

Meadowood Moments

A Community Newsletter



February 2024

Aurorameadowood.com

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MNA Board Moment



Our commitment to providing events, resources and neighborhood improvement opportunities relies heavily on the help of many amazing local volunteers, ideas and feedback. As we move further

into the new year, we want to make sure we are doing our best to make this neighborhood the best it can be. That's where you come in! I am personally asking for a brief 2 minutes of your time to fill out our neighborhood survey, so we can identify how we can improve our meetings, events and find new volunteers for our mission. **I hope you'll consider providing your feedback to help us out! On this page, you'll find a QR code you can scan with the camera on your phone, or you can go directly to www.aurorameadowood.com/survey. Rather fill it out on paper? We'll have some paper copies at Hero's Pizzeria available to fill out and return. Thank you in advance for your help!**

— Keegan Hayes, MNA President

Survey

Please take 2 minutes to help us out! Scan the QR code below, or go to www.aurorameadowood.com/survey.



Meadowood Moment

Our Neighbor is Official Mr. Joshua Edwards of Meadowood

Rolling a suitcase full of equipment, Josh had just returned from a three game refereeing assignment. As we talked, he shared his journey to becoming a CHSAA Certified Basketball Official.

The story begins with Josh raising his family in Meadowood where they have been residents for 14 years. They landed here after a family debate between the Meadowood home and another home a few miles away. It may have been the floor plan, the new windows, the west facing house, or his wife's insistence, but "I acquiesced," Josh explains with a smile. He goes on to say, "The schools, the convenience store, the rec center, the walking path, our neighbors...Meadowood is great and right for us." The first week in their new home multiple neighbors stopped by with treats welcoming his family. A few days later they received their first *Meadowood Moments* Newsletter, something they had never experienced in other Aurora neighborhoods. Intrigued and eager to be involved, Josh's family delivered newsletters monthly for most of the 14 years. While their involvement has been enriching, it hasn't been without its moments. Josh, a Black man, occasionally faced residents expressing apprehension as he approached their doors. Responding with a smile and a friendly "Hey there, neighbor," while handing off the newsletter, Josh has consistently broken-down barriers. The result? A smile in return, and a thank you for his service.



Josh deepened his involvement by volunteer coaching for City of Aurora, often hosting practice right in the middle of Meadowood. Over
continued on page 2

Meadowood General Meeting

**Please note location change:
Meeting at Meadowood Church!**

We hope you will consider attending our MNA General Meeting to be held in the Meadowood Church Meeting Room on Wednesday, March 13th at 6:15pm.

During the general meeting you will have the opportunity discuss MNA 2024 upcoming plans. We will discuss community issues and concerns during an open forum. Please consider coming to the general meeting to get more engaged with your Meadowood neighborhood and to get a chance to win the door prize drawing at the end of the meeting. Food is provided!

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Mr. Joshua Edwards, *continued from front page*

13 years and thirty-nine seasons, he coached soccer, basketball, baseball, and flag football. Recalling those years with a smile, Josh shares stories of children he met at age four, now grown, recognizing him, and still calling him Coach. The bonds formed with hundreds of families through organized sports highlight the community-building power of such activities.

After coaching his own children until they joined school teams, Josh decided to spend time in the stands as a spectator. He describes the experience as unfulfilling. He just didn't feel close enough to the game. Then one sunny afternoon while watching his son hoop, he haggled a ref who responded with a gesture of handing Josh his whistle. It was a, "you get out here and do it then" gesture. So, Josh did. In 2017 Josh began reffing for City of Aurora and two years later tested and became a certified official. He admits his surprise at how challenging it was to pass the certification test. He spent months studying a rule book that describes the intricacies of plays and includes case studies. Josh explains, "Spectators often know calls, but the officials know the rules." He gives the example of parents wanting a block foul call yelling, "he was moving!" According to the rules the defender can move among other specifics. Josh likes officiating and dedicates time to perfecting his skill so that he is the ref coaches are happy to see arrive for a game. When asked what advice he has for spectators he responds, "I'm a parent first, I still call out to refs. But don't take it personal, stay curious, and keep it about the game." I would add, thank a ref.

