Green Gallery learning center and garden, and a children's play area.

The center can accommodate one large group or several smaller groups. To entertain various groups of visitors who arrive at the same time, there are self-guided opportunities as well

as video tours conducted by staff. Seven interactive LCD stations are positioned around the room's perimeter. When activated by pressure pads in the carpet, lights dim, the videos play to sound from targeted speakers. The videos depict the key themes of Live, Work, Play, Learn and Shop.

The Green Gallery and Green Garden were constructed with the voluntary labor and supplies provided by 22 Lakewood Ranch builders and landscapers. This hands-on educational experience shows homebuyers the benefits of green building.

This versatile center is used after business hours for community and company events. The Megaview Wall has both video capability and internet connectivity making the Information Center a valuable resource to Schroeder-Manatee Ranch as well as school and community groups.

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