



In this Issue

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GUIDED KAYAK TRIP

**Saturday, September
14th - 8:30am to 10 am**

Join Theresa Weiss and explore the gorgeous interior of Werner-Boyce Salt Springs State Park on this 90-minute tour with a professional guide suitable for all skill levels.

The cost is approximately \$50 per person and includes paddles and life jackets.



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It's been a long, hot summer and we all certainly miss our clubhouse. It was the heart and soul of our community, and I don't think a lot of people realized that until we didn't have it.

But it hasn't stopped us from having fun. Residents have stepped forward to get together informally at their homes, whether it be Bunco at Danice Leal's; Yoga and Dance Fitness at our sister community, Sun Valley; the Super Agers Exercise group meeting at Kathy Lloyd's home; Book Club at Carol Krishbaum's; Dominoes at Lynette Mujica's, Judy Trouten's or Kat Thompson's; plus, various card games throughout the community. These people, and others, have opened their homes to keep the FUN going and it is GREATLY appreciated!

Our pool has now become our community center, and our Water Aerobic classes continue throughout the week. Our Pickleball and Cornhole courts are still available and open seven days a week.

Off-site excursions have been planned that include boat trips and bussing to the Hard Rock Casino. Impromptu picnics to Anclote Park, Sunset Beach, and Fred Howard Park are always fun.

The Fifty is Nifty group continues to head out to lunch once a month as does our Birthday Luncheon group. Upcoming events include a Guided Kayak Trip, Car Show with a Food Truck, Octoberfest, Craft and Bake Sale, and Street Parties.

Yes, clubhouse renovation may have slowed us down a bit, but it certainly has not stopped our activities or fun! And just think, in a few short months, we will have beautiful, updated facilities! I'm so excited for our future here at The Meadows!

~ Eldri Zahn



Recognition at The Meadows

YARD-OF-THE-MONTH



The September Yard-of-the-Month goes to Cathy and Paul Miller, 1999 Douglas Lane.

Some of us called it the "Rock & Roll" house because of their carport decorations. But with their new landscaping in the front, they're now Rock & Roll Super Stars.

Congratulations on the great job!

SURPRISE & DELIGHT AWARD

Our September Surprise & Delight Award goes to a well deserving resident, Jean Clark. Jean is one of the original Ambassadors and she's always ready to lend a hand whether it be working in the kitchen, selling tickets for events, or running bingo.

We just want to know how much she's appreciated here at The Meadows.



ACTIVITIES ALERT - ARE YOU INTERESTED?



We are putting together a bus trip to the Hard Rock Casino in Tampa on Friday, November 15th. If we can get 30 people for a six-hour trip, it would cost about \$20 to \$25 per person for

the bus ride to and from the casino. Please contact Ray Bonello as soon as possible if you're interested so we can book the trip.

Welcome to The Meadows' Team

There have been some recent changes to The Meadows team. You've probably heard that Nancy from the main office has retired after six years. Matt Simanteris, previously head maintenance person and Lifestyle Coordinator, has now been promoted to Assistant Manager, and will be collaborating closely with Donna as our community continues to grow. He will be located at the office, 405 Joseph Way until clubhouse renovations are completed.

Ray Bonello and Eldri Zahn will be splitting duties as our Lifestyle Coordinators. They will temporarily be working out of the office on Joseph Way and from home until their new office is available when the clubhouse's renovations are complete. Until then, if you have any questions, concerns, or ideas, give them a call.

Eldri can be reached at (920) 606-6652 and Ray at (734) 377-7861. Ray's normal hours are 8:30 am to 12:30 pm and Eldri's, are 12:30 pm to 4:30 pm. Of course, when the clubhouse reopens those hours will be adjusted to cover evening and weekend events.

Ray lives at The Meadows with his wife, Mary Ann, who works in maintenance/housekeeping here. They have lived here for the past two-plus years. Ray is well-known throughout the community as someone who can always be counted on to lend a helping hand or volunteer his time and is eager to get even more involved with our community.