Josh the dad, coach, and ref are vital components of his contribution to our community. He encourages new residents to first embrace the diversity, explaining that his block houses, Black, Latino, Indian, and white residents as well as multigenerational, heterosexual, and LGBTQ+ lifestyles, "our neighbors have different religions and various abilities." Next, "whatever hobby you love you are likely to find neighbors who love it to, find them. You can leave a legacy by getting involved."

— **Katye Edwards**

National Love Your Pet Day

February 20th: National Love Your Pet Day is a day to show extra love and appreciation for your pets. It's a reminder to take some time to play with them, show affection, and do something special for them.

Seed Swap at the MNA General Meeting

Get the growing season started by swapping seeds to get the perfect mix for your garden! Have seeds to share? Come swap with us! Stop by to get free seeds from the Meadowood Neighborhood Association.



Bring spare seeds of any kind to swap or grab some free seeds at the MNA general meeting on Wednesday, March 13th at 6:15.

Please email MediaOfficer@AuroraMeadowood.com to register for the event.



Meadowood
NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 440582, Aurora, CO 80044-0582
www.aurorameadowood.com
email: Secretary@AuroraMeadowood.com
Facebook: [Meadowood Neighborhood Aurora](https://www.facebook.com/MeadowoodNeighborhoodAurora)

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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.



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Meadowood Neighborhood Aurora >

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2024 Young People's Concert: Aurora Symphony Orchestra

Spark your child's imagination and love of music with the Aurora Symphony Orchestra's annual free Young People's Concert!

Designed as a first-time concert experience for budding future musicians. The annual Young People's Concert offers a shortened, educational program to inspire listeners of any age! Offered bi-lingual in English and Spanish.

Date: Sunday, February 18, 2024 @ 3:00 PM

Location: Overland High School Auditorium,
12400 E Jewell Ave, Aurora, CO 80012

Tickets: Free Admission – All Ages

Website Link: <https://aurorasymphony.org/>



Mary's Moment

Cars, Cars!!, Cars!!!

When I was quite young my parents had a very old car, a 1930 something Ford. I loved sitting on the running board while playing with my doll. I remember when my mom finally got a driver's license so she could help deliver groceries from my father's grocery store and go to the bank for him. At one point, Dad got a delivery truck which he drove to and from the grocery store and Mom had her own car. That's two cars. When I was in high school, my parents got me a car so I could get myself to and from school. That made 3 cars at our home.

Now I look around our neighborhood and count cars, etc. Several people have trailers and motor homes plus cars to get to and from work. It is really amazing to see all the various types of vehicles in Meadowood! One neighbor has several workers living with him. Many days I count 12 cars in the garage, driveway, in front of the home plus in front of neighbors' homes. Without considering that the neighbors might have their own need of these spaces, the non-homeowners park where it is most convenient. For the non-homeowner, there are many spaces that are down the street or around a corner that go unused because they are not as convenient as one in front of a neighbor's house.

I know some people have planes parked near their homes, but haven't seen that in Meadowood yet! Maybe our homes are too close together for that. ???!!! Out on the Eastern plains, I see planes right next to homes. Wonder what might be next??? Rockets to the moon?

— Mary Metcalf





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Library Moments

Date Night at the Library

Saturday, Feb. 10, 6 p.m.

Enjoy a Valentine's date night without the cost of a sitter. There will be two programs going simultaneously after-hours. For kids, there will be a supervised movie event. For adults, there will be a relaxing painting program.

Stuffed Animal Sleepover and Pajama Storytime

Leave your favorite stuffed animals in the library overnight, then learn about their adventures during a special storytime. Don't forget to wear your pajamas!

Tuesday, Feb. 20: Last day to drop off stuffed animals

Thursday, Feb. 22, 10:30 a.m.: Pajama Storytime and stuffed animal pick-up

Tuesday, Feb. 20 6:00-7:30 p.m.: Teen volunteer opportunity to help with stuffed animal photography

Leap Day Frog Party with Aurora Naturalists

Thursday, Feb. 29, 4:30 p.m.

A naturalist from the City of Aurora Nature Centers will teach kids about frogs and other reptiles and amphibians. Kids will get to see live animals and do a fun frog craft.

Aurora History Museum Presents: Power Couples of Aurora

Wednesday, Feb. 14, 3 p.m.

