

Meadoword

The Meadows Community News and Lifestyle



2026
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THE SEASON OF RENEWAL



Chris Perone —
MCA Board President

JANUARY ARRIVES NOT JUST WITH A FRESH CALENDAR, BUT WITH A BURST OF POSSIBILITY, THAT UNMISTAKABLE SURGE OF OPTIMISM THAT MAKES US FEEL READY TO RESET, RE-ENERGIZE, AND EMBRACE WHAT'S AHEAD...IT'S A MOMENT OF MOMENTUM, AND THE MEADOWS IS STEPPING RIGHT INTO IT.

This season of renewal starts as we kick off 2026, we're introducing a refreshed recreational fee structure for residents eager to take part in the wide variety of activities The Meadows has to offer. This flexible, choose-your-own-experience system ensures we can maintain, enhance, and elevate the programs and amenities that keep this community vibrant, active, and thriving.

The Meadows will operate as a community-centered social and fitness model, one that gives residents a full menu of activities, each with its own pricing, so everyone can tailor their involvement to their own lifestyle. And unlike the traditional country club system, with steep initiation fees, annual dues, and spending requirements, our approach provides accessible options for daily, monthly, seasonal, or annual participation. You participate on your terms - no barriers, no minimums, just a flexible structure built around the way real communities live.

This strengthened model fuels the MCA Lifestyle Program, empowering us to deliver even more dynamic classes, engaging activities, and inspiring presentations - the



kinds of experiences that help residents stay active, stay connected, and feel fully at home in a community that supports a rich, healthy, and fulfilling lifestyle.

As we step into a new year, you'll notice some important updates to our amenity fee structures—changes designed to keep our programs strong, sustainable, and enjoyable for all who participate.

Beginning with pickleball, as promised, it will continue to be free throughout 2025. However, beginning January 1, 2026, a fee will be introduced for players who use the courts. To help ensure fair use and proper oversight, identification wrist tags will be issued to all paid participants so the MCA can easily verify who is playing on our courts. This system will help us manage demand, maintain the facilities, and create an even better experience for everyone.

Our competitive games will have a nominal fee to play in the coming year, keeping in alignment with our community amenity plan. In addition, we are looking to offer everything from energizing workouts to mind-body sessions designed to support a healthier,

more active lifestyle. MCA administration is continuing to explore more creative, engaging options to round out the menu of offerings for residents, so be on the lookout for these in the upcoming months.

January brings a fresh start for all of us in The Meadows, a chance to come together, support one another, and keep building a community we're proud to call home. With new amenities, events, and improvements taking shape, there's so much to look forward to.

**Let's step into January
united in purpose and
possibility, reimagining
what The Meadows can
be as a community, not
just a place to live.**

HAPPY JANUARY.



OUR MISSION

Our mission is to preserve the property values, green space, 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.

PRIDE AND PRESERVATION *in The Meadows*



Frances Rippcondi —
MCA General Manager

As we begin a new year, many of us embrace the familiar mindset of "New Year, New Me." We set goals—to lose a few pounds, walk more, exercise regularly, socialize, and make choices that support a healthier, happier life. At The Meadows, we're fortunate to have so many opportunities to support these goals, from walking trails and fitness facilities to tennis, pickleball, golf, and a full calendar of activities and events.

A healthy lifestyle, however, extends beyond physical activity. It also includes the environment which we live in, the way we interact with one another, and being part of a vibrant community grounded in shared standards and values that reflect who we are as a community.

We have Frank Taylor—our founding father and visionary—to thank for our beautiful community. His thoughtful planning gave rise to the open spaces, mature vegetation, distinctive architectural styles, and high-quality amenities we all enjoy today. With a focus on lifestyle, he pioneered one of the first planned unit developments and created the governing documents that still guide our HOA.

The governing documents cover a wide breadth of information and provide the framework that preserves our community's character, ensures fairness, consistency, and protects property values. They also help maintain harmony by clearly outlining responsibilities, expectations, and processes for all residents. Having easy access to them is a must. **Our documents are located on the website: under the Documents tab at themadowssarasota.org and can be found by clicking on the documents tab.**

However, for a quick review, **The MCA's Pride and Preservation** (printed below)



provides basic rules that the community observes. This guide's overview allows you to easily access our rules about pets, vehicles, hurricane shutters, general conduct and outside appearance of homes, all written to protect the community and you as a homeowner.

This year, it's important to embrace a fresh start and remember what brought you to The Meadows in the first place—the open space, mature vegetation, distinctive neighborhoods, and the standards that strengthen and preserve our community. Wishing you a Happy New Year!

PRIDE AND PRESERVATION *Basic Rules We Observe and Respect*

Property Owners Pride and Preservation Pact

A few of the basic rules to live by in The Meadows are presented here, in the hope that we can achieve the many benefits that we all desire, and because The Meadows will:

- Remain one of the most desirable residential complexes in greater Sarasota.
- Make us feel proud coming in and going out.
- Keep our property values up.
- Protect and preserve our investment in time, money, and effort spent living here.
- Continue the friendly, cooperative, and neighborly spirit we found here.

The following are some of the common rules of The Meadows:

Vehicles Powered by Motors

- No regular parking is allowed on MCA streets.
- Parking on any of The Meadows

Community Association (MCA) roads overnight is not allowed.

- Parking on any lawn or other unpaved area in The Meadows is prohibited except for previous areas approved through The MCA architectural review process.
- Only family-type non-commercial motor vehicles used for passenger transportation, and the incidental movement of personal belongings and property, may be parked overnight (11 p.m. to 5 a.m.), at any location exposed to public view.
- Restricted vehicles, such as trucks, pickups (including any sport utility vehicle that has a bed, whether covered or uncovered), motor homes, mobile homes, race cars, trailers, boats, buses, and commercial vehicles shall not be parked overnight (11 p.m. to 5 a.m.) in public view, except as permitted in the vehicle storage area of The MCA.
- No off-road or unlicensed motor vehicles are allowed on MCA roads with the exception of golf carts, except golf carts

are not allowed on Longmeadow.

- The driving speed allowed on MCA streets is limited to 25 miles per hour unless posted otherwise.
- Bicycles and pedestrians have the right of way over golf carts on those paths available to all three types.
- Golf carts using pathways must be equipped with a warning device to alert other pathway users.
- Minimum age requirement for operating a golf cart is 16.
- All vehicles shall be operated with due regard for the safety of others.

Vehicles Powered by Humans

- Bicycles have the right of way on pathways provided for pedestrians and bicycles.
- Bicycles must be equipped with a warning device.
- Bicycles must yield to motor vehicles and golf carts where the pathway intersects with roadways or designated cart paths.

Continued on next page

Community News

Pride and Preservation Basic Rules, continued

- Bicycles must operate with due regard for the safety of pedestrians.
- Bicycles operating at night must be equipped with a front light and a rear light/reflector.

Pedestrians and Joggers

- On Meadows pathways, pedestrians must yield to bicycles.
- Pedestrians are expected to use pathways rather than roadways designated for automobile use.
- For safety reasons, no one is allowed to walk, jog, rollerblade, and/or bike on the Country Club's private golf courses and cart paths.

Pets and Other Animals

- Florida law requires that pets be vaccinated against rabies.
- Pets must be leashed at all times when outside the owner's residence.
- Owners are permitted to walk their pets on The MCA common grounds.
- Owners must remove all pet droppings and deposit them either in waste containers located along pathways or within the owners' home.
- Pets whose behavior becomes a nuisance to other residents will not be permitted.
- For your protection, refrain from feeding the wildlife in The Meadows. This includes alligators, turtles, fish, herons, egrets, ducks and sandhill cranes. When fed by humans, some of these species can become aggressive and dependent on handouts.

Recreation

- Fishing in ponds or lakes is limited to residents and guests accompanied by the resident. A map of designated fishing areas is located in The MCA office.
- Hunting and the discharging of firearms are prohibited.
- Picnicking is allowed in designated areas, but **fires are not permitted**.
- Swimming and boating in Meadows ponds or lakes is prohibited.



Hurricane Shutters

- It is common knowledge that hurricanes in Florida have become a serious occurrence with possible deadly consequences.
- Any style of hurricane shutter may be installed when a hurricane or tropical storm watch (48 hours prior) has been issued for our immediate area. Those shutters must be taken down promptly after the threat has passed.
- Hurricane shutters that have been approved, by application to The MCA, for the hurricane season, may be installed starting May 1 and remain so installed until November 30 or may be used for any part of that season.