Eldri has lived here for seven years with her husband, Steve. She has been the lead Ambassador and has volunteered her time, helping out with the monthly newsletter and calendar.

WELCOME



The Meadows. A 55+ Community

September Fun at The Meadows

LABOR DAY

Pool
Party

Join us on Monday, September 2nd at
1pm for a Potluck Pool Party.

Bring a snack to share and your own
beverage.
(Subject to weather conditions and pool
availability)



FISHING CLUB

The Meadows Fishing Club will be meeting
later in September with an outing planned as
soon as it cools down a bit.

Matt Simanteris heads up this club.

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Fishing club dedicated to gathering, and sharing
fishing knowledge, stories and methods to catch
more fish locally and abroad.

*I would like this group having small outings amongst us
to Howard Park, Anclote Pier and maybe a trip to the
Skyway pier or a trip out on a local party boat!*

If you've never fished in Florida, I will help you
get started, as I have been fishing for fun or
working in the industry for 40 years.

Sign up and leave phone number.
I'll get a hold of you once we schedule a meet.



Veterans Club News

9/11 CEREMONY

On Wednesday, September 11th, at 9 am, The Meadows' Veterans Club will hold a ceremony to honor all the lives lost on that terrible day when the United States was attacked at 9:42 am EST when the first plane hit the north tower of the World Trade Center.

Please join us for this short but inspiring ceremony.



BENCHES

The benches have arrived! The HOA and the Veterans Club collaborated to make the purchase. Many residents enjoy walking but sometimes need a place to rest, even for a moment. We saw that need and bought three all-weather benches to be placed throughout our community this month.

FLAG DISPOSAL

The blue flag disposal box has moved to Rick Harrison's house on Cary Lane. When the clubhouse is finished, the box will be moved back there.



FLAG PURCHASES

As soon as the clubhouse reopens, the Veterans Club will again offer flags for sale along with flag poles for a reasonable price.



All gave some; some gave all.



The Veterans Club has asked that dogs be kept out the Veterans Park. This is a special place for them and they don't want it to be used as a pets' bathroom.

The memorial bricks are not intended to be driven on. Please do not park there or use it to turn around.

If you see someone abusing the park, let management know.
Thank you!

Resident Profiles - Meet Your Neighbors



Lilly Williams

While you probably don't recognize the name Evangelia Samara, most of the residents of The Meadows know her better as "Ms. Lilly." Most likely, as a valuable member of The Meadows' Ambassadors, she rolled that flatware you used at a community meal.

She was born on June 17, 1930, in Greece, the oldest of two daughters, living with an extended family including her great-grandparents. When she was ten, her life drastically changed when Mussolini's Italian army invaded Greece. Although the Greek resistance drove them back, it didn't take long for Hitler's army to occupy them in 1941. Two German and one Bulgarian officer moved into their family home and stayed there for the duration of the war, not leaving until the Allies defeated Germany in 1945.

Her father and uncles had left to join the Greek resistance, leaving the only man, her great-grandfather, in the household. She said the Germans brought in their own food and loved their chocolate, sometimes sharing with her and her sister. The Bulgarian was not as generous. After the war, her father, surviving in the Greek mountains, safely made his way home, back to the family along with her uncle. Life was hard in Greece after WWII with civil war breaking out, but their family survived.

In the late 50s, one of her aunts who was exceptionally attractive had caught the eye of a wealthy American visiting Greece. He married her and took her back to America. That aunt became friends with Bill Williams' mother in the United States and told her about her beautiful niece back in Greece. Her aunt sent her a picture of this Bill, and she agreed to meet him in Greece, although she had a boyfriend there. One Sunday in 1961 he came, met her and her family, and the NEXT Sunday, they were married in the Greek church. She said he was a very kind man who was four years older than her. She really liked him, and soon, came to love him very much.

After settling in Dayton, Ohio, it was hard in America because she didn't speak any English, but her husband took her to night school to learn and later, to study to become an American citizen. In Greece, she had worked as a seamstress and luckily could do that without really knowing the language. Soon, she was blessed with two beautiful daughters and then later, five grandchildren in addition to one great-grandchild. Sadly, her Bill died of a heart attack when he was 58, leaving her a widow for the past 39 years. She retired after working for decades at Macy's as a seamstress.

