

Meadoword

The Meadows Community News and Lifestyle



Earth Day

IN THE MEADOWS



COMMUNITY
NEWS
2-9

OUR
LIFESTYLE
10-19

EARTH WEEK
EVENTS
12-13

MEMOIR &
BOOK PREVIEW
20-21

SERVICES &
CLASSIFIEDS
22-23

Growing Stronger Roots



Marilyn Maleckas —
MCA Board President

MOVING FORWARD
IN OUR VISION OF
BEING KNOWN AS A
WELL-MAINTAINED,
WELCOMING, AND
SAFE COMMUNITY
WITH UP-TO-DATE
HOUSING, ACTIVITIES
AND SERVICES
TAKES STRATEGIC
PLANNING,
COLLABORATION
WITH PARTNERS AND
COLLABORATIVE
LEADERSHIP BY MCA
MANAGEMENT AND
STAFF TO ACHIEVE
THAT VISION.

The theme of this article brings focus to recent business and financial results as well as the actions under way with Meadows' business partners and the community volunteers. I will also answer recent questions asked by our residents. Moving forward in our vision of being known as a well-maintained, welcoming, and safe community with up-to-date housing, activities and services takes strategic planning, collaboration with partners and collaborative leadership by MCA management and staff to achieve that vision. Strengthening relationships within the community brings positive impacts to the community in several different ways. Let's look at some examples, starting with Aviva, the Village Shopping Center, The Country Club and our community volunteers.

Aviva

Aviva, our on-campus senior living facility, collaborates with us by being a corporate sponsor of our community events. Sponsorship takes on many forms such as putting on social hours for residents and supplying their executive chef and staff to prepare and serve refreshments as well as donating raffle items for drawings and prizes at events. Aviva also provides information opportunities at its facilities to become educated in Lifestyle Change Planning and learn about available resources and assistance to plan and make the transition.

When Meadows' residents move to Aviva, they change their brick and mortar while keeping the same active lifestyle they have enjoyed living at the Meadows as they will be able to utilize their

Renaissance Access Card to attend the many social, cultural and educational programs they have come to enjoy as well as augment their agenda with attendance at the many and varied Aviva events.

Feel free to reach out to Aviva by attending an event in the Meadows or by scheduling an informative tour. I am sure that you will be impressed by their hospitality, their level of care and their flexible living and payment options.

The Meadows Shopping Village Center

The Village Center is undergoing a transformation from a single owner with annual commercial tenants to a hybrid model that includes a single owner with both annual commercial tenants and new owners who have collectively purchased six properties now operated as commercial condominiums. Several years ago, the MCA created a Board Liaison to the Center to work with the Property Manager and to communicate the community's standards for maintenance and upkeep of these facilities. That role is ably performed today by Chris Perone who works diligently alongside Frances Ripponcondi to outline our requirements and our expectations of owning property here.

You may have noticed that the Village Center has recently installed new signage, made building repairs, upgraded their entry medians and addressed other items as a result of recent conversations. We have also amended their documents that enable stricter enforcement of our expectations.

Simultaneously to this ongoing collaborative effort, I implore our residents to be more vigilant by not using the Center's dumpster area as a community dumping point as it is not. We often see large household items adjacent to the dumpster, and the Village Property Manager then has to have it hauled away at his expense. This message also needs to be communicated to contractors hired to work on your property. Our goal is to encourage co-operation with all parties that will produce an environment that would allow residents and visitors to better enjoy shopping and dining in a professionally, well maintained environment. We appreciate your compliance with this request and appreciate your patience as well.

The Meadows Country Club

Our business relationship with the Country Club is an example of not only strategic collaboration but the relationship also functions as that of an owner/tenant arrangement – meaning the Community Association owns the building and land, and the Club leases and manages the property. The Club has its own Governing Board comprised primarily of Meadows' residents and is managed by ICON Management Services, a leader of country club and HOA management, headquartered in Bradenton.

ICON is owned by Troon, the world's largest worldwide golf management firm. For the Meadows, this business arrangement brings the "best of both worlds" to the Club. First, when additional resources are needed, local talent is available



from just a short drive away, and those resources are backed by additional Florida based resources from Troon that bring expertise and experience to our property and have assisted and advised on recent Club projects in both agronomy and marketing.

We frequently get asked questions by new as well as long-term residents about our relationship with the Country

WE ARE A VIBRANT
COMMUNITY WITH
AN ACTIVE LIFESTYLE
IN AN ENVIOUS
LOCATION WHERE
FOLKS WANT TO LIVE,
WORK, SOCIALIZE,
EXERCISE, DINE
AND PLAY.

Club. While much has been written about this topic over the years, we thought it important to reiterate the topics or questions most frequently asked.

The most frequent questions concern the Renaissance Access Plan, its cost and its value to the community. Since 2020

almost 4000 cards have been issued, and utilization is in full swing across all venues. Golf rounds by Renaissance Access cardholders totaled over 6100 in 2023 and contributed over \$248,000 in golf revenue alone to the Club. Over 500 residents are now playing Pickleball. Fitness classes are bursting with Renaissance Access attendees, and the Fitness Manager is adding resources and classes to manage the demand. A new Massage Therapist has been hired and is being very well received. Stretch and Tone classes will soon have access to a larger space to accommodate the demand, and residents are enjoying inside and outside dining in both the Fountain View and Centre Court Lounges.

Another question frequently asked is about the rent and lease terms with the Club. The lease is structured with a low monthly rent in return for the Club's paying for all the maintenance and operations costs association with managing and operating the 19 buildings and 330 acres. From 2020 through 2023, the Club's investment in our assets total over \$28,000,000. The Club has paid for all the facilities' maintenance including all the buildings and grounds' maintenance and landscaping of all three courses, equipment and golf cart leases, salaries, benefits, and taxes of the many dozens of personnel performing

these tasks, as well as routine maintenance and interior painting, pest control, cleaning, fire protection, et al. The Club puts 100% of all its net income back into our property in an effort to work congruently with the MCA to improve the position of the Club and the community in the market. The golf courses are solely supported by member dues, guest fees, public golf revenue and cart fees. The crucial point to remember here is that if member dues were to disappear, that multi-million-dollar revenue would be impactful to the Meadows property values and to the Meadows as alternative sources of income would need to be generated just to keep the grass green.

Community Collaboration

MCA's management and staff are members of the local chapter of the Community Association Institute (CAI) which regularly meets with local HOA peer leaders to discuss best practices and various synergistic topic areas, all of which are designed to foster an environment of community culture with focuses on professionalism, collaboration and mutual respect that we share with volunteers, residents, visitors, guests and the Board. We honor the contributions and dedication of our volunteers and support the splendid work they do for the community. I urge each of you that has a desire to

get more involved in any of our committees to contact the MCA to learn more about specific opportunities, be it in gardening and composting with the Garden Club, aquatic planting with our prestigious Water and Wildlife Committee, selecting best kept and most improved, or working with our talented and generous Craft Group or by working with our Lifestyle Manager, Sue Lytle, who plans, manages and hosts our robust activities venues. Volunteering on a committee of your choice could entail pursuing your passion or learning something new.

Summary

We are a vibrant community with an active lifestyle in an envious location where folks want to live, work, socialize, exercise, dine and play. Evidence of this can be found in many facets – from neighborhood builders wishing to annex their new high-end subdivisions into our community, to the community's new residents and from speaking with Realtors who enthusiastically sell approximately 330 new properties here each year and they espouse the active lifestyle and diverse amenities in their published property descriptions of real estate for sale.

Thank you for your appreciated and continued support, and please do not hesitate to reach out to us for more information at any time.

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.

