

# Meadoword

The Meadows Community News and Lifestyle



PRESORTED  
STANDARD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
PERMIT #1  
MANASOTA, FL

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INTO

Spring  
Craft &  
Bake

**GARAGE SALE**

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HAZARDOUS  
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Drop-Off

COMMUNITY  
NEWS  
2-7

OUR  
LIFESTYLE  
8-18

ACTIVITIES, EVENTS  
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8-9

MEMOIR &  
BOOK PREVIEW  
20-21

SERVICES &  
CLASSIFIEDS  
22-23



Marilyn Maleckas —  
MCA Board President

## Spring into Action

*“Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action. These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud.”*

— Helen Dyer

With “season” in full swing, there is excitement and vibrancy in every corner of The Meadows. From the Meadows Community’s Pickleball Courts to the vast array of social, educational and entertainment venues created and implemented by our Lifestyle Manager, **Sue Lytle**, the MCA’s staff and supported by enthusiastic volunteers. Residents and visitors alike can enjoy cooking lessons, book club reviews, Hot Stove League dialogues, dining, security and safety tips, exercise classes, water aerobics, golf, tennis, library access, bridge, services from Sarasota in Motion Health Bus, pickleball of course and so much more.

Without leaving The Meadows, Renaissance Access Cardholders can enjoy ordering the delicious Take Out-To Go offerings available from the Country Club. It is as easy as calling in your order (941 377-2300 between the hours of 11:00 AM and 4:00 PM, then stop by the Club from 5:00 on to pick it up and enjoy at home. Even better, utilize your card to enjoy indoor or outdoor dining in the Fountain View Lounge for lunch. or on Tuesdays for a burger night dinner. Other evenings, residents and visitors can enjoy dining at one of the

restaurants in the Meadows Village Center as well.

There are engaging opportunities available on many committees which are fun and provide the opportunity for socialization, creativity, community recognition and collaboration in make The Meadows a great place to live. Volunteer support for activities and events is always welcome. Sue is looking for volunteers to: welcome guests to events, support pre-event details, and post-event clean up, assistance in making décor, and registration check-in.

If gardening, caring for plants and landscaping is your passion, you will enjoy the many varied activities of the Garden Club with its trips to nurseries, lectures from Sarasota’s most knowledgeable County and business resources as well as organizing events for all the Club’s members to enjoy.

One of our most popular committees, as judged by the residents’ excitement and gratitude for being selected to receive property improvement awards is the Best Kept Committee. If collaborating with an enthusiastic team of residents selecting the properties to receive

these awards if of interest, call MCA 941-377-2300, to learn more.

There are many varied opportunities to get involved in other activities and Clubs including the Bike Club, Art Studio, Book Club, Bingo, several Bridge Club opportunities, Canasta, Corn Hole, Crafts, Garden Club, Knitting, Mah Jongg, Meadows Chorus, Meadows Sailing Association, Memoirs, Quilting and Needlework and the Shalom Club.

The Meadows is especially grateful to all the volunteers for their many contributions to such a positive lifestyle here. We are especially proud of the volunteers in the Craft Group whose artistic unique handmade gifts and delicious baked goods are purchased each year, at the November and Spring Craft and Bake Sales. They ended 2023 by donating \$9,600 in revenue from their spring and fall sales to four local charities – Baby Basics, Resurrection House, Safe Place and Rape Crisis Center (SPARCC) and The Haven.

The new year brings forth plenty of new opportunities for residents to get involved. Each month, the back page of The Meadoword contains the full listing of MCA Clubs and the contact information.

### 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.





Frances Rippondi —  
MCA General Manager

# HUMAN NEGLIGENCE RESULTS IN ALLIGATOR REMOVAL



Construction of new homes and buildings and destruction of wildlife habitats seems to be a theme throughout Florida. As construction booms, and Florida experiences increasing habitat loss, now more than ever wildlife species are being displaced looking for a new place to call home.

With The Meadows having an abundance of trees, over 50% open space, and 85 ponds, it's no wonder that we have a diverse wildlife population including birds, gators, racoons, fish and even occasional bobcats and coyotes. Many of these displaced species are now being forced to adapt to urban conditions, increasing their visibility in the landscape and piquing curious spectators' interest.

It is not uncommon to see residents photographing or watching gators standing on a lake bank edge or walking their dogs close to a pond, putting themselves and their pet at risk. When human interaction collides unexpectedly with an alligator or other wildlife, the result can be tragic.

To stay safe and co-exist in an environment with alligators and wildlife, it is our responsibility to follow the rules, keep a safe distance, and have a healthy respect for these creatures so no harm comes to you or them.

On February 2, 2024, the MCA had to ask Florida Fish and Wildlife to send a trapper to remove a gator from a Meadows pond, something we have done only rarely in the past. This mother gator fell victim to being trapped and removed because construction workers had repeatedly fed her and her young while the workers were on site. When the MCA was made aware of the human interaction with the gators, we intervened and the feeding ended.

However, due to its conditioning to expect food when a passer-by walked near the pond, the female gator would swim directly towards the person looking for a handout. This gator had lost her fear of humans. We had no choice but to remove her, as she was showing signs of aggression. This was a sad situation and is the reason it is against the law to feed alligators.

### IT IS AGAINST THE LAW TO FEED ALLIGATORS

Florida state law makes it a crime to harass or feed an alligator. Anyone caught is subject to a \$500 fine and/or 60 days in jail. Biologists who study wildlife report that alligators involved in human attacks are usually ones that have become accustomed to people, usually by being fed.

In addition to alligators, it is against the law in Florida to feed almost any kind of wildlife. The law even prohibits throwing food into any body of water where it can be eaten by freshwater fish. It is legal to have a bird feeder in your backyard, but remember the seed droppings from a bird feeder can attract rats, creating a number of other problems.

The state of Florida is so concerned about human behavior turning wildlife into nuisance animals it even provides penalties for the unintentional feeding of coyotes and bears. So, if you don't want to see one of our alligators removed and sold for its meat and hide, resist the urge to do anything that would make them attracted to humans.

Gators removed from ponds don't get relocated to other ponds or

communities or set free in the wild. They are trapped, loaded into the back of a trailer (often with other gators whose feet and snouts have been taped), and are taken to be slaughtered to suffer a most unfortunate death.

On occasion there is a good ending to a story that typically would be otherwise. This time the trapper determined that the mother gator was a large reproductive female and would be worth more to him if he sold her alive to an alligator farm for breeding, versus euthanizing and selling her for meat – however, this is a rare outcome.

### CO-EXISTING WITH WILDLIFE

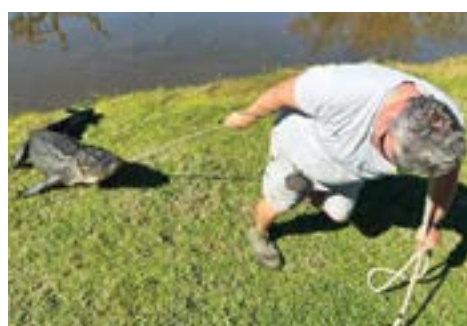
There are an estimated 1.25 million alligators that live in Florida spanning over 67 counties. It is not a surprise with that many gators that wherever there is a water body, a gator may be present. Throughout Florida, including here in The Meadows, always be alert when approaching lakes, ponds, rivers, marshes, swamps and man-made canals. The easiest way



to stay safe is to know the facts and follow the law.

- Never feed a gator, it's against the law.
- Keep your distance, it's the smart thing to do.
- Keep pets on a leash away from lake bank edges because they can resemble an alligator's prey.
- Stay away from water at night and definitely keep a distance during alligator breeding season.
- Gator mating season is just around the corner. Courtship begins in April and mating occurs in May or June. During this time gators are more active and are likely to roam from pond to pond searching for a mate.

