Seabreeze COMMUNICATIONS

APRIL 2026

Meadows Connection



Burnt Store Meadows



A Look Inside



MEET OUR NEW CAM – DEBBIE PHILLIPS

BURNT STORE MEADOWS - GREEN SPACE AND CUL-DU-SACS

USPS CHANGES MAY DELAY POSTMARK DATES

Welcome to The *Meadows Connection*

MESSAGE FROM JOYCE TILDEN, BSM BOARD MEMBER AND COMMUNICATION LIAISON

Extending a warm welcome and inviting you to another issue of the ***Meadows Connection*** newsletter. We're excited to share the latest updates with our Meadows community.

Burnt Store Meadows Property Owners Association, in collaboration with our publisher, Seabreeze Communications, has a dedicated website for The *Meadows Connection* monthly newsletter.

FEATURES OF THE MEADOWS CONNECTION WEBSITE

The new website offers a redesigned version of the newsletter, access to individual articles, an event board, and additional resources. Readers can enjoy a digital flip book experience with a refreshed magazine layout that allows you to turn pages, click on embedded links, and use features such as zooming in or switching to full screen mode. For those who prefer an article-based format, the website provides all current content organized on individual pages for easy reading.

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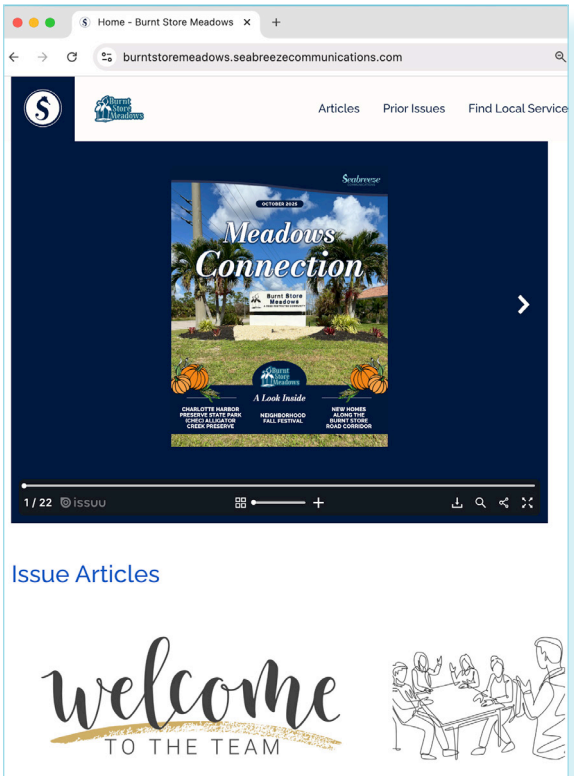

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NAVIGATION AND RESOURCES

The top menu bar includes convenient access to previous issues, a collection of articles, an Event Board highlighting activities and happenings in and around Burnt Store Meadows, and a Vendor Page featuring local service providers. You may visit the new website to view or download the digital edition, or you can find a PDF version available on our BSM website under Meadows Connection Newsletter | Burnt Store Meadows.

YOUR PARTICIPATION

We hope you enjoy exploring this newly developed website. We encourage you to share your suggestions for articles or topics you would like to see featured in future editions of The *Meadows Connection*.



Burnt Store Meadows Property Owners Association Website

JOYCE TILDEN, BSMPOA DIRECTOR
COMMUNICATIONS AND WEBSITE ADMINISTRATOR

Keeping you informed and up to date on what's happening in the Meadows.

The www.bsmpoa.com website makes it quick and easy to access and electronically complete forms required for new construction, additions, and modifications to your existing residence. Also, requests for overnight parking permits can be completed online.



As a resident and/or property owner in the Burnt Store Meadows Community, you will have access to "Owner Only" documents and information. In order to access those documents and sections on the website you must register and be authorized as a property owner.

Registration is simple!

The first time you log in to www.bsmpoa.com simply select the Register option in the upper right corner of the screen.

On the Register page you will be asked to enter the following information:

- Are you a Homeowner, Condo Owner, Lot Owner, etc.
- Name, email, cell phone*, address, and create a password for your account.

* If you don't have a cell phone, or prefer to use another number, you can change this on your Member Profile once your account is approved.

Once you have entered the appropriate information and select Register at the bottom of the page it takes you to the next page. There you are asked to complete your personal Member

Settings. This is where you may select your personal preferences on communications, e.g., receiving emails or text messages from the association for items such as the Newsletter. Member Settings is where you can update and change your password and specify your privacy.