She loves the people at The Meadows, but really misses the comradaery she found at the clubhouse and can't wait until it reopens. She enjoys visitors and is happy to have people stop over any time. She still has a car but doesn't drive very much anymore because of the traffic. She is a delight to talk to, and you would never know she's 94 years young. She loves our exercise classes including Dance Fitness and if you've ever seen her on the dance floor, you'd be amazed at her "moves." According to her, "If I have to pick between eating and dancing, I want to dance!"

We are so lucky to have her as a valuable member of our community!

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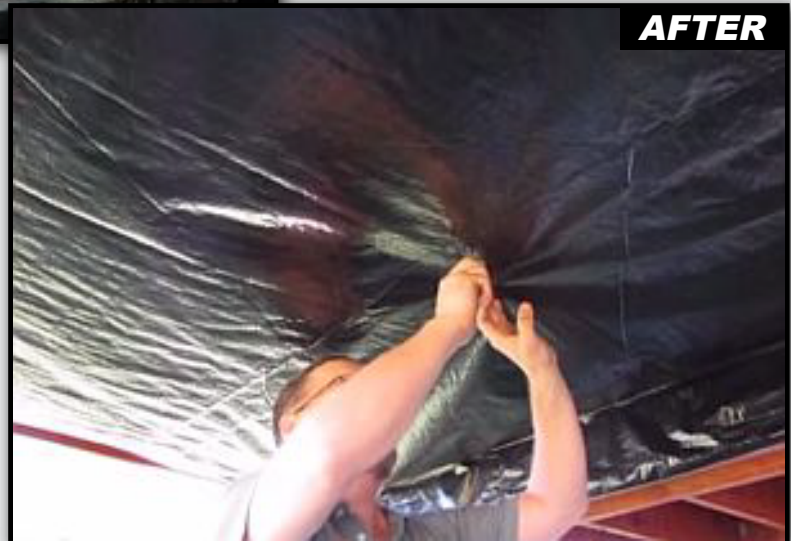
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What's Happening in Sales?

Hi Everyone!

It's hard to believe September is already here. It's been a great summer at The Meadows. I want to take a moment to thank all our Ambassadors for assisting with our "Rainy Open House" on Saturday, August 3rd. Thanks to Eldri, Lynette, Sam, Danice, Bobby, Robert, and, of course, Community Manager Donna.

As a Sales Associate for Cove, I am committed to using my industry knowledge to negotiate the best possible price and terms on your behalf. I have also lived in The Meadows for five years and am uniquely suited to selling your home there.



Buying and selling a home is a significant life decision, and I am here to help you navigate the process smoothly, efficiently, and stress-free.

Exciting things are coming to The Meadows and our sales office. Brand new homes with unique floor plans will arrive within 3-15 months. Our sales office will display these different floor plans and models shortly. Please stop by to see what we have to offer.

Now is a great time to purchase a new home and be in it by the holidays.

But, in addition to new homes, we also have beautiful, updated, furnished or unfurnished, pre-owned ones to fit any budget. Most are ready for immediate occupancy and to be decorated in your signature style.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions about any of our beautiful homes here in The Meadows, new or pre-owned. We offer special sales incentives that I can explain to you in detail.

Thank you for entrusting me to sell your home.

Sincerely,

Alexis Karvelas-Molnar, Sales Associate
727-877-8034
amolnar@covecommunities.com



Residents' Corner

When Buying Your Groceries, Watch for These!

~ Rick Gersten



Offer Expiration Date

When a product on the shelves expires soon, the store must get rid of them while it's still in good condition. They offer a sale deal of let's say 40% OFF, which ends at the end of the week. They will mention in the fine print the deal's expiration date. I've seen them even on a different part of the shelf. On Monday, the 40% OFF tags are still by the products, as people grab the items without knowing the price is back to normal.

