

# Meadowood Moments

## A Community Newsletter



December 2023

Aurorameadowood.com

Vol. 15 No. 12 • Circulation: 2260

### MNA Board Moment



On December 13th from 6 to 8pm, we are looking forward to seeing all of our Meadowood residents at the Meet & Greet event at the Hero's Pizza and Tavern. This is a casual event organized by the Meadowood Neighborhood Association for residents to meet each other and enjoy a complimentary dinner. It will also be an opportunity to recognize all of our *Meadowood Moments* Newsletter distributors for their service and time dedicated to our community. We hope to see many of you. We are always open to suggestions for community events and how to bring neighbors together. As we wrap up 2023 and get ready for a new year, we would love to hear from all of you.

— Zohra Nacer, MNA Media Officer

### Meadowood Moment

#### Our Neighbor is a Nonagenarian: 90-Graceful-Years-Old Mrs. Joan Hodges of Meadowood

It's Thursday, midday, and I'm headed next door to visit Joan on her 90th birthday. I walk in singing, "happy birthday to you" and see nearly 2 dozen birthday cards displayed, then there is the chocolate cake, the vanilla cake, the gifts, and gift cards. All these items serve as a reflection of the thousands of days Joan has gone out in the world and been a friend to others. The cards are from her community, her church, her previous employer, her family, and so on. My intention is to interview Joan, asking her questions about herself. It becomes immediately clear that Joan can't help but honor the people she has met on her journey with short side stories of their generosity, strengths, qualities, greatness, and effect. In 1953 Joan married, honeymooned, and moved thousands of miles from her family home to Seattle. She names at least 2 couples who she says, "took me under their wing" including the owners of her local grocery store. Joan professes the kindness of the store owners, and I am sure they were, but from my experience it's Joan's care for others that has built lifelong friendships like those she describes. Suddenly the doorbell rings and a colorful bouquet of flowers is delivered. Joan glances at the card to see that the flowers are from a granddaughter, which prompts Joan to share about her children and grandchildren. In 1973 she and her husband Mark moved to Meadowood with their four children. They are the first and only owners of their home here. Meadowood was a new subdivision with the promise of a new high school, Gateway, where her children were eventually bussed. Back then, Buckley Road was a dirt road and behind it (East of Buckley) was miles of wheat fields. Hampden Avenue was also dirt and ended at Nucla and the nearest grocery store was a Safeway located on Havana. Joan shares that



*continued on page 2*

**SANTA AND PANCAKES**  
 Sunday, December 17th, 9am-12pm  
 Hero's Pizza and Tavern, 16070 E Dartmouth Ave

Please join us on December 13 from 6 pm to 8 pm for a Meet & Greet Event at the Hero's Pizza & Tavern. Dinner is provided.

### Inside This Issue

- Electronic Recycling..... P.2
- Christmas Tree Recycling..... P.3
- Mary's Moment..... P.3
- Cub Scouts Thank You ..... P.3
- Aurora Public Library Moment ..... P.4
- City of Aurora Moment ..... P.4
- Pets, Garden & Cooking Moments.... P.5



## Joan Hodges, *continued from front page*

their Meadowood home has for 50 years been an anchor for their family. Joan has maintained her home because she is the responsible type who tasks away at home care simply for the love of what comes of her efforts, like the one time a grand child told her, "I love your green grandma house."

When asked about her favorite decade so far, Joan pauses, smiles, pauses again then confesses, "I can't name one. Every decade has been wonderful, and every decade has been hard." Later Joan imparts, "To make it to 90 you just have to keep going, just keep going." She encourages patience and perseverance as a means to arrive at your next milepost. Milepost is a term her fellow nonagenarian used in one of the birthday cards, which in its literal sense is just a small, often overlooked, sign on the highway. But when you consider the journey of a lifetime the milepost is a marker of how far you have come and an invitation to just keep going – just like Joan said.

Joan has no interest in leaving her Meadowood home which is filled with indications of the miles she has traveled. There are clues that Joan has been skilled at bowling, roller-skating, writing, sewing, canning and cooking. Joan has also been a Broncos and Nuggets fan and a 25-year Office Manager to a Nephrologist. We get into a bit of a discussion about the question of Joan's generation, "what is the role of the woman in society?" Her experience of being the mom of her home is one of her greatest joys and her enduring contribution to strong communities, among and in support of the myriad of contributions of all other woman who chose similar and different ways to live.