We hope you enjoy the website. Please feel free to forward comments or suggestions to the Star Management or the webmaster via the Contact Page on the website.

BURNT STORE MEADOWS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President – Anthony Nutt
Vice President – Jay Gile
Secretary – Adele Higgins
Treasurer – Joyce Tilden
Director at Large – Pat Hurd

The Board of Directors meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the conference room at Star Hospitality Office located at 26530 Mallard Way, Punta Gorda.

(941) 575-6764

The April meeting will be held on April 20th

Residents are welcome to join the meeting in person or via Zoom. The zoom link is listed on the website for registered members - Zoom Link to Monthly Board Mtg | Burnt Store Meadows

Meet Our New CAM – Debbie Phillips

We are pleased to announce the recent appointment of Debbie Phillips as a Community Association Manager (CAM) with Star Hospitality Management. She stated, “The team at Star Hospitality is highly professional, supportive, and dedicated to fostering a collaborative work environment, and I am honored to be a part of such an accomplished group.”



Debbie’s diverse professional experience has prepared her well for the multifaceted responsibilities of this position. Over the past several years, she has gained significant expertise in leadership, communication, and problem-solving through various roles—including twelve years as a Broker Associate and Realtor, service as President of the Women’s Council of Realtors (WCR) where she was named Member of the Year in 2014, and eighteen years in marketing, sales, billing, and training for The Real Estate Book Publication. Additionally, she owned and operated a licensed

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home daycare for eight years, providing care for up to ten children daily. She says “among these experiences, my role as a mother has been particularly rewarding. Family remains a central priority in my life.” She and her husband enjoy a blended family of six children and eight grandchildren, with a ninth on the way.

She stated, “Beyond my professional commitments, I am passionate about archery, which my husband and I pursue together. While he brings extensive lifelong experience, I have competed for six years and have earned multiple state-level first-place awards, including one in Georgia, as well as recognition at national events. I also have a strong interest in line dancing. I look forward to contributing to the continued success of Star Hospitality Management.”

Welcome Debbie and we look forward to collaborating with you.

Celebrating April!





The Benefits of Full Body LED Light Therapy

Full body LED light therapy—also known as photobiomodulation or red light therapy—is a non-invasive treatment that uses specific wavelengths of light to support healing, reduce inflammation, and enhance overall wellness. Once limited to clinical settings, this technology is now widely available in wellness centers, gyms, and even at home. As research continues to grow, so does interest in the wide-ranging benefits of full body LED light therapy.

What Is Full Body LED Light Therapy?
LED (light-emitting diode) therapy uses low-level wavelengths of red and near-infrared light to penetrate the skin and stimulate cellular activity. Unlike UV light, which can damage the skin, red and near-infrared light are considered safe and do not cause burns when used appropriately.

Full body systems typically consist of large panels or light beds that allow users to expose most or all of their body at once, maximizing systemic effects rather than targeting a single area.

1. Enhanced Cellular Energy Production
One of the primary mechanisms behind LED light therapy is its effect on mitochondria—the "power plants" of our cells. Red and near-infrared light stimulate the production of adenosine triphosphate (ATP), the molecule responsible for cellular energy. Higher ATP production supports faster cell repair, improved tissue regeneration, and enhanced overall cellular function.

This boost in cellular energy is the foundation for many of the therapy's reported benefits.

2. Reduced Inflammation and Pain Relief
Inflammation is a key factor in many chronic conditions, including joint pain, muscle soreness, and autoimmune disorders. Full body LED light therapy has been shown to:

- Reduce inflammatory markers
- Improve circulation
- Accelerate recovery from injury

Athletes frequently use full body light therapy to reduce muscle soreness after intense workouts and to speed up recovery times. Individuals with arthritis or chronic pain conditions may also experience decreased stiffness and improved mobility.

3. Improved Skin Health
Red light therapy is widely known for its cosmetic benefits. By stimulating collagen and elastin production, it can help:

- Reduce fine lines and wrinkles
- Improve skin tone and texture
- Minimize acne and acne scarring
- Support wound healing

Full body exposure allows for comprehensive skin rejuvenation, making it popular in anti-aging and aesthetic wellness programs.





