Meadowood Moments

A Community Newsletter

December 2025 **Aurorameadowood.com** **Vol. 17 No. 12 • Circulation: 2260**

MNA Board Moment

On December 3rd, we're excited to see our Meadowood neighbors at the Meet & Greet at Jus Grill! This is a relaxed get-together hosted by the Meadowood Neighborhood Association where everyone can meet new people, catch up with familiar faces, and enjoy a complimentary dinner.

We'll also be taking a moment to thank our Meadowood Moments Newsletter distributors and all the volunteers who help make our community great.

We hope to see lots of you there! And as we wrap up 2025 and look ahead to the new year, we'd love to hear your ideas for community events or ways we can bring neighbors together. Your suggestions are always welcome.

— Zohra Nacer,
MNA Media Officer

Meadowood Moment

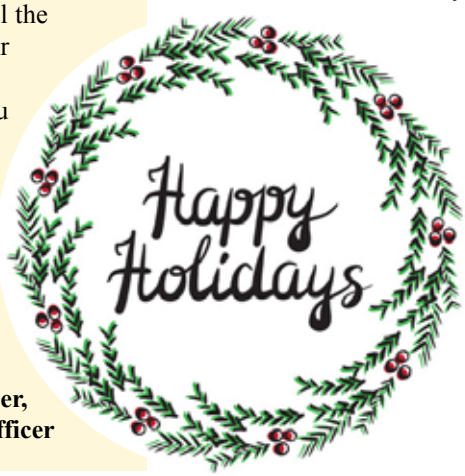
Breakfast With Santa

December 13th • 9:30–11:30 AM • Hero's
Hosted by Hero's, American Legion and Meadowood Neighborhood Association

Ho ho ho, Meadowood! Get ready for a jolly good time: Santa is coming to town, and he is joining us for breakfast! Bring the family for a delicious morning at Hero's as we enjoy pancakes, fun, and festive cheer.

And that's not all… after breakfast, hop aboard for a holiday hayride, hosted *by Kodiak Ranch*, to keep the magic going!

This event is open to all Meadowood residents, we would love to see you there! Come make some merry memories with your neighbors and the Big Guy himself.



Meadowood Volunteer Appreciation Night!

Our Meadowood Neighborhood Association is excited to invite all our amazing volunteers to a special evening out, especially those who help deliver our monthly newsletter and keep our community connected!

Where: Jus Grill
When: Wednesday, December 3rd
6:00 – 8:00 PM

We know the event was originally advertised for November 19th, but we had to move it to this new date , and we promise it'll be worth the wait!

Come enjoy good food, great company, and a well-deserved thank-you for all you do to make Meadowood such a wonderful place to live!

Happy Holidays

From the Meadowood Neighborhood Association to all Meadowood Residents.

Aurora Water Shares Tips and Incentives For Creating a Water-Wise Yard

At our recent Neighborhood Association meeting, we welcomed **Maddie Parsnick**, Water Conservation Specialist with Aurora Water, who shared valuable information about the city's **Grass Replacement Incentive Program (GRIP)** and the **Water-Wise Landscape Design Program (LDP)**. With Aurora's dry, high-desert climate, these programs can help homeowners create beautiful yards that use less water—and save money.

WHY WATER-WISE LANDSCAPING MATTERS

Aurora receives only about **15 inches of precipitation each year**, far less than the 42–52 inches needed to support traditional Kentucky bluegrass. Water-wise landscaping (often called xeriscaping) is designed for our climate and includes:

- At least **50% live plants**, including water-wise grasses and shrubs
- Trees, which count as **three plants** at 70% of their mature size
- Plantings that can look attractive throughout all four seasons

BENEFITS OF A WATER-WISE YARD INCLUDE:

- **Lower water use:** For example, buffalo grass requires **about half the water** of Kentucky bluegrass. Currently, **40% of Aurora's water use** goes toward outdoor irrigation.
- **Reduced pesticides:** Water-wise grasses—such as buffalo, Bermuda, blue grama, dog-tuff, and Tahoma, are naturally more resilient. Americans use **ten times more pesticides on lawns** than farmers use on crops.
- **Support for pollinators and wildlife:** A diverse selection of native plants helps sustain bees, birds, and beneficial insects.

A full list of recommended water-wise plants is available on the Aurora Water website under **Water-Wise Landscaping**.

GRASS REPLACEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM (GRIP)

Homeowners looking to transition their landscapes can take advantage of Aurora's GRIP rebate program.

- Remove **at least 500 sq. ft. of healthy bluegrass** and replace it with a water-wise landscape
- Earn **$3 per sq. ft.** when installing perennials, shrubs, or ornamental grasses
- Earn **$0.50 per sq. ft.** for converting to buffalo grass
- Eligible areas include **front yards, backyards, curbsides**, and phased projects
- An **approved landscape design** is required; the Landscape Design Program can assist with this
- Application windows open **November 1st** and again in the spring

Homeowners can apply at **auroragov.org/GRIP**.