When the MCA is notified about a gator that is basking on a lake bank edge close to pathways (doing what gators do when there is a chill in the air), we do our best to add additional signage stating, "Be Alert Active Alligator." Please heed the warning, walk farther away from the pond edge, and keep control of your pets on leash. The Meadows does not contain a particularly large number of alligators, but remember, gators may exist in all our ponds regardless if there are extra precautionary signs or not. **So, Stay Alert and enjoy these magnificent creatures from a distance. And never, ever feed a wild alligator. You could be sentencing it to death by doing so.**







Tom Bondur—  
Standards  
Committee, Chair

## Springtime in The Meadows



The first day of spring is Tuesday, March 19. It marks the spring (vernal) equinox- the time when the northern hemisphere begins to tilt toward the sun- making days longer and nights shorter.

During this change of seasons, nature begins to emerge from the dormant state induced by cold weather. Flowers bloom, leaves sprout, and alligators start looking for mates. Be extra careful on your walks along the shorelines of our numerous lakes.

If you are behind schedule doing winter yard cleanup- trimming trees and pruning bushes- now is the time to catch up before it gets too hot. Remember last summer?

If you have oak trees on your property, springtime is when these majestic, evergreen trees shed their leaves and grow new foliage at the same time. Cleaning up a continuing cascade of leaves and acorns falling on your roof, gutters, and walkways can be a daunting task. The abundance of acorns makes the squirrels happy, but those of us doing yard work are happier when the cycle ends.

While you are up on the ladder cleaning out your gutters, inspect your roof for broken, missing, and loose tiles or shingles. Repair any potential roof leaks before the rainy season begins. Now is the time to pressure wash roofs that are blackening from mold or covered in pine needles, oak leaves, or other debris. A long, telescoping pole is a useful tool for pulling debris from roofs without the hazard of climbing a ladder. You can also use it to clean hard-to-reach windows and eaves.

Inspect exterior walls for deteriorating paint and cracks in masonry. Touch up and repair as needed. Re-caulk windows and doors. Inspect, repair, or replace damaged window and pool cage screens.

Inspect the attic for signs of leaks or pests. Install bait boxes around the perimeter of your house to reduce vermin populations. Look for signs of termite infestation, such as pin holes in drywall, droppings (frass), swarms of flying insects, or mud tubes along walls or foundations. Install bait stations around the perimeter of your home to prevent subterranean termites from penetrating the house.

Fertilize lawn, shrubs, and trees to prepare for summer growth. Sarasota County restricts the use of fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorous during the rainy season between June 1 and September 30. The ban reduces the risk of runoff washing into watershed areas

where it eventually flows into lakes, creeks, rivers, and the gulf. Pollution from these fertilizers can contribute to algae blooms and decrease oxygen levels in water, killing fish and other aquatic creatures.

Check your irrigation system. Run the system manually through all zones and walk the property to identify broken or damaged sprinkler heads. Adjust the spray so that it doesn't fall on windows, walls, walkways, or streets to avoid wasting water or causing moisture problems.

Finally, schedule a professional HV/AC inspection before the hot weather begins. Make sure the technician cleans or replaces air filters, cleans drain lines to prevent clogs, and checks refrigerant levels to ensure there are no leaks. A residential HV/AC system should be serviced semi-annually at best, annually at a minimum. Install an ultraviolet light in the unit to prevent the growth of microorganisms, mold, and mildew in ducts to eliminate potential health problems and unpleasant odors.



### JANUARY APPROVED ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS

3420 Longmeadow  
4333 Highland Oaks Cir  
4084 Lyndhurst Ct  
2831 Springlake Ct  
4974 Waterbridge Down  
5055 Marshfield Rd  
4921 Rutland Gate  
5292 Everwood Run  
Stratfield Park HOA  
4470 Highland Oaks Cir  
2773 Horseshoe Ct  
3105 Ringwood Meadow  
4724 Greencroft Rd  
2813 Taywood Meadow  
4319 Woodmans Chart  
3192 Windrush Bourne

Morningside Condo Assn  
Hadfield Greene Condo Assn  
4865 Greywood Ln  
3185 Windrush Bourne  
4725 Ringwood Meadow  
5112 Everwood Run  
4415 Highland Oaks Cir  
5407 Chantilly  
4563 Windsor Park  
4540 Highland Oaks Cir  
3420 Longmeadow  
2949 Ringwood Meadow  
4905 Marsh Field Rd  
4446 Whisperwood  
3529 Trebor Lane

**The Meadows Real Estate Expert**

Amy S. Chapman, REALTOR  
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ChapmanGroupSRQ.com  
amychapman@michaelsaunders.com

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### The Meadows, Hub of Sarasota

Resales ending the months of January 2024 and January 2023 In The Meadows & Sarasota County

SALES	THE MEADOWS	SARASOTA COUNTY
Sales 2024 & 2023	↑2024 (15) 2023 (12)	↓2024 (570) 2023 (605)
Median Sale Price	↓\$420,000 \$421,250	↑\$488,125 \$430,000
Condominium Sales	2024 (10) 2023 (10)	↓2024 (191) 2023 (235)
Med Condo Sale Price	↓\$357,000 \$393,750	↑\$420,000 \$386,500
House Sales	↑2024 (05) 2023 (02)	↑2024 (379) 2023 (370)
Med House Sale Price	↓\$525,000 \$544,500	↑\$530,000 \$479,000
For sale on the 31st	↑2024 (66) 2023 (30)	↑2024 (4106) 2023 (1658)
Property Pending	↑2024 (23) 2023(21)	↑2024 (1000) 2023 (660)
Listing Supply	↑2024 (4.4) 2023(2.5)	↑2024 (7.2) 2023 (2.7)

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**Contact me any time if you'd like to sell or buy a home in The Meadows**







Ned Boston & Mike Mazur – Assembly Program Co-Chairs

An integral part of what we do with the Assembly of Property Owners is to provide the volunteer leadership of the 52 condominium and homeowner associations in The Meadows with a program of education and information that provides tools to assist them in providing outstanding leadership to their individual communities. In addition, many of the programs we arrange apply to the single-family homeowners.

The February 21, 2024 Assembly gathering with Nicholas Lemmon, founder and owner of Shield Home Watch, a professional home watch provider based in Bradenton was well received.

He presented Home Watch: *Your Trusted Guardian for Property Security and Peace of Mind.* Nicholas provided very helpful hints about preparing your home for the off season and hiring a trusted partner to care for your home when you are away for many months at a time.

For the March 20, 2024 program, the Assembly Executive Committee has invited Tommy Kochis, Vice President of Atlas Insurance, a local insurance broker that handles many of the community insurance programs in The Meadows. As many of our readers know, the market has been quite volatile with unexpected and unsettling

premium increases which have presented challenges to our association leaders and their fellow unit owners. Tommy will be providing an update on the Florida property and casualty insurance marketplace, as well as input on key items to consider in your property and other coverage.

All Assembly programs are held the third Thursday of each month at 4:00 pm at The Meadows Community Lifestyle & Wellness Facility and all Meadows property owners are invited, especially all association board members.

See you on the 20th.



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# Community News



## SAFETY REPORT...

### WHAT ARE INCIDENTS AND CITATIONS?

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.

During the month of January, 2024 there were (15) incident free days – matching the total for December 2024. There were (19) reported incidents. There were (166) citations issued this month.

Safety responded to the following during the month of January.

### BURGLARY

- The complainant reported a possible break-in that evening when they were out. When

they came back they observed bedroom things were moved around, the back slider door was damaged and side door was propped open. Items were missing. They called Sarasota County Sheriff's Office and made report. Safety Patrol recorded the case number and returned to patrol.

### SUSPICIOUS PERSON(S)

- January 12th Suspected Person reported at Ringwood Meadow. Older caucasian man, wearing a green sweatshirt and driving a green Nissan Century. Patrol investigated and found nothing in that area.
- January 4th Safety officer answered a report on drug paraphernalia at the rear Aviva Parking lot. Incident was reported to the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office.

### FISHING COMPLAINT

- January 6th Fishing complaint of four youths on 12th Hole of Highlands course. They were made aware of rules and left immediately.
- January 4th Two men fishing of Highland bridge Road. They were asked to leave by patrol and complied.
- January 18th People spotted fishing on the 16th hole pond. Safety patrol determined they were not residents and asked them to leave. They complied.

### VANDALISM INCIDENT

- Jan 8th Complainant noticed sliced wires while taking down her Christmas tree. An incident report was made for MCA record. Recommended the resident make a report with Sarasota County Sheriff's Office.
- January 4th Mailbox damaged in the Marshfield road area. Recommended resident make a report with Sarasota County Sheriff's Office.

