

Meadoword

The Meadows Community News and Lifestyle



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Marilyn Maleckas — MCA Board President

Filling Your Social Calendars With The Meadows Lifestyle

As summer draws to a close, and cooler temperatures are on the horizon, our seasonal residents will soon be returning. Our MCA staff and awesome committee chairs and volunteers have been hard at work preparing an exciting array of new activities, safety classes, health screenings, games, holiday parties, newcomer's welcome events, and much more. Let's take a look at some of what the Meadows' lifestyle venues look like this Fall.

Culture – Music – Perlman Music Program at The Meadows

The Meadows Community Association is both excited and honored to bring the Perlman Music Program to its Community on November 16, 2023. Specifically, The Meadows will host the Perlman Alumni Quartet Recital with the following Performing Artists within The Tobias Quartet: Oliver Neubauer, violin; Kate Arndt, violin; Sam Rosenthal, viola; and Sterling Elliott, cello. The Program will be followed by a reception where the Artists will remain on site for a brief period after the performance to address and mingle with the audience. This is a wonderful opportunity to enjoy the musical talents of these young Performing Artists, so mark your calendar to attend the evening of November 16, at 7:00 pm, and details on the reservation information will be announced soon.

Safety Awareness and Education Classes

Beginning September 6, our Lifestyle Manager will be launching the first of several planned Safety Awareness and Education Classes with the newly developed Travel Safely Program entitled "Fly the Friendly Skies". That presentation will be followed by the new Walk Fit Challenge on September 1 and the Walk Safely Program on September 13, as well as the new "Avoiding Real Estate Scams" presentation on September 8, designed to

keep property ownership and possessions safe when selling a home. September 22 brings the Bike Safety Rodeo followed by the Community Safety Program on September 26. Be sure to register for the October 12 class entitled "How to Avoid Becoming a Victim – Preventing Elder Exploitation". Of course, these are just a few of the many safety sessions scheduled that are planned throughout our fall and winter seasons.

New Homebuyers to The Meadows

Annually, on an average, there are 200- 300 new homebuyers taking residence in The Meadows, and we are continually enhancing the New Homebuyer Program to include newly developed community information to compliment on-site welcome sessions designed to bring awareness of all that the community offers to these new residents. We have revamped the Meet and Greet Program to include more about The Meadows and the many services, events and opportunities that exist to socialize, meet new neighbors, learn, and enjoy their new surroundings. Within the first year of ownership here, residents will continue to have the opportunity to participate in a specially designed Complimentary Trial at The Meadows Country Club.

Providing Sarasota Community Support

Our annual Back to School Supply Drive starts off the month on September 1 and through the community's generosity deserving children will have school supplies that would not otherwise be available to them. We know we can count on you for school supplies this year for such deserving children. September 19 brings back the Blood Drive where residents can donate blood to the Sarasota Blood Bank to assist those in need. A sneak peek into October reveals that on the 28th a Walk to Remember – Walk to End

Alzheimer's will take place as well.

Health and Wellness Programs

Throughout the year, many health screenings are scheduled including on September 6, the informative session entitled "The Truth Behind Hearing Loss" will occur; and on September 13, the Optimum Hearing Care Screening Clinic occurs. September 14 brings our partner, On-Spot Dermatology, on campus once again for skin cancer screening. September 29 brings the much-anticipated presentation entitled "Don't Let Anxiety Steal Your Happiness" and October 10, we will be hosting a new Fit Minds Presentation by popular demand.

Always Popular Social Mixers, Holiday Parties, Entertainment, Education

No seasonal program would be complete without the very popular Ice Cream Social on September 5, Bingo on September 6, MCA Game Night on September 20 and the annual Trunk or Treat on October 30 followed by the MCA Annual Halloween Party on October 31.

If you are seeking advice or assistance in utilizing your cell phones or iPhone or other electronics, you won't want to miss the ever-popular return of the Electronic Tutor on September 7.

Building The Lifestyle

Our Lifestyle Manager, **Sue Lytle**, and the community volunteers who support these activities, have an impressive array of diverse programs lined up for the upcoming months. The entire September and October previews are on the MCA calendar located on our web site themedowssarasota.org and September events are the back page of this Meadoword. If you are looking to volunteer to assist Sue in any of these events – get to know more people and enjoy socializing, let Sue know by emailing her at lifestyle@meadows.ca.com or call 941-377-2300. We thank you for your support.



OUR MISSION
To preserve the property values, ambiance and vitality of our community.

OUR VISION
To be known as a well-maintained, welcoming, safe community with up-to-date housing, activities and services designed to meet the needs of all residents.

COVER PHOTO
Shown left, Rick Gorman, The Director of Safety—Allied Security Services, (right) Deputy Brian Keane—Sarasota Sheriff's Office, team up with the Safety Committee and MCA in efforts to continue to keep The Meadows safe.



Frances Rippondi — MCA General Manager

Safety In The Meadows A Community Effort



Safety is the most important component of any healthy lifestyle and community. As one of the Meadows Community Association's (MCA's) four community initiatives (Safety, Lifestyle, Health and Wellness, and Environment) Safety by far permeates every aspect of our lives the most. Keeping The Meadows safe takes the entire community working together and reporting anything that looks suspicious. The Safety Committee and our contracted Safety Patrol is the backbone to the community's safety efforts but it's the residents who promptly report suspicious activity and disclose safety/criminal incidents who reinforce the overall safety of The Meadows.

WORKING TO KEEP YOU SAFE – MEET THE TEAM

Allied Universal Security Systems

The Meadows is patrolled by personnel of Allied Security Services, contracted by the MCA to uphold the rules and regulations of our documents, monitor for violations, and keep a watchful eye for anything out of the ordinary. Don't be fooled by the name, Allied Security is not law enforcement; the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office should be called first in case of any emergency. Our Patrol officers respond to calls and assist residents with a variety of needs ranging from missing and/or suspicious persons reports, truck violations, trash cans left in view, noise and disturbances etc. **Rick Gorman**, the Director of Safety, leads the team and has worked in law enforcement for the Albany County, NY Sheriff's office for over 37 years before moving to Florida. We are fortunate to have him as our leader and an esteemed resident of The Meadows.

Safety Committee

The Safety Committee is one of

the four standing committees that reports to the Board of Directors each month. **Michelle Johnston**, is the Safety Committee Chair and the liaison between the committee and the board and is responsible for providing the monthly safety overview of The Meadows. Each month, prior to the board meeting, the committee meets with Officer Gorman and staff to discuss monthly safety incidents and field reports. The committee is provided with detailed information containing the type and number of incidents that occurred each month ranging from disturbances, suspicious persons, traffic light issues, blocked sight triangles at intersections to pedestrian, biking, speeding, vehicles running stop signs, animal complaints etc. After the reports are presented, discussions follow on what can be done to eliminate reoccurring incidents and any areas of concern.

Deputy Duff – Sarasota County Liaison for The Meadows

The MCA and the Safety Committee are fortunate to have **Deputy Duff** from the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office assigned to our community. Deputy Duff is a law enforcement agent with the Crime Prevention Unit and is a critical team member and liaison between the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office and The Meadows. She updates us on incidents that may not have been reported to the MCA along with the latest crimes, frauds and scams occurring in Florida and the surrounding communities. Her insights allow us to be prepared and know what to look out for if a crime is trending throughout the county.

At the recent Volunteer Luncheon hosted by the Sheriff's office, Sheriff Hoffman noted the importance of having resident volunteers and safety

committees taking an active role in communities as they are the first line of defense in recognizing mischief and potential criminal activity. With limited county resources, neighbors watching out for neighbors and residents reporting suspicious activity are the keys to the overall success of their department, our community and everyone's safety.

Ways of Keeping you Informed

As one of our most important initiatives the MCA has focused on strengthening communications to residents highlighting suspicious persons reports, county health alerts, or construction work being done in The Meadows in effort to keep residents informed and safe. We utilize both The Meadoword and Constant Contact as vehicles to get safety rules, reminders and alerts disseminated throughout the community.

However, the MCA at times is limited with the amount of information we are allowed to share. It is understandable to want to know all the details concerning a burglary or a suspicious person but if the case is under an active investigation, the MCA respects the authorities and relies on their department to be the direct point of contact for our residents. Marcy's law also prohibits us from sharing names, addresses and details of the event as a way of protecting victims. Our goal is to keep residents informed to the extent we can, not to overstep our authority. Residents can always contact the Sarasota County Sheriff Office non-emergency number at 941-216-1201 and visit sarasotasheriff.org and look for the latest incidents in the area.

Keeping You Involved

In 2021, the MCA developed a

broad-based Safety Program to educate residents through classes (Safety Awareness and Self-Defense classes), lectures and demonstrations on how to be safe in your homes and environment. As we grew our programming, we included topics on cyber security, fraud, and scams bringing presentations from the Attorney General's office to the community. Last year we launched our Safety Resource webpage as a convenient repository for safety tips, articles and scam alerts.

