



THE MEADOWWORD

THE MEADOWWORD

December 2020

The Meadows Community News and Lifestyle

Volume 38, Number 10

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
MANASOTA, FL
PERMIT 61



*Lifting
spirits*

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THE SPIRIT OF UNITY

Jan Lazar—MCA Board President

THE MEADOWS- it even SOUNDS like a tranquil, pleasant place to be. We are so lucky to live in a wonderful community surrounded by natural beauty. As we have just celebrated Thanksgiving, in many cases without most of our traditional gatherings, we remember all for which we are thankful. We look forward to the seasonal holidays with hope and anticipation of a healthier and safer new year.

The most important thing for all of us to be mindful of is that we are one community, sharing our daily lives and interacting in common space with friends, neighbors and people we don't know. As a community, we welcome seasonal friends and new visitors each year. We look forward to seeing people we have missed. We enjoy the chance to make new friends and to share our wonderful community with others.

As we move out of a prolonged period of stress for all caused by the continuing impact and threat of COVID, uncertainty of our future national and local leadership during seemingly unending election campaigns, and our inability to travel, visit and move about without added constraints due to public health concerns, we know that we have

just lived through one of the most difficult periods in recent memory. Loss of jobs, closing of long valued businesses, stock market gyrations- each has added stress and had impacts within our community as well as the larger community and throughout the nation.

We need to keep in mind that more things are common to us than separate us. It is a time to look to a future working together to improve our community,

networks and price ranges for those who want to enjoy what The Meadows has to offer. We work hard to meet the various needs and interests of our community.

We do this within the framework of our governing documents, policies and a variety of legal parameters for deed restricted communities such as ours. It's never an easy task to weigh all the variables in making any significant decision. When you have almost

We will begin the new season with renewed optimism about the vibrant future of The Meadows.

enhance our lifestyle, increase our property values and make The Meadows a highly desirable, diverse community where all feel welcome and we enjoy ourselves and each other. We can look outside ourselves and our very real daily worries and see the bright, beautiful life around us.

The leadership and staff of MCA are committed to creating the environment that enables us to have that present and future. We work for the common good in a spirit of understanding and cooperation. We know that each of us has our own particular interests, things we value, things that we are indifferent to, and things we don't particularly like. But that said, we all know that we offer a wide range of diverse activities, housing types, social

3,500 homes, a nursing home, a graduated living facility, a small shopping/business center and a country club, the number of factors and opinions affecting any decision are too numerous to itemize. But we work diligently as a community to balance requirements, desires, options and costs to optimize our overall community livability, affordability, desirability, and economic value.

We hope that each of you values your community as much as we value you. We will begin the new season with renewed optimism about the vibrant future of The Meadows.



We work for the common good in a spirit of understanding and cooperation.

We wish you a happy holiday season and a wonderful healthy and peaceful New Year!

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.



Our Mission

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



Keeping Your Spirits Lifted

Frances Rippcondi—MCA General Manager

The holiday season is the time designated for family and friends to come together and celebrate what matters most – each other. Without a doubt, COVID-19 has challenged our ability to gather and celebrate exactly like years past, but it doesn’t take away our ability to reflect on our accomplishments or all the exciting plans for the new year.

So, if your spirits need a little lifting, look to the past, embrace the present, but plan for the future. That is what The Meadows Community Association is doing on a daily basis. Thanks to the perseverance of the MCA Board, the MCA /The Meadows Country Club Strategic team, Committees, Associations, volunteers and MCA staff working together, our vision is becoming a reality.

We can most definitely be proud of the fact that only three years ago the Renaissance Plan was conceived. At first no one really understood what it meant but today everyone is aware that it’s a plan to change and improve the assets of The Meadows by preserving our open space, enriching our lifestyle and enhancing our beauty.

The preservation of open space exists today because the MCA board had the vision and insight to purchase the Meadows Country Club land and buildings as a way of protecting the greenspace. Today, changes continue to take place as the renovation of the Meadows golf course is almost completed. This critical renovation was done to preserve our asset, restore

the character of the course and prevent the atrophied, compacted course from failing, which would result in a catastrophic turf loss, unsightly golf course green views and reduced playability. Upon completion of the Meadows, residents will be able to enjoy the renewed tranquil setting and beautiful green vistas for years to come.

The adoption of the Environmental Policy by MCA board was another step in protecting our land for the future. The support of this policy is instrumental in assuring that our wildlife habitats and ponds are protected. Low maintenance zones, a grass or planted lake bank edge, once a foreign concept is now encouraged by the board and has been adopted by 27 out of 30 associations whose property border on lakes. This step single-handedly is the easiest and most effective method to preserve our lake bank edges and ponds. The MCA and Water and Wildlife Committee have also planted over 3,000 aquatic plants in our common area ponds.

Explore new areas and look at recent improvements throughout The Meadows. Enjoy the present and stroll around Butterfly Lake. It will not only improve your physical health but elevate your mood as you watch wildlife feeding within the recently planted aquatic vegetation. In your travels, experience the relaxing setting and recently refreshed shelled walking paths and landscaped areas by the Map Island and 17th St. lake. Take a walk over the newly repaired bridges that connect you to over 14

miles of walking paths. You will be sure to forget your worries!

Another great way to improve your mood is by taking advantage of what is being offered. If you haven’t picked up your Renaissance Access Card what are you waiting for? Get your card today by calling the MCA and making an appointment!

The Renaissance Access plan was devised between the MCA and TMCC Strategic team with the community in mind. The goal is to protect our assets as well as enhance The Meadows lifestyle and recreational offerings for our residents.

If you want to improve your mental and physical health - get moving. Join a fitness class, learn how to play tennis/golf, swim, or workout with weights at the Dickens facility, but have fun!

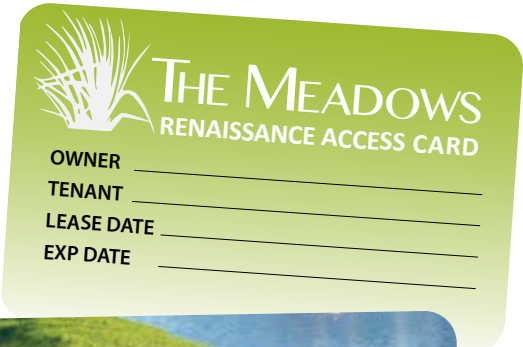
Don’t forget the importance of socializing either. The best way to stay healthy and keep your spirits elevated is connecting and interacting with one another. Building relationships and connections boosts your health, reduces stress, and increases your levels of happiness. Connections can be made virtually or in person. If you feel safer staying at home participate in a virtual exercise, webinar or learning class.

Breaking out of your routine, and trying new things is another way elevate your mood. By simply experiencing new dining opportunities you will expand your tastebuds and your social horizons. Here in The Meadows, you can try new epicurean delights without leaving the community. For the month of December, Renaissance Access card holders can enjoy Sunday brunch at the Regency Room and dine in the evening at the Fountain View Lounge from November through December. Also available year-round is outdoor dining under the oak tree canopies at the Centre Court Lounge.

After paying homage to the past, being mindful of the present, look to the future. Knowing changes are coming gives us something to look forward to. The new Community Lifestyle and Wellness Facility which is under design to replace the aging Dickens facility, will offer residents opportunities to improve their physical health, wellness and social connections. This building’s multi-functional spaces will allow flexibility to develop a wide range of activities which will suit everyone’s interests.

Next year, promises to be an equally exciting filled with growth and accomplishments. Our goal is to continue to protect the land, expand social, learning and recreational offerings and continue to improve The Meadows assets.

I am looking forward to the opportunities that next year brings and I wish you all a safe and Happy New Year.



RENAISSANCE ACCESS CARDS

If you are a homeowner or an annual tenant who has already picked up your card, we are extending privileges through December of 2021. For those who have not yet picked up their Renaissance Access Card, contact Debbie Lord at the MCA and she will be happy to assist you.





The Season Dedicated to Peace On Earth and Goodwill to All

Our Community in These Troubled Times

Bob Clark—Standards Chair

Because of the early deadline for Meadowword articles I am writing this before the results of the Presidential election are known. Regardless of the outcome, I hope we can all come together and work on making this great nation of ours a place that holds a bright future for all of our citizens. In 1864, a time when this nation was divided like never before, Abraham Lincoln asked the nation to move forward during his second inaugural address when he spoke the words “With malice toward none, with charity to all...” Good advice then and good advice now.

Here in The Meadows we do come together as a community to work toward common goals for the benefit of all of our residents. That is shown in the hard work displayed in the way we maintain our homes and the pride we take in our common space. When you drive through

The Meadows you can see that we have been gifted a legacy of natural beauty that is worth preserving for the future. Paying forward is the way that we can pass this gift on to future generations.

The vast majority of the residents living in The Meadows have taken to the spirit of paying forward in the way they care for their homes and property. The Standards Committee is tasked with the responsibility of reminding those few who need to correct some problem that detracts from the overall quality of our

"With malice
toward none,
with charity
to all..."
Abraham Lincoln

community. The most common problems we encounter involve roofs and driveways.