### HARASSMENT

- January 3rd Complainant reported an ad for Airbnb application that canceled. However, the potential renter threatened to stop by the property several times to check the property. Police report was made.

### EMERGENCY NUMBERS

- In the event of an emergency, call 911. After you have called 911 please report the incident to the MCA Safety Patrol.**
- The non-emergency Sarasota County Sheriff's Office number is 941-316-1201.**
- The Meadows Safety Patrol number is 941-809-0084.**

### A NOTE TO OUR RESIDENTS

Our residents' safety is always our number one concern. We share information as it becomes available. This is why it's important to report to Sarasota County Sheriff's Office and MCA. When information is shared with MCA it allows us to provide awareness to our residents, a reminder to be vigilant by employing precautionary measures and to stay alert. We communicate how to minimize exposure to such activity.

While The Meadows is a safe community, crime happens in the best of neighborhoods.

**We do not share the location of the incident to protect the victim who has a right to privacy and protection under Florida's MARSY'S LAW. This law prevents anyone from identifying a victim's location. it is a criminal offense.**

Sometimes individuals desire to know more detail is superseded by the rights of a victim, and all must understand and respect that need.

We also share that we are unable to give additional information, as often cases are under investigation with the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office, who takes the lead on criminal reports and often requested we do not share details while under investigation.

Thank you for your understanding.

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- Meadows resident since 2005
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**FEATURED PROPERTIES**

3382 E Chelmsford Ct – 2Bd/2Ba Villa. 2 car garage. Fully updated. ....	\$449,000
4533 Longwater Chase – 2Bd/2Ba on the golf course. Turnkey furnished. ....	\$349,000
5611 Sheffield Greene – 2Bd/2Ba with garage. Totally renovated. Reduced to .....	\$349,000
4502 Kingsmere – 2Bd/2Ba end unit Villa with garage. Updated. Priced to sell! ...	\$379,000
4508 Longwater Chase – 1Bd end unit on golf course. Updated flooring throughout. ...	\$219,000

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**O**n February 27, Sarasota County Sherriff's Office in collaboration with MCA, provided a Safety Awareness class. Residents learned tips from our Safety Liaison, Deputy Cathy Duff. During the presentation residents their tips on how to be proactive with personal and property safety through awareness. For those that were not able to attend we share those safety tips.

- 1.** Keep your key fob near your bed to use as an alarm.
- 2.** Park your car facing the store to provide wide angles of visibility to check if anyone is around or hiding under your car.
- 3.** Always park in the same row when at grocery store so you know where your car is, minimizing having to wonder around the parking lot.

- 4.** Ring devices help deter unwanted visitors, and activity and help with added security for your home safety.
- 5.** Always lock your doors even if you are home. Unlocked doors make it easier to gain entry.
- 6.** Make sure you increase your security on sliding doors by adding a bar between the tracks.
- 7.** Always trust your gut instincts and report suspicious behavior.
- 8.** If you sense something or someone feels out of place, go back into the store or safe location, and have someone walk you to your car.
- 9.** Never allow a stranger to approach, if you see

someone approaching, walk the opposite way.

- 10.** Make sure your purse is over your shoulder or body, it makes you less of an easy target.
- 11.** When pumping gas at a station, don't leave your purse on the passenger seat. It can easily be grabbed.
- 12.** Don't carry unnecessary credit cards, bring only what you need.
- 13.** Keep a photo copy picture of what is in your purse so you may report with more detail what is missing.
- 14.** Set reminders on phone to lock up your car.
- 15.** Tag should match your ride you ordered

### UBER SAFETY

- 16.** Make sure child locks are not on when you get in.
- 17.** Set your phone to track route so you know where you are at all times.
- 18.** Don't put luggage in trunk, keep it nearby to minimize the potential of putting yourself in a vulnerable position.
- 19.** Don't feel bad canceling a driver and get another if you get a gut feeling or smell alcohol.
- 20.** Always provide the address to your guests when visiting your home in case of emergency so if needed they can report the location, Keep it in the guest rooms.
- 21.** Always keep you phone charged. You may need it in case of an emergency.

## CHAIRMAN'S CHOICE AWARDS 2024

Nominating and Judging April 1-2

**All Single-Family Homes and associations are eligible.**

**Five winners receive \$100 each.**

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

### Rnew with Property Improvements

- Consider pavers, new doors or windows, a new roof, new lights or mailbox, new landscaping, new sod or updated entrance signs. See the MCA regarding Architectural Review.

### Refresh with High Standards of Property Maintenance

- 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 lights.
- Plant flowers for color and mulch.

**Plan to do your part to be Best Kept.**



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# Look What's Springing Up !



**MARCH 16**

**DRIVEWAY GARAGE SALE 8 AM-1 PM**

Before sign-up, please check with your HOA president or property manager to identify if they are participating and where the garage sale area will be, if your home does not have a driveway.

**CRAFT & BAKE SALE - 9 AM-2 PM**

Located at 3350 Longmeadow at The Meadows Community Lifestyle & Wellness Facility  
Handmade unique crafts, cards, ornaments, household goods, and delicious baked goods.

If you reserve space for an association meeting, activity or event and are unable to come, please call and let us know, so someone else may enjoy using the space.

MCA plans for events based on how many signed up. This is why it is important to let us know if you will not be attending the event you signed up for. Please give us adequate notice prior to the event, so we may order the proper amount of supplies and food.

*Thank you – MCA Management*

 A graphic for a presentation titled 'LIVE LIFE Beautifully'. The background shows a bright, modern interior with a white sofa, a potted plant, and a window with a view of trees. The text includes the date 'MARCH 25' and time '2 pm', a description 'Transforming your home into your personal oasis, Home décor', the presenter 'Presentation by Patricia Wilson Interior Designer', and the location 'Meadows Community Lifestyle & Wellness Facility'. It also includes a sign-up link: 'sign up on MCA website: [themeadowssarasota.org](http://themeadowssarasota.org)'.

**Forest Hecker UF/IFAS  
NATIVE FLORIDA  
TREES PRESENTATION  
March 7, at MCA / 2 pm**



Learn tips on planting and discover how native Florida plants not only thrive in our weather zone, but provide food and shelter to native animals, and stability to the multitude of habitat.

To sign up contact [meadowsgarden334@gmail.com](mailto:meadowsgarden334@gmail.com)

 A graphic for a presentation titled 'FITMINDS – YOUR BRAIN'. It features a blue silhouette of a human head in profile with several orange circles connected by lines, representing a neural network. The text includes 'PRESENTATION BY DESOTO PALMS', the date 'March 13' and time '10:30 AM / MCLWF', a description 'Techniques and exercises to improve brain health.', and the sign-up link 'Sign Up on MCA website: [themeadowssarasota.org](http://themeadowssarasota.org)'.


 A graphic for a presentation titled 'LIFE IN SHADOWS'. It features a black and white photograph of a group of people, including children, sitting together. The text includes 'The Hidden Children of WWII', 'Recollections from our own Meadows resident and Holocaust survivor', the location 'MEADOWS COMMUNITY LIFESTYLE & WELLNESS FACILITY', the sign-up link 'SIGN UP [themeadowssarasota.org](http://themeadowssarasota.org)', and the date and time 'March 13 at 6 PM MCLWF'.


 A graphic for a presentation titled 'DON'T LIVE LIFE ON PINS & NEEDLES- Ending Neuropathy Pain'. It features a medical illustration of human legs with a network of colorful nerves. The text includes 'Breakthroughs in Neuropathy Treatments with Dr. Kenneth Carle', the date and time 'March 28 3 PM MCLWF', and the sign-up link 'SIGN UP ON : [themeadowssarasota.org](http://themeadowssarasota.org)'.


 A graphic for a presentation titled 'LIFE CHANGES' and 'LIVING CHANGES'. It features two illustrations: a small white house with a chimney and a larger, multi-story brick building. The text includes the date and time 'MARCH 13, at 1:30 PM / MCLWF', the presenter 'Presentation by Jean Kramer of My Care Finders', and the sign-up link 'As Life Changes, you may want to consider Living Changes. Register ON MCA WEBSITE / [themeadowssarasota.org](http://themeadowssarasota.org)'.