Each year we continue to build our programming to educate residents' safety awareness and this year is no exception. In light of the unfortunate uptick in mass shootings, the MCA hosted an Active Shooter Lecture for the community. The class emphasized the importance of having a plan to keep you safe. Keeping our eyes on safety, this year we will be introducing Walk Safe, Travel Safe, Managing Anxiety with 3-3-3 Rule (managing stress in public), Self Defense Classes and Stop the Bleed – a national campaign to teach good Samaritans how to save a life, neighborhood safety and improving situational awareness, and avoiding real estate scams.

Having a safe and secure community is a top priority for everyone, and crime prevention in a community is everyone's responsibility. Please continue to report any suspicious activity to Safety at 941-809-0084. Our goal is continued collaboration with the Sheriff's Office, develop safety programming for all, strengthen our community efforts where everyone looks after one another.



Tom Bondur— Standards Committee, Chair

Home SAFETY

Leaving town? Provide Safety with your emergency contact number. During the normal course of patrolling, if safety notices something out of the ordinary while you are away, they can contact the number you provided. In your absence, it is best to have a neighbor, friend, or other caretaker oversee your property.

Home safety has many dimensions. It includes home maintenance and improvement, accident prevention, emergency preparedness, home security and crime prevention.

The Standards Committee focuses exclusively on the exterior of homes. The architectural review process evaluates proposals submitted by homeowners to make changes to home exteriors. We work on behalf of the community to make sure these exterior changes conform to established standards regarding architecture, landscaping, and other issues.

The following home safety checklist is a compilation of the typical problems we encounter in home inspections. You may wish to use it as part of a home safety assessment to help identify and eliminate potential hazards.

LANDSCAPING

- Perform seasonal inspections and maintenance on trees to monitor stability, detect rot, and prevent falling limbs from damaging your home.
- Trim bushes to ensure they do not become cover for unwanted activity around your home by wildlife or prowlers.
- Install landscape lighting that illuminates driveways, sidewalks, pathways, and other dimly

lit areas to enhance security and protect against tripping hazards.

SECURITY

- Make sure entry doors stay locked and garage doors closed to prevent unwanted intrusions.
- Install a home security system with door and window sensors to protect against intruders. Most alarm systems provide remote access to security systems using apps on mobile phones that allow you to monitor your home while traveling.



Add exterior cameras to record suspicious activity. Many systems offer wi-fi cameras that do not require special wiring to install. These systems typically record to an interior recording device, which can optionally upload to an Internet, cloud-based repository to provide backup.



In addition, install deadbolt locks to make forced entry more difficult. Insert a metal bar or wooden dowel in sliding doors and window tracks to prevent these objects from being pried open.

- Be vigilant. Know your neighbors. Watch out for each other, particularly neighbors who may be traveling or are only part-time residents.
- Make sure your house number is visible from the street to facilitate the work of patrol and emergency response teams.
- Report solicitors to the MCA Safety Patrol.

EXTERIOR HAZARDS

- Clear walkways, patios, and porches of objects that are potential tripping hazards:
 - Remove rugs and mats that are not attached or do not have non-slip backing.
 - Replace smooth-surface tile, paving stones, and other flooring that can be slippery.
 - Add non-slip treads to the edges of stairs and decks.
- Repair loose or broken bricks and boards on stairs and decking.
- Level uneven sidewalks.
- Install handrails on both sides or the middle of stairs.
- Make sure outdoor furniture is sturdy and stable.
- Avoid clutter. Arrange outdoor furniture, pool covers, floats, and

other equipment so pathways are clear from obstruction.

- Wear protective footwear or non-slip shoes when walking around the house or yard.
- Secure or store any exterior objects that can become airborne projectiles in a storm, such as lawn chairs, pottery, barrels, statuary, or similar items. Prepare ahead for extended absences.

According to the National Safety Council, 53.6 percent of all preventable, injury-involved accidents occur in the home or community as opposed to work-related injuries (<https://injuryfacts.org>).



nsc.org/home-and-community/home-and-community-overview/introduction/). Falling is the leading cause of preventable, injury-related deaths among adults 65 and older. Eliminating tripping hazards is probably the most effective safety prevention action you can take in a home environment to ensure your personal health and well-being.

PLAN. PREPARE. BE SAFE.

JUNE & JULY APPROVED ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS

JUNE

4676 Ringwood Meadow
4830 Greywood Ln
2993 Longleat Woods
4583 Windsor Park
(2) Chambery Condo Assn
Chatsworth Greene Condo Assn
Sandleheath Condo Assn
4737 Chandlers Forde
4725 Greencroft Rd
4228 Highlands Bridge Rd
(2) 3529 Trebor Lane
Oakley Greene Condo Assn

5349 Everwood Run
4786 Greencroft Rd
2939 Longleat Woods
3535 Trebor Ln
4812 Waterbridge Down
Chatsworth Greene Condo Assn
5531 Downham Meadow
4873 Greencroft Rd
4545 Highland Oaks Cir
3416 Highlands Bridge Rd
3422 Highlands Bridge Rd
3190 Sandleheath
4967 Taywater Dell

Chambery Condo Assn
3120 Heatherwood Ln
3056 Highlands Bridge Rd
2957 Longleat Woods
2815 Wrenwood Ct
JULY
4786 Greencroft Rd
4812 Greencroft Rd
5041 Vivienda Way
5037 Marsh Field Rd
3412 Hadfield Greene
(2) 3911 Chatsworth Greene
4725 Greencroft Rd

3378 Hadfield Greene
2965 Longleat Woods
5407 Chantilly
4751 Ringwood Meadow
Woodmans Chart Condo Assn
2812 Breton Woods
5407 Chantilly
2936 Longleat Woods
5199 Everwood Run
(2) Chambery Condo Assn
4988 Taywater Dell

SAFETY REPORT



Incidents are defined as a variety of complaints or concerns ranging from minor to more concerning activity reported by a resident. Examples of such (but not limited to) are: an alarm, animal and fishing complaints, reports of safety hazards, burglary, harassment, welfare check, dumping, solicitation or suspicious person(s).

Citations are violations that do not respect our documents related to Meadows standards. Examples of such are: restricted vehicles, parking violations, garbage cans not being picked up or put out too early, violations subject to tow, and sign restrictions.

JUNE REPORT

During the month of June, 2023 there were (12) incident free days - Same as May 2023. There were (36) reported incidents - (9) more than May 2023. There were (93) citations issued this month - (32) more than May 2023.

Four Fishing Complaints

- Nine non-residents were found fishing. They left The Meadows without incident, when told to do so.
- Four Solicitation complaints (June 6, 7, 27, 28). One was pest control soliciting between appointments, they were advised that it was not allowed. Others were window and solar panel solicitors. All were advised The Meadows was a non-solicitation community, and left.
- Reports of four unlocked vehicles where attempts were made to take items left in automobiles. Residents were advised to notify Sarasota Sheriff's Office.
- Suspicious incident- June 17 two men attempted to take pool

umbrellas and were told they cannot do that by a resident and the resident followed the men out of The Meadows.

- ▶ June 20- Pool umbrellas were reported to be taken. Advised to contact Sarasota Sheriff's Office.

■ Suspicious Persons

- ▶ June 2 - A report was made of an unknown man showering at an association pool in his clothes.
- ▶ June 5 - An unknown male in an association pool. He departed when told to leave. He was middle aged, medium build, grey hair, caucasian.
- ▶ June 7 - A report of a male sitting in his car at an association for approximate hour. Complainant believed him to be suspicious. Safety arrived no one in the area.
- ▶ June 9 - Man on a bike on Highlands Bridge Rd. (17th hole area) was reported to be hanging turtles in trees. Safety responded, spoke to the complainant, searched the area and found no evidence of activity, as described, nor was there anyone in the area.

JULY REPORT

During the month of July, 2023 there were (13) incident free days - One (1) more than June 2023. There were (29) reported incidents - (7)

less than June 2023. There were (68) citations issued this month - (25) less than June 2023.

- July 3rd & 17th Solicitation complaints, both parties left when advised
- July 8th & 24th Fishing complaints, all parties were not residents and left when advised

Three Animal Complaints

- July 20th & 29th dogs that got away from their homes. They were recovered by the owners without incident
- July 23- A snake sighting was reported in the Willow Links community. No snake was observed.

Four Disturbance/Noise Complaints

- July 2 - disturbance complaint was reported regarding a pool party in the 3000 block of Ringwood Meadow, safety responded, occupant complied.
- July 9th & 13th the 5000 block of Downham Meadow and Marshfield Rd. Upon arrival the disturbance had already ceased.
- July 24- In the area of Ringwood Meadow and Pinebrook Hollow there was a couple of loud "bangs" heard. Safety responded and discovered it was firecrackers. The participants had dispersed.
- July 10- A resident who was selling their home reported that someone took the pictures off

of the real estate agents listing site, and created a Facebook site listing her home for rent. The complainant reported that someone showed up to her home based on that post. Complainant was advised to contact Sarasota Co. Sheriff's Office to file an official complaint.