Planting Seeds for Tomorrow

ROOTED IN COMMITMENT



Frances Rippondi —
MCA General Manager

We at The Meadows take pride in our environment and are fortunate for the abundance of trees and over 50% open space. Today with new governmental regulations, many communities throughout the state of Florida are only required to have 30% open space which contributes to deforestation, reduction of wildlife habitat and the decline of Florida's natural native environment.

Our community is 50 years old and has weathered its share of storms. Hurricane Irma and Ian by far caused the most damage to trees in our community. Hurricane Ian's devastation alone was responsible for the loss of over 240 trees. The number continued to grow as trees that did not initially show signs of damage became apparent months later.

When trees become stressed or declining it can be an invitation for unwanted pests. Pine bark beetles, Ips pine engraver beetles and black turpentine beetles are likely to be abundant in the months or years following a hurricane. In the past, The MCA has experienced pine tree loss due to these pesky invaders. Stressed trees can emit an odor that insects detect and attack the tree. Those who have experienced pine tree loss in their homes or association will remember how resin would clump and drain from the bark, reddish brown boring dust and rapid wilting needles would occur and quickly spread to the adjacent trees contributing to the overall pine death in the community.

So, how do we ensure that The Meadows maintains the natural tree canopy and ambiance that sets us apart from surrounding communities? Quite simply, by giving back. Janice Kunkel, a resident of 44 years

certainly takes this to heart, donating money to the MCA specifically to add native trees back into the community. Over the last few years, you may have noticed flanking both sides of Longmeadow new bald cypress, pines, oaks, and sabal palms accenting the ponds and roadway. These native tree species are beneficial to our community, drought tolerant and better equipped to handle our subtropical climate. Most importantly they honor our ecological heritage and provide habitat for pollinators and wildlife.

In 2021, Janice, a tree expert, pledged \$5,000.00 a year to the MCA to add native trees to our community and has been contributing ever since. Her generous gifts resulted in \$19,500 being donated and over 90 native trees planted for our enjoyment and future generations.

Each time a tree is removed from The Meadows it requires that an Architectural Application gets submitted to The MCA and the tree(s) to be replaced with like kind trees. Rules and Regulations can be found on our website, or Sandy Truman our Community Standards Administrator can assist you at 941-377-2300.

On Monday April 22nd we are kicking off Earth Week. Our fun-filled eco-celebration will include lectures and presentations, Sharks: The Great Predator- A scientists look at Forty Years in Research by Ph.D. Bob Hueter, Meadows Bird Talk – Jean Dubi of Sarasota Audubon Society, Full Moon Outing and more. We will be ending the week with an outdoor celebration with nature displays, vendors, and a concert. Join us as we celebrate our earth, community, and environment.

We are grateful for everyone who supports our community and environment, please plant a tree to sustain the beauty of The Meadows for years to come.

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First meeting of MCA inaugural composters on July 21, 2022

THE MEADOWS COMPOSTING INITIATIVE HAS COMPOSTED **4 TONS** OF PLANT MATTER SINCE JULY 2022.

LAWN CARE



Tom Bondur— Standards Committee, Chair

There are many varieties of grasses. Most grasses require four to six hours of direct sunlight each day. In a community like The Meadows, with its large number of live oak and pine trees, too much shade can cause brown patches in lawns. Planting shade-tolerant grasses in these areas can remedy the problem.

Florida soil is sandy, so soil preparation to regulate pH and increase water retention is important. A do-it-yourself (DIY) test kit, available at most garden centers, is an inexpensive way to measure soil composition.

Aerating new lawns inhibits fungus. Overseeding bare spots helps build up turf in spotty areas.

Deep watering and less frequent watering schedules control crabgrass and soil fungi, such as take-all root rot and brown patch. Chinch bugs are common pests in Florida that cause

symptoms like root rot and brown patch fungi.

Vary mowing height depending on time of year and grass type. In the hot summer season, let the grass grow taller to retain moisture and promote root growth.

During the winter months, you may see parts of your lawn turn brown. Uneven turf color is normal this time of the year. The shorter days, less intense sunlight, and colder temperatures all contribute to slowing lawn growth.

Additional fertilizer does not significantly alter the situation. You should only fertilize when your lawn is actively growing.

In Central Florida, that time is April through September. The standard recommendation for our region is not to fertilize past October.

In early spring, apply fertilizer to rejuvenate your lawn for the coming warmer months. Controlled-release fertilizers are a convenient way to provide nutrients to your lawn over an extended time, allowing you to fertilize less frequently.

Do not wait until summer. Sarasota County restricts the use of fertilizers containing nitrogen and phosphorous during the rainy season between

June 1 and September 30. This policy helps control runoff into watershed areas, which can lower oxygen levels in water, harm aquatic creatures, and aggravate algae blooms.

St. Augustine, Bermuda, Bahia, and Zoysia are the most common grasses in Florida residential landscaping:

- St. Augustine is a popular choice because it thrives in most soils, is drought resistant, and grows quickly. It does well in hot, humid environments, and produces a dense sod, which makes it weed resistant. It does not do well in cool weather; it tends to go dormant when temperatures dip below 55° F. It has thick blades and a coarse feel. It is prone to thatch buildup. It is more susceptible to pests, such as chinch bugs, Sugarcane Mosaic Virus (SCMV), and St. Augustine Decline Virus (SADV), which cause it to brown and thin out leaving irregular patches. There are many varieties of St. Augustine grass. Floratam is the most common variety. Other cultivars, such as CitraBlue, are better adapted to shade and more resistant to pests and disease.

- Bermuda is a fine-bladed grass that is sturdy and deep-rooted making it wear, drought, and weed resistant. It is invasive and, like St. Augustine grass,

sends out runners into flower beds and shrub areas. It does not do as well in shade or cold. Nematodes, or roundworms, are the most serious pest for this variety of grass. This pest can cause a lawn to yellow and thin out during hot and dry periods, particularly in sandy soil.

- Bahia is fast-growing, does well in sun, cool temperatures, sandy soil, and dry conditions; but it is not as weed resistant. It fares better in poorly drained, shaded areas than other grasses. It is coarse-textured and deep-rooted. It doesn't require as much irrigation and fertilizer as other grasses.

YOU SHOULD ONLY FERTILIZE WHEN YOUR LAWN IS ACTIVELY GROWING.

- Zoysia is low maintenance-- slow growing, weed / disease resistant, and deep-rooted with low water requirements. It thrives in sun, but will tolerate light shade. It is prone to thatch buildup, turns brown during cooler months, and is slow to green up in the spring. It is a fine-bladed grass that tolerates wear when green, but is more fragile in its dormant state.

FEBRUARY APPROVED ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS

Papillon Condo Assn
1901 Deancroft
5223 Everwood Run
4724 Greencroft Rd
4701 Ringwood Meadow
4742 Ringwood Meadow
4779 Ringwood Meadow
5437 Champagne
5531 Downham Meadows
3441 Highlands Bridge Rd
3901 Stable Ln

3759 Surrey Ln
4865 Greywood Ln
5643 Sheffield Green Cir
4353 Longmeadow
2890 Longleat Woods
4786 Greencroft Rd
4770 Ringwood Meadow
Woodmans Chart Condo Assn
Chambery Condo Assn
Chambery Condo Assn

3220 Ringwood Meadow
3442 East Chelmsford Ct
2462 Arborfield Sq
4422 Whisperwood
4540 Highland Oaks Cir
5433 Champagne
2861 Taywood Meadow
2990 Heather Bow
5663 Downham Meadows
Woodmans Chart Condo Assn
4373 Woodmans Chart

4506 Weybridge
4831 Greencroft Rd
2483 Crispin Ct
Kingsmere Condo Assn
Hampstead Heath Condo Assn
3240 Sandleheath
4571 Highland Oaks Cir
Chambery Condo Assn
Somerset Condo Assn

Best Practices for the Care and Handling of Trees

APRIL ASSEMBLY EVENT

Ned Boston & Mike Mazur – Assembly Program Co-Chairs

Our trees in the Meadows are a significant part of our environment. Like other plantings, trees need regular maintenance to remain healthy and beautiful and trees don't last forever. Many of our trees were planted decades ago and they require special attention. Eventually they may need to be removed. Our rules require that a new tree be planted to replace each tree removed. This policy ensures that we sustain our environment.