# REMINDERS



Assessments are due on March 1. If you have not already made your payment, please submit immediately to avoid late fees being applied.

*Thank you. MCA Management*




The Meadows Community Association Annual Meeting will be held on Monday, March 4 at 7 pm in The Meadows Community Lifestyle & Wellness Facility.



**MARCH 14 • 7:30 AM – 3:30 PM**  
**MCA Parking Lot**

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



**HAZARDOUS WASTE DROP OFF**  
**MARCH 26 at 9-11 AM**

Place materials in vehicle trunk. Remain in your vehicle. MCA staff and volunteers will unload. No walk-ups.



**SARASOTA COUNTY HEALTH IN MOTION**  
**MARCH 1**  
**10 AM-2 PM**

\*Complimentary Flu Shots, Blood Pressure Checks, Glucose Screening

Sign Up [themeadowssarasota.org](http://themeadowssarasota.org)



**ICE CREAM SOCIAL**  
**March 18**  
**6:30 pm**

Sign up : [themeadowssarasota.org](http://themeadowssarasota.org)  
Meadows Community Lifestyle & Wellness Facility

**THE MEADOWS CHORUS SPRING CONCERT**  
*A Time Filled With Music*

Friday, April 5  
at 7:00 pm at Unitarian Universalists of Sarasota,  
3975 Fruitville Rd.




**Marcia McLaughlin**  
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## Our Lifestyle

# MSHA Marches into SPRING

Michelle Johnston  
The Meadows Single-Family Homeowners Alliance

March is the best month in The Meadows. It is vibrant with great weather, beautiful sunshine, green plants, and lots of things to do.

The Meadows Single-family Homeowners Alliance (MSHA) is marching into spring in several ways. First, it is collaborating with the Meadows Garden Club to learn about Florida-friendly plants to improve our individual yards. Many homeowners moved to The Meadows from different growing zones and landscaped with old-standby plants from our former yards, not realizing that our favorite plants might not thrive in this climate and environment. This special Garden Club meeting will be on March 7, 2024, at 2:00 PM at

the MCA building located at 2004 Longmeadow. If you're interested in attending contact meadowsgarden334@gmail.com We are looking forward to this meeting, which should impact all of us with the potential of improving the overall Meadows environment. Driving through The Meadows will be more beautiful than ever with the thriving yards!

MSHA is planning more informational programs that focus on improving our lives, homes, and neighborhoods. Some topics of the programs will be on communicating in positive ways and remodeling homes. Many questions will be answered about needing and acquiring permits, steps to take

first, and determining the scope of the job. We found that the informational meetings are popular and help us solve problems.

Our MSHA Annual meeting and informal mixer will be at the Centre Court Lounge on March 27, 2024, at 6:00 PM. This meeting goes beyond marching into spring. It is about marching into the future.

The business agenda will be significant because MSHA has new bylaws and new officers, the venue is great (sunset poolside), and the ambiance will be welcoming and fun with music and dancing. When the homeowners get together to meet their neighbors and discuss the future, they are always energized. Please join us. For more information write to meadowshomeownersarasota@gmail.com.

MSHA supports the MCA in its tremendous efforts to improve our lifestyles, environment, and safety. Through the MSHA newsletters, safety topics address driving, bicycling, walking, and home security. For example, past newsletters had information on the importance of following

posted speed limits, stopping at intersections, using one earbud to be aware of our surroundings when walking or biking and lighting our houses to show that we are home. The newsletters will continue to have articles each month that inform the single-family homeowners about current Meadows issues and suggestions, like maintaining no-mow-zones around the ponds and streams. These suggestions are important as we march into spring when there are more people in The Meadows, and the community is buzzing.

Just a spring time reminder that adherence to The Meadows Standards keeps our neighborhoods beautiful and helps to maintain the property values of our homes. When planning exterior home improvements, single-family homeowners need to apply to the Architectural Committee and examine the standards. Architectural Review forms are available for downloading at [www.meadowssarasota.org/documents](http://www.meadowssarasota.org/documents).

Enjoy this wonderful month and have a skip to your step while marching into spring!

If you are interested in becoming a member of the MSHA email [meadowshomeownersarasota@gmail.com](mailto:meadowshomeownersarasota@gmail.com).



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# Why Prune?

## When & how to prune trees.

Pruning is necessary to promote good plant health, remove damaged limbs, encourage new growth and maintain shape in addition to the safety of others.

### WHY PRUNE?

A well-maintained tree or shrub is healthier and looks better – two very good reasons to learn how to prune correctly. Proper tree-pruning and shrub-pruning helps:

#### Maintain Safety

Remove low-growing branches if they impede passing vehicles or obscure oncoming traffic from view. You may also need to take out split or broken branches before they have the chance to come crashing down on a person, car or building. It's also wise to prune out low-hanging, whip-like branches (especially those with thorns) that may strike passersby.

#### Alter or Rejuvenate Growth

Neglected, overgrown shrubs can sometimes be turned into small multitrunked trees if you remove their lower limbs, which may be a better approach than digging out the shrub and planting another in its place.

#### Direct Growth

Pruning influences the direction in which a plant grows: Each time you make a cut, you stop growth in one direction and encourage it in another. This principle is

important to keep in mind when you train young trees to develop a strong branching structure.

#### Remove Undesirable Growth

Prune out unwanted growth periodically. Cut out wayward branches, take out thin growth, remove suckers (stems growing up from the roots) and water sprouts (upright shoots growing from the trunk and branches).

#### Promote Plant Health

Trees and shrubs stay healthier if you remove branches that are

diseased, dead, pest-ridden or rubbing together.

Create Particular Shapes: You can prune a line of closely planted trees or shrubs as a unit to create a hedge. If you're a hobbyist who practices topiary, you can prune trees and shrubs into fanciful shapes.

#### WHEN TO PRUNE

Pruning at the wrong time won't damage plants, but it can sacrifice that year's flowers or fruit. As a rule of thumb, prune spring-flowering shrubs and trees immediately after

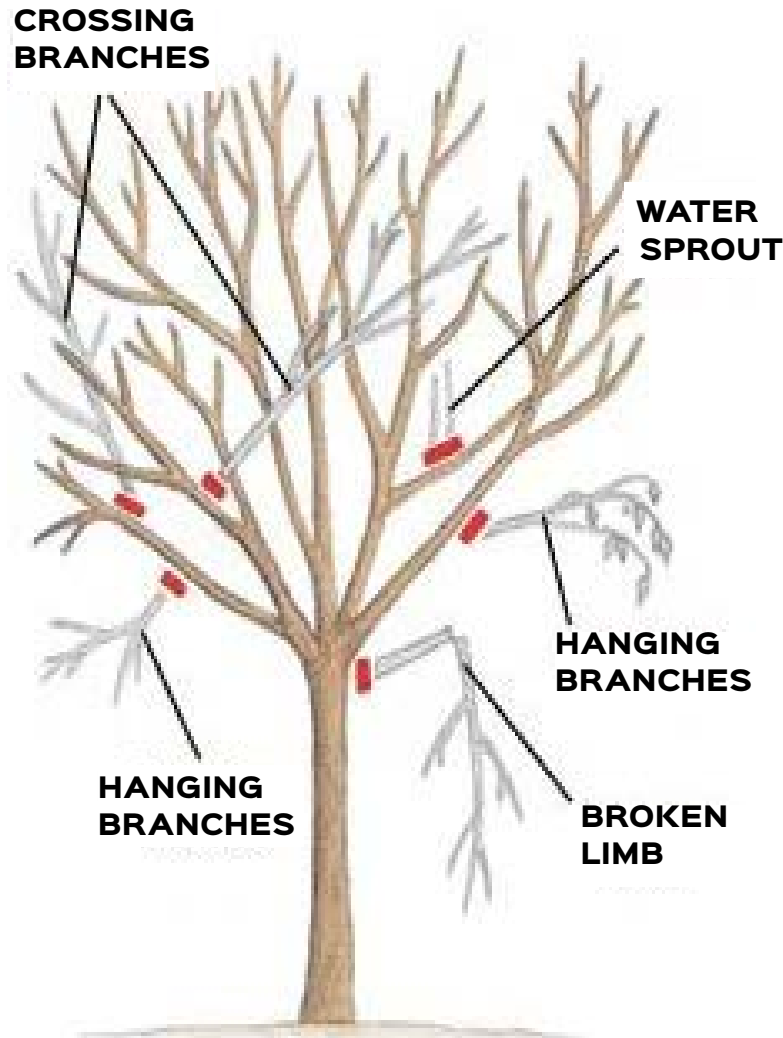
the flowers fade. Prune summer-blooming trees and shrubs in winter or early spring, before new growth emerges.

