

Meadowood Moments

A Community Newsletter



March 2024

Aurorameadowood.com

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MNA Board Moment



Please join us this month for a special event during our General meeting on Wednesday March 13. Get the growing season started by swapping seeds to get the perfect mix for your garden! This is a free community event where you can trade and exchange plants seeds and get advice from our local seasoned and professional landscaper!

If you don't have seeds to exchange, please still consider joining the event. You may end up taking some extra seeds home for free.



Please register for the event by sending an email to MediaOfficer@AuroraMeadowood.com. The event will take place during the General meeting. Food will be provided.

We are also still taking feedback and ideas on how to improve our neighborhood by filling out our survey. Just scan the QR code with your smartphone or go directly to www.aurorameadowood.com/survey.

Looking forward to seeing many of you at our General Meeting at Meadowood Church. Thank you Hero's Pizza & Tavern for providing food!

— Zohra Nacer, MNA Media Officer

Meadowood Moment

Our Neighbor Is A Guardian Mrs. Deserie-Ann Medina of Meadowood

"I'm home, making refried beans for Darla" is the text I get. This means it's a good time for me to visit. When I walk in, Deserie is plating the snack to give her college freshmen who she picked up for a weekend of home care. Before we settle into a conversation about her, we discuss the 6 frames on the wall. 5 frames have graduation pictures of her children, the 6th frame has a printed note with her youngest child's name and 2026 graduation date. Deserie updates me on her children's lives including an intimate wedding, her first grandbaby arriving soon, a degree in psychology, a new home in Murphy Creek, a working student at UC Denver, and on. She is clearly proud and absolutely committed to their lives. She shares her own story, which was very different having become justice involved as a youth and completing high school while incarcerated.

Deserie, her husband, and children stayed their first night in their Meadowood home on October 7, 2012. The 8 of them plus 2 pets loaded into a minivan and made the drive from Los Angeles, CA. Almost a year earlier Juan, Deserie's husband and high school sweetheart, received a promotion that relocated his family. During a visit before the official move Deserie remembers loving the slower pace and beauty of Colorado. The Meadowood home they chose had been renovated to an open floor plan, had a finished basement and a big back yard which is why Deserie knew it was a good fit. While Juan was purchasing the home a neighbor asked if he was a worker. Juan explained he was the owner of the home and shrugged off the awkward moment that followed. This did not stop Deserie from becoming a friend on the block to many neighbors and a Guardian to many neighborhood students.



continued on page 2

Survey

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



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 to discuss MNA 2024 upcoming plans. We will be conducting our first annual seed swap with a professional landscaper as our speaker. 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 will be provided by Hero's & Pizza!

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Mrs. Deserie-Ann Medina, *continued from front page*
 Rocking a *Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation* license plate for her son, Deserie has driven her children, and eventually many others, to and from Dartmouth, Columbia, and Rangeview each day. She instantly made friends with school staff, visited for lunches, and attended every field trip, ever. Deserie has a way with children that makes them feel accepted but also enforces good choices. This is likely the reason teachers again and again would put children who tended toward behavior disruptions in Deserie's group. She confidently says, "They always behaved for me. They thought my shoes were cool and I'd surprise them with \$5 to spend." One of her daughters adds, "Mom, you always made sure the kids were safe."

I wanted to explore Deserie's way of being a neighborhood Guardian further. I reminded her of times she has helped children and asked what motivates her. "I see kids and I can sense if they need help. If I can, I will. I would learn the story of a family and because I could help I did. Even if that meant picking up a pizza for them, while driving them home. Sometimes families go through hard times. You know what, I'm a Mother. That's why I do it." There were intense moments when she showed up and knew just the right way to respond. She shares that her first response is to deescalate because at a young age she was exposed to violence, and she always thought there had to be a better way.