About Outside Appearance

No wall, fence, exterior improvements, landscaping, building alteration, or new structure may be removed, constructed or installed without prior application and approval of The MCA.

- Garbage and recyclables must be put out for collection either on the morning scheduled for such collection or no earlier than one (1) hour before sunset on the night before, in proper containers which must be removed by sunset on day of collection.
- Yard waste to be disposed in Sarasota County must comply with County rules. Waste for County collection may be placed along the road up to two (2) days prior to collection day. Associations may have more stringent rules that would apply.
- Laundry, garments, towels, or blankets may not be hung or placed in any location visible from the street or any adjacent properties, including golf course property.

- Garage sales, yard sales, estate sales and auctions are not allowed at any private residence.
- Only one real estate sign is allowed for purposes of either offering a property for sale or rent, provided it is the type approved by The MCA and its location does not face the golf course.
- Only two security company protection signs are allowed. They must be placed within the foundation plantings of a residence.
- Landscaping and the exterior of all structures are expected to be neat in appearance, kept in good condition and free from debris and refuse.
- Subject to architectural review, a single flagpole up to 15 feet in height may be permitted on a single family home lot and up to 20 feet for associations. Angled flagpoles attached directly to a residence are permitted without architectural review. Flags shall not exceed 3' x 5' for single-family homes and multi-family units and 4'x 6' for associations. Some types of flags, other than the American flag and several other types specifically exempted, require architectural review. See Section 4.2, Flags and Flagpoles, of The Meadows Basic Rules and Regulations for details.
- Low voltage, underground electric fences are permissible on single-family lots subject to architectural review. See Section 4.3, Electric Fences, of The Meadows Basic Rules and Regulations for details.

About Outside Conduct

- Papers, newspapers, brochures, fliers, leaflets, samples, items, or materials are not to be distributed or left at any property unless at the owner's request or with prior authorization from either The MCA or subdivision homeowners' association.
- Soliciting for the purchase of commercial goods or services is prohibited.
- No loud or objectionable noise or noxious odor, which may become an annoyance or nuisance to other persons, is permitted.

DECEMBER APPROVED ARCHITECTURAL REVIEWS

4946 Marsh Field Rd	5199 Everwood Run	3432 Highlands Bridge Rd	5508 Hampstead Heath
3870 Lyndhurst Ct	3804 Lyndhurst Ct	5233 Marsh Field Ln	4695 Chandlers Forde
4626 Hadfield Dr	4757 Chandlers Forde	4926 Marsh Field Rd	3591 Ferndell
4511 Windsor Park	5385 Everwood Run	4965 Marsh Field Rd	
Sandleheath Condo Assn	3591 Ferndell	4511 Windsor Park	
3881 Chatsworth Greene Ct	4507 Highland Oaks Cir	Hampstead Heath Condo Assn	

MEADOWS FINANCES



Jan Lazar —
MCA Treasurer

Happy New Year! I want to update everyone on where we stand financially at this point. The Board adopted the 2026-27 budget at its meeting on December 11, 2025. We have adopted a budget with no special assessment now or projected.

The budget reviewed and recommended by the Finance Committee reflects the seismic changes for MCA resulting directly from the lease termination by, and subsequent bankruptcy of, the former country club. The abrupt closure of the club abandoned hundreds of acres of property and 17 buildings which were operated and maintained by the club under its lease. MCA had to take over responsibility for them in the middle of its already adopted budget year. This change added nearly 30% (\$1.5 million dollars) in costs just to maintain our assets since MCA owned them but had leased them to the club, which had responsibility for operating and maintenance costs.

To make it even more difficult, the club's bankruptcy filing attempted to assert ownership of personal property assets which the lease clearly state would revert automatically to MCA if the club terminated the lease. That claim by the club significantly interfered with MCA's ability to take needed steps to operate facilities.

Within these difficult and unsettled parameters, the MCA had to determine what to operate, how to fund operations and how to make certain that the mandate for MCA to preserve the green space, the property values and the lifestyle of the Meadows could be achieved. The Board's commitment to our founding principles and our legal obligations and authority resulted in intense efforts to find a financial partner to lease

and operate the golf courses. The MCA undertook the operation of tennis, fitness and pool as part of core MCA operations. While looking for a golf operator, the MCA has opened the Meadows course for residents and guests only in order to ensure lifestyle and property value damage caused by the club board's actions is minimized.

The financial result of all of this was that the \$5.7 million dollar budget adopted for the current year became a \$7.2 million base to go forward and restore the deferred regular MCA expenses that were utilized to preserve and maintain the value of MCA's assets and lifestyle.

At the town hall residents were asked how residents how they wanted to go forward, and if we wanted to keep maintaining and operating all of these facilities and, if so, how they wanted to pay for them. The overwhelming response was that they wanted to continue to have the amenities they moved to the Meadows to have. When I asked then whether they should be fully paid by users of optional facilities and events, fully covered under their annual assessment, or some combination of user fees and community support, virtually all the feedback was that it should be a combination since the users should pay but the community should also provide support since they add to life style and property value.

The budget for all operations, including incorporating tennis and golf with fitness, pickleball, swimming and the many functions and activities previously the purview of MCA is \$8,419.00. The budget also includes continuation of the maintenance of the three golf courses and the resident/guest operation of the Meadows course. If the golf courses are leased, the monies saved by MCA will be applied to renovation of the Center Court Lounge and other improvements in facilities including a possible Tiki Bar by the

pool, improvements in landscaping and water features, et cetera.

This budget includes a 2.7% increase in overall property valuations by the County, \$\$1.4 million in user fees for all recreational facilities and for special events. There will be an increase of 11.7% in the MCA assessment if the Benderson lease is not approved. If the Benderson deal is approved, our assessment factor will be reduced by 10% for the current years level. The assessment increase is just over one third of the added cost of operations resulting from the club closure with the rest covered by user fees and use of available non-reserve funds.

As a reminder, your individual assessment, as has been explained in previous articles, may vary depending on what the County assessment change was for your property. Recently purchased properties and non-homesteaded properties typically have significantly larger increases. This year is also atypical because, while your County valuations of market (just) value possibly decreased, the County assessment by law may still have increased up to 3% if your property had homestead credit.

We continue to be sound financially, are adding to our reserves, and are continuing efforts to take steps to improve our finances in order to minimize future assessment increases. We must take into account the long term implications of decisions and not make short-term choices that undermine our mission and vision as a community.

We'll keep you up to date regularly. The total budget can be found on the website at <https://www.themadowssarasota.org/>.

I hope you all have a healthy, happy and enjoyable new year.



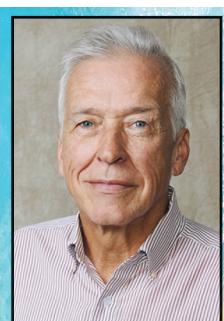
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• I have been a Meadows resident for 20 years
• I work exclusively IN The Meadows FOR Meadows residents
Ask me about my home preparation plan to get your property on the market—not available from any other Realtor.



FEATURED PROPERTIES

NEW!

3386 W Chelmsford Ct —2 large bedrooms with a fabulous Golf/Water view in a super well maintained community with the lowest condo fees in its class. A large Country Kitchen offers plenty of flexible multi-use space.\$369,000

SOLD

3412 E Chelmsford Ct —Turnkey furnished Villa with a fantastic panoramic view of the 6th hole of the private Meadows course.\$389,500

SOLD

3370 E Chelmsford Ct —2bd/2ba High ceilings. Private setting. Golf view. Kitchen fully remodeled.\$469,900

STOKES PROPERTY MANAGEMENT & REAL ESTATE, INC.

2026 BOARD OF DIRECTOR CANDIDATES



The election for the Board of Directors will be finalized at the Annual Meeting on Monday, March 2, 2026. You will receive your ballot in the mail at the same time you receive your annual assessment notice and both should be mailed in or dropped off by March 1, 2026. The election will be to elect three directors to a three year term to begin with the 2026-2027 Board. There are seven candidates for the three positions. The candidate statements are published in this issue.

You will also have an opportunity to see the candidates in person or via Zoom on January 13th at 4pm to hear why they are running. There will be an opportunity for members of the audience to ask questions and hear candidate responses. Each candidate will have 5 minutes to make an opening statement. They will have 90 seconds to respond to each question with 1 minute for rebuttal. The moderators will fact check information to promote accuracy.