I'm thankful for my time with Joan today, each time we chat I learn as I have this afternoon. In a few hours Joan will be headed to her birthday dinner where I am sure she will make friends with her server or maybe the family at the next table because Joan is generous and never misses an opportunity to be a friend to others. Happy 90th Birthday!

— Katye Edwards, Meadowood Resident

## Electronics Recycling Event Coming Up At Techno Rescue

The city of Aurora's next opportunity for e-cycling with special event pricing is from Dec. 26 to 29 and from Jan. 2 to 6 at Techno Rescue, 3251 Lewiston St., Suite 10. The city's e-cycling partner will be open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday during these dates. Most electronic items—desktop computers, laptops, cell phones, tablets, gaming equipment, consumer electronics and similar—are accepted. A fee of \$5 will be charged per vehicle/individual for one standard grocery bag and \$10 per vehicle/individual for any load greater than one standard grocery bag. Additional fees apply for some monitors, televisions and floor model printers. A complete list of items that are not accepted and fees is available at [AuroraGov.org/Recycle](http://AuroraGov.org/Recycle) and clicking on Electronics Recycling. Techno Rescue, which is certified for electronics recycling and data destruction, wipes and physically destroys all data storage media to protect the identities of those who are recycling responsibly. As a reminder, electronics tossed in the trash not only cause serious environmental problems, but also are banned from landfills in Colorado. The city of Aurora's e-cycling events are supported by Environment Aurora, a citywide effort to think green. For more information, visit [AuroraGov.org/Recycle](http://AuroraGov.org/Recycle).

## Meadowood

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 440582, Aurora, CO 80044-0582

[www.aurorameadowood.com](http://www.aurorameadowood.com)

email: [Secretary@AuroraMeadowood.com](mailto:Secretary@AuroraMeadowood.com)

Facebook: Meadowood Neighborhood Aurora

**President**, Keegan Hayes

[President@AuroraMeadowood.com](mailto:President@AuroraMeadowood.com)

**Vice President**, Charlotte Mervin

[VicePresident@AuroraMeadowood.com](mailto:VicePresident@AuroraMeadowood.com)

**Secretary**, Dottie Wire

[Secretary@AuroraMeadowood.com](mailto:Secretary@AuroraMeadowood.com)

**Treasurer**, Kim Wisdom

[Treasurer@AuroraMeadowood.com](mailto:Treasurer@AuroraMeadowood.com)

**Media Officer**, Zohra Nacer

[MediaOfficer@AuroraMeadowood.com](mailto:MediaOfficer@AuroraMeadowood.com)

## Advertise in this Newsletter!

The deadline for advertisements is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue, except for the Jan. issue which is Dec. 6th.

**Newsletter Connections: 303-979-7499 or**  
**[info@newsletterconnections.com](mailto:info@newsletterconnections.com)**

To find ad rates and discounts, go to  
**[NewsletterConnections.com](http://NewsletterConnections.com)** or scan QR code.



Appearance of an advertisement in this publication does not constitute a recommendation or endorsement by the publisher or the association of the goods or services offered therein. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the individual authors and not of the Board of Directors of your association or the publisher. Neither the Board, publisher nor the authors intend to provide any professional service or opinion through this publication.



## Meadowood Neighborhood Aurora >

Private group · 408 members

Our Facebook group is a great way to stay engaged with our community! Join us on Meadowood Neighborhood Aurora Facebook Page to learn more.

## Meadowood Trash & Recycling Program with Waste Connections

- Reasonable rate - includes weekly trash pickup and recycling every other week.
- Fewer trash company trucks in Meadowood means less traffic, less pollution, less noise and less wear and tear on neighborhood streets.
- Rebate of \$2/home/month goes back to the neighborhood association for community projects and events.

**Help us help Meadowood – Sign Up Today!**

**Call 303-288-2100 \* [www.wasteconnections.com](http://www.wasteconnections.com)**



## Mary's Moment

### Gift Wrapping: A History Unwrapped

Why do we gift wrap and is it profitable? YES!!! Last year Americans spent over 26 billion on wrapping paper for Christmas, birthdays, etc. Wowser!