What Deserie loves most about Meadowood are her neighbors #1, the diversity, the peacefulness, and the park. When asked who her favorite school staff were, she pauses, names at least 7, then adds 3 more before we trail off into a conversation about how those teachers are doing and how their children are excelling. We conclude there really is no favorite. We then laughed about the games our children played outside during the summer and how we could have become in-laws if the crushes had lasted. We also tear up a little bit because our youngest are our only children left in high school this year.

Deserie was employed for a while during the past 12 years and she enjoyed it, but she left that job when her children needed her. Her favorite job has been unpaid yet extremely valuable, her favorite job is an always ready and accommodating Guardian of the children of Meadowood. She will likely stay in her home as an anchor for her family as she begins the journey of Guardian Grandma. This makes me smile because not only is she happy, but I know that it means her protection will continue to ripple to all the children she meets.

— **Katy Edwards**

Recycle Electronics in March

The city, in partnership with Techno Rescue, is offering Aurora residents special event pricing for e-cycling from March 11 to 22 (closed Sundays) at Techno Rescue, 3251 Lewiston St., Suite 10. The facility is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday. For pricing information, a list of items not accepted and more, visit AuroraGov.org/Recycle and go to Electronics Recycling.

Meadowood

NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

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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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Mary's Moment

Snow Fun

On February 11, 2024 we had had a 5-6 inch snowfall. It was a cold AM... about 40 degrees when I decided to enjoy our lovely park. As I entered the park, I saw sled tracks. Then I saw a Dad and his child zipping down a hill on their sled with lots of laughter and fun filling the air. I saw a Mom and her two children playing on the playground equipment at the rec center. There weren't many footsteps on the trail, but there were a few other early birds walking their dogs. Along the creek where there is no path a lone set of footprints was visible. On the return trek many kids were sledding on the



hill by the rec center with shrieks of joy bouncing over snow. As a child growing up in Colorado Springs there were no close parks to enjoy. We had a nice backyard, but really no place to walk in nature. I am so grateful for the open space covering the center of Meadowood. Thank you, Wood Brothers developers and the City of Aurora.

— Mary Metcalf

City of Aurora Moment

“Champion Change” Virtual Series

Feb. 20, March 5 and 19, 6 p.m.

Aurora’s Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion has partnered with The Counterterrorism Education Learning Lab (The CELL) to offer “Champion Change.” This virtual series addresses strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism in communities. Experts and activists dedicated to preventing and countering extremism will lead the series and aim to foster dialogue, share best practices and inspire action. The series will stream on AuroraTV.org.

Registration is required at AuroraGov.org/DEI
Questions? Email officeofdei@auroragov.org

St. Patrick's Day

St. Patrick’s Day kicks off a worldwide celebration also known as the Feast of St. Patrick. On March 17th, many will wear green in honor of the Irish and decorate with shamrocks. According to lore, the wearing of the green tradition dates back to a story written about St. Patrick in 1726. St. Patrick (c. AD 385–461) used the shamrock to illustrate the Holy Trinity and wore green clothing. And while the story is unlikely to be true, many will revel in the Irish heritage and eat traditional Irish fare, too.

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Library Moment

Mission Viejo Library

PROGRAMS FOR ALL AGES:

Sat, Mar. 9 at 4:00 PM: Oscar Trivia
Fri, Mar. 22 at 4:30 PM: Colorado Humanities
Presents: Annie Oakley
Mon, Mar. 18: Expected hatch day
for the baby chicks

PROGRAMS FOR YOUNG CHILDREN:

Tuesdays at 10:30 AM: Tots Tunes (ages 0-5)
Thursdays at 10:30 AM: Storytime (ages 0-6)
Thu, Mar. 14 at 10:30 AM: Special Storytime: Chicks!
Thu, Mar. 21 at 10:30 AM: Aurora Water Presents:
Storytime

**PROGRAMS FOR OLDER CHILDREN
AND PRE-TEENS:**

Wed, Mar. 6 at 4:30 PM: 4-H Embryology Lesson
(ages 6-18)
Wed, Mar. 13 at 4:30 PM: 4-H Egg Candling
(ages 6-18)
Sat, Mar. 16, 10:30-noon Read to a Therapy Dog
(ages 0-12)
Wed, Mar. 20 at 4:30 PM: Cupcake Decorating
(ages 8-15)
Wed, Mar. 27 at 4:30 PM: Clay Club (ages 6-15)