To help us understand how best to maintain our trees, our April Assembly program, *Best Practices for the Care and*

Handling of Trees, will feature Travis Newell from Terry's Tree Service. Travis is an ISA Certified Arborist and a Certified Tree Care Safety Professional.

Travis' presentation will cover the following topics:

- Palm tree pruning – when and how
- Tree pruning – do's and don'ts
- Tree removal – when is a permit needed
- Tree planting – how and what
- Hurricane preparation – what to do
- Who to hire

Please join us for this informative presentation

on Wednesday, April 17 from 4:00 PM until 5:00 PM at the Lifestyle and Wellness Facility.

Our May program will be the final presentation for this program year. Our presenter will review the bills passed by the Legislature in their recent session that have been signed by the Governor. This was a particularly active session for changes to Section 718 (Condominiums) and Section 720 (Home Owner Associations) and there will be changes to how we administer our associations. Please put Wednesday, May 15 on your calendar for this important program which begins at 4:00 pm.



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3426 Hadfield Greene – Exquisite renovation, hurricane windows, a must see \$679K
3349 Hadfield Greene – Tranquil pond views with golf course in the backdrop Pending

FOR SALE ELSEWHERE IN THE MEADOWS

5516 Chanteclair – Sweeping golf course views, beautifully updated Pending
5505 Chanteclair – Beautiful maple floors, impact windows, garden views \$475K
4581 Kingsmere – Spectacular golf-course views from this updated end-unit \$426K
4522 Kingsmere – Beautifully updated end-unit, high ceilings, lush views Pending
5515 E Long Common - Golf course views from this 2/2 plus Den villa SOLD!
5424 Hamsstead Heath – Spectacular pond framed by wide golf course views \$375K
4533 Long Common Ln – Spacious 2/2 with high ceilings and 2-car garage Pending
4621 Morningside – Beautifully updated 2/2 villa with lush garden views SOLD!

FOR SALE IN THE SARASOTA METRO AREA

Bird Key – Gorgeous pool home created by Sawa Design Studio Pending
Downtown – Secure 3-story townhouse in desirable Burns Court Pending
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Downtown – Panoramic bay views and spectacular sunsets \$1M

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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 February 2024 there were (7) incident free days. There were (23) reported incidents – (4) more than January 2024. There were (179) citations issued this month (13) more than January 2024.

Safety responded to the following during the month of February 2024.

TRESPASS

February 13th: Teenagers were caught riding electric dirt bikes on the 6th hole. Safety patrol answered the complaint and found the teenagers were not

residents. The teenagers left as requested by Safety Patrol.

February 23rd: Complainant from the Charmes neighborhood, reported a man walking the neighborhood with a backpack. Resident stated it appeared he was opening mailboxes. Resident called the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office and the MCA Safety Patrol. Safety responded and no one was found.

February 9th: Safety responded to a complainant regarding a verbal disagreement between a resident and two non-residents at the MCA Dog Park. The non residents left as requested by Safety.

DISTURBANCE

February 2nd: Complaint was made from the Meadows Village Pub. The music outside was very loud. Safety patrol asked for the music to be turned down and received a non response. The Pub owner called Sarasota County Sheriff Office. Safety continued patrol.

SOLICITATION

February 6th: Safety patrol received a call from resident about someone selling window treatments door to door. Safety patrol located the salesman, explained the rules on solicitation and the salesman from Window Depot left promptly.

February 10th: Two Men were soliciting on Marshfield. Safety located the men and escorted them from The Meadows property.

ANIMAL COMPLAINT

February 10th: Complainant reported alligator near the North Weybridge Pond. Sarasota County Sheriff's Office arrived, the alligator went back in water. Safety resumed patrol.

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

Feb 9th: Complainant reported a disorientated resident at Briarfield. Emergency services were contacted. Emergency services were transporting subject for possible head injuries.

February 27th: Safety received call from resident medical alert, for a resident who fell out of bed. EMS was dispatched and evaluated the resident. There was no further trauma. All units cleared the scene.

February 29th: Complainant called about seeing dead rabbits in her Viviana Way neighborhood. She asked about coyotes in the area. Safety told her they haven't heard anything recently. Safety suggested she call animal control if she sees anything unusual.

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

We also share that we are unable to give addition 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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 5611 Sheffield Greene --2Bd/2Ba with garage. Totally renovated. Reduced to. \$349,000
 4502 Kingsmere --2Bd/2Ba end unit Villa with garage. PENDING
 4508 Longwater Chase --1Bd end unit on golf course. PENDING
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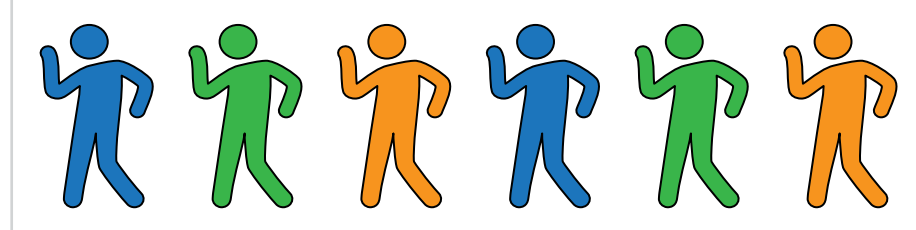
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ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS



Succulent Container Gardening
Tuesday, April 2 • 10 AM • MCA

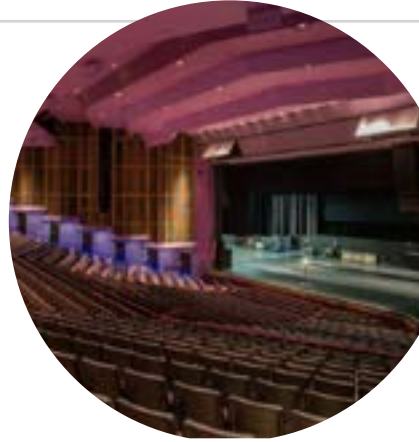
LINE DANCING
Friday, April 5 • 3-4 PM • MCLWF




THE MEADOWS CHORUS
Spring Concert
7:00 pm, Friday, April 5
Unitarian Universalist Church of Sarasota
Free and open to the public.
Donations gratefully accepted.



SAVE THE DATE
Van Wezel
BEHIND THE CURTAIN TOUR
Thursday, May 16
1 - 3 PM
\$12 PP



Tour the Van Wezel's art collection and behind the scenes of their performance areas to include the dressing rooms, stage, orchestra pit and more!
Attendees responsible for their own transportation to the Van Wezel.




Managing Medicare Misconceptions
Monday, April 8 • 2 PM
MCLWF

Ice Cream Social
Tuesday, April 9
6:30 - 7:30 PM
MCLWF





BINGO
Wednesday, April 10
6:30 - 7:30 PM
MCLWF

Fit Minds
Wednesday, April 17
10:30 - 11:45 AM
MCLWF



SAVE THE DATE
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS Community Event
Thursday, May 23 • 5 - 6:30 PM



Will you be ready? The 2024 Atlantic Hurricane Season begins June 1 and runs through November 30. Learn how to prepare in the event a natural disaster will affect our community.

REMINDERS

BEST KEPT
Seasonal Review
Judging will be
APRIL 1st & 2nd
Single-family homes & Association Entrances are eligible.

ONSPOT DERMATOLOGY
APRIL 1 • 7:30 AM - 3 PM
MCA Parking Lot
Mobile dermatology services where the doctor comes to you.
Most insurances accepted.
To schedule an appointment, call 941-444-0011.