I found two variations on the beginnings of wrapping gifts. Hundreds of years ago in Korea fabric around gifts was a symbol of protection and good luck. In Japan in the 1600s Furoshiki began the tradition of wrapping with cloth. Upper class Victorians decorated paper with ribbons and lace to conceal the gift.

In the early 1900's tissue paper was primarily used. It was meant to convey thoughtfulness and care. In 1917 two brothers ran a stationary store in Kansas City. That year they sold out of tissue paper! Oh dear, what to do??? They found some fancier paper which also sold out. By 1919 Joyce and Rollie Hall began selling their own wrapping paper...thus the birth of a store we are all familiar with...Hallmark!

Happy Holidays, Meadowood friends!

— Mary Metcalf, Meadowood Resident



## FREE Christmas Tree Recycling

When the holiday season ends, bring your Christmas tree to one of the drop-off sites throughout the city of Aurora for free recycling from Dec. 26 to Jan. 8. The free recycling site locations are:

- Del Mar Park, 12000 E. Sixth Ave. (at Peoria St. in the west parking lot)
- Saddle Rock Golf Course, 21705 E. Arapahoe Road (west of E-470)
- Olympic Park, 15501 E. Yale Ave. (east of Chambers Road)

Please remove all nails, decorations and stands from trees prior to drop-off. Free mulch is available anytime (while supplies last) at all drop-off locations. Please bring your own truck, bags, shovel and containers.

Learn more at [AuroraGov.org/Trees](http://AuroraGov.org/Trees).

## From Cub Scouts Pack 734 Thank You Meadowood!

Cub Scouts Pack 734 would like to extend their sincere gratitude and thanks to all Meadowood Residents who participated in the Annual Food Drive and donated to the Food Pantry. We were able to collect over 400 pounds of food! Thank you for helping our Community and thank you for helping our Scouts understand the gift of giving and doing good turns.



A special thanks to Mary Metcalf for your special thoughtful touch





# ROAD HOME

— EXTERIORS —

roofing | windows | siding | gutters | paint | repairs

## 720-592-5341

[www.roadhomeexteriors.com](http://www.roadhomeexteriors.com)

*Your home was likely hit with large damaging hail on May 11. Schedule a free, no obligation inspection today!*

*No project too big or too small!*

## Get Ready for Winter!

### Beaver Stump Grinding & Tree Service



**Quality Service at Reasonable Rates Since 1995**

- Tree Trimming
- Tree Removal
- Bush Removal
- Stump Grinding
- Rock Walls
- RR Ties
- Sod Work
- Top Soil
- Wood Chips
- Gutters
- Roto-Tilling
- Hauling
- Sprinkler Repair
- Power Washing
- Fences
- Gardens
- Trees Planted
- Fall Yard Clean-up

**Full Service Landscaping**  
**All Debris Removed • All Materials Recycled**  
**24/7 Year-Round Service**  
*Locally Owned & Operated • Licensed & Insured*

## Preston, 303-829-8414

## Aurora Public Library Moment

### Storytime and Toy Drive with Santa and The Grinch

**Grinch:** Saturday, Dec. 9, 10:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

**Santa:** Saturday, Dec. 16, 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

It's the holiday season! Enjoy a special storytime with the Grinch that will include a toy drive for families in need. Please only provide new, unused toys for donations. After storytime, you are welcome to stay for pictures, hot cocoa, cookies and holiday crafts. Register today.

*Grinch: Tallyn's Reach Library, 23911 E. Arapahoe Road*

*Santa: Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway*

### Credit Card Fees Have Begun

All credit card transactions for water bill payments now have a transaction fee of \$1.95 for residential customers and a transaction fee of \$7.95 for commercial, multifamily and irrigation accounts. ACH or eCheck option will continue to be at no cost. Credit card processing fees were projected to increase to almost \$2 million each year. Help us control these costs and their impact on rates by switching your online payment account to use the ACH or eCheck option, which will continue to have no charge. Visit [AuroraGov.org/PayMyBill](http://AuroraGov.org/PayMyBill) to access your online water account.