In warmer winter areas, timing will vary depending on the particular plant's native climate. If you have any doubts about the best time to prune a particular plant, ask a local nursery specialist.

#### HOW TO PRUNE

To prevent injury to the tree, remove large branches in three steps: with an undercut, overcut and finished cut.

1. Make an undercut. Starting about 4 to 6 inches from the trunk, cut about 1/4 of the way through the underside of the branch with a handheld saw such as a bow saw.
2. Make an overcut. Move out 1 to 2 inches from the undercut and cut off the branch. As the branch falls, the undercut prevents the bark from tearing down the side of the trunk.
3. Make a finished cut. Remove the remainder of the limb. Cut close to – not flush with – the trunk. Leave a 1/4-inch stub. This preserves the branch collar, a barely perceptible swelling near the trunk. The branch collar contains hormones that will speed callusing as the tree seals the wound.



Learn why its always good to go with native Florida plants, join the Garden Club Presentation, March 7, at 2 pm in MCA/Lakeside. Contact Melanie at meadowsgarden334@gmail.com for details and sign up.



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# Marching into Spring with an El Nino Hangover!



Roy Wysnewski — December Weather Analysis in The Meadows

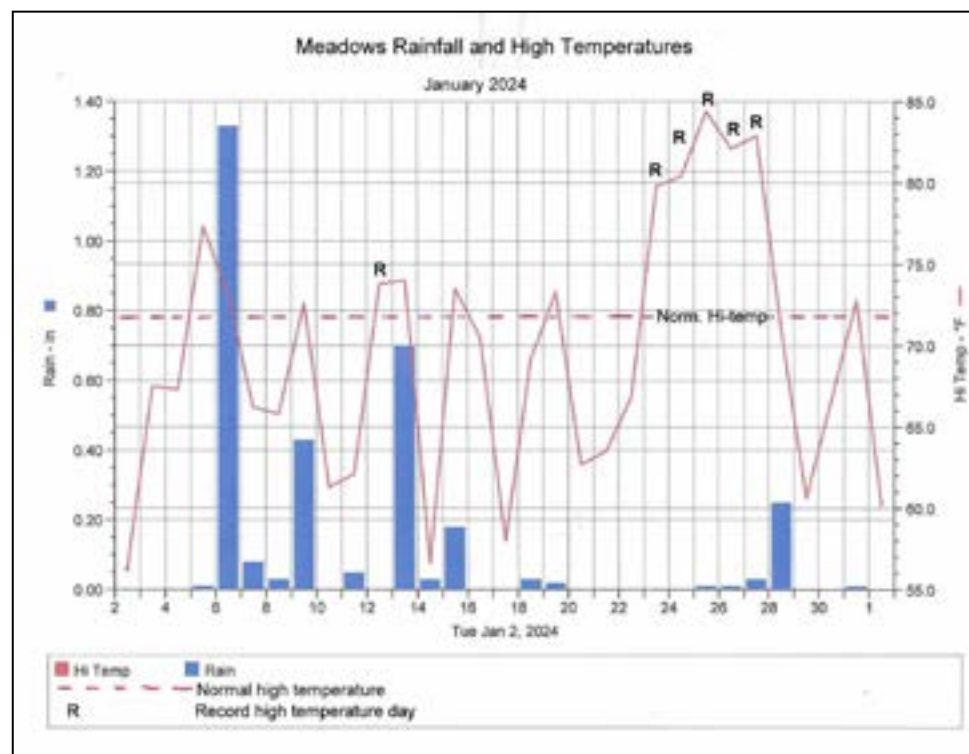
As we approach spring, a waning, yet persistent El Nino event will still be in control of our weather. That fact poses this question: Will residents experience temperatures during the remaining eleven months of 2024 like those experienced in 2019 when another strong El Nino brought year-long above average temperatures to The Meadows?

### Temperature Analysis

Although January's daytime temperature was slightly below normal, there were five consecutive days during the final week when the temperature and humidity were so high that the heat index was in the 'extreme danger' zone. That is quite unusual for the month of January!

### JANUARY RAINFALL & TEMPERATURE DATA

Rainfall for month:	3.2 in.
Rainfall year-to-date:	3.2 in.
23 yr. rainfall average:	2.0 in.
Average high temperature:	71.7 F (normal: 72 F)
Above normal temperature days:	15
Record high-temperature days:	6



It also was unusual that the low (nighttime) temperature fell below 44 degrees Fahrenheit in just one night. Completing the temperature statistics, there were fifteen above normal temperature days and six record high-temperature days.

### Rainfall Analysis

Extending a pattern begun in December 2023, January rainfall total (3.2 in.) exceeded normal by 88%. Total rainfall one year ago also was above normal, yet 2023 ended as one of the driest on record.

Monthly temperature and rainfall data are presented in the graph.

Send comments and questions about this month's report to: [roywys9@gmail.com](mailto:roywys9@gmail.com).

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# mulch



Tia Calomeris — Director, Marketing and Communications



So, you thought you can do some springtime relaxation? Maybe, but it may just be time to mulch. Papillon volunteers started their spring gardening spreading more than mulch. Their volunteerism can be seen in the beauty of their well manicured and mulched beds (picture left).



Mulch includes a variety of materials that you use to cover the bare soil in your gardens. Most often you think of it as organic materials; wood chips, cedar bark mulch, and compost, but it also includes materials like various colored stone and gravel.



Mulching your garden and lawn reduces evaporation, slows weed growth, improves soil quality, protects plant roots from hot and cold temperature extremes and sudden fluctuations. It adds color and texture as part of your overall garden design and makes your gardens look more attractive. It's a cost-effective way of enhancing your landscape and easy to apply.

The application of stone mulch stabilizes garden areas vulnerable to washout, for example, on hills and around downspouts. Or use it to improve the appearance of your garden.

### WILL MULCH WORK EVERYWHERE?

No, where you intend to apply it matters. Organic mulches spread over damp; low areas may retain too much moisture for plants. Sometimes they'll encourage an overpopulation of slugs and other pests that'll eat or harm certain plants. Rock mulches can get extremely hot and bake shallow plant roots. It's always helpful to talk to a local nursery expert about your specific yard conditions when selecting mulch. Ask for recommendations.

### CHUNKY MULCHES LAST LONGER

Bark mulches consisting of large pieces will last longer than smaller bark and shredded-wood mulches.

In general, pick a type with larger

chunks, it'll decompose more slowly. Choose bark-type mulches (such as pine bark nuggets) before shredded wood types (such as cedar bark mulch, cypress and hardwood). Keep in mind that mulch reduces maintenance but doesn't eliminate it. Organic mulches have to be replenished periodically, usually every two to three years.

A layer of mulch 3 to 4 inches deep will keep most weed seeds in the soil from sprouting and increase moisture retention. Remember, more isn't always better. Limit the depth to 5 to 6 inches, especially around shallow-rooted plants. Pull back mulch from the base of plants, so it doesn't cause rot.

### WHEN TO MULCH

Normally, mid- to late spring is the best time to put down mulch. Seedlings can work their way through a thin layer of mulch, but too deep a layer could be impenetrable. Let your plants get off to a good start first. You can always add more mulch after the plants are established.