MICHELLE JOHNSTON



After moving to The Meadows in 2014, I supported the community in many ways. I volunteered for various initiatives from participating in the Meadows Single-family Homeowners' Association, as Membership Chair and President, to planting aquatic flora, surveying the residents, and authoring Meadoword articles. Later, I had the honor of being elected to the Meadows Community Association Board of Directors. As a Director, I serve the entire community and work to uphold the Meadows Mission of supporting the environment, lifestyles, and home values. I am Board liaison to the Activities and Safety Committees, and Presidents' Council.

I am running for the Board again because at this time there is a need for consistency and continuity

which I provide. Further, I have the skills, knowledge, and experience to continue to serve as a director. Specifically, I was an academic dean with budgeting and negotiating training and experiences. Three programs, which I oversaw, required adherence to strict legislative regulations, not unlike condominium and homeowners associations regulations. I operate collaboratively as evidenced by my experience working with educational and community leaders in 14 states and 8 countries. Lastly, I served on several boards and know how boards function regarding their fiduciary and mission-driven responsibilities.

You can view additional information at: MeadowsMFT.org

DORA LAUMNER



Professionally, I have 40 years' experience in Accounting/Office Management for privately held corporations, working daily with the entrepreneurs who built their corporations from startups. I formed strong working relationships with department managers and professional outside consultants.

Attending Board meetings the last two years, this election is very important due to the discord within the current Board and the action denying residents from attending meetings based on how their house is titled.

The Board must achieve unity through open communication and collaboration, ensuring the entire Board is involved in all decision-making processes from the start.

For The Meadows recreation/entertainment

facilities to be maintained and optimized, financial transparency is crucial. A "clean audit" does not reflect how efficiently facilities are managed – Profit & Loss Statements per facility are needed.

\$1 million has been taken from other projects to maintain the golf courses this year, assessments have tripled in eight years and the reserves are underfunded.

The Benderson transaction and the above challenges command strategic planning from a united Board, residents who possess solid business credentials and I can contribute my multidimensional career experience.

TOGETHER we can make a change for the better.

You can view my candidate website at: <https://tinyurl.com/dora4mca>

KEITH V. PEATON

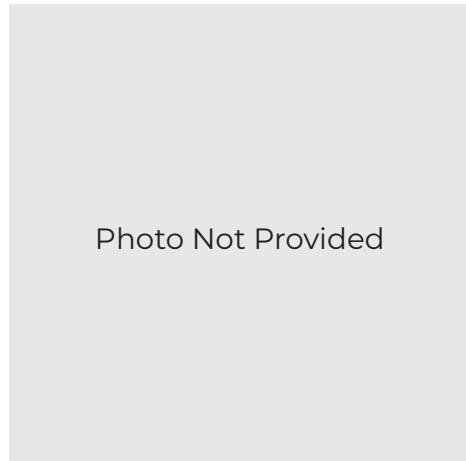


Photo Not Provided

Personal

I hold a bachelor's degree in social work with 3 years counseling experience. I dedicated 38 years to Law Enforcement, (1985 through 2023). Recently I launched my own business providing **Home Watch Services: (copshomewatchsrq.com)**. My professional journey has been rooted in service, accountability, and community protection—values I continue today.

Concerns:

1) Transparency:

The **Board of Directors** does not appear to be completely transparent with the residents. They seem to be withholding information at the meetings and with the material they distribute. There is also a disconnect among board members,

with indications that not all members receive the information necessary to form an **Informed opinion** before voting.

2) Cohesiveness and Inclusion

Eliminate the executive committee

All elected Board members will be provided with all the information needed to reach a fully informed opinion on all matters voted on. No member should be excluded from meetings where financial or legal issues are discussed. Attendance may remain optional, but exclusion should never occur!

The board should invite multiple community residents to participate in meetings when their professional or educational experience is relevant to the topic under discussion.

CHRIS PERONE



This past year has strengthened my commitment to The Meadows and to the shared vision we've been building together.

While some challenges were expected, others were not. The sudden termination of the Meadows Country Club lease and the bankruptcy that followed brought major parts of our community to a standstill. In moments like these, communities either pause—or they move forward.

I chose to step up and lead.

Meaningful progress was made. I restored transparent, consistent communication through frequent Constant Contact updates, Town Halls, and open-door office hours. Essential amenities—including golf, tennis, fitness, and the pool—were reopened following the TMCC collapse. Eight new pickleball courts were completed, and new community traditions like Morning Coffee & Conversation and Wine & Cheese Socials were created.

I conducted extensive outreach to leading golf management firms across the U.S. and Canada and led negotiations with Benderson Development to position The Meadows for stable, high-quality operations. I secured \$41,400 in resident tree donations, advanced the demolition of the former clubhouse, and led cleanup and beautification efforts in the Shopping Village. I also laid the groundwork for a Legacy Program to support The Meadows for generations to come.

Looking ahead, my priorities remain clear: protect property values, preserve green space, strengthen our lifestyle community, and maintain strong financial stewardship.

I would be honored to have your vote so we can continue moving The Meadows forward—together.

You can view additional information at: MeadowsMFT.org

LAURA RODRIGUEZ



Laura Rodriguez has proudly called The Meadows home since 2018, along with her husband. A familiar face at the Country Club, she has spent countless hours on the tennis courts—often chasing more balls than she'd like to admit—but always with a smile and a strong sense of camaraderie among fellow members.

Professionally, Laura is the owner and operator of a successful healthcare consulting firm she has built and led for the past 14 years. Her career spans both the Human Resources and Financial sectors, providing her with a well-rounded perspective and a deep understanding of strategic planning, operational efficiency, and transparent communication. These experiences

have strengthened her belief in the importance of thoughtful leadership, active listening, and collaborative problem-solving.

Laura is passionate about understanding the true pulse of The Meadows community. She believes that, with the right partners, advisors, and a shared vision, The Meadows can be reimagined as a sustainable, thriving, and profitable community enterprise—one that thoughtfully balances recreation, nature, and fiscal responsibility. Her approach will be rooted in collaboration and trust, with a genuine commitment to ensuring the community's long-term success and vibrancy for years to come.

Additional candidate bios on next page.

Community News

LAURA M. SPEARS



My husband Ron and I first visited The Meadows in the late 1970s, when my parents bought a home here in the Spring Lake condo community. Since that time, having ourselves become property owners in Sheffield Green in 2002 and permanent Meadows residents in 2022, we have come to realize what a special place The Meadows is.

After 40 years, and passing down management operations of our family business to our children and assuming consultant roles, we retired here permanently in 2022. Since then, with more time to dedicate to the community, I have served as Vice-President on the Longcommon Community Association BOD, where we have an investment

property and were residents from 2007-2013, and on the Meadows Single Family Homeowners Alliance as membership director.

Unfortunately, with all the turmoil The Meadows has undergone in the last few years with regard to the golf, tennis, and clubhouse facilities, I feel it is imperative we undertake whatever necessary means of revitalization of those facilities for the sustainability of the property values of our wonderful community and the good of our residents going forward.

You can view additional information at: MeadowsMFT.org

SUSAN WHITCOMB



For more than two decades, my leadership has been defined by service, accountability, and a commitment to strengthening communities. Before moving to Sarasota full-time, I spent 18 years in Trophy Club, Texas—another close-knit community much like The Meadows—where I led major community events in partnership with local organizations and surrounding towns. I was also asked to serve as a police liaison, improving communication and trust between residents and law enforcement. During this same period, I built and operated my own business brokerage firm while raising three children and staying actively involved in their schools. These experiences taught me how to lead with clarity, collaboration, and resilience.

In Sarasota, I have continued that work for more than 20 years. I served seven years on a downtown condominium board, five as president, gaining firsthand experience in governing, problem-solving, and navigating Florida condo law. My roles with both a developer and a management company overseeing 12 condominium properties further strengthened my knowledge of property management and resident relations.

For the past five years, I have served as president of the Villa Majorca Association. I am applying for this position because real leadership requires action, transparency, and accountability—qualities I consistently deliver and would be honored to serve this Community.

SAFETY REPORT

As of above date in the month of November 2025 there were **(5) incident free days** - **(9)** Less than October 2025. There were **(39) reported incidents** - **(15)** More than October 2025. There were **(65) citations issued** - **(16)** Less than October 2025.