Understand that the supermarket literally has thousands of people walking through their doors, many looking for a good deal while others find these little gems and toss them into their cart. Always look for the expiration date.

The Honey Aisle Trap

You've noticed that supermarkets put some discounted offer products at the end of the aisle. These are the first items that you notice as you go down an aisle. There is nothing wrong with that. However, in the section with all the 'SALE' signs, there are often products added in that are not discounted.

Many times, you can even find these items on websites for cheaper. Seeing that it was a sale price, many people just pick up the items thinking that all the products are on sale. This misleading practice is called the "Honey Aisle Trap."

Special Price Raise

In order to add products to the discount shelf, some stores raise the price of the item in advance for a period of time, only to reduce those items to a regular price later. The 'discounted' tag might catch your eye, not knowing that the price is the same at any other supermarket. Remember the goal of the store is to move items and make money on them. Don't be fooled.

Comparing the Grams Psychological Trap

If you're like me, you can get excited when they see an attractive price of a more prominent item compared to the same product but in a smaller package. Always be sure to compare the price per unit. Sometimes the smaller package is a better deal; sometimes not.

Remember, it's not a matter of "Will it happen to me?" It's more of "When it will happen to you."

AMBASSADORS' MEETING

We will be holding an Ambassadors' meeting on Friday, August 30th at 1pm at the office located at 405 Joseph Way. It may be a little crowded, but it will be a short meeting. Both Ray Bonello and Eldri Zahn, your new Lifestyle Coordinators will be there to discuss upcoming events.

Anyone can be an Ambassador. We encourage new residents to join us. We get together once a month to play upcoming activities and events. New people = New ideas, and we love new ideas. Our new clubhouse gives us so many more possibilities for activities. Please, come join us!

The only qualification to become an Ambassador is a desire to make our community the best (and most fun) it can be!

If you have any questions, give Eldri Zahn a call at 920-606-6652.



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Getting Fit and Having Fun at The Meadows

WATER AEROBICS

Water Aerobic classes are offered five times a week subject to weather conditions and pool availability at The Meadows.

Classes are held every Tuesday and Friday at 11am with a live instructor. On Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday, class is at 5:30pm using a CD.



DANCE FITNESS



Join our certified Zumba instructor, Tammy Grant, for a fun evening of dance instructions. Learn all the dances so you can cut a rug at our next community dance. Or, just come to get a good, solid cardio workout. The class is every Tuesday at 6pm at Sun Valley. Wear comfortable clothes and put on your dancin' shoes!

LEFT-RIGHT-CENTER

Left-Right-Center is scheduled monthly at Sun Valley. Watch the Campers App, Facebook or Messenger for dates and times.

51 INDOOR SHUFFLEBOARD

"51" Indoor Shuffleboard will resume at The Meadows when our clubhouse renovations are complete.

BINGO



Sunday Funday Bingo will be back when our clubhouse reopens later this year with all new equipment

SCAVENGER HUNT

Our always popular Scavenger Hunt also returns in September. Pick up your sheets in the office starting Monday, September 30th.

YOGA

Yoga has returned on Tuesdays at 9:30 am with our certified Yoga instructor, Olivia, at Sun Valley. Yogo will return to The Meadows with the completion of the clubhouse renovations.

CORNHOLE



Are you looking for a fun, and easy-to-learn sport? Cornhole may just fit the bill. Each Sunday and Thursday at 6:30pm, a group of men get together and play. Teams are picked and if needed, they will rotate new people in.

PICKLEBALL

Every Wednesday at 6:30pm, and every other weekday starting at 9am, we have open pickleball here at The Meadows.



During renovation, paddles and balls will still be available for use and can be picked up outside by the fence.

CRAFTING

Our popular craft classes will be back when the clubhouse reopens later this year. But that doesn't mean our craft leaders haven't been busy coming up with new art and craft projects.

Many of you don't realize that to most of these craft leaders, crafting is not just a hobby but their side business and from now until Christmas, they are super busy with shows.

If you have any ideas for crafts, please let us know. We are always looking for new ideas!