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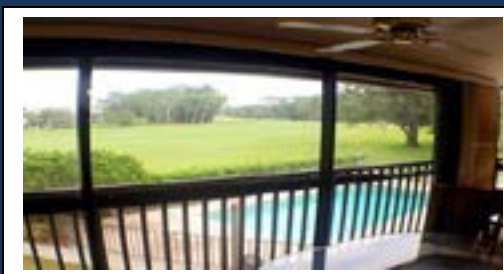
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## Our Lifestyle

# HONEY DO . . .

## Home Maintenance List



Spring is a beautiful time of year to enjoy all the outdoor fun that come with the perfect weather. It's also the time of year to review your Honey Do List AKA, Home Maintenance Check Lists. Here are some helpful indoor / outdoor spring maintenance checklists to keep your eye on.

### INDOOR CHECKS

- ❑ Clean the furnace filter to remove dust build-ups, make it easier to regulate your home's temperature, and ultimately decrease energy bills.
- ❑ Check the water softener and replenish salt if necessary.
- ❑ Inspect tub and sink drains for debris; unclog if necessary.
- ❑ Test smoke alarms, carbon monoxide detectors, and all ground-fault circuit interrupters. Check the gauge and expiration date on fire extinguishers.
- ❑ Inspect electrical cords for wear.
- ❑ Vacuum heat registers and heat vents.
- ❑ Check that indoor and outdoor air vents are not blocked.
- ❑ Flush out hot water from the water heater to remove accumulated sediment.

### OUTDOOR CHECKS

- ❑ Walk your property looking closely for any damage incurred over the winter months. Take steps to correct it now before it becomes a larger more costly issue. Deferred maintenance often costs more.
- ❑ **ROOF** – Watch for shingles that are loose or missing, siding that's damaged, gutter and downspout damage, and cracks in the sidewalks or driveway.

### YARD CLEANUP – TREE AND SHRUB TRIMMING

Remove fallen tree limbs, rake leaves, put down new mulch, and trim shrubs and trees. Trim back branches that could damage your home. Open up tree cover that could allow mold and mildew on siding by restricting airflow and sunshine.

### GUTTER AND DOWNSPOUT CLEANING

Controlling water around your foundation is critical to preventing damage. That begins with proper sized gutters and downspouts. Make sure they are clear and any obstructions removed. Repair any damage you find. This will be critical in preventing potential foundation damage during wet weather.

### OUTDOOR PLUMBING AND EQUIPMENT REVIEW

Take time to inspect sprinkler systems, AC units, pool equipment, outdoor faucets, and other installed items around your home.

### OUTDOOR DRAIN INSPECTION

Make sure storm drains and other rainwater management systems are clear of obstructions and ready to go. A pressure washer can be used to clean off drain covers. A plumbing snake can clear any clogged drains you find.

### PEST MANAGEMENT

Check around the foundation as well as the roof eaves. Ants, termites, and burrowing animals can cause damage at ground level. Bats, birds, squirrels, and flying insects can damage your roof. Help prevent their entry by sealing any cracks or holes.

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# Look What's Springing up at MOTE

Pamela Siderski – Mote's Engagement Officer

While Florida has been dealing with its coldest winter in years, things are continuing to heat up at all of Mote's 8 campuses.

Most obvious is the exciting progress of Mote SEA at Nathan Benderson Park. Thousands of drivers are treated to an ever changing view of this iconic project and Mote members and supporters are anxiously awaiting the opening of SEA in early 2025.

Being so close to the Meadows Community, residents who have been watching the daily progress will notice that the steel infrastructure around the building which will hold the 2200 metal panels (skin) is just about finished. Keep your eyes on the building as those panels will start going up in February and will be completed in April.

Inside the building we have started to fill the larger tanks with water, testing for leaks.

Mote's dedicated animal care team has been working alongside the Association of Zoos & Aquarium (AZA) experts on final plans for our Penguin exhibit. We should know in May where our 12 Humboldt penguins will hail from!

While the progress at Mote SEA steams ahead, so does our groundbreaking research, animal conservation and education programming as we continue to meet the challenges of the future.

Tucked away on 200 acres of farmland is Mote's Aquaculture Research Park (MAP) located east of the interstate on Fruitville Road.

This bustling campus is home to Mote's innovative Marine & Freshwater Aquaculture research program. We recently announced the Beginning Farmer Education Program in partnership with UF/IFAS Extension Sarasota County with the goal of creating the future Florida workforce in food, agriculture, and natural resources.

The 8-week program provides the next generation of farmers with

hands-on work experience and practical education under the mentorship of Mote scientists, extension educators, successful entrepreneurs, and local producers.

Many Florida communities have a need for access to sustainably grown, healthy, nutritious food, including seafood, as year after year, wild fisheries continue to fall



short of feeding Earth's growing population—with nearly 60% fished to capacity and 34% overfished.

"Mote continues to successfully demonstrate how to raise seafood away from the coast while recycling 100% of the salt water—and we've built upon that core technology to do much, much more," said Manager of Mote's Marine & Freshwater Aquaculture Research Program, Dr. Nicole Rhody. "Mote's progress reveals how precisely our research targets urgent, pressing questions in our national conversation on food security and sustainable seafood resources. We hope this program combines what we know about taking environmentally-friendly aquaculture to a commercial scale and how we can apply those methods by enhancing the success of new farm start-ups, to help increase access to more locally grown foods."

Participants can learn more



from Mote scientists about aquaponics—which links together aquaculture and hydroponic vegetable production—to raise fish and grow edible plants in a symbiotic, closed-loop system. Participants will also gain an understanding of different business models, along with opportunities to connect with local supply chains and network

with schools, local farmers, restaurants, etc.

The 200-acre Mote Aquaculture Research Park (MAP), one of eight Mote campuses, was established in

2001 to pioneer the development of sustainable aquaculture technologies working in land-



based recirculating systems and to address the need to develop a viable, domestic aquaculture industry in the United States. This campus includes the Ron and Marla Wolf Aquaponics Center established to expand Mote's successful research with marine aquaponics. Aquaponic systems transfer nutrient-rich water from fish tanks through filtration systems to plant raceways, where the nutrients fertilize the plants.

Next, the cleaned water is returned to the fish—ready to begin the cycle again. These remarkable systems can produce two types of foods (fish and vegetables) from just one nutrient source,

the fish food. Most aquaponic farming involves freshwater, and Mote has been working to expand options for sustainable, affordable, saltwater production that can be done in closed recirculating systems away from the coast.

"This project is a wonderful collaboration that is allowing us to engage in activities central to Mote's mission of innovative research, education and outreach," said Rhody. "We hope this program will result in more locally grown and aquaculture-derived products coming to the Sarasota market with aspirations to share the technology developed at Mote on a national level."

The Beginning Farmer Education Program is funded by state grants, membership fees, philanthropy, co-op sales and community/government support.

Today, Mote has grown into eight campuses stretching from Tampa Bay to Key West, with a ninth new campus, the Mote Science Education Aquarium (Mote SEA), currently under construction. Mote has more than 25 diverse world-class research programs studying oceans locally and internationally, with an emphasis on positively impacting conservation and sustainable use of marine resources.

To learn more about MAP, SEA, or any of Mote's other groundbreaking research and community programs, please contact Pamela Siderski, Mote's Engagement Officer at 941-388-4441 ext 618 or psiderski@mote.org



# Craft & Bake



March 16  
9am-2 pm



Liz Barnett— Craft Group

It's a sure sign of Spring in The Meadows. The Craft and Bake Sale will be held at the Lifestyle and Wellness Facility on Saturday, March 16. The Craft Group's Spring Sale is a one-day event from 9am until 2pm. Plan to arrive early for the best selection of homemade goodies. Your favorite cookies, fudge, cake or sweet bread may be gone by noon.

For all garage sale devotees, Granny's Attic will be there with gently used treasures ranging from household goods and tools to toys and a man's bike.

We haven't forgotten that Easter is early this year. You'll find a selection of lovely Easter themed cards to send to absent friends and relatives. For those who like to plan ahead, we've made Mother's Day, Father's Day, Graduation and Wedding Cards as well as Christmas Cards. Of course, you can also stock up on birthday cards, congratulations, thinking of you, get well and baby cards to help celebrate life's special moments with your friends and family.