If your roof is dirty or your driveway in need of cleaning or repair, the best first step to correct this is to get a quote from a power washing company. If you are concerned about potential damage to your roof, there are companies that provide this service in a manner that will preserve the integrity of your roofing material. The MCA office maintains a list of service providers compiled by residents who have had a good experience with a particular vendor.

One area which has recently come before the Standards Committee involves the installation of mailboxes. As with any improvement to the exterior of your property a new mailbox

should be submitted to the MCA for an architectural review before installation. If you reside in a residence governed by a condo association or an HOA, there may already be rules governing the style of mailbox that is permitted.

The COVID pandemic has made this a tough year for everyone especially for those who have had to fight the disease or lost a friend or loved one. Throughout this crisis the staff of the MCA and the volunteers have done a great job of preserving as much normalcy as is possible under the circumstances. May the glow of this special time of the year contribute to lifting your spirit and give you hope for a better tomorrow.

New to The Meadows?

Be sure to visit our
MCA Website for:

- Documents
- Activities and Events
- News and More

<https://www.themeadowssarasota.org/>



Architectural Review

October Approved Applications

3016 Highlands Bridge Rd	2877 Ringwood Meadow
Chelmsford Close Condo Assn	4305 Highland Oaks Cir
Chelmsford Close Condo Assn	4951 Windsor Park
3866 Surrey Court	4848 Greywood Ln
5271 Everwood Run	4822 Greencroft Rd
3149 Heatherwood Ln	Morningside Condo Assn
3376 Highlands Bridge	4701 Greencroft Rd
2952 Longleat Woods	4843 Marsh Field Rd
Villas of Papillon Condo Assn	5025 Marsh Field Rd
4492 Highland Oaks Cir	3013 Rosemead
4709 Harvest Bend	4951 Waterbridge Down
Chanteclair Condo Assn	3834 Surrey Ct
Vivienda Condo Assn	4313 Highland Oaks Cir
1915 Dalecroft	4915 Waterbridge Down



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Assembly of Property Owners

Mike Mazur—Assembly Committee Chair

At the November 18, 2020 Assembly meeting, the Delegates per the Assembly Rules, narrowed the field of applicants for the Board of Directors to five - two over the number of open positions. The five nominees will appear on the ballots that will be sent to all Meadows property owners in mid-January 2021 when the Annual Assessment invoices are released. The January 2021 issue of The Meadowword will contain a piece on each nominee.

The November program “Reserve Studies – Importance and Process” was presented by Patricia Staebler, Principal of Staebler Appraisal and Consulting. She covered this all-important topic in detail and provided much food for thought for our association leaders. In our association communities, adequate and regularly-evaluated reserves are

crucial to financially preparing for long term replacements for aging structures and equipment.

Also on the program for November’s meeting was a presentation of the proposed 2021-2022 Budget for the Meadows Community Association by MCA Treasurer Fernando Viteri. Questions and comments were addressed and will be shared with the Board of Directors as they deliberate its adoption.

As we move forward into the new year, your Assembly Executive Committee is preparing an assortment of programs for the January through May program period. We are on hiatus for December, but in development for January 21, 2021 meeting, we are working in conjunction with the Safety Committee Chair on a program designed

to increase awareness of safety devices, methods, resources and protocols for our association leaders. Further down the calendar, look for another legal Q&A session which is always lively and informative bringing the knowledge and expertise of attorneys in the community association area to the forefront.

As I ponder the close of 2020, I have fond memories of the Holiday traditions shared by my Polish immigrant grandparents especially the Oplatek, a wafer shared one-on-one with family and friends

offering best wishes for health, happiness, and good fortune. The Meadows is a wonderful place to live healthy and to be happy. Our good fortune is to have the opportunity to live in this beautiful community. Health, happiness and good fortune to you!



The five nominees will appear on the ballots that will be sent to all Meadows property owners in mid-January 2021 when the Annual Assessment invoices are released.

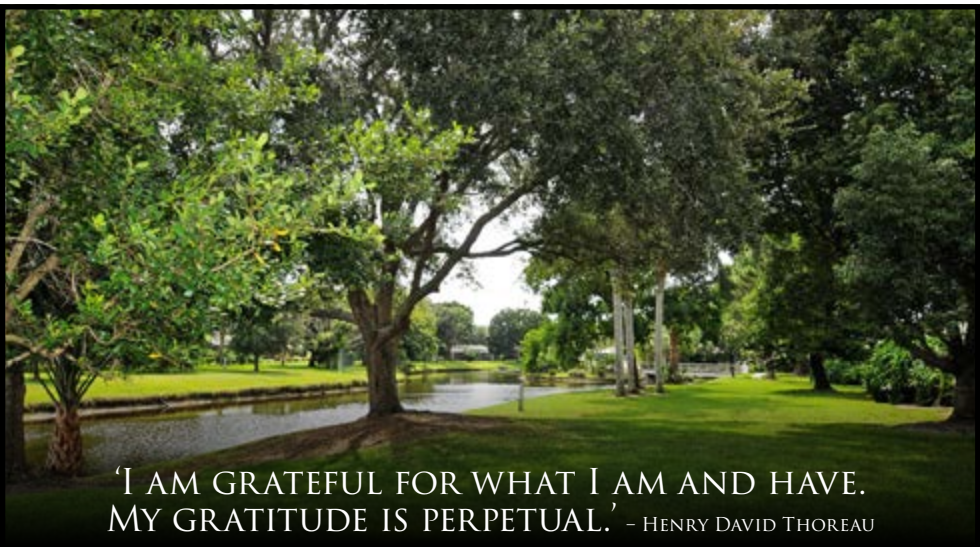


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‘I AM GRATEFUL FOR WHAT I AM AND HAVE.
MY GRATITUDE IS PERPETUAL.’ – HENRY DAVID THOREAU

Whether you’re gathering around a table or saying thanks around a computer screen, please know our hearts are with you and your family this holiday season.

We are always grateful for your business, friendship and to work in a such a breathtaking community like The Meadows.

We’re proud to be your Meadows real estate experts. Call us to discuss your goal for the new year.



E. Van Riper
REALTOR®, GRI, CLHMS, RENE
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ElizabethVanRiper@MichaelSaunders.com
ElizabethVanRiper.com



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A Look Ahead

Tom Pound—MHOA President

It is no accident that major religions have December celebrations. A time to reflect on the past year and look ahead to the new. A time to decorate our homes inside and out. How about a little extra this year? Could your home be that special spot that gives people a smile when they drive by?

Like many of you, this will be the first year since moving to Florida that Sue and I don't travel to celebrate with our children and grandchildren. As born-and-raised northerners, getting in the spirit without snow and cold takes some effort, but bright lights, music and smiling faces (even with masks) remind us of the true meaning of love and celebration and the promise of new and better days!

So, bake some extra cookies for your friends, decorate your home

to show your spirit, take the time to tell your neighbors you appreciate them, send out actual holiday cards with personal notes, but most of all reflect on all the things you have to celebrate even in this most unusual year.

On a business note, we have some new beginnings at MHOA. Thanks to the efforts of board member Mike Cox, the MHOA has launched a monthly newsletter! It is designed to keep our membership informed of board meeting business and discussions, but it doesn't stop there. The second portion is for member input to raise and discuss issues important to our single-family homeowners. Some of you have received the first issues already in your email. If you are a member and haven't received it, it's because we don't have your current email address.

If you are a MHOA member and would like to be part of this two-way communication, send your current email address to: MeadowsHomeownersSarasota@gmail.com

If you aren't currently a member, please join us.

It's only \$15 a year or \$25 for two years.

Happy Holidays!



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Neighborhood
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SAFETY WATCH

Holiday Safe Shopping

Cathy Duff—Law Enforcement Deputy, Crime Prevention Unit

The holiday season is always a special time of year. Unfortunately, thieves often use the holiday season to find easy targets. As you shop, please be mindful of the following safety tips to help keep your holiday shopping safe and joyous!

Did you know?

- In 2019 Black Friday saw 93.2 million buyers shopping online.
- Millennials were the biggest spenders on Black Friday 2019.
- Black Friday online shopping sales hit \$7.4 billion in 2019 which is an all-time high.
- In person shopper visits on Black Friday 2019 fell down by 6.2% from 2018.
- 56% of online shoppers use their mobile device for holiday shopping.
- Identity theft and robberies are two of the most common crimes during the holiday season.
- Identity theft accounted for 20.33% of cases and was the most-common type of fraud in 2019.
- 51% of online retailers do not attempt to lock a consumer out after 10 incorrect login attempts; therefore, fraudsters have an unlimited number of attempts into your online profile/account.

While Shopping

Be aware of your surroundings. Look for suspicious persons, etc.

when you are in any area.