Safety responded to the following during the month of November:

MEDICAL EMERGENCY

- November 8th an individual received a laceration to their hand while attending a program and went to the E.R.
- November 17th an individual fell getting out of the community hot tub causing injury to their leg and was bleeding. Additionally, another individual in the hot tub felt weak and could not get out of the hot tub on their own. EMS was called and arrived, both individuals refused treatment.

HUNTING VIOLATION

- November 11th Animal services were called due to an illegal snare at Butterfly lake that had a turtle caught by a hook. The deputy cut the line and confiscated the snare as it was an illegal snare.

ANIMAL COMPLAINT

- November we have had 8 animal complaints throughout the community most of which are regarding dogs off leash.

DISTURBANCE – NOISE COMPLAINTS

- November 8th at the end of Hadfield green loud music could be heard from an event outside of the Meadows. Complainant was advised they could call SCSO.
- November 15th a barking dog in the 3000 area of Quail Hollow. A notification was left for the resident.
- November 20th in the 5000 block of Marshfield Ln. Amazon driver had music playing and was advised of the complaint, he turned the music down.
- November 21st in the 4000 block of Oakley Greene neighbors could be heard constantly through condo walls. Complainant was directed to the HOA.

SUSPICIOUS PERSON

- November 5th it was reported the previous day in the 4000 block of Weybridge that 3 white males in a black jeep were going to several different condos knocking and calling for someone and appeared to be looking at cars parked in assigned parking spaces. Caller advised to call us at time of incident, but to also call SCSO.
- November 13th in the 4000 block of Longwater Chase of 4 individuals moving items out of the apartment. Upon arrival there were 2 SCSO vehicle's there and were dealing with the resident.

- November 16th a suspicious man in a car in 5000 block of Villa Majorca talking on his phone. The man was not a resident and advised to leave the community and did so.

SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT

- November 5th it was reported that in Villa Majorca area that there were several cars in and out of the area and each time they would stop at the same residence and the person would come out to the car and either hand the occupant something or take something and the car would then leave. Caller advised to call us when it is happening as well as the SCSO if it were thought to possibly be criminal.

THEFT-PETIT

- November 2nd 3 chairs reported being taken sometime over the last week. At time of this report it was not reported to SCSO
- November 12th a bike was stolen from the front of a home in the 4000 block of Ringwood Meadow and subsequently found in the 4000 block of Harvest Bend when a caller from that area reported their bike stolen and then noticed the other bike which was discarded in that area. It is unknown if the second Complainant made a report with SCSO.

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Nineteen-Time Award Winner

35-YEAR
Meadows Resident
Unmatched Neighborhood
Insight



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VITERI PA**

FOR SALE IN THE HIGHLANDS

3445 HIGHLANDS BRIDGE
Turnkey, lakefront, hurricane ready pool home PENDING
PENSHURST PARK/3048 HIGHLANDS BRIDGE RD
Panoramic lake and golf views PENDING
3320 HADFIELD GREENE
Stunning remodel with golf and pond views, furnished PENDING
3440 HIGHLANDS BRIDGE RD
Gorgeous pool home, no neighbors in sight SOLD!
4518 WHISPERWOOD
Stand-alone villa in romantic setting with total privacy \$550K
4016 OAKLEY GREENE
Beautifully updated villa, sweeping golf course views PENDING
3933 CHATSWORTH GREENE
Long pond views and quick access to the pool \$399K
3361 HADFIELD GREENE
Tranquil garden views and hurricane ready villa SOLD!
3916 CHATSWORTH GREENE
Tranquil golf views, ready for your personal touch SOLD!
CHATSWORTH GREENE/3317 HIGHLANDS BRIDGE RD
Tranquil marsh views SOLD!

FOR SALE ELSEWHERE IN THE MEADOWS

5688 PIPERS WAITE
The crown jewel! Exquisite renovation, spectacular views SOLD!
5655 PIPERS WAITE
Updated, tranquil lakefront villa that lives like a home \$549K
4933 RUTLAND GATE
Room for all and hurricane-ready updated pool home PENDING
5683 DOWNHAM MEADOWS
Stunning sunsets, carefree living, golf & pond views \$519K
3038 RINGWOOD MEADOW
Luxuriously renovated end-unit villa, a must see \$475K
3984 LYNDHURST CT
Maintenance-free pool home, serene golf course views PENDING
3422 CHELMSFORD CT
Easy living, gorgeous views, phenomenal location PENDING
5527 KINGSMERE
Updated end-unit, without any maintenance headaches SOLD!
4542 KINGSMERE
Furnished, spotless maintenance-free villa and priced to sell! \$289K
4983 GREENCROFT RD
Light and airy townhouse, with main bedroom on first floor \$275K

FOR SALE IN THE SARASOTA METRO AREA

LAKEWOOD RANCH
Unique opportunity! Updated pool home on largest lot PENDING
LAKEWOOD RANCH
Better than new, lakefront living with resort lifestyle! PENDING
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The Meadows, Hub of Sarasota

Ending the months of November 2025 and November 2024 In The Meadows & Sarasota County

SALES

Sales 2025 & 2024

Median Sale Price

Condominium Sales

Med Condo Sale Price

House Sales

Med House Sale Price

For sale November 30

Property Pending

Listing Supply

THE MEADOWS

↑2025 (15)

2024 (09)

↓\$300,000

\$350,000

↑2025 (13)

2024 (08)

↓\$245,000

\$337,500

↑2025 (02)

2024 (01)

↑\$590,000

\$540,000

↑2025 (17)

2024 (12)

↓2025 (79)

2024 (89)

↑2025 (1)

2024 (440)

↑2025 (17)

2024 (12)

↑2025 (17)

2024 (4398)

↑2025 (17)

2024 (948)

↑2025 (17)

2024 (780)

↓2025 (5.3)

2024 (9.9)

↓2025 (6.9)

2024 (8.4)

SARASOTA COUNTY

↑2025 (636)

2024 (481)

↓\$399,500

\$430,100

↑2025 (196)

2024 (164)

↓\$329,500

\$332,5000

↑2025 (440)

2024 (317)

↓\$450,000

\$500,000

↑2025 (4398)

2024 (4015)

↑2025 (948)

2024 (780)

↓2025 (6.9)

2024 (8.4)

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



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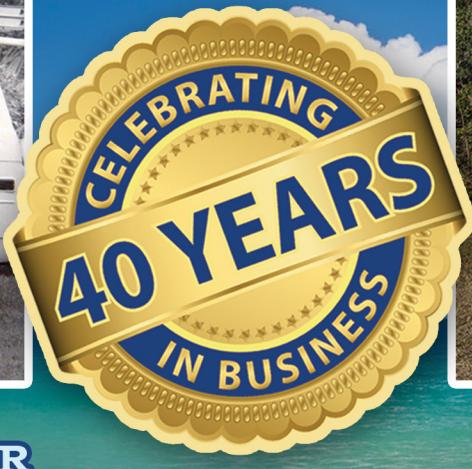
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Breakthrough Neuropathy Treatment

HOW TO GET LASTING RELIEF FROM:
PERIPHERAL NEUROPATHY



- Pins and Needles
- Loss of Balance
- Burning Sensation
- Numbness/Tingling
- Pain in Feet/Hands
- Can't Feel The Ground

WITHOUT THE USE OF DRUGS OR SURGERY!

Clinical studies reveal:

The debilitating pain, numbness and tingling experienced by patients suffering from Peripheral Neuropathy can be

SUCCESSFULLY TREATED
WITHOUT THE USE OF
DRUGS AND SURGERY.



Presented by:
Dr. Kenneth Carle
Chiropractic Physician



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If you're experiencing pain, burning, numbness, tingling or pins & needles in your hands or feet ---

Don't miss this FREE Seminar on Peripheral Neuropathy!

In this cutting edge FREE Seminar you'll learn:

- Why many current treatments for neuropathy don't work.
- The underlying causes of peripheral neuropathy: and the key to prevention!
- The Nobel prize winning discovery that every neuropathy patient MUST know
- How peripheral neuropathy is diagnosed, and when it can be successfully treated
- A simple home therapy that is used by some of the largest specialty hospitals in the country to treat certain types of neuropathy.