If you have an idea for an event, let the Ray Bonello or Eldri Zahn, Lifestyle Coordinators, know!



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From The Main Office

Donna Carrier.....Manager
Matt Simanteris.....Assistant Manager
Eldri Zahn.....Co-Lifestyle Coordinator
Ray Bonello.....Co-Lifestyle Coordinator
Frank Wedgeworth.....Maintenance
Henry Weller.....Maintenance
Mary Ann Bonello.....Maintenance
Alexis Molnar.....Sales



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Tarpon Springs Chamber of Commerce...727-937-6109
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OFFICE HOURS - Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

CLUBHOUSE HOURS - Temporarily Closed

TRASH COMPACTOR

We have had to lock the trash and recycling area because of non-resident dumping. The code is available from the office. Remember, only residents are allowed to use it and only for household trash, please!

When the trash compactor is not within the fence, please put your trash in the other trash bin - not the recycling bin.

We now have cameras watching this area so **ABSOLUTELY NO LARGE HOUSEHOLD ITEMS!**

The Meadows newsletter is published monthly. Please have all submissions in by the 15th of each month.

Managing Editor - Donna Carrier
Editor - Eldri Zahn

ELECTRONICS PICKUP

Each month, on the first Friday, The Meadows has an Electronics Pickup for recycling your electronics or metal. Any appliance with a cord is picked up. If you have a question on whether your item qualifies, contact Matt Simentaris. This month, it falls on September 6th.

Please have your items at the end of your driveway by 10am.



YARD WASTE RULES

Yard waste pickup is every Tuesday and Friday unless they fall on a holiday. **ONLY** organic material such as branches and plant material will be picked up but must be in plastic garbage bags or tied together in bundles and left at the curb or end of your driveway.

POOL RULES - HOURS 9AM - DUSK

1. No cups of any kind on the wet deck.
2. No glass in the pool area.
3. No smoking.
4. Pool ropes must be returned in place after lap swimming.
5. Please do not apply lotions or oils immediately before entering the pool. Let it get absorbed into your skin before you get in.
6. No running on the pool deck.
7. No jumping or diving into the pool at any time.
8. You are not allowed to save or reserve chairs and tables around the pool. It is strictly first come; first served.



DOG PARK RULES - HOURS 8AM - 8:30PM

1. Do not leave any toys at the dog parks. For safety's sake, they will be thrown away.
2. **PLEASE** pick up after your dog!
3. Do not let your dog dig holes. It can be dangerous for pets and pet owners.

The Meadows' HOA September 2024 Newsletter

As anyone who is here at The Meadows sees our clubhouse and pool renovations are coming along quite nicely. With the clubhouse being closed, we plan to meet on Friday, September 13th at 10 am at Lynette Mujica's house, 503 Barbara Way. All HOA members are welcome to attend. At that meeting, we will be making contingency plans for our December Board of Directors' nomination meeting. If the clubhouse is not available in December, we have several other venues we will be considering.

ELECTIONS: All current board members' terms will be ending in January of 2025. If there are more than five candidates, an election will be held in January. We are looking for three HOA members to serve on the Nomination Committee. If you are interested, please attend the September board meeting for further information or contact any of the current board members to express your interest. If the clubhouse is not available in January for our election or annual meeting, we have several other options available.

RECOMMENDATION BOOKLET: The new booklet is out! Hard copies are available in the office at 405 Joseph Way. Thanks go out to Lynette Mujica for putting in so much work on these valuable booklets!

HOMESTEAD AND DOMICILE: The Declaration of Homestead and Domicile program is ongoing. There is no time limit of when this must be completed, but the quicker, the better. If you encounter a problem, please let a board member know immediately, and we will again contact the FMO lawyer. Forms are available in the office or contact a board member and we'll get a set to you.

HOA SPEAKERS: With clubhouse construction ongoing we have suspended the HOA Speaker Program but will continue it as soon as the clubhouse reopens. We have a list of possible speakers but are always looking for more. If you have a topic or a speaker you're interested in, let any of the board members know. We would like to thank The Meadows' management and the Veterans Club for working with us to bring these interesting speakers to our residents.