- Shop during the day when possible, avoid shopping alone after dark.
- Keep your purse and bags closed at all times.
- Credit cards are the safest form of payment.
- Do not buy more than you can comfortably carry or ask a store employee to assist you to your vehicle.
- Consolidate your purchase into larger bags.
- Avoid wearing expensive jewelry or handbags.
- Juggling, or stalking of potential victims as a prelude to robbery is on the rise:
 - If you must use an ATM, choose one located inside a bank or mall rather than a stand-alone machine, and make sure it is in a well-lit area.
- Pay attention to who and what is around you when leaving an ATM or bank.
- Only withdraw the amount of cash needed and never leave cash in your car.
- If you feel like someone is following you, contact security or law enforcement right away. If you are driving, do not go straight home.

In The Parking Lot

- Remember where you parked your car. While this may sound elementary, many shopping centers are spread out over large areas. Being unable to locate a car can cause you undue confusion and stress that may make you an easy target to a criminal.
- Always park in an open and well-lit area.
 - Lock your doors and don't leave valuables in your vehicle—including purchases!
 - Be alert and off of your cell phone when in a parking lot.
 - Be ready to unlock your car before leaving a store.
 - Do not resist if someone tries to take any of your belongings – nothing is worth your life.



Online Shopping

Undoubtedly COVID-19 will further influence people to shop online. In an effort to minimize larger crowds typically found on Black Friday many retailers have already begun Black Friday deals online and in stores. No

- matter how you choose to do your shopping, remaining vigilant and implementing a few simple safety precautions while shopping can mitigate crimes of opportunity.
- Before you start your online shopping, remember to STOP. THINK. CONNECT. Make sure security measures are in place, and enjoy the benefits of the internet.
- Shop from a secure network connection such as your home, avoid using public Wi-Fi.
 - Ensure your anti-virus software is updated on your home computer and mobile devices.
 - Use strong passwords even if online retailers are accepting “weak” ones allowing your information to become susceptible to fraudulent activity.

- Use familiar and safe websites (indicated by a lock symbol or https://).
- Save receipts and review your statements regularly for discrepancies.
- Consider having packages sent to a work address if you will not be home during delivery and utilize online in-store pick up or ship-to-store options.




The Meadows, Hub of Sarasota

Resales ending the months of October 2020 and October 2019 In The Meadows & Sarasota County

SALES	THE MEADOWS	SARASOTA COUNTY
Sales 2020 & 2019	↑2020 (17) 2019 (14)	↑2020 (1146) 2019 (907)
Median Sale Price	↑\$178,000 \$173,000	↑\$323,500 \$255,000
Condominium Sales	↑2020 (16) 2019 (12)	↑2020 (379) 2019 (291)
Med Condo Sale Price	↑\$177,500 \$167,500	↑\$254,900 \$215,500
House Sales	↓2020 (01) 2019 (02)	↑2020 (767) 2019 (616)
Med House Sale Price	↓\$256,000 \$266,500	↑\$345,500 \$280,000
For sale on the 31st	↓2020 (24) 2019 (55)	↓2020 (2085) 2019 (3356)
Property Pending	↑2020 (40) 2019 (23)	↑2020 (1777) 2019 1139)
Listing Supply	↓2020 (1.4) 2019(3.9)	↓2020 (1.8) 2019 (3.7)

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SEASONAL RENTALS

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- Single Family pool home
- Updated 3 bedroom Meadowlake

Stay safe!

Happy Holidays!

Heat Records Continue to “Fall”

Roy Wysnewski— October 2020 Climate Analysis

Weather Analysis

The Meadows’ “dry” season (October-May) began in a rainy fashion. Following a very wet September, we measured 4.52 inches in October (86 percent above normal). The airport also recorded above normal (20%) rainfall for October. This month’s excess rain is attributed to a late-year return of the historical summer east-to-west storm pattern. Four of the five major rains (10/4, 10/10, 10/21, 10/26) developed inland Florida and moved west/northwest towards the Gulf Coast. The fifth and largest rain-maker, a 1.15-inch Halloween-Eve rainfall, came onshore from the Gulf as part of the season’s first cold front.

As the headline of this month’s column implies, we are five weeks into the “Fall” season and who would believe that high-temperature records continue to be set in The Meadows? In

RAINFALL & TEMPERATURE DATA

Meadows
Rainfall—4.52 in. (YTD: 56.52 in.)
22 yr. rainfall avg.—2.43 in.

Average high-temp.—89 ° F
Above normal high-temp. days: 25
Record high-temp. days: 5

Airport
Rainfall—3.75 in. (YTD: 47.86 in.)
Historical rainfall avg.—3.12 in.

Average high-temp.—88 ° F
Above normal high-temp. days: 24
Record high-temp.days: 1

addition to five new records this month, there were 25 days with above-average temperatures bringing the YTD total to 252, 71% above average. With air conditioners running overtime for the 10th consecutive month, 2020 is certainly on track to set a new yearly high-temperature record!

Presented in the graph below are the monthly rainfall and high-temperature data.

Climate Analysis

After assembling 305 digital data pieces, the 2020 tracking climate

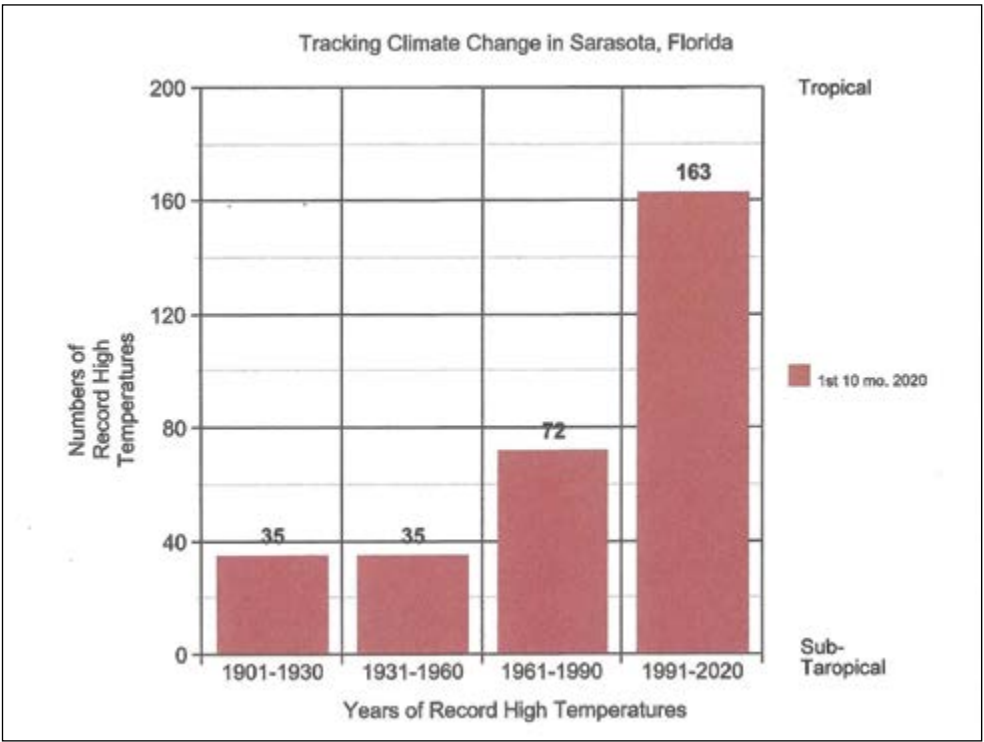
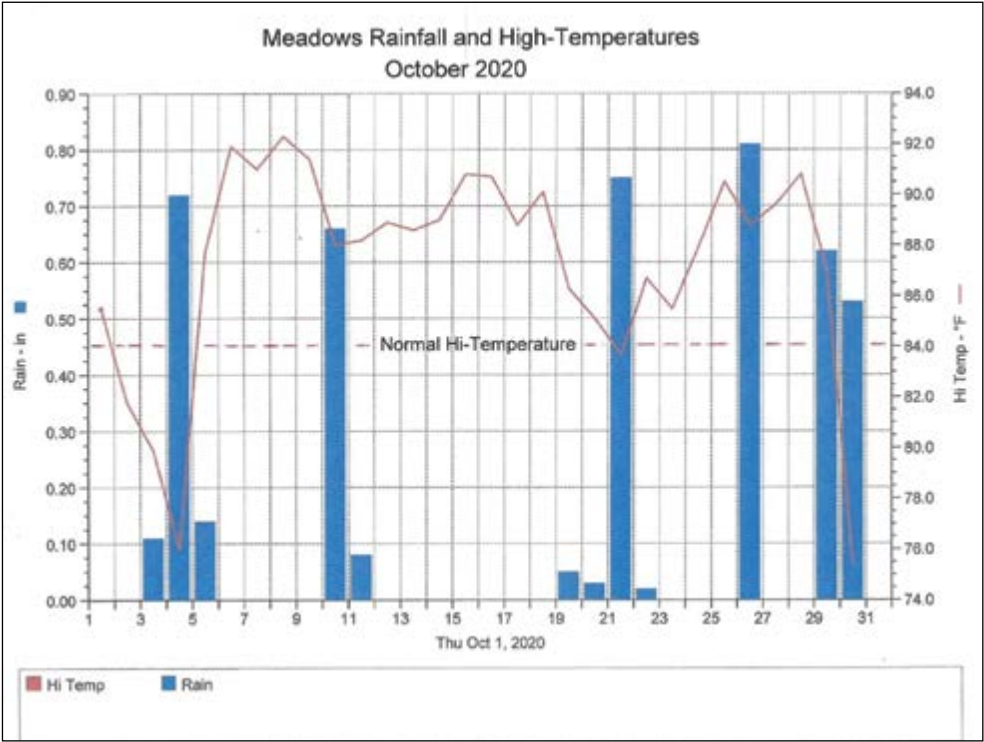
change “puzzle” is within two months of completion. The October YTD Tracking Climate Change graph (below) continues to show record-temperature increases (126%) during the past three decades.