Monday, September 22nd @ 12-1pm

5664 Bee Ridge Rd. Suite 100
Sarasota, FL 34233

Lunch will be served. Space is limited to 16 people!

RSVP: By Friday Sept 19th @ 941-376-1488



REMINDERS



MCA BOARD OF DIRECTORS CANDIDATES' FORUM

Tuesday, January 13, 2026, 4:00 PM

Details for in person and remote attendance will be sent through Constant Contact Notices in January 2026.



ANNUAL ASSESSMENT MAILING

Annual Assessments will be mailed towards the later of January 2026 and are due by March 1st. Within the assessment mailing will be your annual assessment invoice, ballot, MCA 2026-2027 budget and parking sticker.

HOLIDAY TRASH PICK UP

Thursday, Jan. 1: No collection

Since the holiday falls on Thursday, trash, recycling and yard waste will be collected one day later than the regularly scheduled pickup day for the rest of the week.

Friday, Jan. 2: Collection for Thursday customers

Saturday, Jan. 3: Collection for Friday customers

The Central County Landfill will remain open until 4:30 PM but the Construction and Debris area will close at 1:30 PM.

Join Sandra Love for a QI GONG class

**Every Wednesday at 11 AM
from Oct-May**

Fitness – Sign up on your fitness app or stop by the fitness center.



BINGO

**Every first
Wednesday
of the month**

6:30 – 7:30 PM

\$5 for three cards

**Meadows Community
Lifestyle & Wellness Facility**

Email RSVPBingo@yahoo.com to register.

**GET YOUR
SPOTS
CHECKED**

**ONSPOT
DERMATOLOGY**

Thursday, January 8 Tuesday, January 22
7:30 AM – 3:30 PM
MCA Parking Lot

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

Blood Drive

Thursday, January 29

8 AM – 3 PM

MCA Parking Lot

**Call 1-866-972-5663
to register.**



HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY WITH SARASOTA COUNTY

March 24 • 9 – 11 AM at the MCA



ACTIVITIES

FALL PREVENTION 102 MUSCLES & SENSES APPROACH

Friday, January 2 • 10:00 -11:30 AM

Meadows Community Lifestyle & Wellness Facility

This workshop teaches you how to Individualize Balance Exercises, Improved Walking Gait, and Progressively Challenge your Balance. Learn how to Train Sensory Systems of Balance with Vision, Inner Ear, and Body Movement Training Techniques.

Register online at themadowssarasota.org



Ice Cream Social

Tuesday, January 6

6:30-7:30 PM

Meadows Community Lifestyle & Wellness Facility

Register online at themadowssarasota.org



Sleep Studies with Dr. Meir Kryger

Coming January 2026

Meadows Community Lifestyle & Wellness Facility

Register online at themadowssarasota.org



Learn To Play Mah Jongg

January 8, 15, & 29 • 1 – 3 PM
MCA Building



Learn to play American Mah Jongg. You must be able to attend each session. Register by contacting Liz Williams by email themadowsmahjongg@gmail.com before 5 Jan 2026. Class will be limited to 12 participants.

VAN WEZEL Master Classes

Justin Gomlak from Van Wezel leads the Master Classes Series here in The Meadows!

Thursdays 11 AM – 12 PM

January 8: Tango After Dark

January 15: Some Like it Hot

January 29: MJ

Meadows Community Lifestyle & Wellness Facility

Learn the moves from these Van Wezel shows. Great way to get your exercise in and make new friends while learning new dance moves!

Justin Gomlak is a veteran of nine Broadway shows, originating companies, understudying major roles, and serving as a dance captain and swing in multiple productions over fifteen years. Justin is the Director of Education & Community Engagement of Van Wezel.

We are excited that he shares his talents with The Meadows. Come and experience something new!

Register online at themadowssarasota.org



Drop-In Art Studio

Begins January 8

Our Drop-In Art Studio begins another season on Thursday, January 8, from 10-12 at the MCA building. If you like to draw, paint, or create in other ways, you are invited to come and get involved with this group.

Everyone brings their own materials to work on whatever they would like to do (oil-based materials are the only things not allowed) and we work together in a very nonjudgemental, friendly and creative atmosphere. Please bring something to cover your workspace, too.

All levels of proficiency are welcome.

This is not an instruction-focused activity, although there are professional artists working in the group.

For more information, email Melinda Gordan at mpgordan@gmail.com

8 & EVENTS



Bike Safety Training & Free Bike Helmet and Fitting



Friday, January 9, 2026 • 10 – 11 AM

Meadows Community Lifestyle & Wellness Facility

Learn essential safety tips, proper riding techniques, and traffic rules to keep you safe on the road.

Free helmets and custom helmet fittings will be provided to all participants while supplies last.

Register online at themadowssarasota.org



CPR & AED TRAINING

Wednesday, January 21 • 1 – 2 PM

Meadows Community Lifestyle & Wellness Facility

Register online at themadowssarasota.org

Line Dancing

Wednesday, January 14 • 2 – 3 PM

The Meadows Lifestyle & Wellness Facility

No experience required! Have fun, learn some dance steps, and get some exercise.

Get your feet moving from the Electric Slide to Fireball!

Please wear closed-toe shoes.

Register online at themadowssarasota.org



A TOAST TO COMMUNITY

Wine & Cheese Social Event

JANUARY 16 | 4-6 PM

Perch Room
Meadows Lifestyle & Wellness Facility

\$25 per person

Includes 2 glasses of wine, cheese, accompanying snacks. Wine Raffle.

RSVP at www.themadowssarasota.org



The Italian-American Crooners of the 50s and 60s

January 22

6:30 – 7:30 PM

Meadows Community Lifestyle & Wellness Facility

A musical program presented by Meadows resident Jeff Olesen featuring the iconic songs of Tony Bennett, Vic Damone, Frank Sinatra and others.



There is no charge for this event.



7th Annual MCA Health Fair

Tuesday, January 27

10 AM – 1 PM

Meadows Community Lifestyle & Wellness Facility

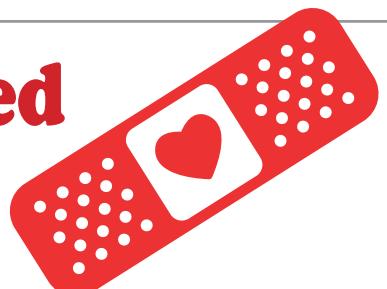
Stop The Bleed Presentation

Wednesday, January 28

1 – 2 PM

Meadows Community Lifestyle & Wellness Facility

Register online at themadowssarasota.org



Game Night
Every Wednesday
6:30 – 8:30 PM
from Nov-April
at the MCA

Email: mi2tall4u@gmail.com



Another Successful Craft & Bake Sale

Liz Barnett



On Saturday morning, November 15, everything was in place. Tables were filled with handmade crafts – greeting cards, Christmas decorations, things to make housework easier and to enhance your home decor, jewelry, toys and gifts for all ages. An array of baked goodies was ready to tempt you to forget your diet. Baskets filled with merchandise and gift certificates from local businesses awaited auction ticket buyers.

At 9 am the doors opened. By 9:05 am, 37 eager shoppers had rushed in. The annual Craft and Bake Sale had begun. When the doors closed at 2 pm on Sunday, more than 400 people had entered those doors. Once again our good neighbors in The Meadows had joined together to help others and to strengthen our community. More than \$8,000 was raised by this charity event.

We'd like to thank all those who have helped to make this another successful sale. We are grateful for the support from the MCA staff throughout the year and for their extra work in setting up the rooms for the sale. *The Meadoword* and Constant Contact enabled us to communicate with the community. We would also like to recognize the business that contributed to merchandise and gift certificates to our Basket Auction: **Anna Maria's Oyster Bar, Angela's Pure Salon, Appolonia Grill, Asolo Repertory Theatre, Bobby Jones Golf Course, Crepetopia, Der Dutchman, Detwilers, Donatos Pizza, Eager Beaver Car Wash, First Watch, Food+Beer Sports Bar, Ganges Restaurant, International Market & Mediterranean Grill, Longhorn Steak House Rt.64, McCurdy's Comedy Theatre, Papapas Greek Restaurant, Pet Supply Store, Publix, Three Dog Bakery & Grooming, Sprinkles Cupcakes, Valentino's.** We hope that when you make your dining and shopping plans you will include them.