THE MEADOWS
COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION, INC.
RENAISSANCE ACCESS CARDS
New 2024 Renaissance Access cards are available to all eligible Meadows homeowners and annual tenants.
Effective May 1, Renaissance Cards issued PRIOR to 2024 will become invalid. You may pick up your new Renaissance Access card at 2004 Longmeadow between 8 AM - 4 PM Monday thru Thursday, and 8 AM - 3 PM Friday. Also available at 3350 Longmeadow - with limited office hours, so please call ahead.


Put Away Your TRASH CAN PLEASE
Residents,
After your trash is picked up, please retrieve your empty trash cans and place them out of view.
Thank you.
Meadows Management.

ELECTRONIC TUTOR
APRIL 4 • 1 - 4 PM • MCA
Need device advise? Complimentary technology assistance provided by the Patient Trainer, David Stoltie.
Call 941-404-5585 to schedule your appointment today.

OPTIMUM HEARING CARE
HEARING SCREENING CLINIC
APRIL 9 • 9-11 AM
Sign Up on themeadowssarasota.org

Fall Prevention 101 Workshop
APRIL 15 • 1 PM
MCLWF
Falls are inevitable.
Learn how to reduce the risk.
Presented by Kelly Ward, MS
Sarasota County Health Services

SUNCOAST BLOOD DRIVE
APRIL 18
8 AM - 2 PM
MCA Parking Lot
Please register on-line at themeadowssarasota.org or call 1-866-972-5663 to become a donor today!



Earth Week in The Meadows

Monday, April 22

EARTH DAY 2024 KICKOFF



The Race to Save Our Corals

10 AM • MCLWF

Join Dr. Erinn Muller, Mote's Associate Vice President for Research, for a deep dive into Mote's groundbreaking research, rescue and

restoration programs as they endeavor to protect and save these invaluable natural wonders.

Wild Sarasota: Wildlife in Our Neighborhood

1 PM • MCLWF

Dr. Katherine Clement, UF/IFAS

Florida is home to over 4,000 kinds of animals. Learn who your wild neighbors might be and how best to co-exist with the wildlife around us.

Red Tide & You

6 PM • MCLWF

Sandy Gilbert, START

Sandy Gilbert of START (Solutions to Avoid Red Tide) addresses Red Tide and its affect on our coastal waters, our community and way of life here in Southwest Florida.

Tuesday, April 23

Sharks: The Great Predator A Scientist Looks at Forty Years in Research

10:30 AM • MCLWF

Dr. Robert (Bob) Hueter is a professional marine scientist with more than four decades of experience specializing in the biology, fisheries, and conservation of sharks. He served as the Director for the Center of Shark Research at Mote Marine Aquarium here in Sarasota. Come experience these amazing, often-overlooked, creatures with Dr Hueter as he recalls the last forty years in shark research.



Health Benefits of Nature

4 PM • MCLWF

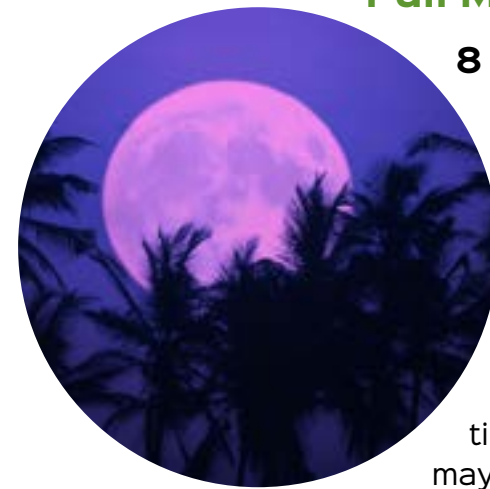
Zahir Cordes, UF/IFAS

Spending time in nature is linked to both cognitive benefits and improvements in mood, mental health and emotional well-being. Learn the truly impactful health benefits of nature and how to do a stress re-set.

Full Moon Outing

8 PM • MCA

Meet in the parking lot of the MCA for a unique, after dark experience. Join UF/IFAS staff as they share insight into the April "Pink Moon" and offer full moon viewing tips. Photo enthusiasts may bring their tripod and camera. Telescopes welcome.



Wednesday, April 24

Meadows Bird Walk

8:30 AM • MCLWF

Join Jeanne Dubi, President of the Sarasota Audubon Society, for an educational walk on the Meadows campus to view what birds call our community home. Meet at the MCLWF Parking Lot.

Local Environmental Impact on Sarasota Bay

2 PM • MCLWF

Ronda Ryan, Executive Director Sarasota Bay Watch

A Healthy Bay is Everybody's Business. Come learn how **Sarasota Bay Watch(es)** over our waterway by providing shellfish restoration, marine debris cleanup and island and shoreline restoration.



Meadows Bird Talk

4 PM • MCLWF

Gems of the Bird World: North American Wood Warblers

Jeanne Dubi, President of the Sarasota Audubon Society, introduces us to the

Gems of the Bird World, the North American Wood Warblers through fact and imagery.

Day After Tomorrow-Movie Night

6:30 PM • MCA

When the Earth fights back. The film depicts catastrophic climatic effects following the disruption of the North Atlantic Ocean circulation, in which a series of extreme weather events usher in climate change and lead to a new ice age.

Thursday, April 25

Florida Friendly Landscaping

11 AM • MCLWF

Florida landscaping is unique and different from most other geographical locations. Come learn how to care, maintain and optimize your Florida landscaping for year round beauty. Presented by



Forest Hecker, Community Outreach and Program Coordinator for UF/IFAS.

Wonderful World of Owls: Hands on Learning Experience

1 PM • MCLWF

2:30 PM MCLWF

Come learn about these beautiful, wise creatures, why they are slowly disappearing and how we can work together to save them. Hands on examination of owl pellets to track their location and eating habits.



Recycling the Past - Yesterday to Today: Art of John Chamberlain

6 PM • MCLWF

Andrew Ford of the Sarasota Trading Company highlights filmmaker and artist, John Chamberlain for his unique works featuring recycled materials.

Friday, April 26

EARTH WEEK CELEBRATION

12 - 3 PM • MCA

Join us on the MCA main campus located at 2004 Longmeadow for the culmination of Earth Week 2024 at our Earth Week Celebration-Planting Seeds For Tomorrow! Featuring live music from recording artist Stacy Gabel, various eco-friendly vendors, mediation, yoga, interactive displays, delicious food from a local food truck and more! Raffle drawing. Prize for the most creative eco-inspired outfit!



- Green Leaf Worm Farm
- Music by recording artist Stacy Gabel
- Nature Art Display – Meadows Art Studio
- Recycling & Composting Station – Meadows Garden Club
- Meadows Water & Wildlife Committee
- Nature Craft – Meadows Craft Group
- Recycling the Past – Yesterday to Today
- Performance by Meadows Chorus
- Nature Meditation & Yoga – Colleen Burke
- Around the Bend Nature Tours
- Siesta Pops Food Truck – Fresh Donuts, Fruit Pops, Fruit Smoothies & Pulled Pork Sandwich
- Various Eco-Friendly Vendors & more!



Celebrating Earth Day

From a Weather Perspective



Roy Wysnewski — February Weather Analysis in The Meadows

As we prepare to celebrate Earth Day 2024, we are reminded that there are less than two months until the start of hurricane season, and now is the time to 'plant the seeds', then grow (develop) appropriate plans to protect our property and assure our personal safety.

Summary: A strong El Nino event – which began in mid-June 2023 – continues globally, and in Southwest Florida. While the northern half of the U.S. experiences warmer and drier weather, we also contend with somewhat warmer temperatures, but with above normal rainfall. These conditions may persist for several months.

Temperature Analysis: In contrast to January's slightly below normal temperature, February averaged about 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit warmer than normal – more typical of El Nino.