PROGRAMS FOR TEENS:

Thu, Mar. 7 at 4:30 PM: Video Game Club:
Retro Wii Day (ages 11-18)
Thu, Mar. 14 at 4:30 PM: Leprechaun Donuts
(ages 11-18)
Thu, Mar. 21 at 4:30 PM: D&D Figure Painting
(ages 11-18)
Sat, Mar. 23 at 4:00 PM: Teen Movie Hangout
(ages 13-18)
Sat, Mar. 23 at 6:00 PM: Five Nights at Freddy's
Lock-In (ages 11-18)
Sat, Mar. 28 at 4:30 PM: Teen Advisory Group
(ages 11-18)

PROGRAMS FOR ADULTS:

Mondays at 10:30 AM: Coffee and Coloring
Fri, Mar. 8 at 4:30 PM: Gnome Bookmarks
Sat, Mar. 9 at 11:00 AM: Fraud Prevention:
Avoiding Identity Theft
Sat, Mar. 16 at 4:00 PM: Adult Art: Ceramic Owls
Wed, Mar. 20 at 10:30 AM: Knitting Circle

VIRTUAL/WEBEX PROGRAMS:

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

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Denver Restaurant Week

For two decades, VISIT DENVER’s Denver Restaurant Week has been serving up a much-anticipated experience for locals and visitors alike to celebrate the city’s thriving culinary scene with restaurants now helmed by Michelin-starred and James Beard Award-winning chefs.

Back for our 20th Anniversary! It’s the perfect chance to try out new spots where restaurants offer special menus over the 10-day, two-weekend format. You’ll find every type of cuisine such as Colorado grass-fed beef and lamb, international fusions, fresh seafood that’s flown in daily, and innovative vegetarian options, spiced up with local ingredients like the famous green chile.

Price Points: There are four price points this year (with both to-go and in-person options): \$25, \$35, \$45 and \$55 for multi-course meals. The tiered pricing structure allows restaurants to provide great deals for diners and a robust representation of Denver’s increasingly renowned culinary offerings.

VISIT DENVER’s program was originally created to showcase the city’s dining scene to local residents over a traditionally slow time of year for the restaurant industry. In its inaugural year, the program had 83 participating restaurants. In 2023, more than 200 restaurants signed up.

Tables fill up fast during Denver Restaurant Week. Diners are encouraged to make a reservation, try some earlier or later seatings or even Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday options. It’s also important to remember to cancel any reservations you don’t plan on using so other diners can use it. The delicious menus these restaurants have prepared are also great deals. Be sure to tip your servers generously.

–<https://denverrestaurantweek.com>

Spring Equinox

What is the spring equinox, and why is it the first day of spring? The equinox simply means that the length of day and night are (almost!) equal. (In fact, the word “equinox” comes from two Latin words that together mean “equal night”: aequus (equal) and nox (night). So, on March 19, we’ll have approximately 12 hours of sunlight! After this day, this hemisphere starts tilting toward the sun, which means more daylight each day and warmer, springier weather.

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Pets' Moment

Potty-Training Your Puppy



Accidents happen. Accidents are a part of the process, so be prepared. Again, potty-training a puppy takes a lot of time and patience and mistakes will always happen. It's important to keep in mind how you respond to your puppy having accidents in your home. Below are some "Do's" and "Do Not's" to help you understand the best way to approach the situation.

DO:

- Clean up accident areas thoroughly. Using an enzyme cleaner is best to ensure you are appropriately cleaning the area. If a puppy smells their urine or feces in areas of the home, they will be more likely to continue eliminating there.
- Praise and reward your puppy when they choose to eliminate outdoors, especially in their specific bathroom area. Remember to give them three tiny pieces of a high-value treat reward when they eliminate in the correct areas.
- Ensure you are utilizing confinement tools when necessary to avoid the chance of your puppy having accidents in the home.