At the January meeting of the MCA Board of Directors, we will present checks to these local charities:

- **Baby Basics**, <http://www.babybasicssarasota.org>, is an all-volunteer group that every month provides diapers and kindness for families of the working poor who do not receive government assistance.

- **Mothers Helping Mothers** <https://mhmsarasota.org> each year serves an average of 3200 needy families with children by providing basic necessities like baby supplies, clothing and household items; conducting classes in parenting, finances, literacy and developing support systems and community connections.

- **Resurrection House**, www.resurrectionhousesarasota.org, is a faith-based, day-resource center for the homeless that provides showers, laundry, food, clothing, telephones, medical treatment and counseling as well as a chapel and spiritual guidance.

- **SPARCC (Safe Place And Rape Crisis Center)**, <https://www.sparcc.net>, provides a hotline, an emergency shelter and counseling for victims



of domestic violence and sexual assault. SPARCC also conducts education programs on violence prevention and healthy relationships for students.

Thanks to you more lives will be changed by the work of these charities.

In January, the Craft Group will be planning new things to make in the coming year and getting back to what we love to do. If you would like to learn new skills, make new friends, and have fun while making crafts to benefit local charities, we would love to have you join us on Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11 at the MCA Community Building at 2004 Longmeadow.

If you can glue, we want you.



THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY FOOD DEMONSTRATION

Our heartfelt thanks to Chef Johnny Zaki, owner of 1592 Wood Fired Kitchens & Cocktails and a fellow Meadows homeowner, for generously sharing his remarkable culinary passion with the community. <https://1592srq.com/>

Our Thanksgiving Holiday Food Demonstration was a success and everything was delicious. Such a pleasure and a real treat for our residents.

The event menu offered Butternut Squash Cappuccino with truffle flavor, Roasted Turkey with fresh herbs, Barkey Stuffing with mixed nuts and cranberries and for dessert, Chocolate Brownies with sea salt sprinkled.



BUTTERNUT SQUASH CAPPUCCINO WITH TRUFFLE FLAVOR

1 butternut squash medium size (doesn't need to be peeled)
1 potato peeled
1 small onion
1/2 tsp nutmeg
2 tbsp of salt or to taste
2 quarts water
1/2 quart cream
2 tbsp butter

Wash all veggies then cut around 1" thick, roast on low heat for 20 min with(2 tbsp) butter, add 2 quarts of water and boil for 40 min, add 1/2 quart of heavy cream or milk if preferred, bring to boil one last time, let it cool off a little then use a blender and pass through a sifter.



BARLEY STUFFING WITH MIXED NUTS AND CRANBERRIES

1 quart barley
4 tbsp butter
1/2 cup honey
1 quart water
1 tbsp salt
1 tbsp cinnamon
1 cup cranberries

In a pot with a lid, start by roasting the barley with butter for 10 min on low heat then add cranberries for a light roast 2 min. Add the honey, cinnamon, salt and water. Once it boils, lower the heat and cover for 40 min. Once cooked you can add the nuts. (you can use any nuts in this recipe, pistachios walnuts, pine as well.)

Roast alone:

1/2 cup almonds
1/2 cup pecans
Roast the nuts alone in oven 300 degrees 45 min and keep aside you'll mix at the end after barley is cooked.



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RECREATION & THE COMMUNITY

Beginning **January 1, 2026**, The Meadows Community Association (MCA) will implement a new recreational fee structure to support the continued growth and long-term sustainability of our Lifestyle Program. This community-based social and fitness hybrid model ensures that no single group bears the full cost of operating and maintaining our amenities. Instead, residents will pay user fees only for the activities they choose to participate in, rather than having all amenity expenses covered collectively through assessments.

WHAT IS CHANGING?

Under this new model, residents who participate in MCA fitness and lifestyle classes will pay a **class fee**, with **pricing varying based on the type of class**. Rates reflect **current market pricing** for similar programs within our region, ensuring high-quality instruction and a fair, competitive structure across all offerings.



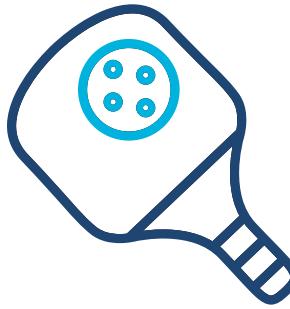
reflect **current market pricing** for similar programs within our region, ensuring high-quality instruction and a fair, competitive structure across all offerings.



Recreational fees will be associated with most activities. Whether you choose to participate in the **open gym, attend classes, swim at the pool, play pickleball or play tennis** a user fee will be charged. Combination programs will also be available in the upcoming months. If you choose to upgrade to a combination package, the MCA will apply a prorated change for the difference between your current plan and the selected combination package.

User fees collected will directly support:

- **MCA operations and facility maintenance**
- **Program improvements and new class development**
- **High-quality instructors and industry-standard programming**
- **Enhancements to equipment, amenities, and overall resident experience**



MENU OF ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS

A menu of activities and programs can be found by visiting the meadows website at

<https://www.themadowssarasota.org/> and scrolling to the bottom of the Home Page and clicking on **Featured Highlight**.

For a brief overview of daily charges see below, however **Daily, Monthly, Seasonal, and Annual Passes** can be purchased at the corresponding facility.



DAILY CHARGES

Fitness Classes – range from \$5.00 to \$17.00

Fitness (Open Gym) - \$10.00

Pickleball - \$5.00

Pool - \$5.00

Tennis - \$15.00 before 4p.m.
- \$12.00 after 4 p.m.



Competitive Bridge - \$1.00

Guest Passes Available – Price

Varies

Prices Subject to Change.

THE MCA APPRECIATES YOUR SUPPORT AS WE CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN OUR LIFESTYLE PROGRAM AND INVEST IN A VIBRANT, HEALTHY, AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS PLEASE CONTACT LUISA VAVRA, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER AT 941-377-2300. THANK YOU, MCA MANAGEMENT

MARGARET (PEG) AND JAMES SCHMITT



Peg and James Schmitt – a mother and son working side-by-side bring decades of heart, experience, and deep Meadows knowledge.

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FOR SALE

5171 WILLOW LINKS

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4632 PINEBROOK HOLLOW

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3526 RICHWOOD LINK

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5682 SHEFFIELD GREENE CIRCLE, SARASOTA \$335,000

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2ND FLOOR CONDO WITH
WIDE OPEN VIEWS OF
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3- BEDROOM 2- BATH
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POOLS.
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**FLOORS. GRANITE
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ENJOY YOUR OWN
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FOR A REMODEL.
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SAC. STUNING GOLF
COURSE VIEW.
2 POOLS CLOSE, 2-CAR
ATTACHED GARAGE.
MLS#A4637204
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Our Lifestyle

FOUR PAWS, ONE COMMUNITY

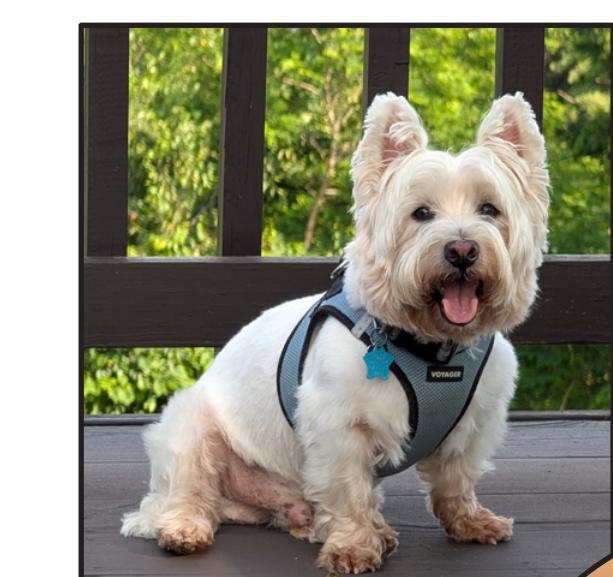
MEET SOME OF YOUR 4 LEGGED NEIGHBORS.

Luisa Vavra, Assistant General Manager

They are the unofficial greeters of our neighborhood, introducing strangers who might otherwise pass with a polite nod. A simple "What's your dog's name?" turns into conversations, friendships, and sometimes lifelong bonds. Dogs don't just walk beside us; they walk us into community.

In the park, they remind us how to live in the moment. A tennis ball becomes the most important thing in the world. A shady tree is a place of pure joy. Through them, we slow down, laugh more, and notice the small moments that make our days brighter.