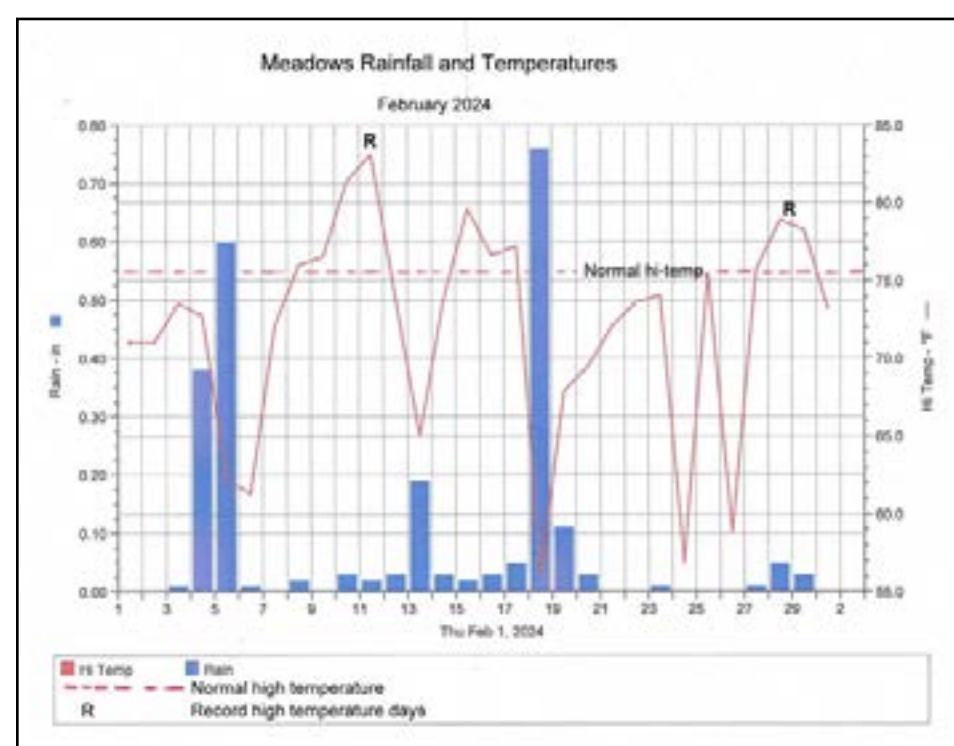
Other February temperature statistics include eighteen above normal temperature-days and two record high-temperature days.

Rainfall Analysis: Typically, February is our driest month. But fortunately, with El Nino present, this month's rainfall was almost 50%

above normal – giving some relief to the on-going drought in Southwest Florida.

Monthly temperature and rainfall data are presented in the graph.

Pre- Hurricane Season Analysis: The present El Nino event is expected to dissipate by mid-summer. That expectation combined with record-warm Atlantic Ocean water translates to a potentially very active 2024 hurricane season with activity really 'heating' up in July and August!



FEBRUARY RAINFALL & TEMPERATURE DATA

Rainfall for month:	2.42 in.
Rainfall year-to-date:	5.63 in.
23 yr. rainfall average:	1.65 in.
Average high temperature:	76.8 F (normal: 75.5 F)
Above normal temperature days:	18
Record high-temperature days:	2

Send comments and questions about this month's report to: roywys9@gmail.com.

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4399 LONGMEADOW 2/2 UPDATED CONDO - \$350,000 PEG SCHMITT
 4417 GLEBE FARM ROAD 3/2 VILLA 2 CAR GARAGE - \$410,000 PEG SCHMITT
 4957 TAYWATER DELL, SARASOTA - \$750,000 STEVEN HOWARD
 5174 LAKE VILLAGE DR #84 SARASOTA - \$339,900 BRIAN JOHNSON
 5220 WILLOW LINKS CONDO W/HARDWOOD FLOORS - \$305,000 PEG SCHMITT
 5245 LAKE VILLAGE DR 2/2 FURNISHED UPDATED CONDO - \$327,000 PEG SCHMITT
 5262 WEDGEWOOD LN #52, SARASOTA - \$340,000 STEVEN HOWARD
 3842 GLEN OAKS MANOR DR SARASOTA 34232 - \$575,000 ANNA LEE WILLIAMS

UNDER CONTRACT

4403 KARIBA LAKE TER, SARASOTA - \$479,000 BRIAN JOHNSON, BUYER REP.
 4549 MORNINGSIDE # 13, SARASOTA - \$274,900 MEGHAN MAYES
 4634 CAVIAR ST. NORTH PORT - \$325,000 MEGHAN MAYES
 5231 LAKE VILLAGE DR, #27 SARASOTA - \$327,500 BRIAN JOHNSON

SOLD

3509 LONGMEADOW # 5, SARASOTA - \$210,000 MEGHAN MAYES
 3633 SILVER PINE CT.#81 SARASOTA - \$272,000 ANNA LEE WILLIAMS
 4844 14TH AVE E. BRADENTON - \$975,000 STEVEN HOWARD, BUYER REP.
 5541 E. LONG COMMON CT # 28, SARASOTA - \$452,000 PEG SCHMITT, BUYER REP.

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7 Interesting Nature Facts

By Gabrielle Clawson

1 TREES CAN COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER

Now, we know what you're thinking: how can trees talk to one another? Well, while trees certainly can communicate with each other, it actually can't be seen with the naked eye, making it impossible to detect on an everyday stroll through nature.

Trees "talk" to one another through an intricate network of fungi in the soil dubbed the "Wood Wide Web". It connects trees at their roots, allowing them to communicate by sending signals about upcoming threats like droughts or disease — and that's just the tip of the iceberg. This allows trees to alter their behavior upon receiving the signal.



2 DOLPHINS HAVE NAMES FOR EACH OTHER

Just when you thought your favorite underwater mammal couldn't get any cuter, we have some news for you.

It's a well-known fact that dolphins are highly social creatures. They typically travel in what we call pods, which can include anywhere from 2 to 30 dolphins. It's also another well-known fact that dolphins are extremely intelligent. If you've ever had the pleasure of meeting a dolphin, you know this first-hand.

Turns out, dolphins actually have names for one another. Scientists have found that these marine mammals use a distinctive whistle to identify each other. When a dolphin hears their own "name" called to them, they respond.

3 AFRICAN BUFFALOES MAKE DECISIONS BY VOTING

Turns out, Democracy isn't just a human behavior. Animals take part in it as well! The African buffalo is one of the animals most well-known for using a voting tactic to make travel decisions.

African buffalo herds actually use a form of voting when trying to decide which direction to travel in. One at a time, adult females will stand up and look in a certain direction before sitting down. Whichever direction gets the most amount of looks is typically where the herd travels.

Interestingly, if the vote is divided, the herd will actually split up temporarily. Only the adult females are allowed a vote, regardless of social status within the herd.

4 BAMBOO IS THE WORLD'S FASTEST GROWING PLANT

Bamboo is a fast-growing grass with a hollow stem. It's used to create a number of sustainable products, but it's best known for being a food source for giant pandas.



Bamboo also happens to be the world's fastest growing plant. One species of bamboo can even grow 35 inches in a single day, and some species reach full maturity in just 90 days! Not only does bamboo grow exceptionally fast, it also happens to hold a Guinness World Record for fastest growing plant!

5 BEES DANCE TO COMMUNICATE

It's hard to think bees could get more interesting, but turns out, they can! Just like many other species, bees communicate with one another. They live in a hive together and must all work together, so communication is certainly key. However, what sets bees apart from other species is that they actually communicate by dancing!



Bees have two different dance moves that allow them to show other bees where flowers are located. One bee will dance while the others watch to learn which direction they can find the flower patch in.