## City of Aurora Moments

### Aurora History Museum's Festival of Wreaths

Through Sunday, Dec. 10

The Festival of Wreaths is an annual fundraiser organized by the Aurora Museum Foundation and Aurora History Museum and Historic Sites. Festive wreaths created by community members will be displayed in the Aurora History Museum Community Gallery. Vote for your favorite wreath, and bid on wreaths in-person or online. Silent bidding will take place on Bidding Owl, and a live auction event will occur at the opening reception. All proceeds support exhibits and educational programs.

*Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway*

*Learn more: [amfco.org/wreaths](http://amfco.org/wreaths)*

### 28th Annual Gateway To The Rockies Art Show

Through Saturday, Dec. 16

The 28th annual Gateway to the Rockies Art Show, in partnership with Aurora Artists Guild, will present artwork which will be for sale while the show is on exhibit. Artists will also have unframed artwork for sale on four Saturdays during the exhibit: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Nov. 18, Nov. 25, Dec. 2 and Dec. 9. *Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway*



**J Dog**  
Junk Removal & Hauling

Providing Services  
The Military Way, With  
Respect, Integrity & Trust!

American & Veteran Owned  
Residential & Commercial Services

Hank McClellan  
**720.549.0911**

**MENTION THIS AD AND GET 10% OFF!**

[centennial@jdog.com](mailto:centennial@jdog.com)  
[jdogssouthdenver.com](http://jdogssouthdenver.com)



**NEWSLETTER  
CONNECTIONS**

Same Great Company, Owner & Employees...  
Just A New Name!

**303-979-7499**

[info@newsletterconnections.com](mailto:info@newsletterconnections.com)  
[NewsletterConnections.com](http://NewsletterConnections.com)



**20% OFF ORDER**

NOW DELIVERING TOO!  
LET US BRING THE WINGS TO YOU!

\$20 MIN, \$1.50 delivery charge

Expires 12/31/23. Must present coupon.



**WING HUT**

FAMILY OWNED AND PROUDLY  
SERVING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD  
SINCE 2001

NE corner of Hampden and Chambers

[winghutaaurora.com](http://winghutaaurora.com)  
**303.699.9464** MW

**Mission Viejo Veterinary Hospital**



15470 E. Hampden Ave.  
Aurora, CO 80013  
**303-693-1082**

[www.missionviejovet.com](http://www.missionviejovet.com)  
Located on the corner of  
Hampden and Chambers

*Serving our community since 1976*

Open Mon, Tue, Thurs, Fri 9:00am to 6:00pm  
Open Wed 9:00am to 7:00 pm  
Open Sat 9:00 am to 5:00pm

## CLASSIFIEDS: The perfect way to find local professionals to work on your house! You can also find activities, sale items and more!

Find more professionals to suit your needs on our Service Provider Directory at [NewsletterConnections.com](http://NewsletterConnections.com).

**Employee Retention Credit (ERC) Program!**  
FREE Evaluation! [www.ERCRebates.biz](http://www.ERCRebates.biz)

**Money Likes Speed, Simplicity And Automation!** [www.PerpetualProfits.biz](http://www.PerpetualProfits.biz)

**MARY KAY COSMETICS:** Nell Fenton Sr. Sales Director. 32 yrs in business. Full store. Lic. cosmetologist. Nell 303-884-6362. [www.marykay.com/nfenton](http://www.marykay.com/nfenton), [nelsangels11@gmail.com](mailto:nelsangels11@gmail.com)

**SWOLLMAN FITNESS 732-673-3580 Personal Training FIRST SESSION FREE! Private Home Gym**

**OB PAINTING. Interior/Exterior.** Free Est. Call today! 30 years in business! Rob: 303-986-8198

**All Around Maintenance, LLC.** Residential and Commercial maintenance and repair. Wayne Lederhos 720-404-7592.

Classified ads are \$5.00/line (about 40 characters/line). Contact Newsletter Connections at 303-979-7499 or [info@newsletterconnections.com](mailto:info@newsletterconnections.com) to place an ad. To view our display ad prices, visit our website at [NewsletterConnections.com](http://NewsletterConnections.com). The deadline for placing a classified or display ad is the 15th of the month for the next month's issue (i.e., 15th of Sept. for Oct. issue), except the January issue, which has a deadline of December 6th. Residents placing ads to sell household items are not charged a fee.