Community dogs bring together all ages and backgrounds. Children learn responsibility and empathy by holding a leash. Seniors find routine and connection in daily walks. Neighbors who may have little else in common find shared ground over wagging tails and muddy paws.



In our neighborhood,
we're a Little kinder,
a Little friendlier,
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Memoir Group

Liz Barnett

It's a New Year! Time to embrace new projects! Try new things! We'd like to invite you to join us at the Memoir Group. We are having fun remembering, sharing, and preserving the stories of our lives. You probably have some experience in telling a few of these stories at family gatherings or in response a child or grandchild's request to "tell me a story." If those stories aren't written down they will be lost.

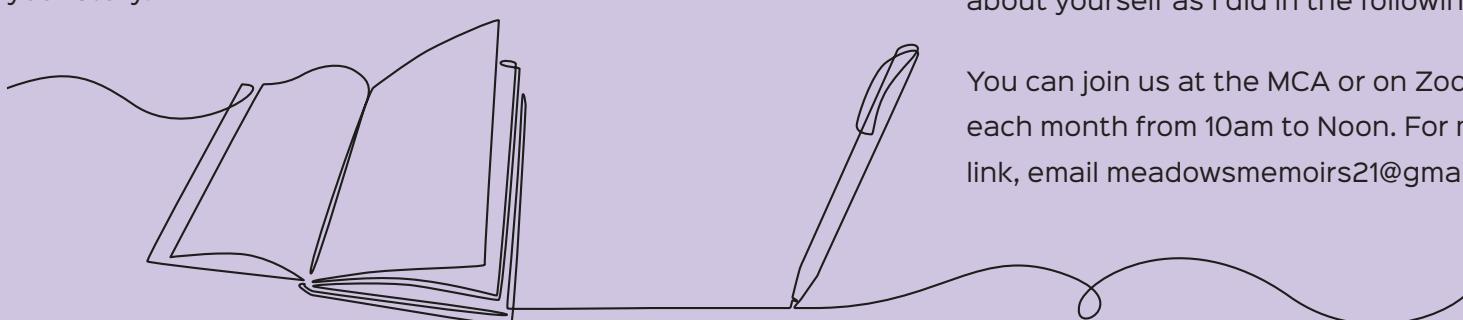
It's often hard to get started writing. The Memoir Group can help. Here's what are meetings are like. Writing prompts are given for those who want them, but you can write about whatever you wish. Memoirs are slices of your life, stories of some of your experiences. You choose what to include.

We use a workshop format. Members read their stories and other members provide feedback beginning with what we liked about your story.

Getting feedback may sound scary and newcomers often attend a meeting or two before they read anything. Then they learn that hearing what's good about your story feels great. Feedback is also important for improving stories by pointing out areas that are unclear or where listeners would like to know more. Hearing the stories in a group has unexpected benefits. As we listen to the stories, we get to know the other members and bonds are formed. The stories may remind you of similar experiences and we often have fun chatting about them and those stories may prompt you to write about a similar experience.

In addition, we provide some instruction on techniques to improve memoirs: For example we learn How To: construct the arc of the story; use different perspectives to shape the story; make memoirs come alive by adding details and dialog, integrate factual details into flow of the story. Best of all you may discover things about yourself as I did in the following story.

You can join us at the MCA or on Zoom on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month from 10am to Noon. For more information or the Zoom link, email meadowsmemoirs21@gmail.com.



The Old Me

Liz Barnett

It began innocently enough at the beach on a sunny day in May when Ella, our three-year old granddaughter, was tall enough to see the back of Bob's head as he lounged in a beach chair.

"Grandpa, where is your hair?" she gasped.

Soon, she ran over to inspect my head. "Grandpa's hair fell out all by itself," she said. I felt a little smug to still have hair all over my head until, in the pool that afternoon, a ten-year-old admonished his friend to watch out for that old Grandma. To my surprise, that was me.

Of course, I have said for years that even though I'm old on the outside, I'm young on the inside. But now I began to suspect that might no longer be true. Bob and I had both reached 70, the year when

you're required to begin taking annual distributions from your IRAs; a sure sign the countdown has begun even if you haven't already gotten

the news from your body. When we returned from the London Olympics, Bob suggested that we should not make plans to go 2016 Olympics in Brazil. It was a sensible idea, not like us at all. Perhaps we were truly old.

I began to feel a sense of loss. A line from a poem by Linda Pastan, "there is a time in your life when you are more yourself than any other," began to echo through my thoughts as relentlessly as an earworm from a Taylor Swift song. Had I passed the time that I was most myself. I'd accepted the



diminished ongoing accomplishments that followed retirement, but inside I felt the same enthusiasm for life that college sophomores display. Was this the beginning of the end of the sense of wonder that had filled me from the days when I lived surrounded by wonders in Chester WV, home of the World's Largest Teapot.

As a child I could imagine no greater wonder than The World's Largest Teapot, a giant red and white teapot graced by windows at its midsection from which ice cream, snacks and

souvenirs were sold to tourists. But education changed my view. Our fifth-grade teacher told us about her trip to Atlantic City where a woman did a high dive on horseback and the Weekly Reader had stories about the Panama Canal and Pompeii. I longed to see those wonders.

I didn't get to Atlantic City until the 90's when Ashland Community College sent me to a conference there. I was pretty excited. Luck was obviously with me; I had just won a neon Marlboro sign

Memoir Group

(complete with neon smoke that wafted artistically above a lighted cigarette) by playing roulette with my students at a fund raiser during Mountain Dew Days. Unfortunately, by the time I arrived in Atlantic City, the horse and rider had departed the earth as had my roulette luck. (Bob did hang the Marlboro sign in our dining room which allayed my disappointment a bit).

However, I did get to the Panama Canal just in time. By 2013, work was underway to build a larger canal; in a few

years the original canal would be eclipsed. I'm glad I was there in time to be part of a day-long line of twenty-story ships being lowered and raised through the locks of the original canal. I took pictures at two minute intervals as the water poured into the locks and marveled as we towered further and further above the boat behind us. I was as awestruck as a fifth-grader.

In 2014, I saw Pompeii. The idea of an entire town captured in an instant, then preserved by the volcanic ash and lava that had obliterated it, had terrified

and fascinated me as a child. I was prepared for a letdown as we sweated our way from the train and up the hill leading to streets still marked by the ruts of Roman chariots, to the Forum and temples, to the baths and gymnasiums, and to the houses. Street after street of houses. Tiny houses with stone sleeping berths; grand houses with mosaics and fountains. An entire town. This was how Romans lived. I was filled with the same wonder

that I felt in those days when I thought people would flock to Chester to see The World's Largest Teapot. Perhaps I am still in the time when I am most myself.



Small Great Things

By Jodi Picoult

Joanne Simons –
January 2026 Preview

Jodi Picoult tells the story of a new-born baby; the baby's white supremacist parents; an experienced labor and delivery nurse; a young lawyer; and a grumpy judge named Thunder. These characters come to life in Picoult's novel *Small Great Things* (Ballantine Books, 2016).

In notes to the reader, the author explains how, after copious research, she came to write about racism, prejudice, and privilege.

"African American Ruth Jefferson



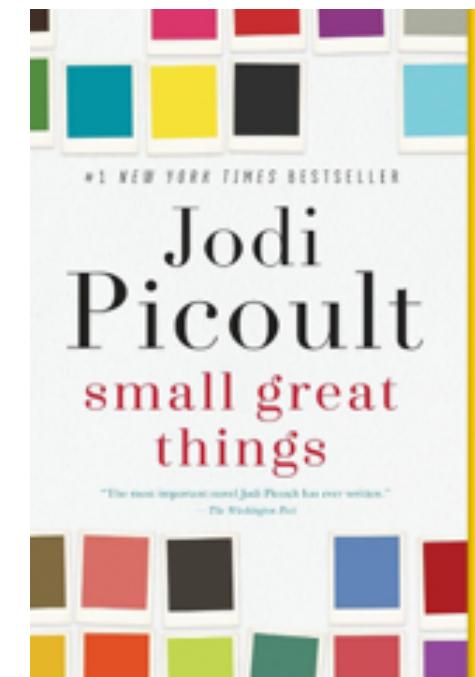
Author Jodi Picoult

is an exemplary labor and delivery nurse, so when a newborn baby's white supremacist parents demand their child be removed from her care, and her supervisor at the New Haven hospital where she's worked for 20 years complies without a fight ... [Ruth is] justifiably outraged. Alone in the nursery when the baby goes into cardiac arrest, Ruth is torn between risking her job by ignoring a direct order from her supervisor, or risking her conscience by not upholding the oath she took when she became a nurse. The worst happens – the baby dies – and Ruth finds herself on trial for murder."¹

"Jodi Picoult is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of twenty-nine novels, including most recently the #1 bestseller *BY ANY OTHER NAME*. Her

landmark novel *19 MINUTES* was recently deemed the most banned book in the United States in a recent report conducted by PEN America."² A *Boston Globe* reviewer wrote, "Picoult is a skilled wordsmith, and she beautifully creates situations that not only provoke the mind but touch the flawed souls in all of us."