6 THERE ARE MORE TREES ON EARTH THAN STARS IN THE MILKY WAY

There are so many trees covering our planet that scientists had to figure out a new method to quantify them, and they've actually calculated that there are more trees on Earth than stars in the Milky Way.

Scientists have determined that the number of stars in the Milky Way ranges from 100 billion to upwards of 400 billion, but there is an estimated amount of 3 trillion trees on Earth. That's a lot of trees! Even with all those trees currently on Earth, it is still very important that we continue protecting our forests and planting more trees!

7 FORESTS CAN MAKE RAIN

Forests actually move so much water from the soil into the atmosphere that they end up creating rain. It's called the Biotic Pump Theory.

Plants and forests draw water from the soil before exhaling it into the atmosphere. This then impacts the balance of water and heat at Earth's surface, essentially controlling the weather and producing rain.

Parts of the Amazon Rainforest have also been known to start their own rainy season!

The Meadows, Hub of Sarasota

Resales ending the months of February 2024 and February 2023 in The Meadows & Sarasota County

SALES	THE MEADOWS	SARASOTA COUNTY
Sales 2024 & 2023	↓2024 (12) 2023 (18)	↑2024 (702) 2023 (676)
Median Sale Price	↑\$387,500 \$340,000	↑\$453,500 \$450,000
Condominium Sales	↓2024 (10) 2023 (12)	↓2024 (244) 2023 (262)
Med Condo Sale Price	↑\$362,500 \$317,500	↑\$379,000 \$361,000
House Sales	↓2024 (02) 2023 (06)	↑2024 (458) 2023 (414)
Med House Sale Price	↑\$562,500 \$565,000	↑\$506,000 \$490,000
For sale on the 29th	↓2024 (89) 2023 (24)	↑2024 (4410) 2023 (2001)
Property Pending	↓2024 (24) 2023(21)	↓2024 (1360) 2023 (1377)
Listing Supply	↑2024 (7.4) 2023(1.3)	↑2024 (6.3) 2023 (3.0)

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Planting the Seeds for the Future



THE MEADOWS SINGLE-FAMILY HOMEOWNERS ALLIANCE



Michelle A. Johnston — Former President

The concept of planting seeds for the future reminds me of Johnny Appleseed, who planted apple seeds about two hundred years ago. He planted his apple seeds and then moved on knowing that in the future people would enjoy his apples. As a child, I saw remnants of those trees planted so long ago near my childhood home and elementary school. Truly, he planted those seeds for the future, like the Meadows Single-Family Homeowners Alliance (MSHA), which planted seeds for the future over the last year. Specifically, the MSHA metaphorically planted seeds to improve the organization and life of the single-family residents in The Meadows.

First, the MSHA is changing its leadership in April. Linda Billings and Troy Johnson are joining the MSHA Board of Directors while Michelle Johnston (President) and Kent Simons (Secretary) are stepping down because they are term limited. Additionally, Linda Nordenberg (Membership Chair), whom we will miss, is moving from The Meadows. With new directors on the MSHA Board, the MSHA will have new energy to bring forward some innovative initiatives, which will, indeed, plant some new seeds for the future.

Second, over the last year, we endeavored to be more engaging through the monthly newsletters and various updates. The quality of the newsletters has increased over the years. The plan for the future is to enhance their newsworthiness by including information that benefits our homeowners, our homes, and the quality of our lifestyles as MSHA members. Future newsletters will include more information about roofing, insurance, safety, landscaping, and security. We also want to include the views of our members in the newsletters

and welcome input from all the single-family homeowners. If our members have any ideas for future newsletters, please write to meadowshomeownerssarasota@gmail.com.

Third, the MSHA sponsored informational programs on topics relevant to our membership. It also collaborated with the Garden Club with a program about trees and Florida-friendly plants, which was especially relevant in April and for Earth Day. All of the informational programs included topics and ideas that plant the seeds to make living in The Meadows better from the appearance of our yards and homes to how we feel about our lives in our neighborhoods and

Our meetings combine a little business, a little fun, and a little networking.

homes. For example, we learned about the need to use licensed contractors and having permits when we take on renovation projects and how to reduce decision fatigue when decorating. We also learned about communicating with neighbors and building stronger ties within our homes. Again, these informational topics came from membership suggestions, the MSHA is looking forward to either offering or collaborating on additional informational sessions that are of interest to our membership. In April and May, the informational/networking programs will be about collaborative conversations. For more information about

the programs, please send a request to meadowshomeownerssarasota@gmail.com.


Fourth, after having two successful meetings for our membership this year, we are planning for the future. Our meetings combine a little business, a little fun, and a little networking. Networking is especially important for single-family homeowners as we need to know our neighbors for social and safety reasons. Those meetings planted the seeds for the new board to learn and go beyond that model to make the meetings more relevant to our membership because MSHA has a viable place in The Meadows community writ large.

Fifth, for the past two years, members of our board have been on Meadows Community Association (MCA) committees, making sure that the homeowners views are represented. Such representation enhances all our lives. The ideas that the representatives bring back to the MSHA Board and share with our membership to inform us all and further improve our lives. Participating in the committees also plant seeds in the committees for their future actions and in the MSHA to maintain its relevance.


Like Johnny Appleseed of the past and the seeds he planted brought vitality to the settlers as they moved west through Ohio and Indiana. Those metaphorical seeds that the MSHA planted hopefully bring a new energy to the MSHA for our members to make our activities and initiatives better. The outgoing MSHA Board of Directors helped to plant the seeds that the new members will nurture to make a more viable organization, representing the single-family homeowners and helping The Meadows continuously improve.

If you are interested in joining the MSHA or renewing your membership, please write to meadowshomeownerssarasota@gmail.com.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the MSHA, email meadowshomeownerssarasota@gmail.com.



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GREEN CRAFTS



Liz Barnett — Craft Group

Once again, the Craft Group thanks our good neighbors in The Meadows for their support of another successful Spring Craft and Bake Sale. Once again, you have shown that you are a community that cares. All the proceeds from the sale will be donated to local charities and will improve the lives of many.

Now that the sale is over, the Craft Group is again busy doing what they do best – putting their creative minds and talented fingers to work on new projects for next year's sale. With Earth Day in April and Spring's green all around us, perhaps it's not surprising that many of these projects could be considered "green crafts." We've taken things that might be considered trash and turned them into the treasures.

What do you do with the glossy ads that accompany the Sunday newspaper and all those magazines that you've finished reading? Well, the Craft group took some of those useless papers and cut them into long, narrow triangular strips, rolled them around toothpicks, added a coat of Modge Podge and created beautiful beads of varying hues and shapes. We're using them to create nearly weightless necklaces and bracelets that we think you'll love.

What about all those big pine cones we see all around the Meadows. Do you just kick them

out of your way on your walks and hope the landscapers haul them away with the dead leaves? The crafters have been picking them up for some time and transforming them into fanciful decorations. Our latest creations are being painted white, treated to glitter highlights and finished with big eyes, beaks, and wings to become delightful owls. We expect they will be brightening tables and bookshelves around the Meadows before long.

When you take a walk on the beach, do you rescue some washed up shells and remains of sea life? We do. The crafters have turned shells into jewelry holders, Christmas decorations and coupled with sand, created beachy scenes for covers of night lights introduced at the Spring Sale. Now with paints and tiny sunglasses we are also transforming starfish into whimsical creatures to bring beach vibes into your decor.

Why don't you join us as we have fun, develop our skills and enjoy the company of a great group of women. You'll find groups doing different kinds of projects that use different kinds of skills. No matter what your skill level is, from beginner to professional, there is a place where you can make a contribution. With new projects beginning throughout the year, we think you'll find lots to love. And we would love to have you join us from 9 to 11 every Wednesday at the MCA Community Building. *If you can glue, we want you.*

The Meadows Country Club

Spring is in the air and The Meadows Country Club has been blessed to enjoy so many of our returning Seasonal Members, while welcoming dozens of new Seasonal and Annual additions to The Family. We have been fortunate to exceed our previous year's Seasonal census, adding to the fun and camaraderie across the entire Club. Golf, Tennis, Pickleball, Fitness, the Pool, Dining and Social activities are flush with familiar faces and dozens of new smiles.