Suspicious Person Reports

- July 3, 26 - A couple was walking a dog, along the path behind Village Lake reported someone walking on the cart path of Meadows 14th hole area. Safety responded, nobody was found.
- July 3 - A man was reported walking a dog and looking into lanais. Upon arrival, safety encountered a man who did not speak English. A gentleman appeared and explained the man was a friend and lost his way.
- July 17 - A homeless man was in a dumpster on Trebor Ln. He was asked to leave, he complied.

- July 10 - Resident reported someone was looking into their sliding glass door. Safety checked the site and did not find anyone.
- July 10 - Complainant reported a couple swimming in the pool. Questioned by safety, the couple provided their address.
- July 31 - It was reported that two days prior, in the evening, someone was in the bathrooms of an association community pool, using the outdoor shower around 8:30 to 9:00pm. Complainant advised they should call when they notice suspicious behavior to allow for us to respond.

**In the event of an emergency, call 911
(and watch for their arrival to help guide them in.)
The non-emergency Sarasota County Sheriff's Office
number is 941-316-1201.
The Meadows Safety Patrol number is 941-809-0084.**

IF A HURRICANE IS COMING DO I STAY OR FLEE?

Being prepared involves a lot of self help



Bob Clark— Emergency Preparedness Committee, Co-Chair

As I am writing this on August 2nd we have not yet had to get ready for a hurricane and I hope that our luck holds out for the entire hurricane season. But counting on luck is not part of being prepared, so we get ready to minimize to the best of our abilities the effect a storm will have on our lives and our community.

We still have the most active time of hurricanes ahead of us and should stay alert to the potential formation of storms in the Atlantic and Gulf. One of the best ways to do this is to utilize the WEB site of the National Hurricane Center which monitors storm activity and tracks the storm once it forms.

The Meadows is not in an evacuation zone, so if your home is properly prepared you should be able to ride out most storms without evacuating. If you do decide to leave, make certain you leave in plenty of time to avoid last-minute traffic and properly secure all potential objects outside of your home that could

be a projectile during the storm. If you are homebound with special needs you should evaluate how you would survive without electricity or other critical medical needs. If you feel you will need to go to a special needs or medically-dependent shelter you should register with County Emergency Management now so your special situation can be addressed. If you are on prescription medication, make sure you have enough on hand to last at least a week.

There are also important preparations that should be made by Meadow's residents who decide to stay home and ride out the storm. Outside furniture and flowerpots should be secured and enough non-perishable food and water should be planned to last three to four days.

A hand crank and solar powered weather radio, solar powered lanterns, led lanterns and a good supply of batteries is recommended. There should be some back-up charging solutions for your cell phones and this can

be accomplished by utilizing the cell charger ports on most cars today. You should not need to start your car to provide enough charge for a cell phone. Having a full tank of gas in your car or a full charge on your EV and a well stocked first aid kit is always a good idea.

One of the most important reasons for good preparation is because emergency services by the county are generally terminated when the winds exceed 45 miles per hour. The fact that emergency services won't come out in a storm emphasizes the need for all of us to stay until the weather service has declared the emergency over.

After the storm, the members of the Emergency Preparedness Committee through their system of Rangers and Leaders will patrol the neighborhoods and report the need for attention to fallen trees and other hazards. This information will be reported to the command center in the Meadows so that appropriate action can be initiated.

This is just a summary of some of the important things to think about when preparing for a hurricane but for a more detailed read the Disaster Planning Checklist which can be downloaded at tampabayprepares.org.

A special thank you goes out to the MCA staff and the volunteers of the Emergency Preparedness Committee for everything they do to keep us as safe as possible during an emergency. It is just another reason that we are lucky to live in a community like The Meadows.

Thank you.

SARASOTA COUNTY HURRICANE & DISASTER PLANNING BROCHURES

Disaster Planning Guides are located outside the Library at the MCA.



SCAM ALERT

HOMEOWNERS BEWARE

Tia Calomeris— MCA Director, Marketing & Communications

Florida is among the most desirable places to live in the country. Fourteen Florida cities made the new 2023-2024 list of the 150 Best Places to Live in the U.S. by U.S. News & World Report. Sarasota ranked #5. The Meadows ranked #6 on the hottest places to live by Redfin in 2021-2022. With the popularity of Florida growing, it is ripe for vacation rental scammers and a headache for homeowners. When a home goes on the market in The Meadows, it gets attention because it's a great place to live. It's important to be aware, vigilant, and know what to look for in these types of scams.

Scammers frequently post phantom property rental ads on Craigslist or social media to lure in unsuspecting renters, sometimes using fake photos or images from other listings advertising homes for sale. When people interested in rentals stop by, the unsuspecting homeowners learn it has been posted. These types of scams are on the rise. They have become bolder by creating website pages that mimic popular vacation or rental sites. Hijacking photos and descriptions of properties and placing their contact information, is an easy and more common these days. The scammers, who have no connection to the property or its owner, will ask for an upfront payment to let you see the property or hold it as a deposit. In reality, they're just looking to get quick cash through nefarious means — and they often succeed.

Rental scams are alarmingly common. In fact, the problem is so prevalent that there's a section of the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) website dedicated to rental-listing fraud. The FBI issued a warning about a spike in scams targeting bargain-hunting rental shoppers in July 2023. It was recently reported that more than \$396 million was lost in 2022 with rental rip-offs.

KNOW THE MCA RULES RELATED TO RENTALS

Make sure you review The Meadows Community Association documentation related to the rules regarding rentals. It is located on the website under DOCUMENTS/Governing documents/MCA Master Association – *Additional Rights & Use Restrictions – Single-family Homes, not in mandatory HOA other than MCA – Paragraph 9w, 12/12/2016(w)*. See the box highlighted below for the amendment.

HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

The FTC recommends that renters educate themselves about potential scams when looking for a new place. It also urges renters to do their research and get all terms and details of their transaction in writing. Scammers rely on their victims' lack of information to steal money and personal information.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR

As a general rule, be suspicious of anyone who asks for a cash deposit upfront to see a property. Don't do it.

- **Rent from a reputable management company**—Ensure you're dealing with the real property owner before negotiating rental terms or seeing a property in person.
- Try searching the local property appraiser's website to find out who the current property owner is and look for contact information online.
- **Do the research**—Try a reverse image search. This can be done by using the Google App and clicking the camera icon near the search bar. Take a photo of the image, the platform will pull images it seems are visual matches. The search engine will find the website featuring the image you searched on.
- **Never deal in cash**—Use a check, never cash, to make any payment so you have an automatic receipt of it
- **Pay attention to suspicious behavior**—It's suspicious if they ask for a credit check fee, deposit or rent up front before you've seen the property.
- **Suspicious listing**—Look for typos, a lack of basic language skills, unusual email addresses (check the email provider) also look for ad email addresses and incorrect property information.
- **If someone claims to be a real estate agent**, ask to see their license and take a picture of it so you can confirm the information online through your state's division of real estate licensing,
- Skip listings that look suspicious or are priced below market.
- **Trust Your Gut**—If it doesn't feel right . . . don't do it.

HOW TO REPORT REAL ESTATE SCAMS

Many real estate and rental scam victims are too embarrassed to file complaints, making it harder to catch the scammers who repeatedly victimize unwitting homeowners, homebuyers and renters, Opperman says. If you believe you're being targeted, or already have been, it's important to take steps to notify the proper authorities:

- The best place to start is with the FTC. When you file a report with the agency online, it's entered into a database that reaches local, state and federal law enforcement agencies.
- You can also file a complaint with the BBB's Scam Tracker, which will help notify others about potential fraud activities.
- For a better chance at connecting with an individual to hear your story, consider contacting your state's consumer protection agency as well.
- If you have already fallen victim to a scam, you will likely need to do more than simply file a complaint — particularly if you've handed over any private information. IdentityTheft.gov is the government's online portal for anyone who is worried that a criminal is acting in their name.

Additional Rights & Use Restrictions Single-family Homes, not in mandatory HOA other than MCA – Paragraph 9w, 12/12/2016(w)

Single-family homes, not in mandatory homeowner associations other than The Meadows Community Association, Inc. (MCA), shall not be rented for periods less than two (2) months, and shall not be rented more than two (2) times in any twelve month period. Home exchanges and friends using the home are exempt from this restriction.

Check with your HOA or Condo property manager for rental restrictions.



playing safe

HEAT-INDUCED EMERGENCIES

Phillip Lederer, MA— Sarasota Memorial Hospital

How to recognize and respond to heat-induced emergencies
Every year, more than 700 people in the United States die due to intense heat and heat-related conditions such as heat stroke. And as we hit the hottest parts of the summer months, it's important to stay cool, stay hydrated and stay aware of the warning signs of heat stroke and heat exhaustion. This can be especially important for the very young and adults older than 65, as well as those taking certain medications.

HEAT STROKE

Heat stroke is a life-threatening condition where the body overheats quickly and loses the ability to control its temperature. When this happens, a person's temperature can rise to 106°F or higher in 10-15 minutes. Without emergency treatment, heat stroke can cause permanent disability and even death.