You'll find stuffed bunnies and other toys to help the Easter Bunny. Every kid who comes to the craft sale wants one of our Squeezums – adorable little animal heads that open their mouths when squeezed to reveal a surprise. They are perfect to top an Easter basket or to keep in Grandma's purse -- ready to pop out and delight a child. We have made some squeezums that you can give to a grown-up football fan who may be a little disappointed this year. Each little Lion now has "Lions" embroidered on the back of its head, and there is a Pirate for Buccaneer fans. They're just the thing to help keep a fan's spirits up while waiting for next year.

With Spring comes spring cleaning and we have what you need to get your house sparkling with a minimum of effort. Scrubbies will whisk smooth-top ranges,

no-stick pans, and counter tops clean without scratching. Our Floor Foot Mops shaped like lady bugs, turtles, fish and starfish have a towel backing so when there is a spill, you drop them on the spot, use your foot to push the mop around and the spill is wiped up with no bending. They are cute enough to hang on a hook within easy reach. We also have hanging towels in spring patterns to brighten your kitchen. Pick up a microwave bowl holder or two and you can avoid burnt fingers and spills while you get out of the kitchen fast. Going to a neighborhood pot luck or party – pick up a casserole carrier to safely tote your dish in style.

Your house will have a springtime sparkle with stained glass suncatchers in flower or jelly fish shapes. Light up the dark corners with a nightlight shining through a




hand-crafted design. Add a touch of whimsy with decorative bunnies and chicks galore and signs to welcome spring

and to celebrate your pets.


You'll be ready for spring time fun with some new jewelry, a silk scarf, eyeglass holders, clutches, and pocket wallets to hold an ID, credit card or a few bills when you don't want to carry a purse. And that's just a few of the things you'll find to bring the spirit of Spring into your life.

Best of all you'll be helping others when you shop because all proceeds will be donated to local charities.

Join us at the sale and on Wednesday mornings club meetings from 9-11 am the MCA. If you can glue, we want you.



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# Garden of Patience

Judith Ristow — Meadowlark Poetry Writer  
March 2022



Weeds of restiveness  
grow in the garden of patience.  
Roots of annoyance seep deep in the soil.  
Sharp edges of words leave trails of remorse.

Do not try to save the garden,  
or do anything grandiose.  
Instead create a clearing  
in the busyness of your mind,  
and wait there patiently.

Surrender control;  
roll with the calm rhythm of the sun's slow movements  
and the rain's moist inspiration.

Only then will you know how to give yourself  
to the garden so worthy of your rescue.



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## Spring Memories

Liz Barnett— Memoir Group

One of the best parts of the Memoir Group is hearing the stories of others which often bring back our own memories of similar experiences. As we listened to Caron Hutch's story about her Childhood Easters, we thought about our own Easter egg hunts, Easter baskets we'd gotten and some of us remembered the new dresses and bonnets we proudly wore. I mostly remembered peeps, the pastel-dyed baby chicks that my cousin and I got every Easter. It was such a beloved part of my childhood, that I continued the tradition with my own children.

Unfortunately, I had forgotten that my Uncle John had a farm and my chicks had moved into the chicken coop there pretty quickly. My children's chicks soon outgrew cardboard boxes, but we let them stay in our breakfast room with its door blocked by a mesh baby gate until they could get out of that. Then the pet store where we had bought them agreed to take them back and give them a good home in the country. Nevertheless, our younger daughter continued to worry about her chick's happiness until the day when the 6 o'clock news featured the winners of the International Chicken Flying Contest at the Bob

Evans Farm in Rio Grande, Ohio. She was certain that the winner was her chick, and she worried no more. I guess she realized Spring can be a time for new beginnings.

If you are ready to try something new this Spring, we invite you to join us from 10 to 12 at the MCA Community Building for an in-person meeting on Friday, March 1 and to join us on Zoom on March 15. Please email us at meadowmemoirs21@gmail.com for more details and a link to the Zoom meeting.



## MY CHILDHOOD EASTERS

by Caron Hutch

Easters as a celebration of the risen Christ were lost on me as a child. They were more about the candy the "Bunny" would put in our Easter baskets, and what kind of flowers my corsage would be.

It was always a "big event" tradition for my mother to take me shopping for my Easter outfit, which included a new dress, new patent leather shoes, socks, sometimes with a ruffle along the top, and of course, an amazing Easter bonnet. Oh! And let's not forget the white gloves and sometimes a new spring coat. The best part of this shopping excursion was the hat department. I have always loved the color pink (still do), so my bonnet had to have flowers or ribbons of pink. After all, pink goes with everything.

Mother always struggled with a weight problem, but oh my, did she always look beautiful on Easter Sunday, with her big picture book hat. My father often commented as we were entering church on Sundays, "doesn't your mother look beautiful? She's going to turn heads today!" In spite of her weight, he always made her feel beautiful. She always dressed exquisitely, wore big hats, and yes, turned heads in church.

Easter Sunday began with my

brother and me on a hunt for our hidden Easter baskets. Then the "trading of candy" would begin. I liked dark chocolate and he liked white so the rabbits got traded. Then we moved on to the chocolate foil-wrapped eggs, which we traded for favorite colors. Last came the jelly beans. No one liked the black licorice ones.

After church, we had an egg hunt with real hard-boiled eggs we'd dyed the previous day. Daddy had carefully found different hiding places than last year to hide the 4 dozen eggs. There was a prize for the most eggs found, and one for the "prettiest" egg, which Daddy always picked. It always went to my baby sister, Kathy, who was nine years younger, and didn't stand a chance of finding the most eggs. Each year, we failed to find one or two eggs, and Daddy couldn't recall all of his hiding places. However, at some time, usually about a month later, foul smells would give their locations away.

Some Easters were more memorable because the Easter Bunny brought us a new pet. We got to keep whatever the Bunny brought because my mother always loved animals, and even though we didn't live on a farm, we lived in an area that was considered country at that time. Sometimes we got baby ducks,

or peeps which often grew into roosters, but the very best was the year we got a baby lamb. Baba, the lamb, was kept in the house as a baby, then graduated to a fenced in area with a pen. However, since he was used to being with us kids, we would let him loose when we were outside playing, and he became one of the gang. Winter was a challenge though, as we had a skating pond, and when he tried to follow us onto the ice, his hooves would slip and slide, and down he'd go.

Strangely, I remember Easters in Ohio being warmer than they are now. When my Aunt Ann and Uncle Stan would arrive for Easter dinner, we often followed them around the yard, as my father described which flowers he was going to plant where in his garden. Several old photos of those Easters show us in sunshine with no coats. Not so for Easters in Ohio these days.

Since this was before we had television, dinner was followed by home movies that my Uncle Stan had taken of our previous summers in Canada. After what seemed like hours of viewing the fish they had caught each day, lined up and displayed on the dock, we were rewarded with popcorn and reels of Mickey Mouse and Donald Duck.

Sadly, many of these traditions have gone by the wayside. In church, there are no bonnets, no corsages, and certainly no white gloves. They have been replaced by khakis and a pressed shirt, and an occasional dress or skirt. Hopefully, the spirit of the meaning of Easter, of new life, of new beginnings, will become evident to those in attendance. For me, it wasn't until about my forties, that the significance of the new outfits and the floral corsages, made themselves known. The Bible says that "when you believe, you shed your old self, and become as new," thus the new clothing. The Spring flowers on my wrist corsage and the newborn animals are also symbols of new life.

As I have grown older, I have come to embrace Springtime as a chance for new beginnings, reflecting with fondness on the past, but also looking forward to the many new experiences my life will bring.