"Planting Seeds for Tomorrow" is the theme for April, and we could not have picked a better theme to promote all the exciting opportunities the Club has coming up, that "plant the seeds" of a lifestyle of enjoying golf, tennis, fitness and fun.

Summer Memberships – Our Summer Membership program provides a very cost-effective introduction to the personality and amenities of the Club. Our Golf, Tennis and Social Summer Memberships are a timely initiation to the 3 C's of The Club – Casual, Comfortable and Camaraderie. Speaking of initiation – our Summer Members are invited to convert to Annual Memberships, and in doing so can receive a discount on their Initiation Fees. *There is no initiation fee for Summer Memberships.

Summer Memberships are 4/1-10/31. For more information call 941-893-3224.

SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

Ages 6-14, Monday-Friday, June 3-August 2

- Tennis with Certified PTR/USPTA Professionals
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Call 941-378-5265 for rates and more information.

SPRING/SUMMER PGA JR CAMPS

Ages 7-15, Monday-Friday

3/18-5/23 Spring PGA Jr. League

5/28-8/11 PGA Jr. Camps

Includes:

- Golf Fitness Warmups/Workouts
- Rules & Etiquette Instruction
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- Full Swing Analysis (Video & Launch Monitor)
- On-Course Instruction, Games & Activities

Call 941-587-6332 for rates and more information.

We planted seeds for our new Meadows Country Club website nearly 8 months ago, and it has grown and is now bearing fruit for the Meadows Community, and for our Members. If you haven't visited the new site to see what you may have been missing, please visit www.meadowsc.org.




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Tuesday, March 12th & 26th @ 12-1pm
 5664 Bee Ridge Rd. Suite 100
 Sarasota, FL 34233

Lunch will be served. Space is limited to 16 people!
RSVP: By Mar 11th & 25th @ 941-376-1488

Sowing Seeds for the Future

Liz Barnett
Memoir Group



In the 1970's, our family began planting something every year on Earth Day. Some years we planted flowers, other years it was vegetables and occasionally we made a long-term commitment to the future by planting trees. First, we planted an apple tree, but we moved before the tree bore fruit. At our new home, we look advantage of the West Virginia Extension Service's offer of free dogwood seedlings to add 17 dogwoods to our yard. The following year a blight killed them all. Next, we planted cherry trees. Finally, after years of battling the birds for ownership of the cherries, we harvested enough to bake a cherry pie. Then the birds won. We joined their ranks as we became snowbirds.

The seeds we sowed when we came here have been much

more successful than our gardening endeavors. We liked living in The Meadows so much that we became full-time Floridians.

For many of us, coming to The Meadows was one of those turning points when life took a new direction, when a change in residence sowed the seeds that changed our future. Not many of us may have had as eventful prelude to changing our residence as Bob Finlay and his wife. Read his story below and see if you don't agree. But if you have a interesting reasons to sow new seeds, why don't you come to the Memoir Group and tell your story. Everyone has a story to tell; a story that others would like to hear; a story that should be preserved.

We meet on the first and third Friday of each month from 10 to noon. Some meetings are in person at the MCA Community Building and others are on-line through Zoom. Contact us at Meadowsmemoirs21@gmail for more information.

Kitchen Number Twenty Six

By Bob Finlay



My wife likes to count the number of moves we have made in our 58 years of marriage by the number of kitchens she has set up. This is the story about our Springlake condo, ergo, Kitchen Number 26.

Back to the Spring of 2016. That's when we decided to sell our Hilton Head condo, a place we had wintered in for a number of years. As our home was in New Hampshire, we would again winter there. This brought up a dilemma. What to do? Boat is on the hard (translation for non-New Englanders, on the hard = stored on land). Don't cross country ski anymore, never did snowshoe. Ah, snowmobiling looks like fun.

Enter Craigslist (my go to reference for anything and

everything). Behold, in August, two sleds with trailer popped up in a town close by. We went, we saw, we bought.

Thus began a flurry of activity around the hoped for snowy winter. It included purchasing the correct riding equipment, joining the local snowmobiling club, even selling our old trailer and acquiring a new one. We were set to take on the new activity with gusto.

The first ride took place on a January trip to the New Hampshire North Country. Had I known then what I know now, that winter activity would have been stopped in its tracks!

What happened was my bride came down a slope and sideswiped a pickup. The sled was too big for her to handle. We had bought what are known

as 2-ups, with space on the sled for two people. Rookie decision on our part. However, the rest of the weekend was incident free.

Fast forward to February. We had a 16-inch snowfall where we lived. Time to try the local trails. Beautiful ride in, not so cool on the way back. Wife went over a snow bank, tipped a bit, gunned it, and launched herself off of it. I witnessed it all in slow motion in my sled's rearview mirror.

911 called, snowmobile jacket cut off in ambulance, hospital visit by NH Fish and Game regarding accident report, and one very painful broken shoulder. That evening the sleds were posted on, you guessed it, Craigslist. The following morning, I watched them go out the drive.

The shoulder got replaced and convalescence began. In a conversation with my wife's sister, a resident of Sarasota, her sister mentioned that we really should spend our winters in Florida, and she knew a neighbor realtor who could make that happen. Thus began the hunt.

Through the aid of the internet, the Meadows became a reality. Purchased our home, sight unseen. We had been visiting Sarasota for 30 plus years, and never knew of this place. And now we are full timers in Kitchen Number 26!

Oh yes, a takeaway from our story: probably not a good idea to take on a new motorized sport in your 70's unless you want a new kitchen.

THE THINGS THEY CARRIED

by Tim O'Brien

Joanne Simons – Book Club
April Book Review

On the title page of *The Things They Carried* (Houghton Mifflin, 1990), the reader is alerted that this is, "A Work of Fiction by Tim O'Brien." The book's dedication reads, "This book is lovingly dedicated to the men of Alpha Company..." But there was no Alpha Company. There were no men named Rat Kiley or Henry Dobbins or Norman Bowker.

They are fictional characters in a collection of short stories based on Tim O'Brien's experiences as a soldier in the 23rd Infantry Division during the Viet Nam war.¹

The 22 stories take the reader from the soldier's receipt of his draft notice through his contemplation of draft dodging, to a year in-country, and a lifetime dealing with the physical and emotional burdens the soldiers carried. "The title story, *The Things They Carried*, serves as a foundation for exploring the weight of war, both literally and metaphorically."²

"O'Brien generally refrains from political debate and discourse

regarding the Vietnam War. He was dismayed that people in his home town seemed to have so little understanding of the war and its world. It was in part a response to what he considered ignorance that he wrote *The Things They Carried*.³

In *The Things They Carried*, O'Brien uses real place names and inclusion of himself as the protagonist blurring fiction and non-fiction.⁴



The author, Tim O'Brien

O'Brien explores the telling of war stories by comrades, revealing that truth is delicate and malleable. "Anything can be faked ... but generally, only the worst events can be proven real. He concludes that, in the end, the truth of a story doesn't matter so much as what the story is trying to say."⁵

A graduate of Macalester College and Harvard University, O'Brien served on the faculty of Texas State University in the Master of Fine Arts program. He received a Guggenheim Fellowship, a National Book Award, the James Fenimore Cooper Prize for Best Historical Fiction, the Pritzker Military Library Literature Award for Lifetime Achievement in Military Writing, the Katherine Anne Porter Award, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize lifetime achievement award, an award from the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships. He has authored eight novels, two memoirs, and is an accomplished magician.