SYMPTOMS OF HEAT STROKE & WHAT TO DO

- Call 911 immediately!
- Move the person to a shaded, cool place and remove outer clothing
- Lower their temperature with a cold water or ice bath. If not available, wet their skin and soak their clothes with cold water and lay cold wet cloths on their skin
- Keep the air around them circulating

HEAT EXHAUSTION

Heat exhaustion occurs when the body overheats and loses too much water and salt, such as through excessive sweating. Heat exhaustion is easily preventable and treatable but, if untreated, can easily progress into life-threatening heat stroke. It most often affects the elderly and those with high blood pressure.

PREVENT HEAT EXHAUSTION & HEAT STROKE

It doesn't take much to protect yourself against heat exhaustion and heat stroke, and a little common sense goes a long way.

- Drink plenty of water (and go easy on the alcohol)
- Rest often and cool off in the shade
- Wear loose-fitting and light clothing
- Avoid activity during the hottest part of the day, if possible

SYMPTOMS OF HEAT EXHAUSTION

- High temperature
- Heavy sweating
- Headache and/or nausea
- Dizziness
- Irritability
- Weakness
- Thirst
- Decreased urine output



WHAT TO DO

- Move to a shaded, cool place and loosen clothing
- Place cold wet cloths on the skin or lower temperature with a cool bath
- Sip water or sports drinks
- Seek immediate medical help if vomiting or if symptoms get worse or last longer than one hour!

NEED ASSISTANCE?

If someone is suffering from heat stroke call 911 immediately.

For non-life-threatening injuries and conditions, seek medical attention.

Our Neighbors Safety

Michelle A. Johnston— MHOA, President

OUR NEIGHBORS SAFETY

Neighborhood safety is a team effort, but it starts with you. What can you do to make your neighborhood a safer place? Here are some simple tips.

Familiarizing yourself with neighbors can be a win-win situation. Offer yourself as a resource in case of emergencies or help needed on their end; some neighbors might reciprocate the offer. See if they're comfortable sharing their needs, especially if they live alone.

Just as neighborhood safety is essential to our individual well-being, the well-being of individuals is essential to our neighborhood safety. Consider ways that you can respectfully help members of your community.

There may be simple ways to work with your neighbors to address issues people may be having in simple ways that can make a big impact.

Researchers and criminologists at the University of Michigan School of Public Health found that streets where neighbors got to know each other saw increased rates of community engagement and decreased rates of crime. The MHOA also recognizes knowing neighbors is important and is encouraging block parties to encourage engagement.

The safety benefits of getting to know your neighbors include:

- Looking out for each other's properties and belongings.
- Knowing who is and is not home.
- Being aware of vacant residences when people move.
- Having more eyes on the street.
- Being notified if someone sees something dangerous happening to your home or yard.
- Having a place to go in an emergency.

As a bonus, familiarity between neighbors has been shown to boost feelings of happiness, belonging, and altruism.

Take the time to get to know your neighbors and consider creating a local network to share resources and information.

• Neighborhood upkeep signals that your community cares about their property and references a level of attention that translates into it not being a good target. Characters who are looking to commit crimes do NOT like observant communities.

• Planning get-togethers is a great way to get to know neighbors, like the Longleaf Woods and Hadfield Greene block parties.

• Arrange to go on walks together outside to enjoy The Meadows 14 miles of walking paths. Attend an MCA event with neighbor friends to build stronger community relationships. MHOA also has activities and meetings to keep our single-family homeowners well informed and connected.

• Developing a neighborhood calling tree for cases of emergency or for those that are seasonal. Its always good to keep up with what is going on in the neighborhood and check on the health and well being of our neighbors. While some may need a helping hand due to a recent accident or could use someone to talk to, they may not always reach out for help. Initiating a friendly call can make a big difference in someone's life.

• Encourage neighbors to report incidents both with the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office when appropriate or MCA. By reporting incidents, it helps MCA share with the community to increase awareness.

• Observant neighbors are a GREAT deterrent. Sometimes unwanted characters check out locations, they have criteria that makes for an easier target. If your neighborhood doesn't fit, they get discouraged and move on.

The stronger a community, is the safer it is.

For membership information contact meadowshomeownersmembership@gmail.com.

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HADFIELD GREENE

Patsy Westover— Hadfield Greene, Social Chairman



BLOCK PARTY

Hadfield Greene's monthly Block Party Celebration of their community.

MANNERS & SAFETY IN THE SKY

Dangerous behavior doesn't fly.

Tom Galbraith and Bob Williams—Expedia Cruises Sarasota

We can all contribute to a better and safer airline travel experience. Be considerate. Recognize everyone's safety lies in our ability to obey the rules and accept the authority of those charged with protecting us during our flight. Perhaps if that was the case, we would see less of these meltdowns on airplanes.

Friendly skies? Not so sure. Lately people have not only lost their manners, but basic safety awareness as well. Unruly passengers became a safety threat in 2021, and while the records high have dropped nearly 80%, these outbursts continue. Dangerous behavior doesn't fly. According to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), incidents where airline passengers have disrupted flights with threatening or violent behavior are an ongoing problem and airlines continue to see occurrences since 2021. Attempts to open the plane's door, screaming outbursts, claims of a non-human occupying the seat, have been seen on the news or YouTube, and some have experienced it firsthand. If you are faced with such an experience, discreetly ask the flight attendant to address it. Let the professionals do what they do best.

These disruptions are not only unnerving, it costs everyone valued time getting to the

destination and in some cases require significant intervention from authorities. In the interest of safety, bring your manners, pack your patience and be considerate. Leave the drama at home.

Here are some simple things that can be done to keep harmony flying high and the label of an unruly passenger off your forehead.

- Keep your political views to yourself, try not to talk too much or invade other people's space.
- Listen to the instructions given.
- It is best not to take off your shoes. Feet can be smelly when shoes are removed, so DON'T. Additionally, shoes have all sorts of debris on the bottom. Above all do NOT walk barefoot around the cabin of the plane. All sorts of things may lurk on the floor of the cabin, from broken glass, to blood, poop, vomit and nasty germs.
- Don't hog the overhead bins. If you see it's a full flight, your coat and smaller items should go under the seat in front of you, so people can get their carry-ons in the overheads.
- Greet the flight attendants, be pleasant. Be sensitive to your seatmate.
- Think before you recline. Check

whether the person behind you is tall, has a child on their lap, or is using the tray table for their laptop before you lie back.

- The unwritten rule is that the middle seat gets both armrests. The aisle and window each get their own armrest and room to lean over a little. Managing the invasion of your space can be done by asking nicely or saying excuse me.
- By far the most annoying thing on a flight is a rear seat kicker, even if he/she is a cute sweet child, it's not fun. Please help your children not to kick the seat, and if you are an adult, be considerate of others. Don't kick the seat.

AIRLINE DID YOU KNOWS

We all know of the extensive mental checklist we do before we travel. But have you ever stopped to think of basic things you should avoid while traveling? Here are a few to keep in mind.

- 1. DON'T EAT FOOD IF IT FELL ON THE TRAY TABLE.** There is no 5 second rule here. Stephen Morse, professor of epidemiology at Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health referenced a study that found the trays to carry an average of 2,155

colony-forming units of bacteria per square inch. While samples tested negative for potential infectious bacteria such as E. coli, it's best to steer clear of the tray.

- 2. DON'T TOUCH THE FLUSH BUTTON IN THE BATHROOM.** Use a paper towel to press the button and wash your hands thoroughly.
- 3. KEEP HYDRATED.** The air in the planes is known for its low humidity because the manufactured air mimics the highest altitude humans can breathe at usually between 6,000 and 8,000 feet according to the World Health Organization (WHO).
- 4. DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE AFTER YOU'VE TOUCHED YOUR SEAT.** If there was a blacklight to show the amount of germs on a seat, people would be alarmed. Avoid touching your face.
- 5. DON'T LINE UP FOR THE BATHROOM.** Waiting for the bathroom is not permitted or courteous to those passengers on the back of the plane. Just be observant and pick the proper time to make your way to the bathroom.

Be kind, tolerant, thoughtful of others and patient, so we can all reach our destinations safely.

Staying Safe This Hurricane Season

Roy Wysnewski — June & July Weather Analysis in The Meadows

JUNE & JULY RAINFALL & TEMPERATURE DATA

	JUNE	JULY
Rainfall for month:	4.08 inches	2.85 inches
Rainfall year-to-date:	11.90 in.	14.75 in.
25 yr. rainfall average:	8.64 in.	8.21 in.
Daytime high temperature:	93.8 F (normal: 91.0 F)	98.1 (normal: 92 F)
Above normal temperature days:	23	31
Record high-temperature days:	2	22

ARE YOU SAFE?