DO NOT:

- DO NOT: Punish or startle your puppy if you catch them having an accident in the home. Making startling noises or punishing them during an accident will have long-lasting negative effects on your puppy. It will also cause them to be afraid of you anytime they are eliminating, which can really affect the potty-training process. Simply scoop them up as quickly as possible and take them outside, on leash, so they can finish their business in their bathroom location.
- DO NOT: Assume your puppy remembers having an accident. If you find feces or a urine puddle after the puppy has finished (whether it has been 10 minutes or 2 hours) it is far too late to use that as a training opportunity. Puppies will not remember having an accident, and punishment should not be used in this situation. Clean up the area appropriately and make a note of the timing around the accident. The accident is an indicator that the puppy needed to go to the bathroom with more frequency than you were assuming, so it will serve as a reminder to stay vigilant to their needs!
- DO NOT: Rub your puppy's nose in old accidents in the home. This is a myth that puppies "know" where they had an accident and that they "know" they did something wrong. If your puppy is still having accidents in the home, ask yourself why and how they had the opportunity to have an accident.

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Garden Moment Companion Planting



Companion planting is when two plants are grown near each other to benefit one of those plants or both—so the benefit can be one way or mutual. This is a tried-and-tested way to reduce pests, attract pollinators, and boost growth! Here are common examples:

1. Tomato and Basil are natural companions in the kitchen and garden. Basil repels certain insect pests such as thrips and also disorientates moths, which lay tomato hornworms. Basil also attracts bees, which improves pollination, tomato health, and flavor.
2. Aphids can't stand garlic! With this in mind, garlic planted as a barrier keeps crops less vulnerable to pest attack. For example, grow potatoes between rows of garlic to serve as a pungent bodyguard.
3. Garlic also repels onion flies, ermine moths, and Japanese beetles. Plant garlic between rows of potatoes as well as alongside lettuces and cabbages and near fruit trees, together with alyssum, to attract aphid-eating hoverflies.
4. Nasturtium flowers grown close to kale, cabbage, broccoli, and any brassica crops will lure hungry caterpillars away from eating your crops.
5. Large plants provide shade for smaller plants needing sun protection. For example, corn shades lettuce.
6. Tall plants, like corn and sunflowers, can support lower-growing, sprawling crops such as cucumbers, beans and peas.
7. Dill attracts ladybugs, which eat small garden pests such as aphids and spider mites.
8. Borage pairs well with tomatoes, attracting pollinating bees. Borage also pairs well with strawberries, enhancing their flavor and vigor.
9. Mint deters aphids, ants, and flea beetles. Just be careful to plant mint nearby in its own pot or bed, as it is a very aggressive grower!
10. Parsley attracts beneficial insects to protect and pollinate tomatoes. Plant these herbs between tomatoes.

— Kim Wisdom, Landscape Architect

This Space Intentionally Left Blank for Teen Services

Cooking Moment Easy Pecan Pralines

- 1 (3 ¾ ounce) package butterscotch pudding mix
- 1 cup sugar
- ½ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- ½ cup evaporated milk
- 1 tablespoon butter or margarine
- 1 ½ to 2 cups pecan halves

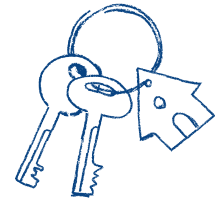


Combine pudding mix, sugars, milk and butter or margarine in a medium sized heavy sauce pan. Place over low heat and cook and stir until sugar is completely dissolved. Boil slowly, stirring often, until mixture reaches soft ball stage 220° on candy thermometer. Remove from heat and stir in pecans quickly. Cool slightly, just until candy begins to thicken. Drop quickly from tablespoon onto wax paper. Let stand until firm. Store in airtight container. Makes two or three dozen pralines, depending on size.



Meadowood Report - March 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
303. 906. 9889



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