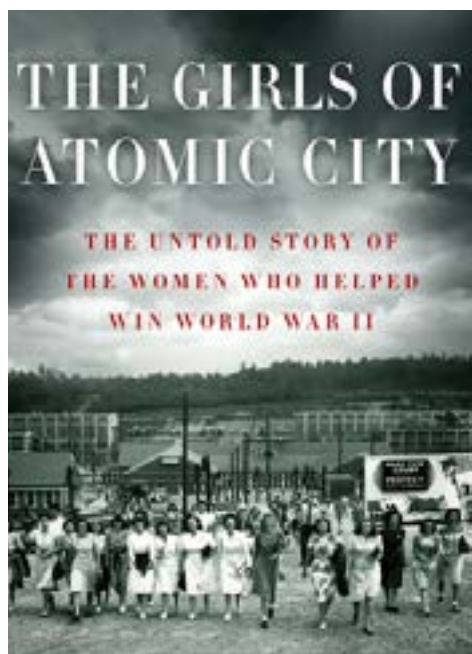




# THE GIRLS OF ATOMIC CITY

THE UNTOLD STORY OF THE WOMEN WHO HELPED WIN WORLD WAR II

BY DENISE KIERNAN



Joanne Simons – Book Club  
March Book Review

“In September 1942, U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Leslie Groves, commander of the Manhattan Project – the secret U.S. crash effort to develop the atomic bomb – faced a critical decision. The project needed to produce uranium-235, an isotope of uranium, whose unstable nucleus could be easily split to trigger a fission chain reaction and release an enormous amount of destructive energy. But that would require a massive, complex manufacturing process, involving tens of thousands of workers, which needed to be kept secret to thwart interference from spies and saboteurs.”<sup>1</sup>

“In the fall of 1942, residents of a rural swath of east Tennessee began receiving official notifications that their homes and farms were no longer theirs and that they would have to move. The new owner was the U.S. government, which swept up some 59,000 acres of land and in a matter of months built an instant city of 75,000 people so secret it wasn't even listed on maps.”<sup>2</sup>

That secret – the development of the atomic bomb – was kept not only from those who lived outside the secured gates of Oak Ridge, but also from tens of thousands of individuals who served as integral parts of what is now known as the

Manhattan Project.<sup>3</sup> The Girls of Atomic City is the story of those women – most of the workers were young women – who lived and worked in Oak Ridge.

“At the height of World War II, Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was home to 75,000 residents, and consumed more electricity than New York City, yet it was shrouded in such secrecy that it did not appear on any map. [...] The purpose of this mysterious government project was kept a secret from the outside world and from the majority of the residents themselves. Some wondered why, despite the constant work and round-the-clock activity in this makeshift town, did no tangible product of any kind ever seem to leave its guarded gates?”<sup>4</sup>

The sprawling complex was off-limits to anyone without proper ID. It was so vertically segregated

in its operations that only a handful of people at the top knew what was really going on, and so swaddled in internal secrecy that to speculate on the purpose of your job invited immediate dismissal and eviction.”<sup>5</sup> Oak Ridge's engineers were producing Uranium 235, the fissionable isotope of the heaviest naturally occurring element on earth, which was critical to the development of the atomic bomb.

The Girls of Atomic City tells the story of several young women who worked at Oak Ridge, how they lived and loved in a cocoon of secrecy doing work that they believed crucial to winning the war.

Denise Kiernan is an author, journalist, producer, and host of “CRAFT: Authors in Conversation.” She is the author of The Girls of Atomic City, which is a New York Times, Los Angeles Times, and NPR bestseller and has been published in multiple languages. She has a BA and MA from New York University and lives in North Carolina.

Join the book club on Wednesday, March 13 at 2 pm in the MCA Building (2004 Longmeadow) for a discussion of The Girls of Atomic City. All are welcome.

1 <https://science.howstuffworks.com/oak-ridge-tennessee-secret-atomic-city.htm>

2 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-girls-of-atomic-city-the-untold-story-of-the-women-who-helped-win-world-war-ii-by-denise-kiernan/2013/04/26/bf20e04-989f-11e2-b68f-dc5c4b47e519\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-girls-of-atomic-city-the-untold-story-of-the-women-who-helped-win-world-war-ii-by-denise-kiernan/2013/04/26/bf20e04-989f-11e2-b68f-dc5c4b47e519_story.html)

3 <https://www.rollingstone.com/tv-movies/tv-movie-features/oppenheimer-manhattan-project-world-war-ii-women-oak-ridge-atomic-bomb-1234788186/>

4 <https://www.simonandschuster.com/books/The-Girls-of-Atomic-City/Denise-Kiernan/9781451617535>

5 [https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-girls-of-atomic-city-the-untold-story-of-the-women-who-helped-win-world-war-ii-by-denise-kiernan/2013/04/26/bf20e04-989f-11e2-b68f-dc5c4b47e519\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/the-girls-of-atomic-city-the-untold-story-of-the-women-who-helped-win-world-war-ii-by-denise-kiernan/2013/04/26/bf20e04-989f-11e2-b68f-dc5c4b47e519_story.html)

## BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

**APRIL 10**

**TITLE**

The Things They Carried

**AUTHOR**

Tim O'Brien

**PRESENTER**

Jennifer Newsom

**MAY 8**

**TITLE**

Where the Children Take Us

**AUTHOR**

Zain E. Asher

**PRESENTER**

Joanne Simons



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If you spend several months of the year away from The Meadows, and would like to receive a print copy of *The Meadowword*, consider subscribing to *The Meadowword* or access it on [themedowssarasota.org](http://themedowssarasota.org). Forms for subscriptions may be found on the MCA website under News & Resources/ Meadowword Forms.

Annual Subscription - Begin in January and end in December of that same year. If you choose an annual subscription after January it will only include a Meadowword the next time it is published depending on when you make the payment. It may make more sense to consider a semiannual subscription depending on when you decide to subscribe. Your subscription will include Meadowwords based on when you subscribed along with any special editions in June and August IF published. We do not do rolling subscriptions.

USA	\$24.00
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## MEADOWWORD DEADLINES

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

The deadline for the APRIL 2024 *Meadowword* is Monday, MARCH 4.

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Publisher, MCA: Frances Rippondi,  
MCA General Manager

Editor-in Chief/Creative Director:  
Tia Calomeris, Director, Marketing and Communications

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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.

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# Meadoword



The Meadows Community News and Lifestyle

## March 2024 Calendar

March 1	10 AM-2 PM	Sarasota Health in Motion	MCLWF
March 4	7 PM	MCA Annual Meeting	MCLWF
March 6	6:30 PM	Bingo	MCLWF
March 7	1 - 4 PM	Electronic Tutor	MCA
March 13	10:30 AM 1:30 PM 6 PM	FitMinds Life Changes Living Changes Presentation Life In Shadow Presentation	MCLWF MCLWF MCLWF
March 14	7:30 AM-3 PM 1 PM	OnSpot Dermatology MCA Board Meeting	MCA Parking Lot MCLWF
March 16	9 AM - 2 PM 8 AM-1 PM	Craft & Bake Sale Garage Sale	MCLWF MCA Community
March 18	6:30 PM	Ice Cream Social	MCLWF
March 19	7 AM - 7 PM	Presidential Primary Elections	MCA PRECINCT 121
March 20	4 PM	Assembly of Property Owners	Flight
March 25	2 PM	Live Beautifully Presentation	MCLWF
March 26	9 -11 AM	Hazardous Waste Collection	MCA Parking Lot

### CLUBS & SOCIAL GROUPS

#### Ace in the Hole Card Club

Tuesday 7-10 pm  
Bob Monaghan  
Bobmonag@gmail.com

#### 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  
6:30 PM

#### Book Club

Lois Robinson  
LRobi18755@aol.com  
Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, 2 PM

#### Bridge-Wednesday

Kerriane McMurdo  
Kkm988@gmail.com  
Every Wednesday 1:30 – 4 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

#### Canasta: Hand & Foot

Debra Ashenofsky  
wheresmamamia@gmail.com  
Every Tuesday 1:30 – 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  
mi2tall4u@gmail.com  
Every Thursday 6:30 – 8:30 PM

#### Garden Club

Melanie Babineau  
meadowsgarden334@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 Poetry Writers

Michael Bruno  
meadowspoetry@gmail.com  
2nd & 4th Fridays of each month  
10 AM – 12 PM

#### Meadows Chorus

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

#### Meadows Sailing Assoc.

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 Meadows Quilting & Needlework

Marge Erazmus  
margareterazmus@gmail.com  
Every Monday 9 AM – 12 PM

#### Shalom Club

Helene Stone-  
shalomhelene24@gmail.com  
Joni Cohen -shalomjoni23@gmail.com  
Every 4th Sunday at 3 PM

## Sarasota Art Crawl

One of many activities within MCA's Arts & Culture series.