At the time of this writing, the last month of this year’s record-setting six-month hurricane season is about to begin. In review, it’s clear that climate change influenced abnormally high Caribbean/Gulf of Mexico water temperatures, thus, leading to a record number of tropical systems forming in

the Caribbean. As these systems developed into hurricanes, they moved into the Gulf then northward making devastating impacts on the mainland United States.

Because Caribbean water temperatures remain very warm, another tropical storm has formed in the eastern Caribbean basin. Tropical storm Eta is expected to become a hurricane during the first week of November and move into Central America. There is a possibility that the remnants of Eta could then move northward into the southern Gulf of Mexico by Nov. 8 where it would regain strength in the warm Gulf waters. With that in mind, residents in southwest Florida should remain vigilant. We never know when one of these rapidly forming late-season tropical storms will suddenly decide to head in our direction!

Comments or Questions,Contact:
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Crafters Possess a Special Talent

Gretchen Cochran

You know that finger game you play with children, “the eensy weensy spider went up the water spout, down came the rain...?” Besides being fun and silly, it teaches wee ones’ finger dexterity, a skill they will need the rest of their lives. And it’s a characteristic possessed by every crafter.

Just try crocheting, the art of hooking yarn with a thing called a crochet hook and winding it in and out through your fingers making a series of slip knots. (Try not to swear.) Likewise, sewing involves needles thrust in and out of fabric, fingers pushing and pulling. Precision is critical. Embroidery is similar but more complex, with ever more intricate stitches having names like “raised seed stitch” and “lazy daisy”. Quilters employ a magnifying glass to make their tiny stitches. Beaders use miniscule bits of glass threaded onto hair-thin wires then woven into complex shapes. Greeting card creators cut tiny slivers of colored paper then glue those in delicate layers to create images like dashing dogs and flamboyant flowers.

stalwarts, some having been with the group more than a decade.

With nimble fingers, they work on various projects. **Helene DiPuma**, chief organizer way back in 2005, is one of the seamstresses, having sewn placemats, table runners and the like. The craft group is more than finger work for her.

“I enjoy the comradery. It’s a great bunch of girls,” she said. The women bring a variety of

someone had donated to the crafters for completion. **Sharon Godlewski** had sewn a pile of multi-colored face masks.

We use those fine motor skills every day to get dressed, eat, write, or even change the channel on the television. Fine motor skills are important to maintain to remain as independent as possible, gerontologists say.

Besides exercising fingers, crafting challenges the brain as well. The

crafters will continue honing their manual dexterity, producing beautiful wares and special gifts.



If you
can glue,
we want you.



talents, many of them practicing skills handed down from their grandmothers.

“My grandmother crocheted,” said **Kathy Easley**, “as did my mother. But my mother was left-handed. I had to get a book to learn how to do it. She did everything backwards.” Kathy returned to the MCA with crocheted baby buntings and matching hats plus an intricate baby blanket.

“This is what you do when you’re home all summer,” she quipped.

Harriet Hergenrother had put together crocheted quilt squares



Weekly, across the crafting room at The Meadows Community Center, you could see fingers creasing book pages or gently wrapped around brushes, painting decoupage onto various surfaces, and some applying glue and sprinkling it with glitter.

Then came COVID-19. The gatherings stopped in March. But our crafters’ fingers did not stop working. Many of them crocheted, sewed, folded, beaded and painted at home, some because they needed something to do with their hands.

It’s been eight months since the pandemic was declared but in mid-October a trickle of the crafters returned to the MCA. They are reconvening henceforth, every Wednesday at 9 a.m. Their number is reduced significantly (after all, the Canadians among others aren’t here yet) but these now-masked women are the

Upcoming Activities and Events



MCA Holiday Party

- **Thursday December 10, 5 pm – 8 pm**
- Location: MCA Parking Lot, under the stars, surrounded by holiday lights
- Tickets \$20—Sign up early LIMITED SEATING
- Ugly Sweater Contest
- Dance Off Competition
- 4 Course hot meal, cash libations
- Live entertainment

Purchase by credit card on MCA website Lifestyle page or Call MCA at 941-377-2300



Photo by: Jacques Linder

Bird Walk led by Sarasota Audubon Society

December 8, 8:15 a.m.

Meets outside in front of MCA building

To sign up, visit the Lifestyle page on our website.

PICKLEBALL CLINICS



Wednesday, December 9—12–3 pm

Intermediate 12–1 pm
Advanced beginner 1–2pm
Beginner 2–3 pm

Tuesday, December 29—12–3 pm

Intermediate 12–1 pm
Advanced beginner 1–2pm
Beginner 2–3 pm

Tuesday, January 12—9 am–12 pm

Intermediate 9–10 am
Advanced beginner 10–11 am
Beginner 11–12 pm

Thursday, January 28—9 am–12 pm

Intermediate 9–10 am
Advanced beginner 10–11 am
Beginner 11–12 pm

Cost is \$10 per session
Contact **Ron Albers** at famerflorida@hotmail.com
Reservations required, 8 participants per session maximum.

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- **4841 WINSLOW BEACON**–2 bdrms, 2 baths, recently painted throughout. Lush greenery. **PENDING** **\$167,000**
- **5660 SHEFFIELD GREENE**–2 bdrms, 2 baths, 1 car garage–2 lanais! Private nature zone. **SOLD** **\$209,000**
- **4528 LONGWATER CHASE**–1 bedroom end unit on golf course. Furnished–ready to move in! **\$129,750**

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Halloween Fun



COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD



Merry Christmas

MCA Offices Will
Be Closed For
The *Holidays*

Thursday December 24
Friday December 25
Thursday December 31
Friday January 1, 2021

A white line-art Christmas tree with a star on top, set against a red background.

SAVE A LIFE. GIVE BLOOD.

A white SunCoast Blood Bank truck with a sign that says "DONATE BLOOD AND PLATELETS". The truck is parked on a street with trees in the background.

SunCoast Blood Drive
Thursday
December 17
7 am-1 pm
MCA Parking Lot

NOTICE

Pickleball courts are for residents and members ONLY. Courts will be periodically monitored by our Safety Patrol.
Thank you.

Toys for Tots
Drop off box at the MCA
through December 11

A collection of board game boxes including Clue, Scrabble, and Monopoly, with a Mr. Potato Head figure in the foreground.

Toys for Tots helps so many less fortunate children share in the magic of the holiday. Its easy, drop off new, unwrapped toys in their original box at the Toys for Tots drop off box, located on the Public side of the building through December 11 and make the holidays bright for a child.

Sunday Brunch in Regency



Sunday Brunch \$24.95++ in the newly renovated Regency room will begin December 1 and run through the end of the month. Gather the family and enjoy this treat, as a Renaissance Access Card holder.

Fountain View Lounge (FVL) open for dinner to Renaissance Access Card holders through the end of December. **Call for reservations 941-371-6000.**

Regency and FVL menus are on the MCA website under **LIFESTYLE/RENAISSANCE/DINING & SOCIAL**



The Spirit of Entertaining

Ashley Watts—Outside Catering Director, The Meadows Country Club

Well, this is undoubtedly a little different this year! I can barely remember last year, but 2020 feels smaller and cozier. I think there will be more time for loved ones and those we hold dear as we are not as distracted with the hustle and bustle as we all try to stay safe.

Here at The Meadows Country Club, we are all about keeping you safe while still being able to feel like it's the holiday season. Not only is our Fountain View Lounge coming up with delicious weekly specials and fun tipples, but we are also using our unique campus to

host a plethora of smaller Holiday gatherings. From an intimate, beautiful dinner in our stately Boardroom, warmth from the gas fireplace overlooking the pond on our Fountain View Lounge Patio or under the Tennis Deck's twinkle lights, we have six different spaces to host whatever kind of special event you are considering not to mention our grand new Regency Room ballroom!!

If you feel like hosting at home (it is better with staff), don't forget our off-site catering menu. With delivery in The Meadows and wine available as well, we

are your one-stop-shop for your hosting needs. Items such as Mini Beef Wellingtons, Duck Confit, Empanadas, and our always spectacular cheese and fruit carvings are sure to please any guest and make your job as the host that much easier!