MEMBERSHIP: Lynette reported we have 98 members. She welcomes new members on the HOA Facebook page and will use that page to keep members updated while the clubhouse is closed.

BENCH COMMITTEE: We have the benches, and they will be placed soon. A huge THANK YOU goes out to board member, Barb Grano, for all the work she's put into this joint venture with our Veterans Club. Once construction is completed, we will be looking at adding additional benches throughout our community.



CHRISTMAS DINNER: If the clubhouse is available, the HOA in conjunction with The Meadows' Ambassadors is looking to co-host Christmas Dinner on December 25th. Anyone can volunteer to help. You don't have to be a member of the HOA or even an Ambassador to help out.

Doug Oliver, Treasurer
Lynette Mujica, Secretary

Eldri Zahn, President
920-606-6652

Deborah Wallace, Director
Barbara Grano, Director

SUB-FLOOR & FLOORING EXPERTS!

COVID-19 NOTICE:

We are taking as many precautions as we can to ensure not only our workers safety but yours as well. We are checking employee temperatures daily, limiting contact between crews, and offering no customer contact if you choose. We are an "Essential Business" and here for you when you need us.

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Manager's Corner

I miss seeing you guys. Hopefully, the clubhouse construction will continue to progress without any delays. I did not realize how many of you I saw at the events and activities. It will be beautiful with all the new changes, especially with that ugly carpet gone. Our back pond had to be put on hold because of Hurricane Debbie. We will soon start pumping again. The pool, of course, was also delayed.

Many changes have been made in the operation team members. Nancy retired after six years of employment, and Matt Simanteris was promoted to Assistant Manager. Then, we were delighted to have Eldri Zahn and Ray Bonello accept the Lifestyle Coordinator position. I am so excited about all the plans they are making for this coming season.

Pets are an integral part of our community, and we celebrate them! Our three dog parks offer a safe and enjoyable environment for your dogs to get their needed exercise. As proud homeowners let's work hand-in-hand to maintain our neighborhood's charm and cleanliness by taking our pets to the designated parks or walking them around our homes when we know their bathroom routines. This will help create a welcoming atmosphere that keeps our community a fantastic place to live. No one wants to see a pet deposit in our yards, parks, roads, and sidewalks.

I hope you don't mind, but I have a pet peeve that is bothering me. That is gossip!! I am amazed at what some people will say when they don't know all the facts. Please don't make unkind remarks. Choose to be kind.

Once again, we have a beautiful community of which we can be proud. Let's make it a community that builds each other up and helps each other.

Thanks for understanding the construction. As we said, it is hard to go through it, but it is necessary and so worth it in the end.

We should start having some tolerable temperatures in the coming month. For a lot of us, that would be a tremendous relief. Have a great September!

Maintenance

Q: What items do NOT belong in the Recycle Bin?

- NO food or liquid
- NO foam cups or containers
- NO A/C filters
- NO loose plastic bags or film
- NO bagged recyclables
- NO clothing, furniture or carpet
- NO glass bottles or containers
- NO tree branches or yard waste



Mary Ann Bonello, Henry Weller, Frank Wedgeworth

THINGS TO REMEMBER:

- Please pick up your dogs' waste and dispose of it in a garage bag - not the road, sidewalk, drains or woods.
- Electronic recycling pick-up is the first Friday of each month.
- Our lawn care service comes every other Thursday throughout the season.
- Make sure you smoke only in the designated areas and use the cigarette disposal containers provided; not on the street.
- Please remember if you're away for a long period of time, have someone maintain your outside beds, plants and flowers, and pick up your mail.
- If you need help pulling weeds in your beds, contact the office.
- If the compactor is not there, use the smaller one for your garbage.
- You must be 18 and over to use our workout area in the clubhouse.
- Don't leave your "floaties" at the pool - take them home each day.
- If you need help navigating our trash area, call the office to arrange for help.

Thank you for your cooperation!