FREE WATER-WISE LANDSCAPE DESIGN PROGRAM (LDP)

Aurora also offers a free design service for residents planning water-wise conversions.

Residents can:

- Apply through the **Water-Wise Landscape Design Form** on the city's website
- Choose design areas up to **2,500 sq. ft.** (front yard, backyard, side yard, curbside combinations)
- Receive support via **phone, email, photos, PDFs, and aerial mapping**
- Get a customized, approved design with a plant list and guidance on tasks such as vegetation removal, irrigation adjustments, planting, mulching, and hardscape installation

Aurora Water also provides free **classes and educational videos**.

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Meadowood
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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

To find ad rates and discounts, go to **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.

This Space Intentionally Left Blank for Teen Services

Meadowood Neighborhood Aurora ›

Private group · **601** 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.

A Water-Wise Yard, *continued from page 2*

OTHER WATER CONSERVATION RESOURCES

Aurora offers additional programs to help households conserve:

INDOOR:

- Free indoor water assessments
- Rebates for water-wise toilets

OUTDOOR:

- Free water-wise landscape designs
- Rebates on irrigation components and water-wise landscapes
- Outdoor water assessments
- Water conservation classes
- Volunteer opportunities at the Aurora Water-Wise Garden

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **GRIP Questions:** *Maddie Parsnick* – mparsnic@auroragov.org, 720-859-4361
- **Landscape Design Program:** *Amanda Slover* – aslover@auroragov.org, 720-859-4366
- **General Conservation Inquiries:** conservation@auroragov.org, 303-739-7195

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City of Aurora Moments

Aurora Fox Arts Center Presents "A Christmas Carol"

Nov. 28 through Dec. 21

The Aurora Fox's season 40 concludes with pure holiday hilarity. The Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of "A Christmas Carol" takes the stage with laughter, chaos and festive fun. Expect surprise characters, playful audience participation and delightfully disastrous mishaps onstage.

Aurora Fox Arts Center, 9900 E. Colfax Ave.

Tickets and information: AuroraFoxArtsCenter.org.

Holiday Tree Lighting & Merry Makers Market

Tuesday, Dec. 2, 4 to 8 p.m.

Enjoy a one-stop shopping event with Merry Makers Market from 4 to 8 p.m. There will be a selection of products to choose from local and regional vendors. After shopping, head over to the Holiday Tree Lighting from 5 to 7 p.m. This celebration will feature holiday-themed activities, sweet treats, performances by the Aurora Heart Dancers and special appearances by the one and only Santa Claus. The Aurora History Museum will also be open from 5 to 7 p.m., welcoming visitors to its 26th Festival of Wreaths exhibit.

Holiday Tree Lighting: Aurora Municipal Campus Great Lawn, 15151 E. Alameda Parkway;

Merry Makers Market: Aurora Central Library, 14949 E. Alameda Parkway;

Festival of Wreaths: Aurora History Museum, 15051 E. Alameda Parkway

More information: AuroraGov.org/Lights

Get Ready for Winter!

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- *Trees Planted*
- *Fall Yard Clean-up*

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Aurora Public Library Moments

Mission Viejo Library: December Programs

For more information about library programs, call 303-326-8600 or visit auroralibrary.org.

EARLY LITERACY PROGRAMS:

Tue, Dec 2 & 9 at 10:30 a.m.	Tots Tunes (ages 0-5)
Wed, Dec 3, 10 & 17 at 10:30 a.m.	Baby Storytime (ages 0-2)
Thu, Dec 4, 11 & 18 10:30 a.m.	Storytime (ages 0-5)
Tue, Dec 16 at 10:30 a.m.	Blocks & Play (ages 0-5)

PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN:

Wed, Dec 3 at 4:30 p.m.	Perler Beads (ages 6-18)
Wed, Dec 10 at 4:30 p.m.	Clay Club (ages 6-18)
Wed, Dec 17 at 4:30 p.m.	Marshmallow Animals & Hot Cocoa (ages 6-18)
Sat, Dec 20, 10:30-noon	Read to a Therapy Dog (ages 0-12)

PROGRAMS FOR PRE-TEENS AND TEENS:

Thu, Dec 4 at 4:30 p.m.	Icy Watercolor Painting (ages 12-18)
Thu, Dec 11 at 4:30 p.m.	Chocolate Pretzels (ages 12-18)
Thu, Dec 18 at 4:30 p.m.	Teen Advisory Group (ages 12-18)
Sat, Dec 20 at 2:00 p.m.	Teen Dungeons & Dragons (ages 12-18)

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS:

Sat, Dec 6 at 2:00 p.m.	Adult Video Game Hangout (adults)
Fri, Dec 12 at 11:00 a.m.	Coffee and Coloring (adults)
Sat, Dec 13 at 2:00 p.m.	Dungeons & Dragons (adults)
Fri, Dec 19 at 11:00 a.m.	Paper Snowflakes (adults)

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES:

Sat, Dec 13 at 10:30 a.m.	Hot Cocoa and Puzzles
Tue, Dec 16 at 6:30 p.m.	Aurora Rhythms: It's a Wonderful Life Radio Play

Pets' Moment

Winter Wildlife in Aurora

December is a great month to spot wildlife around Aurora as animals adapt to colder weather.