Please join the book club on Wednesday, April 10 at 2:00 in the MCA Building (2004 Longmeadow) for a discussion of *The Things They Carried*. All are welcome.

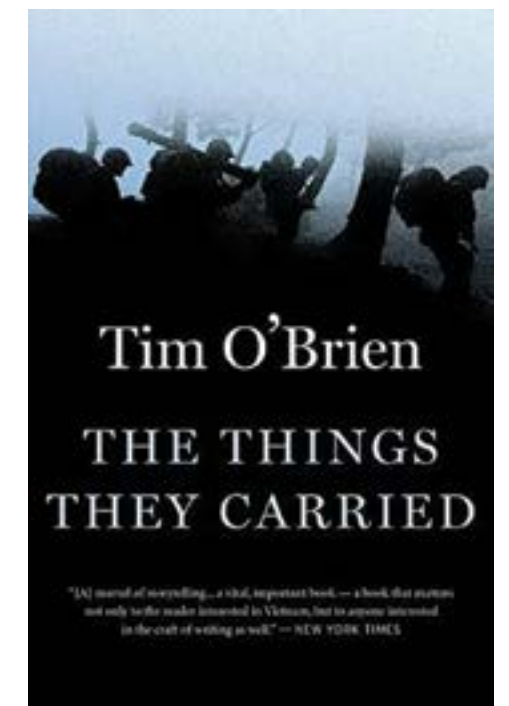
¹https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Things_They_Carried

²<https://www.spa.rknotes.com/lit/thingscarried/quotes/page/4/>

³Herzog, Toby C., "Tim O'Brien," New York: Twayne Publishers, 1997.

⁴https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Things_They_Carried

⁵ibid.



BOOK CLUB SCHEDULE

MAY 8
TITLE
Where the Children Take Us
AUTHOR
Zain E. Asher

JUNE 12
TITLE
My Life in France
AUTHOR
Julia Child

"Some carried themselves with a sort of wistful resignation, others with pride or stiff soldierly discipline or good humor or macho zeal. They were afraid of dying but they were even more afraid to show it."

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NEW MEADOWORD SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS

If you spend several months of the year away from The Meadows, and would like to receive a print copy of *The Meadoword*, consider subscribing to *The Meadoword* or access it on themeadowssarasota.org. Forms for subscriptions may be found on the MCA website under News & Resources/ Meadoword 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 Meadoword 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 Meadowords 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
Canada	\$42.00
Foreign	\$75.00

Semiannual Subscription - Begin in May and end in December of that same year. You will receive issues of the full *Meadoword* if you make payment by April 1, otherwise you will receive your first publication the next time it is published along with any special editions in June and August IF published.

USA	\$14.40
Canada	\$25.20
Foreign	\$45.00

MEADOWORD DEADLINES

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

The deadline for the May 2024 *Meadoword* is Monday, April 1.

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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.

HOMES FOR RENT

Renting from April 7th to May 7th, 2024, May 7th to June 7th, 2024 and July, Aug, Sept, Oct, Nov, & Dec 2024. 2bdrm, 2ba, fully furnished condo on golf course. All utilities included (no wifi) \$4,000.00 (\$134.00 day) phone or text 740-815-1332

HOMES FOR SALE

1bed/1bath bungalow for sale in Bunker Oaks. Golf course view, end unit. \$228,000 – rgruneisen@aol.com

Selling home 3bd/3ba. Full garage, with pool & spa. Full view of Benderson Lake. Handicap ready. Walk-in bathtub. Absolutely beautiful home. Call 941-212-4434 for viewing. Asking \$650,000 OBO email Howard374@comcast.net

CONDO FOR RENT

Lovely 2 Bedroom condo for rent. June 1st to December 30th, 2024. Beautiful golf course view, end unit. No pets. By owner 941-320-0502

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

Meadoword

The Meadows Community News and Lifestyle



April 2024 Calendar

April 2	10 AM	Succulent Container Gardening	MCA
April 5	3 -4 PM	Line Dancing	MCLWF
April 8	2 PM	Managing Medicare Misconceptions	MCLWF
April 9	9 - 11 AM	Optimum Hearing Screening Clinic	MCA
April 9	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Ice Cream Social	MCLWF
April 10	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Bingo	MCLWF
April 11	2 PM	MCA Board of Director's Meeting	MCLWF
April 11	7:30 AM - 3 PM	OnSpot Dermatology	MCA
April 15	1 PM	Fall Prevention Workshop	MCLWF
April 17	10:30 -11:45 AM	FitMinds	MCLWF
April 17	4 PM	Assembly of Property Owners	MCLWF
April 18	8 AM - 2 PM	Blood Drive	MCA
April 22	10 AM	Earth Day 2024 Kickoff Race to Save Our Corals - Mote Marine Aquarium	MCLWF
April 22	1 PM	Wild Sarasota: Wildlife in Our Neighborhood	MCLWF
April 22	6 PM	Red Tide & You	MCLWF
April 23	10:30 AM	Sharks: The Great Predator - A Scientist Looks at Forty Years in Research	MCLWF
April 23	4 PM	Health Benefits of Nature	MCLWF
April 23	8 PM	Full Moon Outing UF/IFAS	MCA
April 24	8:30 AM	Meadows Bird Walk	MCLWF
April 24	2 PM	Local Environmental Impact on Sarasota Bay	MCLWF
April 24	4 PM	Meadows Bird Talk	MCLWF
April 24	6:30 PM	Day After Tomorrow - Movie Night	MCA
April 25	11 AM	Florida Friendly Landscaping	MCLWF
April 25	1 PM 2:30 PM	Wonderful World of Owls Wonderful World of Owls	MCLWF MCLWF
April 25	6 PM	Recycling the Past: Art of John Chamberlain	MCLWF
April 26	12 - 3 PM	Earth Week Celebration: Music, Art Display, Food Truck & More	MCA

CLUBS & SOCIAL GROUPS

Ace in the Hole Card Club

Tuesday 7-10 PM
Bob Monaghan

Drop in Art Studio

Melinda Gordon
Every Thursday 10:00 AM - 12 PM

Bike Club

Janet Schmidt
Every Wednesday 9 AM
Meets at Meadows Pub

Bingo

Agnes Rutushni
6:30 PM

Book Club

Lois Robinson
Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, 2 PM

Bridge-Wednesday

Kerianne McMurdo
Every Wednesday 1:30 - 4 PM

Bridge-Friday

John Harwood
Every Friday 12:30 - 3 PM

Bridge Saturday Duplicate

Dot Boulia
Date/Time varies

Canasta: Hand & Foot

Debra Ashenofsky
Every Tuesday 1:30 - 5 PM

Cornhole

Susan Weisse
Every Thursday 3 - 5 PM

Craft Group

Gayle Kroll
Every Wednesday 9 - 11 AM

Game Night

Pat Webster
Every Thursday 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Garden Club

Melanie Babineau
Monthly, 1st Thursday 2 - 3 PM

Hot Stove League

Mark Pienkos
Monthly, 2nd Tuesday 9 - 11 AM

Knit Happens

Vicki Carey
Monthly, 2nd Monday 1 - 3 PM

Mah Jongg

Elizabeth Williams
Every Monday 9 AM - 12 PM

Meadowlarks Poetry Writers

Michael Bruno
2nd & 4th Fridays of each month
10 AM - 12 PM

Meadows Chorus

Cindy Rubin
Every Thursday 7 - 9 PM

Meadows Sailing Assoc.

Adam Lawall
Every Tuesday 1 - 3 PM
Meets at MCA Pond

Memoirs

Liz Barnett
Meets 1st & 3rd Friday
10 AM - 12 PM

Pieceful Meadows Quilting & Needlework

Marge Erasmus
Every Monday 9 AM - 12 PM

Shalom Club

Helene Stone
Joni Cohen
Every 4th Sunday at 3 PM



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