Last month, the emphasis was on preparation. Now, it's time to think about our personal safety. But, when it comes to our safety and well-being, it's not just hurricanes that concern us, it's the "heat" that we experience during the summer months of June- September. Excessive heat is reported to be the number-one weather-related cause of death in the United States. It kills more people in most years than hurricanes, tornadoes, and flooding combined.

There's no question that June and July 2023 were excessively warm. In fact, they were the warmest months (respectively) in the Meadows since record keeping began in 2014. Furthermore, both months are reported to have been the warmest months ever recorded globally!

The forecast for August, another "high-temperature" month, is for continued above-normal temperatures. When heat indices are forecast to be near, or exceed, 110 degrees Fahrenheit (F), stay indoors as much as possible and when venturing out, do so for a

short time and stay well-hydrated. -- Be safe!

Rainfall Analysis: The rainfall deficit pattern experienced earlier this year in February and March resumed bigtime in June and July. This deficit is so pronounced that The Meadows, as well as a large part of southwest coastal Florida, is reported to be in a level 3 "extreme drought" status! However, the deficit varied across our community as seen by these two station totals - MCA (Community Center) = 2.9 inches, and MEADOWS (John Spillane) = 4.6 inches.

Overall, June MCA rainfall was less than half-normal, while July numbers were even skimpier at 34% of normal.

Temperature Analysis: The big weather news in June and July was above normal temperatures with persistent, record-breaking temperatures in July. Phoenix, Arizona had their record thirty-one consecutive days in which temperatures exceeded 110 degrees F. By comparison, the Meadows, Florida experienced two noteworthy temperature records. First, there were twenty-two days

when a record high temperature-day was recorded. That's twice the number (11) of the previous record established in March of this year. Second, July is the first month in which every day of the month saw temperatures exceed the normal temperature for that date - a very unusual statistic!

Just how much did the temperature exceed normal in the two months? July was by far the warmest month with the average high temperature 6 degrees above normal. The temperature was 2 degrees above normal in June.

Other temperature statistics for June and July (combined) include 54 above normal high temperature days, and 24 record high temperature days.

Monthly rainfall and temperature data are presented in the two graphs.

HURRICANE SEASON ANALYSIS

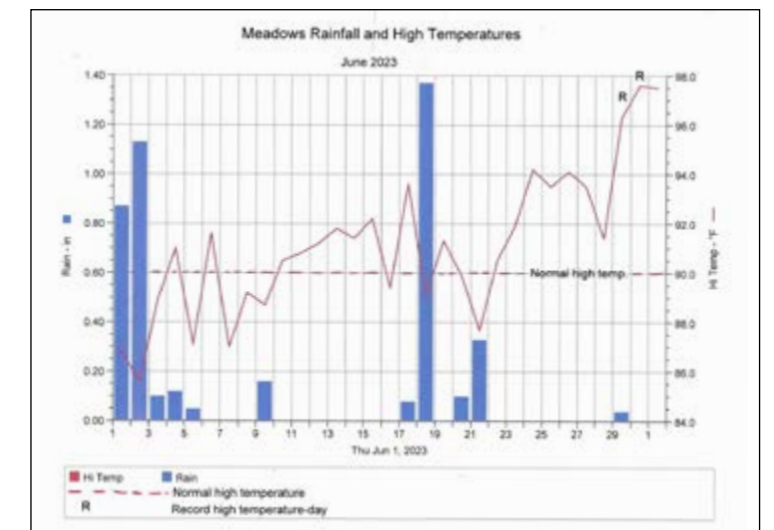
With sea water temperatures at

extremely high levels in the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Gulf of Mexico, forecasters at the Colorado State University (CSU) updated their original hurricane outlook to 18 named storms, nine hurricanes, four major hurricanes, and a 32% chance of a major hurricane hitting the U.S. Gulf Coast.

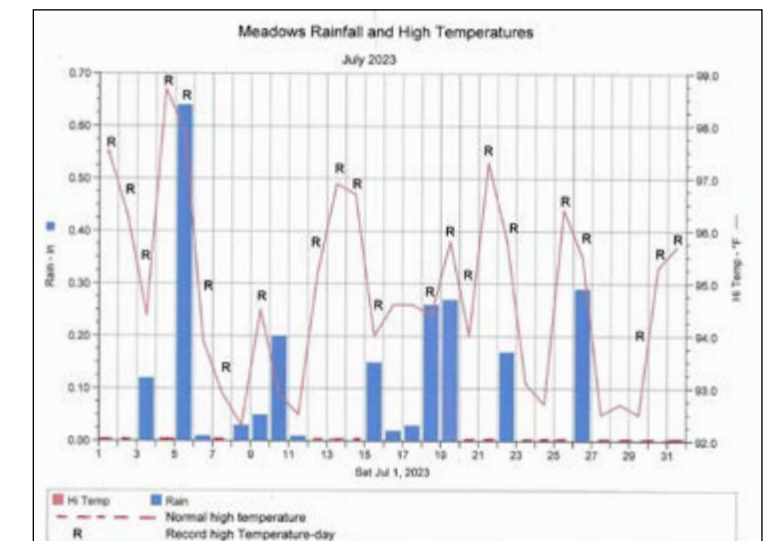
The 2023 hurricane season is off to a fast start. There have been four named storms since June 1st tropical storms Arlene, Bret, and Cindy in June, and Don in July. This number would likely have been higher had it not been for the early arrival of a strong El Niño event and a persistent Saharan dust cloud that extended across the Atlantic.

As the dust clouds abate in August, and water temperatures remain high, the potential for tropical cyclonic system development will increase significantly - despite a strong El Niño event!

Send comments & questions? Contact: roywys9@gmail.com.



MEADOWS RAINFALL AND HIGH TEMPERATURES JUNE 2023



MEADOWS RAINFALL AND HIGH TEMPERATURES JULY 2023

FOR INFORMATION ON HEAT-INDUCED EMERGENCIES, VISIT PAGE 8.

SEPTEMBER DAYS ARE HERE

September is all about change as it's when summer starts to fade away and fall begins its approach. If you are considering a change of scenery, lifestyle, or living quarters, I can help with that. Now is a great time to find a new home and change your surroundings.

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Safety Events and Presentations

2 PM SEPTEMBER 6



TRAVEL SAFETY FLYING THE FRIENDLY SKIES

Presented by Expedia Cruises & Travel Sarasota
Learn ways to make your next air travel experience safer and more pleasurable.

2 PM SEPTEMBER 12



NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY & IMPROVING SITUATIONAL AWARENESS

Deputy Brian Keane of The Sarasota Sheriff's Office will discuss community safety and situational awareness.

3 PM SEPTEMBER 13



STEPS TO WALKING SAFE

Presented by David Jackson.
Owner of Fleet Feet Sarasota as seen in Sarasota Magazine. Gain a better understanding of the steps necessary to improve walking safety both for health and, leisure purposes.

2 PM SEPTEMBER 18



DREAMS BUILT ON SAND: AVOIDING REAL ESTATE SCAMS

Jennifer Naylor of ReMax warns of the current real estate rental scams and how you can protect yourself when buying or selling a home.

2 PM SEPTEMBER 20 **STOP THE BLEED**



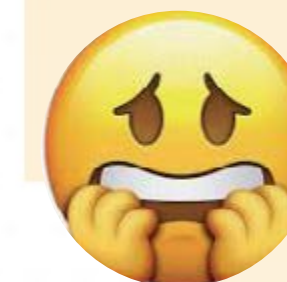
Presented by Casey Howell Trauma Injury Prevention Coordinator & Emergency Care and Trauma Resuscitation Nurse
Learn how to make a life-or-death difference when a bleeding emergency occurs.

8:30 AM SEPTEMBER 22 **MEADOWS BIKE SAFETY CLINIC**



Presented by the MCA, SCSO, FDOT and Florida Bicycle Association
Learn the proper safety procedures for operating your bicycle. Bike certification stations set up where cyclists will traverse a course and receive critique and adjustments for safe riding. Stations on helmet safety, rules of the road, proper bike fit, signals and more.

2 PM SEPTEMBER 29 **PLAY IT SAFE: DON'T LET ANXIETY STEAL YOUR HAPPINESS**



Presented by Carolyn McNulty
What is anxiety and learn ways to decrease your triggers and de-escalate with the 3-3-3 process.

PRACTICAL HOME SAFETY TIPS

IF YOU SEE SOMETHING SUSPICIOUS REPORT IT.

IF YOU FEEL YOU ARE IN DANGER CALL 911

NON-EMERGENCY SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE 941-316-1201

IF AN INCIDENT OCCURS CALL MCA SAFETY PATROL 941-809-0084

PROTECT AGAINST FIRE AND RELATED DANGERS

- If there is a fire in your home, don't try to put it out. Leave and call 911. Know at least two ways to get out of your home.
- When you're cooking, don't wear loose clothes or clothes with long sleeves.
- Replace appliances that have fraying or damaged electrical cords.
- Don't put too many electric cords into one socket or extension cord.
- Install a smoke detector and replace the battery twice a year.