Backyard Visitors:
Cottontail rabbits, fox squirrels, and winter birds like chickadees and juncos stay active all season. A simple feeder with sunflower seeds or suet can help birds stay energized.

Coyotes & Foxes:
These animals are more visible in winter as they roam for food. They typically avoid people, but keep pets close and trash secured.

Deer Sightings:
Mule deer often wander through greenbelts in search of shrubs to nibble. They're beautiful to watch, but remember—please don't feed them.

Owls in December:
Great horned owls begin their nesting season now. Listen for their hoots in the early evening and keep an eye out for their silhouettes in trees.

A Few Ways to Help Wildlife:

- Offer fresh, unfrozen water
- Use pet-safe or sand-based ice melt
- Leave some leaves for natural shelter

Winter brings a quiet magic to Aurora—and spotting these seasonal visitors is one of the best parts. Enjoy the wildlife this month!

BOOST Your Business In 2026:
Connect Directly with Your Neighbors!

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NEWSLETTER CONNECTIONS

Our January deadline is December 5th.

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Kids Moments

Winter Riddle Challenge

Can you solve these winter-themed riddles?

1. **I'm not alive, but I can grow; I don't have lungs, but I need air. What am I?**
2. **I fly without wings and fall without getting hurt. What am I?**
3. **You can catch me, but you can't throw me. What am I?**
4. **I'm full of letters, but I can't read. What am I?**

Share your answers with us! Send in your responses, if you solve all four riddles, send us an email to mediaofficer@AuroraMeadowood.com and you will be featured in the January newsletter**.**

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.

Garden Moment

Want to get a jump start on Spring gardening chores? You can accomplish some maintenance pruning. These tasks are best completed between Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Dead Limbs on Trees: This is especially important in areas prone to heavy snow or ice. If you know it's dead, get it down before bad weather arrives.

Shrub Roses: It's best to tackle rose pruning in winter or early spring when plants are dormant. That being said, if you have large or overgrown shrub rose bushes, pruning to remove 2 to 4 inches of canes can help protect the plant from snow damage. If shrub roses have overtaken walkways, remove the problem canes. Wait to prune until after several hard freezes, or you risk triggering new growth.

Perennials With Disease Issues: This list includes bearded iris, hollyhocks and any plants with a powdery mildew problem, like peony, bee balm and garden phlox. Cut stems back to 2 to 4 inches and destroy (don't compost).

Suckers: Some plants send up shoots at and/or around the base of the original plant. With suckering shrubs, one plant can eventually form a colony. Examples include sumac, Crabapples, witch hazel and the colored twig dogwoods. Remove suckers whenever you spot them, cutting them as close to the base as possible.

Natural Holiday Decor: Feel free to prune a few branches from evergreens, berried twigs and even rose stems with hips to supply outdoor holiday decorations. Place pruning cuts carefully, remembering that you're influencing future growth.

What Not to Prune

- Spring flowering shrubs and trees (things like azalea, lilac, dogwood, viburnum, oakleaf hydrangea)
- Ornamental grasses
- Marginally hardy perennials (plants you're never quite sure are coming back until you see new growth in spring)
- Climbing roses
- Perennials that provide winter interest (tall sedum, baptisia, Siberian iris
- Perennials with seedheads that feed birds (coneflower, black-eyed Susan, anise hyssop, tall liatris)

Breaking the Rules: Last but not least, you can always break the pruning rules if you don't mind the consequences, such as not having flowers for one year or risking more severe winter kill on stems. For instance, a spreading shrub-like forsythia that's gobbling ground is always a good target for pruning whenever you find the time. You can take down a summer bloomer like butterfly bush (Buddleja) in early winter, but in the coldest regions, you might risk losing the plant entirely to winterkill if winter is exceptionally hard. In this case, prune stems back to 24 inches, and shorten further in spring once new growth appears.

— Kim Wisdom, Landscape Architect

MEADOWOOD

MARKET REPORT

~Stats as of 11/14/2025~

MEADOWOOD OVERVIEW

19	6	96
ACTIVES ON THE MARKET	UNDER CONTRACT TO CLOSE	SOLD SINCE JAN. 1ST, 2025
PRICED FROM $429,000 - $552,727	PRICED FROM $399,000 - $535,000	PRICED FROM $305,555 - $584,000

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Bill Flynn
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