**Call or email, 941-377-8552
awatts@meadowsc.org.
I am always here to help.**

**Wishing you a
wonderful and joyful
holiday season.**



Renaissance Access Fitness Schedules

Crystal Romeo—Athletic Director, The Meadows Country Club

<div><div></div><div>RENAISSANCE ACCESS FITNESS SCHEDULE</div><div>Effective 11/2/2020</div><div>Questions? Call Fitness Center 941-371-6000</div></div>									
Class Name	Days	Start Time	Duration	Cost	How to Pay	Preregistration Required	Zoom/ In-person	How to Register	Instructor
Water Aerobics	TU & TH	3:00	50	\$5.00	Cash to Instructor	yes -48hrs	In Person	fitnessfrontdesk@meadowsccl.org	Margie
Gentle Yoga	TH	4:00	60	\$12.00	Venmo or PayPal	yes -48hrs	zoom	cheryl@gardenoftheheartyyoga.com	Cheryl
Yin Yoga	M	11:30	75	\$12.00	Venmo or PayPal	yes- 48hrs	zoom	radiantsoulyogawellness@gmail.com	Patty
All Levels Yoga	TU & FRI	9:00	75	\$12.00	Venmo or PayPal	yes -48hrs	zoom	radiantsoulyogawellness@gmail.com	Patty
Balance	Fr	9:30	25	\$ 10.00	cash to instructor	yes- 48hrs	in person	bookins619@hotmail.com	Rebecca
Stretch & Tone	Tu	8:45	50	\$5.00	cash to instructor	yes- 48hrs	zoom	bookins619@hotmail.com	Rebecca
Stretch & Tone	TH	8:30	50	\$5.00	cash to instructor	yes -48hrs	zoom	penelopespanache@verizon.net	Penelope
Chair classes	T	9:45	20	\$3.00	cash to instructor	yes-48hrs	zoom	bookins619@hotmail.com	Rebecca

Fitness Center Hours

Monday-Friday 7am-7pm, Saturday 7 am-4 pm

To workout in the Fitness Center you must complete the orientation prior to the use of the equipment.
to schedule your fitness orientations via Zoom email; cromeo@theiconteam.com

Daily pool hours: 7:30 am-7:00 pm, excluding inclement weather, during water aerobics classes and private events.

Wednesday 11:20-12:30, Friday from 11:50 am-1 pm, Tuesdays & Thursdays 2:50-4 PM

Check with the fitness center on all schedules as they are subject to change. No guests are permitted in the fitness center at this time.



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Christmas Memories—The Italian Cook

Bonnie Detwiler—Chatsworth Greene

I found this season a bit difficult to write about, many of us will celebrate with close friends right here in The Meadows. Few of us will be privileged to celebrate with children and grandchildren. So I went into my archives of photographs and articles they have written and decided to share with you an article written by my grandson Matthew when he was nine years old. Currently he is a junior in college!!

Matthew titled his article, *The Italian Cook*.

It's Christmas Eve! I can't wait until I get my presents!

I had written a letter to Santa and mailed it by December 1. I told him I've been a good boy this year. I had better grades in school. I made my bed every day. I was nice to my dog, and I didn't push my sister off a cliff...yet I just scared her a few times. I also filled him in on what I wanted this year: Ripleys 2007 book, a digital camera, Nintendo DS and an Italian book to help me understand the language before my family goes there this summer. It wasn't the neatest letter, and I mistakenly spilled a few drops of hot cocoa on it, but I had to hurry and mail it in time for Christmas.

After dinner on Christmas Eve I put out six thin mint Girl Scout cookies for Santa and a big glass of milk. I helped my dad sprinkle reindeer food on the roof, and then my family and I played carols on the piano. Then it was time for bed.

I had a hard time falling asleep because I was so excited for tomorrow. But I finally managed to doze off and I slept until 5:30 am. When I woke up, I jumped from the top bunk. It was still slightly dark and snowing outside. The house was too quiet, and the floor was too cold. I grabbed my keychain flashlight from inside my desk, and I quickly tiptoed down the slick stairs.

The tree was lit and full of bright colors. There are billions of packages in every size and color stacked underneath the tree. There

was also a round man under the tree! A man?

I ran back upstairs, climbed to the top bunk and slid the covers up over my face I was breathing hard and trying to think of who that man in my living room could be. Maybe he's a burglar. I

"What am I going to do with you?" I asked, "how about I make you breakfast," said my new cook. "By the way, my name is Chef Ravioli and my specialty is lamb!" "Gross I don't want any lamb waffles for breakfast!" "What did you say?" "I mean, may I please have waffles for breakfast, I asked. "Of course,

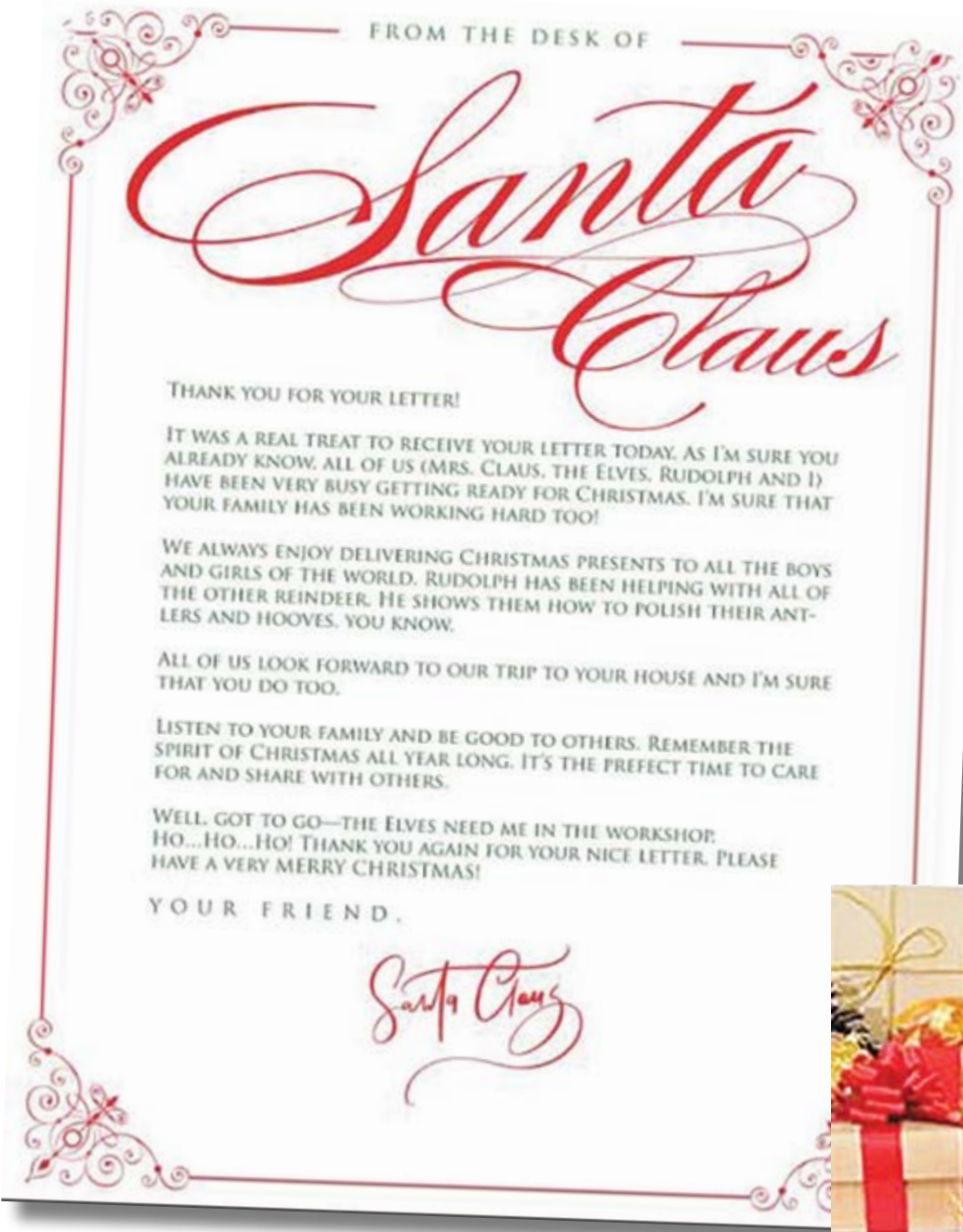
around. While he cooked I asked lots of questions about Italy and the language. He was like a walking encyclopedia. I learned more from him than I could have ever learned from a book.

He stayed with us until summertime, and then he came along on our family vacation to Italy. Ravioli showed me around Rome and taught me all kinds of Italian phrases, our last stop was Venice. We went to Chef Ravioli's house and decided to leave him there with his own family.

I did not know I was going to get an Italian cook for Christmas, but Chef Ravioli turned out to be my best present ever!