AVOID BATHROOM HAZARDS

- Set the thermostat on the water heater no higher than 120 degrees F to prevent scalding.
- Have grab bars installed in the shower and near the toilet to make getting around easier and safer.
- Put rubber mats in the bathtub to prevent slipping.

PREVENT POISONING CARBON MONOXIDE

- Never try to heat your home with your stove, oven, or grill since these can give off carbon monoxide, a deadly gas that you cannot see or smell.

- Make sure there is a carbon monoxide detector near all bedrooms, and be sure to test and replace the battery twice a year.

MEDICATIONS

- Keep all medications in their original containers so you don't mix up medicines.
- Ask your pharmacist to put large print labels on your medications to make them easier to read.
- Take your medications in a well-lit room, so you can see the labels.
- Bring all of your pill bottles with you to your healthcare provider's appointments to

he or she can look at them and make sure you are taking them correctly.

- Never mix cleaning products like bleach, ammonia or other cleaning liquids together when you are cleaning. When mixed, cleaning liquids can create deadly gases.

GENERAL

- Always keep a list of emergency numbers by each phone. Write this information in large enough print that you can read it easily if you are in a hurry or frightened. Be sure to list numbers:
 - Emergency: 911
 - Poison Control: 1-800-222-1222

- Family member or friend to call in case of emergency.
- Healthcare provider's office.
- Keep your windows and doors locked at all times.
- Never let a stranger into your home when you are there alone.
- Talk over offers made by telephone sales people with a friend or family member.
- Do not share your personal information, such as social security number, credit card or bank information, or account passwords, with anyone.
- Always ask for written information about any offers, prizes or charities and wait to respond until you have

reviewed the information thoroughly.

- Do not let your self be pressured into making purchases, signing contracts, or making donations. It is never rude to wait and discuss the plans with a family member or friend.
- Don't rush to answer the phone. If its important they will call back, or you can return their call later.
- When walking on smooth floors, wear non-slip socks (if indoors only, or better yet footwear with non-slip bottoms.

SAVE THE DATE



1-on-1 check-up with a Trained CarFit Technician. Improve the "fit" of your vehicles for safety and comfort.

Developed with AAA, AARP, & the AOTA.

October 14 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM

To register call MCA 941-377-2300

MCA'S ANNUAL HALLOWEEN PARTY

Tickets \$15
Sign up on the MCA website
themeadowssarasota.org

Tuesday, October 31 | 6:00 - 8:30 PM

The Meadows Community Lifestyle and Wellness Facility (MCLWF)

Halloween Attire or Halloween Costumes.
DINNER | DESSERTS | DJ

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S
alzheimer's association

ALZHEIMER'S ISN'T STOPPING. NEITHER ARE WE.

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
JOIN TEAM MEADOWS
(THE MEADOWS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION)

WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S
NATHAN BENDERSON

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28
8 AM

SIGN UP ON THE MCA WEBSITE
themeadowssarasota.org
CONTACT SUE LYTTLE AT 941-377-2300

Back To School Drive Through September 15

Help our local elementary school children start the year off right. Collection box is located in the MCA Lobby

OPTIMUM HEARING CARE

PRESENTATION ON THE TRUTH BEHIND HEARING LOSS

Wednesday, September 6 • 3:30 pm
Sign Up on themeadowssarasota.org

MCA GAME NIGHT

DONT MISS THIS NEW EVENT

Teams play friendly feud, speed trivia, 20,000 pyramid, & 1 other choice.

WED, OCT 25 FROM 6-8 PM
\$5.00 PER PERSON

Sign Up on themeadowssarasota.org

ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Tuesday, September 5 • 6:30-7:30 PM

The Meadows Lifestyle & Wellness Facility

Sign Up on the MCA website
themeadowssarasota.org

MOVIE NIGHT
American Underdog

TUESDAY
SEPTEMBER 19
6 PM
MCA LAKESIDE RM

SARASOTA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

Free Flu Shots
No Insurance Card needed

Tuesday, October 3
10 am-2 pm
The Meadows Lifestyle and Wellness Facility

GET VACCINATED

SIGN UP ON THE MCA WEBSITE
themeadowssarasota.org

REMINDERS

The MCA Offices will be closed
in observance of Labor Day
Monday September 4.
The public side and library
will remain open.

CALL FOR CANDIDATES

Consider being a candidate for election to the 2024 MCA Board of Directors Helping to Make The Meadows THE Best Place to Live.

Any interested property owner may consider submitting an application as a candidate for election by Friday, October 6, 2023, by 3:00 pm. All candidates will need to complete a Personal Information Questionnaire. For more information, call the MCA at 941-377-2300.

BLOOD DRIVE

September 19
8 AM - 2 PM

MCA Parking Lot

Call 1-866-972-5663 to register.

ONSPOT DERMATOLOGY

September 13 • 8 - 3 PM
MCA Parking Lot

Call 941-444-0011 to schedule your appointment today!

Meadows Morning Coffee & Conversation

Friday September 1
8:30 - 9:30 AM

The Meadows Lifestyle & Wellness Facility
Sign Up on themeadowssarasota.org

ANNUAL ASSESSMENTS

Annual Assessments are mailed in January. **If you have an address change**, please contact MCA by email: mcaaccounting@meadowsca.com to ensure prompt delivery of your assessment no later than November 1st. Any changes made after that date will not take effect for the 2024 Assessment cycle.

OPTIMUM HEARING CARE

NEW HEARING CLINICS WITH OPTIMUM HEARING CARE!

Wednesday, September 13
9 am-11 am

Call for appt. 941-677-2660
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- Construction Clean-Up
- Light Demo & Removal
- Furniture Removal



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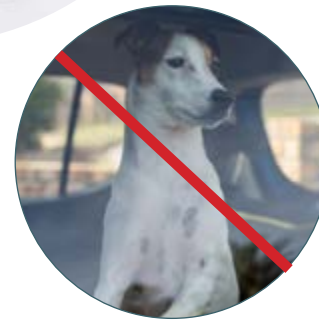
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Summertime heat can be dangerous to your dog. When the temperature rises to 95-degrees and above, just a simple walk down the street can lead to heat stroke.

There are a few things you can do to avoid this problem. First, plan to walk your dog early in the morning or after the sun goes down. If you do walk in the heat of the day, be sure to carry water for your pet and stop for breaks if your dog is panting uncontrollably.

If you are just starting your exercise routine, you need to build up to increase exercise slowly (just as you would for yourself).

A part of your dog that is often overlooked is the paw pads. Hot asphalt or cement can burn off the top of the pad, which is very painful. That is another reason to slowly build up an exercise program, which will allow the pads to toughen and withstand the scorching temperatures of the roads.

Never leave your dog in a car without air conditioning! Even

with the windows down, the temperature can rise rapidly, leading to the death of your beloved companion.

Even with these common-sense precautions, a dog can overheat. If he or she drops to the ground panting uncontrollably, they are obviously in trouble. Get your dog to a cool place immediately.

A dog's bodily temperature can rise rapidly, and brain damage can occur at 104-106 degrees (especially the longer they are at this high of a temperature). A cool water bath will help, but do NOT do an ice bath as this can cause the body temperature to drop too quickly, leading to other problems.

Take your dog immediately to continue treatment for heat stroke. Intensive care is extremely important to have a successful conclusion to this condition. Some dogs return to normal quickly, and unfortunately, some do not. The longer the dog stays at the elevated temperature, the less likely he or she will survive. The brain may ultimately be so damaged that humane euthanasia is the only option.