Learn about local couples who contributed to Aurora's fascinating history! Presented by Emily Miner of the Aurora History Museum.

Library Programs

VIRTUAL/WEBEX PROGRAMS:

Fridays, 5:30	Library Game Night (Teens)
Fridays, 8:00	Library Game Night (Adults)

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES:

Sat, Feb. 3 at 3:00 PM	Library Movie Day
Fri, Feb. 9 at 4:30 PM	Trivia & Treats
Sat, Feb. 10 at 6:00 PM	Date Night at the Library
Fri, Feb. 23 at 4:30 PM	Chaos Crafting

PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN:

Tuesdays at 10:30 AM	Tots Tunes (ages 0-5)
Thursdays at 10:30 AM	Storytime (ages 0-6)
Thu, Feb. 8 at 10:30 AM	V is for Valentine: Special Storytime
Tue, Feb. 20	Stuffed Animal Sleepover: Last day to drop off animals
Thu, Feb. 22 at 10:30 AM	Pajama Storytime & stuffed animal pick-up

continued on page 5

NEWSLETTER CONNECTIONS

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Previously:



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Library Moments, *continued on page 4*

PROGRAMS FOR OLDER CHILDREN AND PRE-TEENS:

- Wed, Feb. 7 at 4:30 PM Papercraft Club (ages 6-15)
- Wed, Feb. 14 at 4:30 PM Love Bug Clay Craft (ages 6-15)
- Sat, Feb. 17, 10:30-noon Read to a Therapy Dog
(ages 0-12)
- Wed, Feb. 21 at 4:30 PM Perler Bead Club (ages 6-15)
- Wed, Feb. 28 at 4:30 PM Shrinky Dinks (ages 8-15)
- Wed, Feb. 29 at 4:30 PM Leap Day Frog Party with
Aurora Naturalists (ages 6-15)

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS:

- Thu, Feb. 1 at 4:30 PM Video Game Club (ages 11-18)
- Thu, Feb. 8 at 4:30 PM Kissing Lizard Craft (ages 11-18)
- Thu, Feb. 15 at 4:30 PM Teen Advisory Group
(ages 11-18)
- Tue, Feb. 20 at 6:00 PM Stuffed Animal Sleepover
Photography (ages 11-18)
- Thu, Feb. 22 at 4:30 PM Tabletop Games (ages 11-18)
- Sat, Feb. 24 at 3:00 PM Teen Movie Hangout &
Castle Building (ages 11-18)

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS:

- Mondays at 10:30 AM Coffee and Coloring
- Wed, Feb. 14 at 3:00 PM Power Couples of Aurora
- Sat, Feb. 17 at 4:00 PM Adult Art: Flower Doodles
- Wed, Feb. 21 at 10:30 AM Knitting Circle
- Wed, Feb. 28 at 10:30 AM Share a Book Club

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



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KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Colonel Nicole Malachowski USAF (R)
National Women's Hall of Fame

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER

Lt Colonel Ann Crittendon, USMC (R)
National President, Women Marines Association



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Pets' Moment

Litter Boxes

Cats can be very particular about where they eliminate, so it is best to get them started on the right paw. Typically, it is not a one-size-fits-all approach, so sometimes, you will have to change variables to ensure it suits your individual cat.

Even in a multi cat household, you can have individual quirks and preferences!

When trying to utilize these tips, be sure to change only one factor at a time. Too much change can be hard on the cat and will not help you identify what the issue was!

- Ensure litter boxes are kept in quiet areas of the home.
- Private areas of the home with minimal traffic are the best locations for litter boxes
- It is important to have one litter box per cat in your household, plus one extra, per cat.
- Keep at least one litter box on each level of your home.
- Most cats prefer clumping litter that is not scented. Clay litter can be harsh on their paws and is not easy to keep clean. Scented litter can easily deter cats if they feel it has a harsh odor to it.
- Research has shown that dust-free, fine-grained litters are strongly preferred by most cats.
- Some cats prefer to cover their eliminations. Be sure to have enough litter available to them in the box to give them the option to do so.
- Most cats prefer litter boxes that are uncovered. Covered litter boxes trap odors inside and deter the cat from wanting to use it.
- Be aware of physical factors that may deter the cat, such as covered litter boxes with doors. The movement of the door could easily spook the cat.
- Large litter boxes are ideal so that the cat has plenty of room to turn around, scratch and dig comfortably.
- Quiet, non-mechanical litter boxes are suggested since noises can easily scare cats and/or deter them from using the litter box.