Putting relief in a whole new light

Full Body LED Light Therapy

This soothing, gentle treatment helps temporarily:

- Relieve minor arthritic pain and muscle spasms
- Relax muscles and ease joint stiffness
- Increase the body's blood circulation

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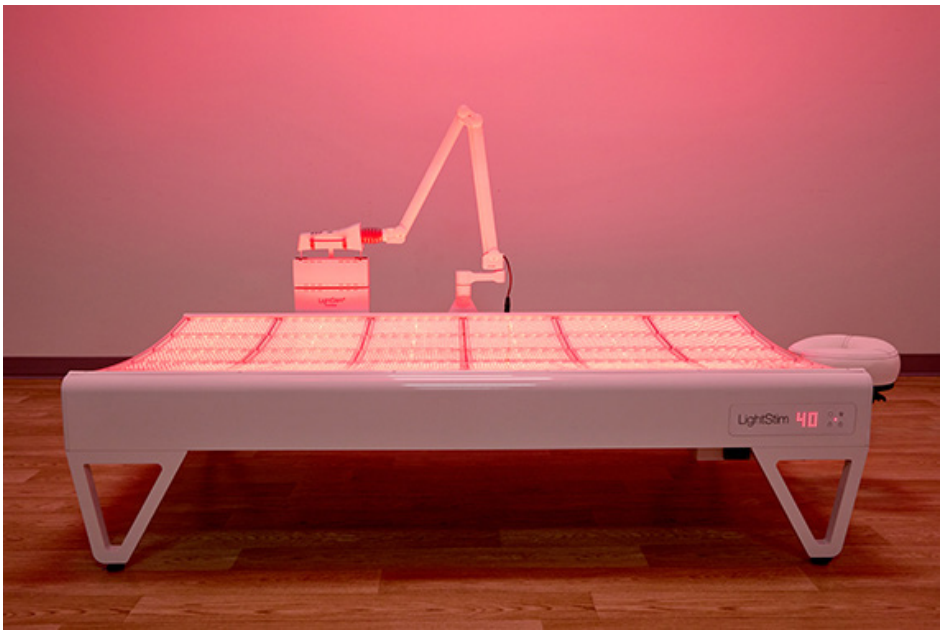
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Open Late, Nights and Weekends

Full Body LED Light Therapy available only at participating locations. Results will vary and depend on frequency of use. Not all users will receive some or all of the intended benefits, regardless of frequency of use. Each location is an independently owned and operated franchise. ©2026 ME SPE Franchising, LLC. MM# 18316, 19921, 23573, 29773, 37803, 44118. KDM# 7812.

4. Faster Muscle Recovery and Performance Support
Because full body LED light therapy enhances circulation and ATP production, it supports muscle repair at a deeper level. Many professional athletes and fitness enthusiasts use it to:
• Shorten recovery time between workouts
• Reduce delayed onset muscle soreness (DOMS)
• Enhance endurance and performance



When muscles recover more efficiently, overall performance and training consistency can improve.

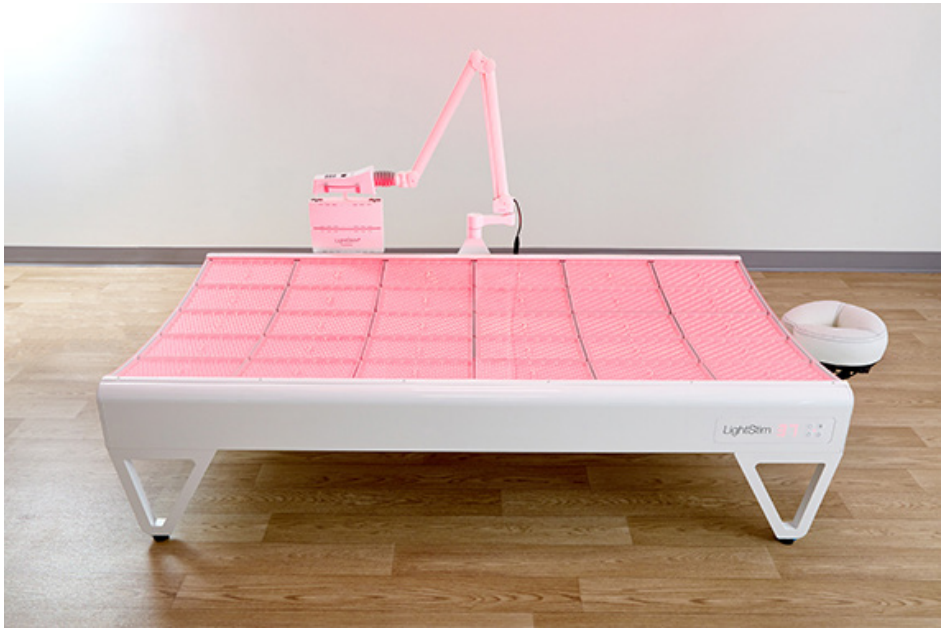
5. Enhanced Mood and Sleep Quality
Emerging research suggests that red and near-infrared light exposure may positively influence mood and sleep patterns. By reducing inflammation and supporting cellular health, light therapy may help regulate circadian rhythms and promote relaxation.
Some users report:
• Improved sleep quality
• Reduced stress levels
• Enhanced mental clarity

While more large-scale studies are needed, early findings are promising.