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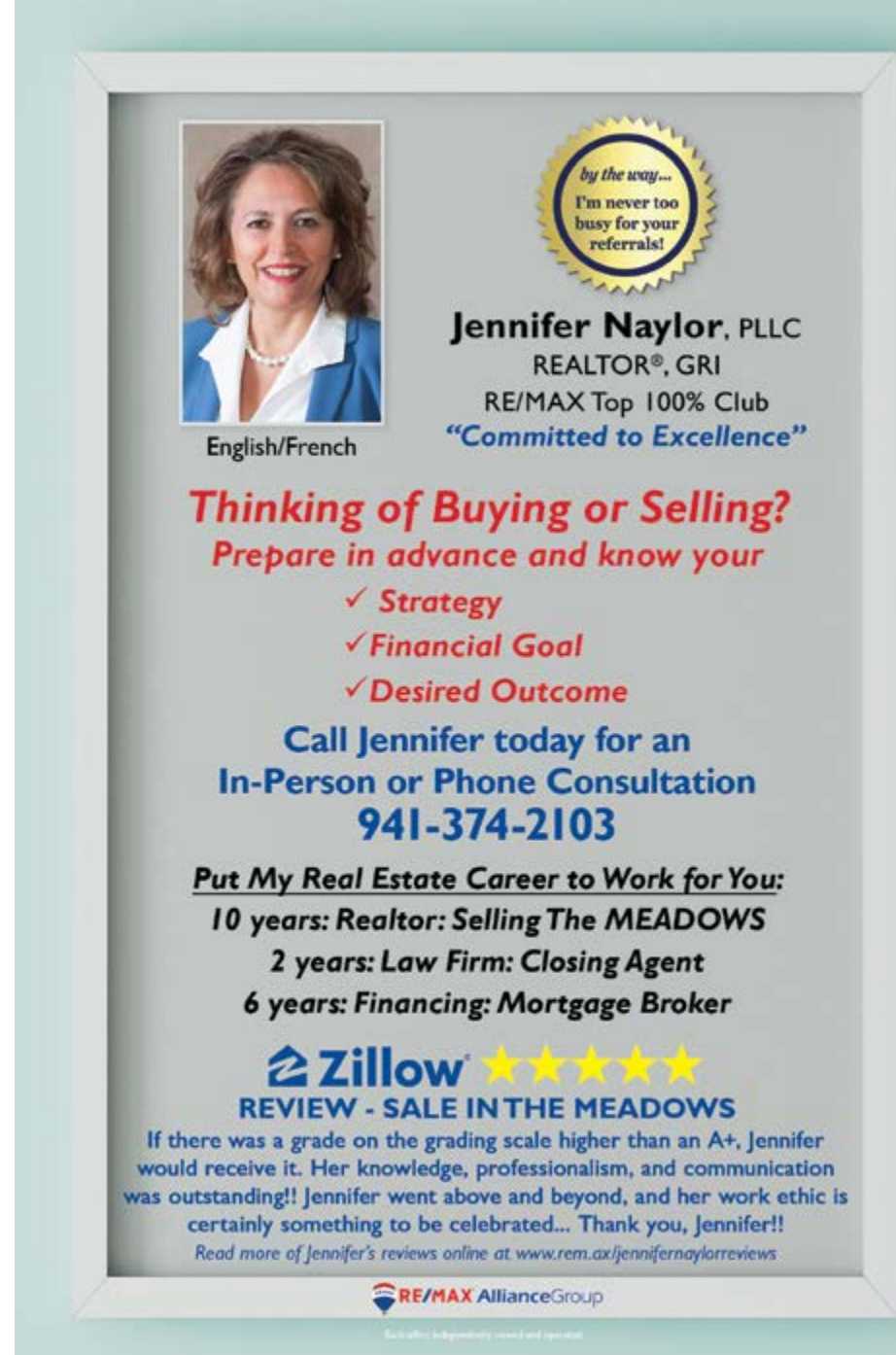



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 2 years: Law Firm: Closing Agent
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Zillow ★★★★★
 REVIEW - SALE IN THE MEADOWS

If there was a grade on the grading scale higher than an A+, Jennifer would receive it. Her knowledge, professionalism, and communication was outstanding! Jennifer went above and beyond, and her work ethic is certainly something to be celebrated... Thank you, Jennifer!!
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4056 Penshurst Park - Beautifully updated, spectacular pond and golf views \$645K
3425 Highlands Bridge Rd - Breathtaking lake views, 3BD+office pool home SOLD!

FOR SALE ELSEWHERE IN THE MEADOWS

5605 Pipers Waite - Spotless villa with spectacular pond and golf views Pending
3131 Windrush Bourne - Tranquil pond views from updated carefree villa \$399K
5130 Marsh Field Ln - Light, bright and spacious second-floor condo Pending
4600 Weybridge - First-floor end-unit, turnkey-furnished, lake and golf views SOLD!

FOR SALE IN THE SARASOTA METRO AREA

Downtown - Burns Court Villas, exclusive enclave in the heart of the city \$1.6M
Siesta Key - Stunning full gulf views, beachfront fun turnkey condo Pending
University Park - Stunning wide lake views, great-room plan pool home SOLD!
Palmer Ranch - Arthur Rutenberg masterpiece with stunning pond views SOLD!
Palmer Ranch - Pool home with privacy on spacious treed lot SOLD!
University Park - Easy-living 3BD/3BA pool home, convenient to the club SOLD!

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What did You Survive?

Liz Barnett— Memoir Group

“Wanna see me do a no-hands cartwheel?” cried my granddaughter. Before I could scream “NO,” she had launched herself. Surprisingly, she survived.

I congratulated her for completing what gymnasts call an “aerial” and grandmothers call terrifying. I wondered if the look on my face mirrored my grandmother’s expression on the day she looked out of her second-story window and was face-to-face with the 4 year-old me, sitting on a branch of her sugar maple tree. Grandma didn’t say much, but the next day I found that all the lower limbs had been cut off my favorite climbing tree. Of course, that didn’t stop me. My 7 year-old cousin and I spent days assembling various stacks of lawn furniture until we had made a precarious ladder that let us reach a branch. Surprisingly, we survived. Even though I eventually became more safety conscious, survival was in question the day my husband, Bob, and I were driving along behind

a pick-up truck. Even though the truck was heavily loaded, it was going pretty fast and we felt no need to even think of trying to pass it. Then it happened. All of a sudden, a couch that had been on top of the load, flew upward and back in an arc heading for the windshield of our car. My life didn’t flash before my eyes, but I did see a newspaper headline – Local Couple Killed By Flying Couch. Surprisingly, we survived. Bob swerved and the couch missed us by inches.

When I read Gretchen Cochran’s story of Michigan vacations, I realized that many of us have survival stories. Moreover, these memories aren’t just the stuff of nightmares, they are part of what made us the people we have become and part of what makes a place become home. I’ll bet you have a survival story that should be preserved and shared. Why don’t you join us on Zoom to share it with us? Email us at meadowmemoirs21@gmail.com for more information.

Déjà vu

By Gretchen Cochran

Something about northern Michigan captured the fancy of the Elliott clan. Most summers, from the time I was a toddler to a high school graduate, we spent a few weeks there. Now, many decades later, I have found my way back, sharing the home of Karl Bohnhoff that he built in the same woods that had embraced me as a growing girl.

My family had fled there to escape hay fever season in early September. One specific area drew us in, the rolling hills on the 45th parallel, midway between the equator and the North pole. It was there the terrain, the light, the air, the trees changed. From Clare on, as far as you could see the roadway was lined with sky-high pines punctuated with white birch bark tree clusters. Sprinkled through them were the deciduous trees that in the fall changed their

clothing, from varying shades of green, to the hues of autumn: blazing orange, shimmering gold, red. The mid-day temperature dropped by 10 or 20 degrees.

We stopped near Clare for a picnic, then continued north. Over the years, we stayed at Otsego Lake, Elk Lake Inn, Chubb Lake and from time to time dined at the Sugar Bowl Restaurant in Gaylord and Hidden Valley Country Club, now called Otsego Country Club, on the outskirts. Mother and Daddy told of staying at a large log cabin on Otsego Lake when I was two years old. Somehow, I had gotten burned on a large pot-bellied stove. I have no memory of it, but the incident apparently terrified my mother.

Our family’s summer vacations were delayed to the last minute



due to hay fever season, at its peak in late August. Daddy was highly allergic to ragweed and golden rod frequently seen along the sides of the road. But the first frost, coming

earlier in northern Michigan than in Toledo, neutralized the pollen. So, in early September we headed for two weeks to the North Woods, often requiring special permission from our schools where classes would have already begun.

Packing for 14 days for two parents and three kids was an event. Mother seemed to think we needed new clothes for school each year so there were annual shopping trips. Those items, including new shoes, became our vacation clothes, particularly at dinner time.

We trekked to Elk Lake Inn several

years in a row. Elk Lake is wedged midway between Traverse City and Gaylord, Michigan and just a few miles from the more famous Torch Lake. At one end was the inn, a large log cabin with living room and big-enough-to-sit-in stone fireplace, and spacious dining room on the first floor with bedrooms on the floors above. A stairway descended to one end of the dining room. We ate our meals together with all the other guests there.

Stepping down that stairway, clad in new clothes and even new shoes, into a dining room of diners, felt special.

The inn was on the edge of a cow farm, and we were free to roam, heaven for a city girl. I learned if I timed it well, I could be there when the cows were heading for the barn and pretended I was herding them. A narrow, planked trail tip-toed through the nearby shadowed forest, a mix of hard woods and

Déjà vu *continued*

pinetrees, redolent of sap and wet leaves.

The opposite direction was the lake edge and the boathouse. Attached to it was a large, wooden-floored ballroom space. A jukebox in the corner played big band music of the time like Glenn Miller’s Orchestra and Benny Goodman’s, tantalizing dream-fodder for a pre-teen.

In my high school years, we went to a friend’s large cabin on Chubb Lake. Instead of turning left off then-M27 (now I-75), we turned right to find it. Ours was the only place on the lake then, now urbanized with rinky-dink cabins atop one another. That’s the place where Daddy accidentally hit David in the face with an ax while chopping wood. Thankfully the ax struck his cheek bone and did not do the horrifying damage we feared. It’s also where I got a treble fishhook wedged into my hand.

Fishhook injuries are common in that vacation land, we were told at the little hospital in Gaylord. The doctor pushed the hook in a bit further to reveal the nasty, rusty barb then clipped it off. He then slipped the hook out the way it had entered. A tetanus shot and bandage applied, and we were on

our way.

