



WHAT YOU MAY KNOW.... WHAT YOU MAY NOT KNOW....



Frances Rippcondi —
MCA General Manager

"The importance of having resident volunteers and safety committees taking an active role in communities is that they are the first line of defense in recognizing mischief and potential criminal activity."

September is the perfect month to observe Safety Awareness. The Meadows Community Association is fortunate to have a team in place that responds to community emergencies and violations, to ensure The Meadows is as safe as possible — but who exactly makes up the safety team and what do they do?

SAFETY OFFICERS

What you may know:

Rick Gorman, Director of Safety and his fine team of safety officers (**Fisher, Flaherty, Martocchio, Paltis, and Wilson**) patrol throughout the community, uphold the rules and regulations of our documents, monitor for violations, and keep a watchful eye for anything out of the ordinary. They respond to calls and assist residents with

a variety of needs ranging from solicitations, suspicious persons, truck violations, fishing violations, trash cans left in view, excessive noise and disturbances, etc. In effort to keep our community orderly and safe.

What you may not know:

Collectively, this team has 78 years' experience in law enforcement and 28 years of military experience and they are always going above and beyond to help residents. They have been known to assist loved ones with wellness checks, find missing persons - lost residents suffering from dementia, keep residents company while they are waiting on emergency services/car assistance, call the Homeless Out Reach Team to connect the homeless with service based opportunities, survey the property when hurricanes have passed and a number of extra tasks from responding to calls about snakes, injured birds, to returning lost dogs to their homes. They are employees of Allied Universal Security Systems but 100% part of The Meadows team.

SAFETY COMMITTEE

What you may know:

The Safety Committee is one of the four standing committees that report to the Board of Directors each month. The purpose of the committee is to maximize the safety of residents, property owners and commercial enterprises within The Meadows. Along with being vigilant and responsive to all types of safety issues, they encourage community participation in recommending safety and security measures.

Michelle Johnston, is the Safety Committee Chair and the liaison between the committee and the board; she is responsible for providing the monthly safety overview of The Meadows. Each month, prior to the board meeting, the committee meets with **Officer Gorman, Deputy Duff** (Sarasota Sheriff's Office Community Liaison) and staff to discuss monthly safety incidents and field reports. This

committee has eight dedicated members with some members being a part of the team as far back as 2010. Their community knowledge along with the new members' insights, create a strong safety team and keep the residents' well-being at the forefront of the community.

What you may not know:

One of our most important initiatives in The Meadows is safety. In 2020, and still today, we have focused on bringing Safety presentations, reports and awareness to the community. In doing so we selected September as our Safety month to focus on all things Safety. We utilize both The Meadoword and Constant Contact as vehicles to get safety rules, reminders and alerts disseminated throughout the community.

Many of the ideas for Safety presentations are generated by the committee and **Deputy Duff's** discussions of what is happening in the community and surrounding areas to educate residents on how to protect themselves from falling victim to scams, theft, and crimes. Planned presentations this year are — Active Shooter and the Importance of Having a Plan, Identity Theft, Phone/ Internet Scams, Fall Risk Assessment, and Bike Safety education. Be sure to register!

SARASOTA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE LIAISON TO THE COMMUNITY

What you may know:

The MCA is privileged to have **Deputy Duff** assigned to our community. **Deputy Duff** is a law enforcement agent with the Crime Prevention Unit and is a critical team member and liaison between the Sarasota County Sheriff's Office and The

Meadows. She updates us on incidents that may not have been reported to the MCA along with the latest crimes, frauds and scams occurring in Florida and the surrounding communities.

What you may not know:

Deputy Duff has been our liaison for the past five years. She and her team share their knowledge, experience and expertise by offering their services to educate the community through a variety of programs and presentations (from self-defense to active shooter) on how to keep safe. They are willing to perform individual neighborhood safety assessments providing tips and hints on ways to improve your situational awareness and keep your surroundings safe. If you are an Association President and would like your neighborhood assessed, reach out to her at 941-861-4084 for an appointment.

What you should know:

Our Safety Committee, Officers and Staff are here for you. We want to hear your safety concerns to keep the community free from crime. If you have an emergency CALL 911 — then call Safety at 941-809-0084.

Sarasota County, **Sheriff Hoffman**, at a past event, noted the importance of having resident volunteers and safety committees taking an active role in communities as they are the first line of defense in recognizing mischief and potential criminal activity. With limited county resources — it's neighbors watching out for neighbors and residents reporting suspicious activity that are the keys to the overall success of their department, our community and everyone's safety.