I hope this brought a smile to your face as it does to mine every time I read it.

Celebrate this beautiful season with your family, if possible, and your friends! Happy holidays!

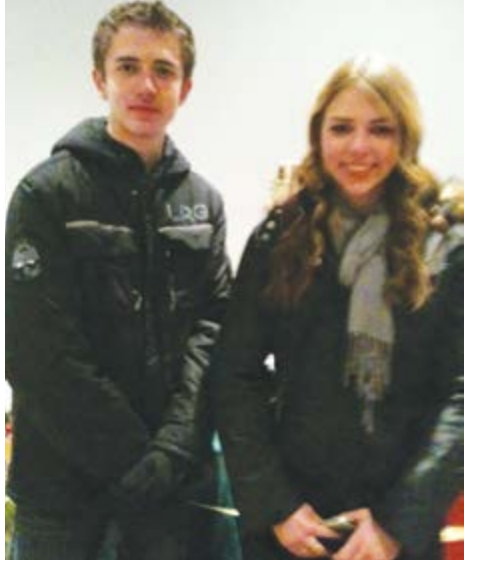


thought maybe he's here to steal the presents. I decided to get my flyswatter, just in case. I walked cautiously back downstairs. The house smelled like eggs and greasy bacon I looked in the kitchen, and there he was. "Ciao" The man said, "I am the Italian cook you wanted, would you like some eggs and Prosecco?" "No thank you" I said, "I wanted an Italian book, not an Italian cook, Who sent you here?"

"Santa, of course. Santa picked me up last night from Venice. He was just in time, then I got to fly here on Santa sled. He tugged me down the chimney like a rug and told me to be very quiet until someone came on Christmas morning."

coming right up," Chef Ravioli said, with a smile.

My waffles were ready in no time and they were delicious, "these are the best waffles in the world, what did you put in them?" I asked, "a secret ingredient," the chef said. Do you really want to know?" "Yes, I really want to know,I insisted." "Lamb," he said, "it goes great with everything!" I did not argue, I went straight to the bathroom. From that day on, I watched chef ravioli while he cooked to make sure I did not have lamb ever again. Chef Ravioli turned out to be good at making veggie dogs, corn dogs, pizza and gelato. My entire family loved having him



Bonnie's grandchildren, Matthew 22 and Olivia 24.



Twelve Thoughts on Pets for the Holidays

David J. Smith, VMD—Bay Road Animal Hospitals



1. Do not give pets for holiday presents. Get a pet one month before or one month after the holidays.

2. If you get a puppy as a present, allow him to rest or he may ‘run out of gas’ and end up with low blood sugar.

3. Do not allow your pets to eat holiday treats like chocolate or cookies.

4. Bones from beef or turkey can get stuck in the gut of hungry dogs and may need to be surgically removed.

5. If you are traveling with your pets on airlines, be sure to have the required paperwork, including health certificates, needed to board the plane.
6. If you are taking pets to visit family for the holidays, pack all needed medications and food.

7. Dogs and cats love presents as much as we do. Buy safe gifts and stay away from hard chew toys like antlers, beef bones, and anything hard enough to break their teeth.

8. Remember that foods with xylose as a sugar substitute can be toxic, as well as raisins, grapes, and decorative plants.

9. Exotic pets, like lizards, have special needs. Be sure you have studied all of the equipment needed to be successful with your new iguana or bearded dragon. Full spectrum light is essential
- for these pets. Special food additives are critical. Call your veterinarian for advice before buying these animals.

10. Many birds are not seed eaters. Investigate what type of cage and what foods are best prior to buying.

11. Make sure you have a phone number for a veterinarian handy in case problems arise in the hustle and bustle of the holidays.

12. Finally, enjoy your pets because they are a very important part of your family!



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5419 University Parkway
University Park, FL 34201
941.803.4464

THE GREEN AT
LAKEWOOD RANCH

11605 SR 70 East
Lakewood Ranch, FL 34202
941.803.4496

New Neighbors New Friends

Ann Hamman-Hampstead Heath

It has been a challenging year in many ways, no doubt about it. Even so, that has not stopped folks in Florida and around the country from changing their address by moving. Hampstead Heath is no exception as we have seven or so new neighbors.

Joan and Larry Kolcz bought their villa in April from **Tim and Gail Haywood**, active residents for many years. They have already changed their residency from Illinois to Florida. "My sister and her husband lived on Gulfstream, so we visited them and fell in love with The Meadows," Joan said. "When we first moved in, we had two lawn chairs and snack trays and an air mattress."

There is more furniture now, of course, but Larry is still working in Geneva, IL, where he owns the Midwest Suburban Baseball League, which has as many as 50 teams in three divisions. Joan is a

retired special education teacher. "We love exploring, love the beach," she said. "There are so many places to see here and things to do." They will be back and forth for now.

In contrast, **Ruth Ann Stryhas**, who closed on her place in March, is here to stay. "I was looking for a place which was pretty and peaceful," she said. "And with a garage." She was looking for the peace after her husband, Larry, died in the summer of 2018. "It's been difficult."

She and her husband lived in Sarasota for 30 years and then in Bradenton for two years. The couple had moved to Florida for the weather, as they were tired of the cold and liked the outdoors. Ruth Ann retired six years ago from her position as supervisor of outpatient surgery at Doctors Hospital for almost 25 years. "This is what I needed," she added,

speaking of her new place here. She is 15 minutes from her son and his family while her daughter and her family are in New Jersey.

Two new neighbors I talked to moved in this fall - **Sam Spano and Rosalie Hawkins**. Sam is living in a villa, which has been in his family for many years; it is now owned by his aunt, **Jo Jo LaMantia**. Sam, who moved to Florida in 1994, has lived in Sarasota and in Lakewood Ranch. Before moving to Hampstead Heath, he sold his place on Myrtlewood. "The Meadows is probably the nicest community in Florida," he said. "And we have a nice little community right here." He has four children with a daughter living in The Meadows and the others in New York.

Rosalie also has a long history in the city, moving with her husband here in 1991. They built a house in Palm Aire and later lived in

Oak Court. Most recently she lived in Springlake in The Meadows. "I've lived in San Francisco and in Connecticut and every place in between," she said. You can find her and her dog, Sully, at the dog park frequently. "I'm extremely happy with Hampstead Heath, especially all the trees," she said.

Among the places she has lived is Geneva, IL, home to the Kolczes. Although they have not met, Rosalie is looking forward to meeting them to see if they know some of the same people.

Condo board member **Janet Schmidt** is included with all of us who are very happy to have the new neighbors as our board is short-handed. "We have a lot of new neighbors, which is very nice," she said. "I hope they will be interested in coming on our board."

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The Spirit of Volunteerism



Nancy Ebersole has worked at The Meadows precinct #121 for 24 years. Despite the challenges this year, at 92 Nancy looked forward to working the polls during Election Day and seeing old friends and neighbors. She is a longtime Sarasota resident who has served as a clerk and assistant clerk, as a volunteer at The Meadows precinct. “That’s what I like about working in The Meadows,” she said. “I know a lot of people in here, it’s home.”

BEST KEPT HOLDIAY DECORATION AWARDS DECEMBER 7-10

Time to decorate for the holidays. The festive lights and colorful, creative decorations will adorn The Meadows community for everyone’s enjoyment.

the Best Kept Committee will nominate and judge winners Deceomer 7 through 10. Photographs of winning displays will begin December 11, so please turn your decorative lights on by dusk.

Awards will be presented for three categories.

- Single Family Homes
- Association Entrances
- Chairman’s Choice

Each category wil have a first place \$100 and runner-up \$50 prize. All six winners will receive a certificate and their check at the Assembly of Property Owners, January 20, 4:00 PM at the MCA Community Center. The three first place winners will have a Best Kept sign on their property for three weeks.

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Lesley Totten, Chairman, Best Kept Committee

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FOR SALE ELSEWHERE IN THE MEADOWS

3877 Surrey Ct – Spectacular pool home, sweeping golf course views.... \$444K
4524 Chandlers Forde – Beautifully updated with golf views..... Pending
5662 Pipers Waite – Breathtaking lake and golf views, furnished.....Pending
3115 Longmeadow – Updated 1/1 cathedral ceilings, by Clubhouse..... SOLD!

FOR SALE IN THE SARASOTA METRO AREA

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Southern Longboat Key – Luxurious penthouse, direct gulf views..... Pending
West of Trail – Southside Village beautifully updated, steps to it all..... Pending

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Rocks, Pebbles and Sand.

A philosophy professor once stood up before his class with a large empty mayonnaise jar. He filled the jar to the top with large rocks and asked his students if the jar was full.

The students said that yes, the jar was indeed full.

He then added small pebbles to the jar, and gave the jar a bit of a shake so the pebbles could disperse themselves among the larger rocks. Then he asked again, "Is the jar full now?"

The students agreed that the jar was still full.