The worst thing that happened there was when David and I were out on the water in a row-boat-sized craft, powered with a tiny, gasoline-filled engine. We knew we were to check the place where the motor was attached to the boat to be sure it was correct but, in our haste to get out on the water, we did not.

We headed out to the middle of the small lake, absorbing the solitude out on the water surrounded only by forest and untamed animals. We caught our breath as an eagle flew above when suddenly, the motor stopped. Actually, only the sound stopped. The motor had jumped off the boat and was powering itself to the unknown depths of the bottom of the lake. We hung over the side, watching bubbles bubbling to the surface. I wanted to jump in to get it. We were going to be in big trouble when we returned to the cabin, we knew. But because the gas tank was the heaviest part of the motor, the motor flipped over, tank down, and the propeller was at the top, driving the motor ever deeper. We could not grab it without the blades damaging our hands.

I still have nightmares with that helpless feeling. Perhaps Daddy felt

our remorse. He did not punish us. In fact, he said nothing which was almost worse.

College, marriages, children and a career deterred me then from northern Michigan for more than 60 years. I lived then in Lansing, Michigan and met Karl Bohnhoff on a dating app. There was much I loved about him and believed we could make a good life together. When he invited me to head north with him to spend the weekend at his place he had built years before, I was pleased and worried.

All the way driving north he described Lakes of the North, the place where he and his family had had a “cottage” for 30-some years. It was a residential community built around two lakes, a golf-course and a runway. The more he talked about it, the more it sounded like a closed suburban community, the greater my fear grew.

What if it was a gated community, the kind with iron gates that slide closed to keep “those people” out, the sort of place with restrictive covenants crafted for selected classes and colors. The more we drove north, and he lovingly spoke of the place he had presided over for 10 years off and on as president,

the more my stomach knotted. But then we got to Clare, where that other Michigan bowed, where the air is cooler, and the pine trees embrace.

“I know this place,” I thought. Before long we got to Waters, turned off the interstate, and headed down a two-lane road for 20 minutes to the entrance to Lakes of the North. There was no gate. Signs welcomed visitors. And we got to his “cottage,” a two storied home with nice but not fancy accoutrements, tucked into the woods like it grew there.

The deal was sealed. My last reservations were allayed. My childhood summer trips are now five-month vacations. I pass Otsego Lake on my way to the Gaylord grocery store, and Chubb Lake on my way to the pottery studio where I work with clay. On our way to Traverse City where we make monthly visits for big-city purchases, we pass the sign pointing to Elk Lake.

It is simply unimaginable that after all that time, I could find this man and this place so much a part of my DNA. I have come full circle.

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Median Sale Price	↓\$342,450 \$352,500	↓\$450,000 \$460,000
Condominium Sales	12023 (13) 2022 (26)	12023 (408) 2022 (469)
Med Condo Sale Price	↓\$315,000 \$341,760	↓\$393,625 \$401,000
House Sales	2023 (01) 2022 (01)	12023 (641) 2022 (814)
Med House Sale Price	↑\$109,7500\$825,000	↑\$491,000 \$490,000
For sale on the 31st	12023 (32) 2022 (07)	12023 (2207) 2022 (1068)
Property Pending	12023 (17) 2022 (27)	12023 (1269) 2022 1349)
Listing Supply	12023 (2.3) 2022(0.3)	12023 (2.1) 2022 (0.8)

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USA	\$24.00
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MEADOWD DEADLINES

The deadline for advertising and article insertions into *The Meadowd* is the first Monday, one month prior to the month of insertion.

The deadline for the October *Meadowd* is Friday, September 1, due to the holiday on Monday September 4.



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Submissions are published at the discretion of the editor and the MCA.

Classified ads cost \$25 for up to 40 words. Classified copy must be submitted with payment on or before the first Monday of the month prior to publication. If the first Monday falls on a holiday, ads are due the previous business day. Please practice due diligence when hiring service providers.

Meadoword

The Meadows Community News and Lifestyle



September 2023 Calendar

DATE	TIME	EVENTS/MEETING	
September 1	8 – 3 PM	Back-to-School Supply Drive	MCA
		Continues through 15th	
	8:30 AM-9:30 AM	Meadows Morning Coffee & Conversation	MCLWF
		Step Into Health—Walk-Fit Challenge Begins	MCA
September 5	6:30-7:30 PM	Ice Cream Social	MCA
September 6	2 PM	Travel Safety – Fly the Friendly Skies	MCLWF
	3:30 PM	The Truth About Hearing Loss	MCLWF
	6:30-7:30 PM	Bingo	MCA
September 7	1-4 PM	Electronic Tutor	MCA
September 12	2 PM	Neighborhood Safety & Situational Awareness	MCLWF
September 13	8 AM – 3 PM	OnSpot Dermatology	MCA
	9-11 am	Optimum Hearing Care Screening Clinic	Garden/ Sunroom
	3 PM	Steps To Walk Safe	MCLWF
September 14	1 – 3 PM	MCA Board Meeting	MCLWF
September 18	2 PM	Dreams Built on Sand Avoiding Real Estate Scams	MCLWF
September 19	8 AM - 2 PM	Blood Drive	MCA
	6 PM	Movie Night – American Underdog	MCA
September 20	2 PM	Stop The Bleed	MCLWF
September 22	8:30 – 10 AM	Bike Safety Clinic	MCLWF Lot
September 29	2 PM	Don't Let Anxiety Steal Your Happiness	MCLWF

All MCA activities, clubs and social groups meet at the Meadows Community Association Building (MCA), located at 2004 Longmeadow, unless otherwise noted.
MCLWF = Meadows Community Lifestyle & Wellness Facility, 3350 Longmeadow
MCA = Meadows Community Association Building, 2004 Longmeadow

CLUBS & SOCIAL GROUPS

Drop in Art Studio

Melinda Gordon
mpgordan@gmail.com
Every Thursday 10:00 AM – 12 PM

Bike Club

Janet Schmidt
jlschmidt_74@yahoo.com
Every Wednesday 9 AM
Meets at Meadows Pub

Bingo

Agnes Rutushni
RSVPBingo@yahoo.com
1st Wednesday of the month
6:30 PM

Bridge-Wednesday

Susan Ritchay
susanritchay70@gmail.com
Every Wednesday 1 – 3:30 PM

Bridge-Friday

John Harwood
jharwood222@verizon.net
Every Friday 12:30 – 3 PM

Bridge Saturday Duplicate

Dot Boulia
mcaduplicate@gmail.com
Date/Time varies

Book Club

Joanne Simons
703-798-7330
Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, 2 PM

Canasta: Hand & Foot

Debra Ashenofsky
wheresmamamia@gmail.com
Every Friday 1:15 – 5 PM

Cornhole

Susan Weisse
cbweisse@yahoo.com
Every Thursday 3 – 5 PM

Craft Group

Gayle Kroll
Gkroll03@icloud.com
Every Wednesday 9 – 11 AM

Game Night

Pat Webster
mi2tail4u@gmail.com
Every Thursday 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Garden Club

Melanie Babineau
mbabineau50@gmail.com
Monthly, 1st Thursday 2 – 3 PM

Hot Stove League

Mark Pienkos
markpienkos2012@gmail.com
Monthly, 2nd Tuesday 9 – 11 AM

Knit Happens

Vicki Carey
vickidon1989@gmail.com
Monthly, 2nd Monday 1 – 3 PM

Mah Jongg

Elizabeth Williams
themedowsmahjongg@gmail.com
Every Monday 9 AM – 12 PM

Meadowlarks

Michael Bruno
michaelbruno@verizon.net
2nd & 4th Fridays of each month
10 AM – 12 PM

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Cindy Rubin
meadowschorusinc@gmail.com
Every Thursday 7 – 9 PM

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Adam Lawall
saltyadam@gmail.com
Every Tuesday 1 – 3 PM
Meets at MCA Pond

Memoirs

Liz Barnett
meadowsmemoirs21@gmail.com
Meets 1st & 3rd Friday
10 AM – 12 PM

Pieceful Quilting & Needlepoint

Marge Erasmus
margareterasmus@gmail.com
Every Saturday 9 AM – 12 PM

Shalom Club

Helen Stone at Heleuri@gmail.com
or Joni Cohen at
Joni.Cohen2@gmail.com
Every 4th Sunday at 3 PM



2023 Fall Best Kept Awards Season to Refresh

Judging October 2-4

Community Pride and Curb Appeal require planning and participation by all of us. Nominees are evaluated by the following criteria:

Refresh with High Standards of Property Maintenance

- Power wash driveways and roofs.
- Keep lawns edged, mowed and without weeds or bare spots.
- Trim trees and vegetation. Replace if needed.
- Clean and paint entrance signs.
- Repair and replace decayed wood on signs.
- Clean your lights.
- Plant flowers for color and mulch.

Plan to do your part to be Best Kept.

First Place Winners \$100 | Runner-Up Winners \$50

Lesley Totten, Chair