"Picoult studied creative writing at Princeton University with Mary Morris, and graduated in 1987 with an A.B. in English after completing a 320-page senior thesis titled "Developments." She published two short stories in *Seventeen* magazine while still in college. Immediately after graduation, she began a variety of jobs, ranging from editing textbooks to teaching eighth-grade English. She earned a



master's degree in education from Harvard University.

Picoult has two honorary Doctor of Letters degrees: one from Dartmouth College in 2010, the other from the University of New Haven in 2012."³ Not just a novelist, she has written for film and television, and authored several issues of the *Wonder Woman* comic.

Members of the book club will be discussing *Small Great Things* on January 14 at 2:00 in the MCA Building (2004 Longmeadow). Please join us; all are welcome.

¹ <https://www.the-independent.com/arts-entertainment/books/reviews/small-great-things-jodie-picoult-review-racism-prejudice-justice-a7433576.html>

² <https://www.jodipicoult.com//JodiPicoult.html>

³ Jodi Picoult - Wikipedia

"Pride is an evil dragon; it sleeps underneath your heart and then roars when you need silence."

Services & Classifieds

MEADOWWORD SUBSCRIPTION OPTIONS

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

Annual Subscription - Begin in January and end in December of that same year. If you choose an annual subscription after January it will only include a Meadowword the next time it is published depending on when you make the payment. It may make more sense to consider a semiannual subscription depending on when you decide to subscribe. Your subscription will include 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
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USA \$14.40
Canada \$25.20
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MEADOWWORD DEADLINES

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

The next issue is February. The deadline for the February issue is Monday, January 5.

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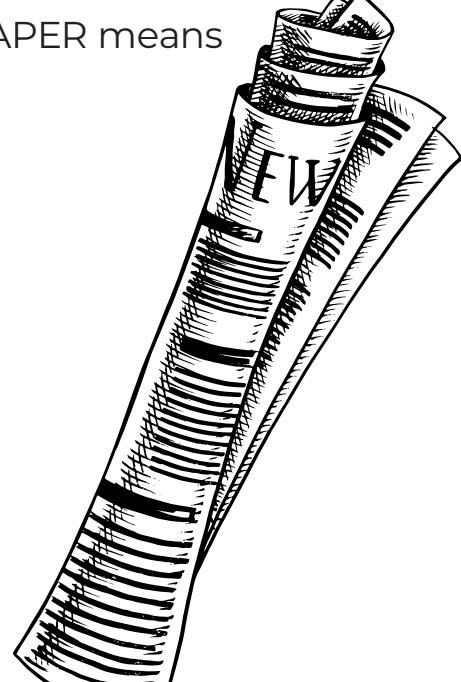
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Todd Florand

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

4564 Longwater Chase, 2bedroom 2 bath, 1st floor, corner unit, parking, golf course view, 1160 sq. ft., screened lanai, pool, w/d, utilities included, available 12/01/25, \$2400, annual only - 941-587-4399 kellybaus@gmail.com

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Annual rental. Briarfield 2B/2B. Furnished villa with garage. Board approval required.
732-966-4115

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

Meadoword



The Meadows Community News and Lifestyle

JANUARY 2026 CALENDAR

January 1	Happy New Year - Closed		MCA & MCLWF
January 2	10 – 11:30 AM Fall Prevention 101		MCLWF
January 5	2 – 3:30 PM Safety Committee		MCLWF
January 6	3 – 4 PM Standards Committee 6:30 - 7:30 PM Ice Cream Social		MCLWF
January 7	6:30 - 7:30 PM	Bingo	MCLWF
January 8	7:30 AM – 3:30 PM	OnSpot Dermatology	MCA Parking Lot
	10 – 11 AM	Activities Committee	MCA
	10 AM – 12 PM	Drop In Art Studio	MCA
	11 AM – 12 PM	Master Dance Class with Van Wezel - Tango After Dark	MCLWF
	1 – 3 PM	Learn To Play Mah Jongg	MCA
	2 – 3:30 PM	Board of Directors Meeting	MCLWF
January 9	10 – 11 AM	Bike Safety Training & Free Bike Helmet and Fitting	MCLWF
January 13	4 PM	2026 Board Candidate Forum	TBD
January 14	2 - 3 PM	Line Dancing Class	MCLWF
	2:30 – 4 PM	Maintenance Committee	MCA
January 15	11 AM – 12 PM	Master Dance Class with Van Wezel - Some Like It Hot	MCLWF
	1 – 3 PM	Learn To Play Mah Jongg	MCA
January 16	4 – 6 PM	Wine and Cheese Social	MCLWF
January 21	1 PM – 2 PM	CPR & AED Training	MCLWF
	4 – 5 PM	Assembly of Property Owners	MCLWF
	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Game Night	MCA
January 22	7:30 AM – 3:30 PM	OnSpot Dermatology	MCA Parking Lot
	6:30 – 7:30 PM	Italian-American Crooners of the 50s and 60s	MCLWF
	1 – 3 PM	Learn To Play Mah Jongg	MCA
January 27	10 AM – 1 PM	7th Annual MCA Health Fair	MCLWF
January 28	1 – 2 PM	Stop The Bleed Presentation	MCLWF
	6:30 – 8:30 PM	Game Night	MCA
January 29	8 AM – 3 PM	Blood Drive	MCA
	11 – 12 PM	Master Dance Class with Van Wezel - MJ	MCLWF
	1 – 3 PM	Learn To Play Mah Jongg	MCA

A LOOK AHEAD

February 4	6 – 7 PM	Ballroom Dancing	MCLWF
February 5	11 AM – 12 PM	Van Wezel Master Class—Tina	MCLWF
February 6	7:30 AM – 3:30 PM	OnSpot Dermatology	MCA
February 11	9 – 11 AM	Association President's Council	MCLWF
February 11	2 – 3 PM	Line Dancing Class	MCLWF
February 11	6 – 7 PM	Ballroom Dancing	MCLWF
February 12	7:30 AM – 3:30 PM	OnSpot Dermatology	MCA
February 13	6:30 – 7:30 PM	Quartet	MCLWF
February 18	6 – 7 PM	Ballroom Dancing	MCLWF
February 25	6 – 7 PM	Ballroom Dancing	MCLWF

CLUBS & SOCIAL GROUPS

Ace in the Hole Card Club

Bob Monaghan

Tuesday 7 - 10 PM

Drop in Art Studio

Melinda Gordon

Every Thursday 10 AM – 12 PM

Bike Club

Janet Schmidt

Every Wednesday, 9 AM at
Meadows Pub

Bingo

Agnes Rutushni

1st Wednesday of the month at 6:30 pm

Book Club

Lois Robinson

Monthly, 2nd Wednesday, 2 PM

Bridge-Wednesday

Kerrianne McMurdo

Every Wednesday 1:30 – 4 PM

Bridge-Friday

John Harwood

Every Friday 12:30 – 3 PM

Bridge Saturday Duplicate

Dot Boulia

Every Saturday 12:30 PM

Canasta: Hand & Foot

Sandy Maves

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

Hot Stove League

Mark Pienkos

Monthly, 2nd Tuesday 8 – 11 AM

Knit Happens

Barb Wessel

Monthly, 1st 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

Barb Thornquist & Betsy Lombard

Every Monday 9 AM – 12 PM

Samba (Card Game)

Jeannie Alexander

Every Friday 1:30 – 5 PM

Shalom Club

Joni Cohen

Every 4th Sunday at 3 PM

The Rainbow Connexion

Victor Aluise & Michael Barreiro

Meets quarterly