If you decide to use a mechanical litter box:

- Scooping the litter box daily is important to keep odors down and to ensure the box is clean for your cat to use.
- Each litter box should be completely emptied once a week or every other week. Discard the old litter and replace with fresh.



Kids Moment

This space is reserved for Meadowood Kids. Please send us your stories, drawing, pictures to be published.

Let us know what you would like to see in your Kids' corner.

Are you enjoying the grids? Do you want to see something different? This is your place and where the little Meadowood residents' voices can be heard.

Contact MediaOfficer@AuroraMeadowood.com.



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Garden Moment

One of the buzz phrases these days is “paying it forward,” making some investment now for rewards in the future. I’m here to talk about “planting it forward,” as in planting for a lovely harvest, not this year but in seasons to come. Fruit trees are a perfect example.

All fruit trees do well in full sun and well-drained soil. Amend the planting hole with 50% compost, mixed in with the existing soil. Create a watering saucer around the base of the tree to contain water., approximately 36” diam. Be sure to mulch around the base of the tree after planting.

Some fruit trees need a pollinator nearby to fertilize the flowers to produce fruit. Apples can be cross-pollinated with nearby Crabapples.

Some great varieties for our area:

- Apples: Red Delicious, Golden Delicious, MacIntosh and Gala
- Plum: Need a nearby Plum for pollination – Stanley and Mount Royal
- Cherries: sweet cherries are better for eating raw. The sour ones make great pies! Sweet – Stella. Sour – Montmorency

It may take a few years for your fruit tree to reliably produce fruit, but it will be well worth the wait! Enjoy the blooms in the spring and maybe some fall leaf color.

— Kim Wisdom, Landscape Architect

**This Space
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for Teen Services**

Arapahoe County Home Show

Whether you’re planning on upgrading your home or need a reliable contractor to fix your leaking roof. The Home Show is the spot to find all local remodeling experts. The Arapahoe County Home Show, hosts local and national exhibitors offering exclusive deals and discounts. Save time and money while at the Arapahoe County Home Show.

Meet with local and national vendors.

The Arapahoe Home Show features a wide variety of local and national vendors in home, outdoor living, decor, DIY, and more!

Get new ideas.

Whether you need home renovation, home improvement, or you’re just looking for some inspiration — the Arapahoe Home Show has something for everyone!

Check out the latest trends.

From solar power, home automation, security, remodeling, design and more – you won’t want to miss what’s new in home improvement!

—<https://arapahoecountyhomeshow.com/>

Cooking Moment Chocolate Chip Pie

Ingredients:

- 1 (6 ounce) package chocolate morsels
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 3 tablespoons sugar
- 4 eggs, divided
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- whipped cream
- 1 baked pie shell

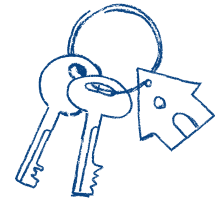


Melt chocolate morsels over hot water and blend with milk and sugar. Cool. Add egg yolks and vanilla and beat well. Add stiffly beaten egg whites, folding carefully into chocolate mixture. Spoon into baked pie shell. Chill several hours. Top with sweetened whipped cream.



Meadowood Report - February 2024

by PJ Ausmus



Here is a recap of the 2023 activity in the area. 2024 brings much more optimism than the previous year. Buyers are returning to the market and Sellers are starting to see their homes sell faster at fair prices! If you have any real estate plans for 2024, now is the time to

START THE CONVERSATION.

Give me a call and let's make a specific plan for your needs today!

| Meadowood Overview |

- # of Homes Currently Active on the Market : 7
- # Homes Currently Under Contract : 2
- # of Homes Sold in 2023 : 62
- Average List Price of Homes Sold in 2023 : \$470,145
- Average Closed Price of Homes Sold in 2023 : \$474,419
- Average Days-on-Market for Homes Sold in 2023 : 11 days

(Stats as of 1/10/24)



If you have any questions for Terry Simmons he can still be reached at
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