6. Support for Circulation and Healing
Full body LED light therapy promotes vasodilation—the widening of blood vessels—which enhances blood flow and oxygen delivery throughout the body. Improved circulation supports:
• Faster wound healing
• Reduced swelling
• Better nutrient delivery to tissues

This systemic effect is one of the advantages of full body treatment over smaller, localized devices.

ME Massage Envy™



treatment at most facilities, which can add up quickly when you are going twice per week; however, Massage Envy offers an unlimited use package for $100 per month, making this great service affordable to almost anyone. Massage Envy utilizes the Lightstim Full body LED bed, which is the *only full body led bed cleared by the FDA for treatment of chronic pain and inflammation.*

Safety and Considerations

LED light therapy is generally considered safe when used as directed. It is non-invasive, painless, and does not require downtime. However, individuals with certain medical conditions, those taking light-sensitive medications, or those who are pregnant should consult a healthcare provider before beginning treatment.

Consistency is key. Most protocols recommend multiple sessions per week over several weeks to achieve noticeable results.

Where to Get Full Body LED Therapy in Southwest Florida

LED light therapy is offered in a few niche med spas and wellness centers around Southwest Florida, including select locations at Massage Envy. Prices can range anywhere from $30 - $85 per

Conclusion

Full body LED light therapy offers a range of potential benefits—from enhanced cellular energy and reduced inflammation to improved skin health, faster muscle recovery, and better overall wellness. While ongoing research continues to explore its full capabilities, current evidence and user experiences suggest it is a promising, low-risk option for those seeking a non-invasive way to support whole-body health.

As with any wellness treatment, results may vary, but for many individuals, full body LED light therapy has become a valuable addition to their health and recovery routine.

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April 2026 features a mix of federal, religious, awareness, and fun holidays, including April Fool's Day, Easter Sunday, Tax Day, and Earth Day

KEY HOLIDAYS AND OBSERVANCES



April 1 – April Fool's Day: A playful day for jokes and pranks

April 9 – Palm Sunday: Start of Holy Week in Christian tradition

April 10 – Holy Thursday / Maundy Thursday: Commemorates the Last Supper

April 11 – Good Friday: Observed by many Christians as a solemn day

April 13 – Easter Sunday: Major religious holiday with family gatherings and church services

April 15 – Tax Day: Federal tax filing deadline for most U.S. taxpayers

April 20 – Administrative Professionals Day: Recognizes office staff contributions

April 22 – Earth Day: Celebrates environmental awareness and action

April 24 – National High Five Day: Fun, lighthearted celebration

ADDITIONAL FUN AND AWARENESS DAYS

April also includes quirky and food-related observances such as National Burrito Day, Oatmeal Cookie Day, National Gummi Bear Day, Peanut Butter and Jelly Day, Find a Rainbow Day, World Party Day, and Pajama Day. Weekly and monthly observances include National Humor Month, National Walking Day (first Wednesday), and National Walk to Work Day (first Friday) to encourage wellness and fun activities.

These holidays provide opportunities for family gatherings, community events, awareness campaigns, and personal celebrations, making April a busy and festive month in 2026.

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April in Florida



April is one of the best months to explore Florida, with warm, comfortable weather, fewer crowds, and a variety of beaches, festivals, and outdoor activities.

TOP DESTINATIONS

Bradenton – Ideal for a relaxed waterfront experience, Bradenton offers pleasant temperatures, calm rivers, and accessible nature preserves like Robinson Preserve. Visitors can enjoy walking along the Riverwalk, outdoor dining, and exploring nearby coastal areas before the summer humidity sets in.

Anna Maria Island – Perfect for a laid-back beach vacation, this Gulf Coast island features white sand beaches, minimal traffic, and a peaceful atmosphere. It's ideal for sunbathing, swimming, and enjoying a slower pace without high-rise buildings or chain restaurants.