The professor then poured sand into the jar to fill up any remaining empty space. The students then agreed that the jar was completely full.

The professor went on to explain that the jar represents everything that is in one's life.

The rocks are equivalent to the most important things you have going on, such as spending time with your family, maintaining proper health

and relationships. This means that if the pebbles and the sand were lost, the jar would still be full and your life would still have meaning. The pebbles represent the things in your life that matter, but that you could live without. The pebbles are certainly things that give your life meaning (such as your job, house, school, and hobbies), but they are not critical for you to have a meaningful life. These things often come and go, and are not permanent or essential to your overall well-being.

Finally, the sand represents the remaining filler things in your life, and material possessions. This could be small things such as watching

television, browsing through your favorite social media site, or running errands. These things don't mean much to your life as a whole, and are likely only done to fill/waste time or get small tasks accomplished.

What's the big lesson with the rock, pebbles, and sand in a jar story?

If you start with putting sand into the jar, you will not have room for rocks or pebbles. This holds true with the things you let into your life too. If you spend all of your time on the small and insignificant things, you will run out of room for the things that are actually important.

In order to have a more effective and efficient life, pay attention to the "rocks," prioritize the important things because they are critical to your long-term well-being.



HolidayTRIVIA

If you are looking for some non-controversial conversation starters for around the dinner table or anytime during the holidays, here is some fun trivia fodder to fall back on.

Santa's Image

According to Coca Cola, Santa used to look a lot less jolly — even spooky. It wasn't until 1931, when the beverage company hired an illustrator named Haddon Sundblom for magazine ads that we got the jolly old elf. Now, kids won't get nightmares when they dream of Christmas Eve.



Rudolph was a marketing ploy

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer first appeared in 1939 when the Montgomery Ward department store asked one of its copywriters to create a Christmas story



the store could give away as a promotional gimmick. The store had been giving away coloring books for years, and decided to make its own to save money.

"Jingle Bells" was originally a Thanksgiving song



Turns out, we were originally dashing through the snow for an entirely different holiday. James Lord Pierpont wrote a song called "One Horse Open Sleigh" for his church's Thanksgiving concert. Then in 1857, the song was re-published under the title it still holds today, and it eventually became one of the most popular Christmas songs.

Settlers created the first American eggnog



The Jamestown settlers created the first American batch of eggnog, although it may not have tasted quite the way we know and love today. The word nog comes from the word grog; or any drink made with rum. So technically, an early nog didn't require the rich, milky base we now ladle out of grandma's cut-crystal punch bowl.

Christmas decorating sends nearly 15,000 people to the ER



If you've ever watched Clark Griswold decorate his house in Christmas Vacation, that probably doesn't come as much of a surprise. In fact, the Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that 14,700 people visit hospital emergency rooms each November and December from holiday-related decorating accidents. So please, be careful when you're decking your halls.

We ship a ton of packages at the holidays



Between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day last year, the U.S. Postal Service delivered an estimated 910 million packages — in addition to almost 15 billion pieces of mail. That includes gifts for faraway loved ones, cards, letters to Santa and those dreaded credit card bills after we put our holiday purchases on plastic.

September 24, 2020

Run Connie Run



Claire Beeman, Julie Nygaard, Connie Brown and Gail Hadley at the finish line.

Connie Brown, Meadows Country Club member and resident, ran her 42nd consecutive New York City Marathon on November 1. She was joined along the route by several Sarasota friends at different times during her race. Connie ran from The Cattlemen Road Transfer Station at 3:30 am and finished on Highland Park at 8:30 am. Friends and neighbors cheered as she completed this virtual race. This is especially impressive since the New York City Marathon is one of the hardest to qualify for entry.

Congratulations Connie, a great accomplishment!



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The Art of Aging

Bob and Liz Barnett—Co-Memoir Coordinators

Oh, Mrs. Corker, I’m 30 today!” I announced to my next-door neighbor, the wise country woman who had taught me how to can tomatoes and make pickles. “I’ve gotten old,” I wailed.

“Did you expect to get young?” she replied.

That took care of my aging anxiety until the clerk at Fruth Pharmacy gave me a senior discount when I was only 54. I immediately thought facelift, liposuction, hair dye! In the end, I went to the mall

and bought an outfit that was totally inappropriate for my age. I wore it happily when we went dancing at The Escape where it was too dark to see what anyone was wearing.

Today, I have accepted my age, although I am always a little shocked when doctors explain issues that are of concern for elderly patients. I even enjoy my age when I see how kind people are to me. In the story below, Vic Pathe experienced some of the kindness shown to folks of a certain age.

THE LADY ON THE BUS

Vic Pathe

Occasionally, in the course of normal day-to-day activity, a funny event can lift our spirits and cause us to laugh. I remember when, at the age of 31, I was asked for proof of age in a bar at Chicago’s O’Hare Airport. I could hardly believe it. I laughed as I produced my ID and thanked the server for what I thought was a compliment. Upon reflection, I concluded that it was probably due to the poor lighting in the bar.

At the young age of 55, a restaurant gave me an unsolicited senior’s discount. This being my first such experience, I wasn’t sure whether to rejoice at the cost saving or to take issue with the waiter over his presumption that I was a senior. How did they define seniors in this establishment and just how old did he think I was? Like most seniors, I now happily accept these discounts, but last summer, another happening took me completely by surprise and provided a little humor.

It was June 13, 2019. Practically all of Canada was celebrating the victory of the Toronto Raptors over the Golden State Warriors in the NBA finals. Merely by reaching the playoffs, the Raptors aroused the sports passions of millions of Canadians. From St. John’s, Newfoundland to Victoria, British Columbia, crowds cheered for what had become Canada’s team. When the Raptors won the championship, the country went wild. In Toronto, the victory parade lasted several hours and culminated with a celebration in the city hall square. An estimated one million people turned out.

On this happy day I had an appointment in downtown Toronto.

No use driving, I thought to myself, I’ll take public transit. First, the bus to the Broadview Subway Station and then the subway train to my destination. All went smoothly on the way down, but my return trip coincided with the crowds leaving the Raptors’ celebration.

After inching my way through throngs of celebrants, I squeezed onto a crowded subway train just before the doors closed. At the Broadview Station, hordes of people disembarked and climbed the stairs to the waiting buses. After watching one loaded bus leave, I managed to scramble aboard the next one, but it was standing room only. There was a festive mood. Raptors hats, shirts and other gear made for a colorful scene. Indeed, I was one of the few passengers in everyday attire.

The diesel bus roared its way out of the station and onto Broadview Avenue. The brakes squealed as it made frequent stops in the heavy traffic. As it stopped, those of us standing swayed forward. We swayed the opposite way as the bus started off again. At the numerous stops, disembarking passengers weaved their way through the mass of people to get to the exit doors.

By this time, I was about halfway down the bus and still standing. As I looked down at the passengers seated below me, my eyes met the gaze of a lady. Looking up at me, she smiled warmly and, over the din in the bus, she asked, “How are you doing?”

“I’m fine, thanks,” I said, hanging tightly to the overhead rails. The bus screeched to a halt again and

at this point something quite remarkable happened.

“Would you like my seat?” the lady asked, apparently with all the sincerity in the world.

Her offer blew me away. This lady was not young; she appeared to be in her late 70s or early 80s. Had I been sitting and she standing, I would have gladly offered my seat to her.

“Thank you, but I’m fine,” I said, thinking to myself, "do I really look that old? Or do I appear to be in some kind of distress?"

As the bus trundled on, I thought how unusual this was. I straightened up, and pulled my shoulders back hoping to appear more able to cope with the situation. Feeling the need to say something more, I said; “Thank you again” and then, for whatever reason, I said, “But I didn’t think I looked a day over 48.”

The lady laughed and replied, “I think you have the numbers backwards.”

What a joy she was, I laughed and so did the lady sitting beside her. I didn’t tell them how true that was, or that I was only 44 days short of my 84th birthday.

After a few more stops the lady alighted and another lady took her seat. The traffic thinned out as the bus continued towards my destination. After more stops, I sank into a vacant seat wondering what message, if any, I should take from my latest senior’s experience.

Memoirists Bid Farewell to Bob Barnett

Gretchen Cochran

It was just another room in The Meadows Community Association building, but **Bob Barnett** turned it into a chapel where aspiring writers learned to pour themselves onto paper for all the world to see. Ever so gently, he lent us his courage and drive, multiplying ten-fold his own skills as an author and documentarian.

An award-winning athlete, coach and sport historian, Bob, 77, died Oct. 25, ironically because of complications from a fall while dreaming he was catching a football. He had led The Meadows’ Memoir and Life Writing Group since 2012.

That same year **Vic Pathe** had been in the early stages of writing about his childhood and teen years in England during WWII and the early postwar years.

“I was not at all sure of my ability to produce a useful product,” Vic said. But with Bob’s encouragement, he soon was writing memories, some even selected for publishing in The Meadowword. Vic described sitting crammed in underground shelters as bombs fell on England and later, life in Canada. He completed his memoir, and in early 2019 Bob offered to review it.