### Pets' Moment

#### Cat Scratching

Scratching is a natural behavior for cats. Cats scratch for many reasons including removing the dead outer layer of their claws, marking their territory, burning off energy, stretching out, expressing annoyance, or simply sharpening their claws. If your cat is scratching areas of the home that you prefer them not to, there are precautions you can take to curb this behavior.

#### PREVENTING INAPPROPRIATE SCRATCHING:

- Provide multiple sturdy scratching posts throughout your home. (sisal and/or rope lined scratching posts are preferred by cats)
- If you have a multi-cat household, ensure there is at least one scratching post per cat. Sometimes, cats will mark posts as theirs and other cats are not permitted to use it.
- Provide a different variety of scratching posts so they have different options.
- Try various texture of scratchers to see if they have a preference.
- Place a scratching post in front of the spots that your cat scratches inappropriately.
- Clip the sharp end of your cat's nails once a week or once every other week.
- Place nail caps on your cat's claws. These must be replaced every 4-6 weeks.

**NOTE:** Declawing your cat is strongly discouraged in order to address inappropriate scratching behaviors. Scratching is a natural behavior and instinct for cats. If they do not have the ability to express this natural behavior, it can result in behavior problems. In addition, declawing your cat can result in inappropriate litter box habits and/or medical issues.

**TIP!** Do NOT use punishment to eliminate inappropriate scratching behavior – it can make the problem worse and hinder your relationship with your cat. If punishment techniques are used, your cat will simply learn to scratch in inappropriate areas when you are not around.

Source: [AuroraAnimalShelter.org](http://AuroraAnimalShelter.org)

### Garden Moment

#### Do We Need To Water Our Plants?

Most avid gardeners don't check their love of plants at the front door. We keep ferns in the bathroom, begonias in the study, a dwarf citrus in the bedroom, pots of rosemary in the kitchen, and seedlings in the basement.

**Temperature:** In their natural habitat, most plants experience a day-to-night temperature fluctuation of at least 10 degrees F. Most plants also expect a resting period each year; in fact, some flowering plants actually require a period of dormancy before they will set bud and flower. To simulate this resting period, cut back on water and fertilizer during the late fall and early winter, when the intensity and duration of natural light is lowest.

**Water:** More houseplants die from overwatering than from anything else. The best advice is to resist the temptation to water on a regular schedule. Your plants will require frequent watering if the weather has been sunny and warm, and they may not need a drop if the weather has been cool and cloudy. Make a habit of checking the soil of at least a few indicator plants, and water only if it feels dry to a depth of ½ to 1 inch.

When you do water, drench the root ball until you can see some water seep out the bottom of the pot. This will ensure that the entire root ball gets moistened. Small pots will benefit from being soaked in water for about an hour, once a month. Whenever possible, try to water your plants with room temperature water to avoid shocking the roots.

### Cooking Moment

#### Festive Cranberry Salad

- 2 cups freshly ground cranberries
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 (6 ounce) Package cherry Jello
- 3 cups water
- 1 Cup diced celery
- 1 Cup chopped nuts
- One orange (remove seeds, grind in food chopper with skin)



Use a blender or food processor to grind cranberries. add sugar and allowed to sit for one hour. Dissolve large cherry Jello in one Cup boiling water, then add remaining two cups of cold water. Chill until partially set. Stir in diced celery, chopped nuts, orange, and cranberries. Pour into 8x11 inch dish or 2-quart mold. Chill until firm. Serves 10 to 12.

**This Space  
Intentionally  
Left Blank  
for Teen Services**

## Meadowood Report - December 2023

by PJ Ausmus

# Happy Holidays!

I want to wish you and your family a safe and happy holiday season. If I can be of assistance for you or anyone you know, please give me a call. All the best to you as we head into the new year!

### | Meadowood Overview |

- Homes Active on the market: 10
- Homes Under Contract: 2
- Homes Closed in the last 3-months: 12
- Average Closed Price in the last 3-months: \$477,116

(Stats as of 11/13/23)



If you have any questions for Terry Simmons he can still be reached at  
303. 906. 9889



## PJ Ausmus

Cell: 720. 470. 3712

[pj@ausmusrealty.com](mailto:pj@ausmusrealty.com)



**RE/MAX**  
PROFESSIONALS

Each Office Independently Owned and Operated