BROADWAY PALM
PRESENTS



April 10 - May 16

It's *Footloose, Grease* and *Happy Days* all rolled into one zany story. This hip-swiveling musical is inspired by the songs of Elvis Presley and features over 24 Elvis hits! The story takes place in 1955, in a square little town in the middle of a square little state. A young mechanic named Natalie dreams of escaping her quiet Midwestern life. When a tall, handsome motorcycling stranger with blue-suede shoes and a guitar strapped to his back rides into town in search of a mechanic, Natalie's whole life changes.



May 22 - June 20

Follow an aspiring musician as she embarks on a globetrotting quest to discover her "sound" in the electrifying summer of 1967. She heads into the hottest music scenes of the swinging '60s. Feel the pulse of London's mod beats, groove to the irresistible Motown rhythms of Detroit, sway with the folky pep of Los Angeles, and ride the waves of psychedelic rock in San Francisco's legendary Haight-Ashbury district. This show is packed with all the chart-topping hits from 1967 that you know and love.

Dates may be subject to change.

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Miami and South Beach – Known for trendy shopping, world-class dining, and vibrant nightlife, Miami offers miles of pristine beaches. South Beach is great for water sports like windsurfing, snorkeling, and parasailing, with warm ocean temperatures in the 80s°F making swimming comfortable.

Fort Myers – Offers beautiful beaches and outdoor activities, including exploring nearby islands and nature parks. The weather in April is warm but not overly hot, making it ideal for sightseeing and beach days.

Orlando and Tampa Bay – Family-friendly destinations with theme parks like Walt Disney World and ICON Park. April provides comfortable temperatures in the low to mid-80s°F, perfect for enjoying attractions without the intense summer heat.

Marco Island – Known for luxury rentals, pristine beaches, and turquoise waters, Marco Island is great for relaxation, shell hunting, and exploring the Everglades via fan boat tours.

Fort Walton Beach – Offers emerald-green waters, sugar-white sand, and a mix of outdoor activities including deep-sea fishing and parks. It's suitable for families, couples, or solo travelers seeking a quieter beach experience.

EVENTS AND FESTIVALS

April also hosts numerous events across Florida, such as the Miami Film Festival, EPCOT Flower and Garden Festival, Sugar Sand Festival in Clearwater, and the Tampa Bay Wine and Food Festival, providing cultural and entertainment options alongside natural attractions.

WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS

Average temperatures range from 60°F to 80°F, with southern Florida being warmer. Ocean temperatures are around 77–78°F, comfortable for swimming.



What's Happening in Punta Gorda this Month

ONGOING - PUNTA GORDA FARMER'S MARKETS



WEEKLY WEDNESDAY MARKET
PUNTA GORDA ISLES CIVIC ASSOCIATION

2001 Shreve St., Punta Gorda, FL 33950
Indoor / Outdoor Market - Open to the Public
8 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Plants ~ Fresh food Items ~ Arts and Crafts ~ Businesses and Services ~ Used and/or Thrift Items ~ Nonprofit Organizations ~ Food Trucks ~ And More

SATURDAY DOWNTOWN PUNTA GORDA FARMER'S MARKET

Your local *Farmer's Market* with produce, seafood, meat, ethnic cuisine, arts, crafts, live music, working artists and much more.

Featuring over 70 vendors. Located in beautiful downtown Punta Gorda. Every Saturday, rain or shine (unless it falls on Christmas Day, an active Hurricane Warning day or other unforeseen event).

May to September – 8 a.m. – 12 noon
October to April – 8 a.m. -1 p.m.
227 Taylor St, Punta Gorda, FL 33950

HISTORY PARK SUNDAY MARKET

Visit Punta Gorda's only weekly Artisans Market, held every Sunday in the History Park. You will discover local artists selling their creations, as well as our resident artists in the History Park Artisan Village, where the Peace River Woodturners, SWFL Fiber Arts Guild, SWFL Potters Guild, and SWFL Glass Fusers Foundation each work out of one of our historic buildings. Their buildings are open to the public during market hours on Sunday.

In addition to the artisans, the Sunday market vendors include local providers of farm-fresh produce and eggs, local honey, home-baked artisan breads, goat cheese, and other goodies. Check out the wonderful vendors! History Park Sunday Market Sundays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.





April in Your Southwest Florida Yard

WHAT TO PLANT

Annuals/Perennials/Wildflowers: Liven up plant beds with heat-tolerant bloomers such as cannas, coleus, vinca, and portulaca.

Annuals: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/annuals



IMAGE: VINCA FLOWER

Perennials: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials

Florida Wildflower Foundation: https://www.flawildflowers.org/

Herbs: Some herbs to plant now include basil and mint.