“Bob spent several hours with me providing helpful suggestions. I will always be grateful for that,” Vic said.

Near the same time Bob was working on his own book, “Growing Up in the Last Small Town: A West Virginia Memoir.” He read chapters to us for our critique, encouraging our comments. He included us in the rigors of publishing as he finished his manuscript, then dealt with editors and galleys marked with endless editing direction.

John and Diane Arch hoped to produce a record for their family once they are gone. “Bob’s enthusiasm and dedication were contagious,” John said.

“Each week or two, I prepared a story from some aspect of my life, with the goal of creating snapshots of important events which my two daughters and four grandchildren could read and add to their



understanding of their father or grandfather. Some of the stories were importantly serious, such as ‘How I Met My Wife,’ and others were humorous, almost silly, in nature such as ‘How I Survived Being Trapped in My Daughter’s College Dorm Building While Completely Naked.’ (Don’t worry, it had a scandal-free, fully dressed ending).

Some of our stories were light and some serious. **Valeda Lee** wrote about coming to terms with her husband’s Parkinson’s Disease and dementia. While reading her story to us, she was overcome with stress and emotion and could not continue. Tears streamed down her cheeks. Bob stepped in and finished reading it for her.

“It’s one of my fondest memories of our dear Bob,” she said.

“Bob created a sacred place in many ways,” **Susan Stasiak** said. His open-hearted reception of our writings was fortified by his skill of critique with guidance.

His professor-like, organized structure shepherded us through a rich two hours of discovering ways to express ourselves and connect with readers.

Marlene Francis, a college professor, said, “Bob loved teaching and coaching and was good at both. He offered ideas and topics to pursue and encouraged even shy writers to share and read their work. His gentle coaching helped writers recognize a story’s weaknesses and find ways to

overcome them.”

“Bob was such an accomplished and respected writer and teacher that he could well have flaunted his success,” **Melinda Gordan** said. In fact, he had published more than 300 articles, two television documentaries, and three books. In the latest issue of Goldenseal magazine, Bob was recognized as “West Virginia’s foremost sports historian.”

Still, his quiet demeanor and wry sense of humor made him seem a friend while also a person to really look up to, and someone that was a pleasure to spend time with, Melinda added.

Susan continued, “Over the two short years I knew Bob, I admired his writing and book publishing accomplishments, but I also learned of his influence, support and benevolence with students from his high school and college teaching and coaching years up to recently. He not only taught and wrote, he showed us how to live. Bob is respected, loved and will be missed by many.”

To paraphrase Kurt Vonnegut, Bob helped us “experience becoming, learned a lot more about what’s inside ourselves, and made our souls grow.”

We are grateful to be among the many who knew him.



The Tortilla Curtain by T. C. Boyle

Joanne Simons—The Meadows Book Club December Preview

On September 1, 2020, T.C. Boyle tweeted:

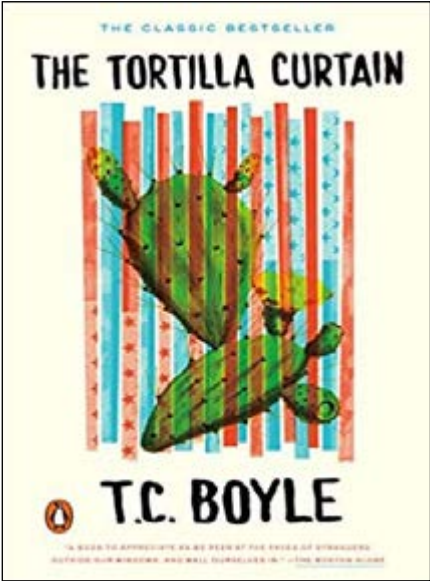
“On a happier note, today marks the twenty-fifth anniversary of the publication of “The Tortilla Curtain,” a book whose currency has only grown in our degraded times.”

The Tortilla Curtain (Viking Press: 1995) is the story of two couples seeking the American Dream. Delaney and Kyra Mossbacher live in the gated community of Arroyo Blanco Estates near the Santa Monica Mountains. He is a writer and a “liberal humanist.” She is a real estate agent selling ever bigger homes to ever-striving clients. Their lives smash into the lives of Cándido and América Rincón, two undocumented Mexican immigrants who are camping in a ravine, barely scratching out an existence through sporadic day labor, when Cándido, while walking along the

canyon road, is hit by Delaney in his “freshly waxed Japanese car with personalized plates.” They will meet again in the book’s climactic scene.

Through the Rincóns, Boyle explores the plight of immigrants, the violence they suffer and the physical and financial hardships they endure while trying to make a life in the U.S. In the Mossbachers, Boyle contrasts their liberal-humanist ideals with their inner prejudices.

In her review for The Times on December 7, 1995, Amanda Craig wrote, “This, Boyle’s sixth novel, examines America’s guerilla war



between haves and have-nots, with a zing unequalled since Tom Wolfe’s Bonfire of the Vanities. Though this may be the most depressing novel of 1995, it is a measure of Boyle’s gifts that it is also one of the most memorable.”

T. C. Boyle, who changed his middle name from John to Coraghessan when he was 17 after an ancestor of his mother, is a graduate of SUNY Potsdam. He earned an MFA at the Iowa Writers Workshop and received his doctorate in 19th century literature from the University of Iowa in 1977. He has taught at University of Southern California since 1978 where he

was a distinguished professor of English.

Boyle has been the recipient of numerous literary awards, including the PEN/Faulkner Award for best novel of the year (World’s End, 1988); the PEN/Malamud Prize in the short story (T.C. Boyle Stories, 1999); the PEN/Thoreau Prize for Literary Excellence (2014); and the Prix Médicis Étranger for best foreign novel in France (The Tortilla Curtain, 1995). He was awarded two National Endowment for the Arts fellowships (1978 and 1983) and five O. Henry Awards.

The Meadows’ Book Club will discuss The Tortilla Curtain at 2 p.m. December 12. The meeting will be on Zoom and available to up to 10 people in person at the MCA building.

The Meadows Book Club

Meets on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2:00 pm at the MCA

Coordinator	Jerry Bernier	941-554-8574	GBernier36@aol.com
Administration	Joanne Simons	703-798-7330	SimonsJC1@gmail.com
March Luncheon	Caryl Magnus	941-378-5055	CarylMagnus2462@verizon.net

Date	Book Title	Author	Discussion Leader
11/11/2020	In the Land of Invisible Women	Qanta Ahmed	Priscilla Schlegel
12/9/2020	Tortilla Curtain	T. C. Boyle	Cindy Kodish
1/13/2021	American Dirt	Jeanine Cummins	Jo Ann Lovell
2/10/2021	I've Got a Home in Glory Land	Karolyn Smardz	Barb McCain
3/10/2021	Maybe You Should Talk to Someone	Lori Gottlieb	Jessica Dill
4/14/2021	Paris in the Present Tense	Mark Helprin	Janet Thompson
5/12/2021	Every Drop of Blood	Edward Achorn	Jerry Bernier

Quotes from Famous Authors on the Joy of Reading.

In a world filled with social media, quick texts, and all the electronic snippets we share, reading a great book is all the more special. The feel of the book in hand, the action of turning the pages, its all part of the experience, and almost forgotten. But our electronic book reading has its benefits too. A good book captures our attention and opens our imagination in any format. It’s probably fair to say we take reading for granted. Some of the most celebrated authors in history have spoken about the joys, the benefits and the necessities of reading. Enjoy.

“The answers you get from literature depend on the questions you pose.” – Margaret Atwood

“Books smell good. They look good. You can press it to your bosom. You can carry it in your pocket.” – Ray Bradbury

“To learn to read is to light a fire; every syllable that is spelled out is a spark.” – Victor Hugo

“We read to know that we are not alone.” –S. Lewis

“A book, too, can be a star, a living fire to lighten the darkness, leading out into the expanding universe.” – Madeleine L’Engle

“Good books, like good friends, are few and chosen; the more select, the more enjoyable.” – Louisa May Alcott

“Good friends, good books and a sleepy conscience: this is the ideal life.” – Mark Twain

“There is no friend as loyal as a book.” – Ernest Hemingway

“I cannot remember the books I’ve read any more than the meals I have eaten; even so, they have made me.” – Ralph Waldo Emerson

“A good book is an education of the heart. It enlarges your sense of human possibility what human nature is of what happens in the world. It’s a creator of inwardness.” – Susan Sontag

“A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies. The man who never reads lives only one.” – George R. R. Martin



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Articles and Monthly Columns
We welcome submissions from our Meadows residents for publication in *The Meadoword*. Articles should be of general interest to the community.
We copy edit all articles for accuracy, content, style, and length and will not publish articles that contain offensive material or inaccurate information. Articles must be received by deadline for publication in the following month's edition.
All submissions are published at the discretion of the editor and the MCA.

Subscription Rates

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*Lifting
spirits*

Live the Lifestyle—Play in Your Own Backyard