Residents' Fun

What to do while our pool is temporarily closed for renovation? Why have your own Hillbilly Pool Party!



**Clubhouse closed for renovations?
Head over to Sun Valley for Left-
Right-Center!**



MONTHLY BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON



Each month some of the residents of The Meadows go out to a local restaurant to celebrate that month's birthdays. We still have **December** open. If you'd like to host, contact Eldri Zahn.

August's birthday luncheon took place at Joey's Pizza and Italian Restaurant in New Port Richey and it was **DELICIOUS!** Beth Houston was our host and she picked a winner.



The next luncheon is Thursday, September 5th with Mary Beardsley and Tricia Baylis as our co-hosts. If you need a ride, contact Eldri Zahn. Please sign up by Wednesday, September 4th.

BUNCO FUN



A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to Danice Leal for opening her beautiful home to our Bunco group twice a month!

Check the calendar for game times.



THE MEADOWS' BOOK CLUB



The Meadows' Book Club is scheduled to meet Thursday, September 26th at Carol Krishbaum's home at 446 Cary Lane. Everyone is invited to attend and bring a snack. We will be discussing our next book and making plans for upcoming meetings.

Fun at The Meadows

FIFTY IS NIFTY CLUB

The August meeting of the Fifty is Nifty Club met on Wednesday the 7th at the Hidden Anchor (formerly Morgan Maes) in Tarpon Springs with ten couples in attendance. Vana and Rick Harrison were our hosts.

Goldie and Paul Veihman have graciously agreed to host our September meeting on Tuesday the 10th at noon at Blackbeard's in Tarpon Springs.

Please sign up on our group text to let our hosts know how many plan to attend. If you're not on the text, let Eldri know.



Have you been married for 50+ years to the same person? If so, you're welcome to join us.



Meet Our Members - Elda and Gary Hinch

If you've been married for over fifty years, you probably have a pretty good story. In the next issues of our newsletter, we will ask each couple to tell us how they met.

One of our couples is Elda and Gary Hinch. They live at 454 Cary Lane and have lived at The Meadows for about two years.

First a little bit about them. Elda was born in Wisconsin and Gary, in Tennessee. They have two daughters, Micki and Kara. Micki has two boys; Kara has one. They also have two great-grandchildren. Tucker, their Havanese/poodle rounds out the family.

Elda enjoys crafts and loves to crochet. Gary is a Mr. Fix-it and even had his own handyman business after retirement. They both enjoy going to the movies.

Before retirement, Elda worked as the chief accountant for Bay Pines VA Hospital and Gary worked in engineering there. When they decided to downsize after 40 years in Florida, they first looked at Sun Valley where their daughter, Micki, lives. But someone told them Cove owned another community further north, so they decided to take a look. They immediately fell in love with The Meadows. Elda said it was just so pretty, clean, and so well-kept. When asked what they liked best about our community they first mentioned the friendliness of the neighbors and secondly, the variety, quality, and quantity of the activities offered here.

Now, to get to their story of how they met. Elda was 21 and on August 13, 1966, was in the wedding party of her best friend. Her father worked at Ft. McCoy Army Base near Sparta, Wisconsin, where her family lived. Her parents were also at the wedding. Gary and some friends randomly stopped by the venue where the wedding was being held. He was on Army Temporary Duty at Ft. McCoy and knew her father. When Gary came over to visit with her dad, he introduced her to Gary. It was love at first sight.

For the next five weeks, they saw each other daily but sadly, Gary had to return to Colorado Springs for duty. After he left, he contacted Elda and asked her to marry him. When she told her dad, he told her, "If it doesn't work out, you can always come home." So, she took a chance and got a ride to Colorado with a friend of Gary's. When she got there, they went to city hall, bought a license, and then found a church where they were married on October 1, 1966, with the church's janitor and cleaning lady serving as their best man and maid of honor. They had known each other six weeks.

Suffice it to say, Elda did not have to "come home" and the happy couple will be married 58 years this October.

What a great story!! It's great to have this wonderful couple at The Meadows and part of our group.

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