Herbs: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/herbs

Vegetables: Beans, Chinese cabbage, Southern peas, and sweet potatoes can still be planted. Mulch beds well and monitor irrigation if the weather is dry.

Vegetable Gardening in Florida: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/vegetable_gardening

WHAT TO DO

Plant for Butterflies: Plant flowers of different colors, shapes, sizes, and blooming seasons to provide nectar for adult butterflies and provide host plants for their caterpillars.

Butterfly/Pollinator Gardening: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/butterfly_pollinator_gardening

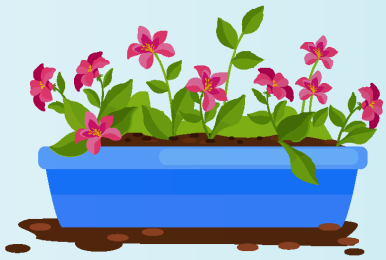
Pests - Monitor insect activity and learn which bugs damage plants and which do not.

Lawn and Garden Care: Pest Management: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/lawn-garden-pest-management

Beneficial insects - Identify and conserve the good guys! Some insects play a key role in pest management and should be encouraged in your yard!

Beneficial Insects: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/beneficial_insects





Tomatoes - Watch for pests, disease, and nutritional disorders on developing tomato plants.

Tomato Gardening: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/tomato-gardening

Palms - Identify and treat environmental and nutritional disorders in palm trees.

Palm Care: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/palm-care

Oleanders - Inspect chewed or ragged leaves for oleander caterpillars at work.

Oleander Pest Management: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/oleander-pest-management

Fruits - Propagate fruit crops by air layering and grafting.

HS1349/HS1349: Tropical and Subtropical Fruit Propagation: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/publication/HS1349

Divide - Clumps of bulbs, ornamental grasses, or herbaceous perennials can be divided now to expand or rejuvenate garden beds or to pass along to friends.

Bulbs for Florida: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/bulbous_flowers

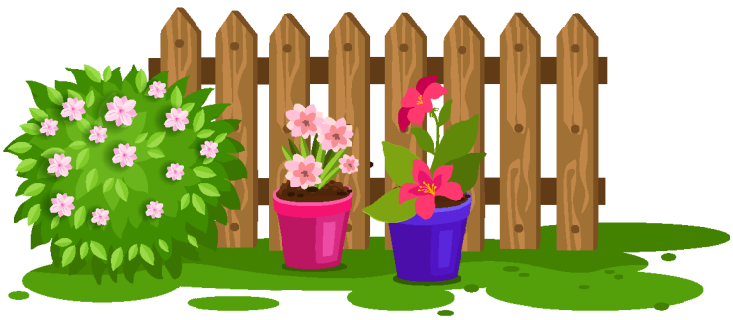
Perennials: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/perennials

Shrubs - Choose from a wide variety of shrubs to add to the landscape now. ***Remember "Right Plant/Right Place"*** and match the mature size with the location.

The Florida-Friendly Landscaping™ Guide to Plant Selection and Landscape Design: https://ffl.ifas.ufl.edu/media/fflifasufledu/docs/FFL-Plant-Guide_v030624_web.pdf

Shrubs: https://edis.ifas.ufl.edu/topics/shrubs

Frangipani/Plumeria Rust - This common fungus disease is active during warm months and first appears as orange-yellow pustules on the backsides of leaves. Remove and dispose of all infected leaves and any on the ground. Rust will not kill the plant but can defoliate it.



Burnt Store Meadows - Green Space and Cul-du-sacs

GREEN SPACE MOWING

The green spaces include all the ground along the ditches, swales, and the four triangles, such as at the end of Ligustrum. Mowing contracts typically begin at the end of April or the beginning of May, depending on the height and appearance of the grass in these areas. We may start sooner than we did in 2025 if conditions warrant. If spring is warmer and the rainy season begins earlier, the grass will grow more quickly. There is an extra charge if an earlier mowing is needed. As a general guideline, mowing is triggered when the grass reaches a height of nine inches or more. Our goal is for the green spaces to look well-maintained but not manicured like a golf course. It is important to keep in mind that the cost to mow these areas is a large portion of the POA budget.



CUL-DU-SAC MAINTENANCE

The city owns the cul-du-sacs but does not plan extensive beautification. Residents are permitted to plant and maintain these areas within reasonable guidelines. The city will provide up to three trees and five shrubs for each cul-du-sac. For a full list of available tree and shrub species, visit the city's website at Cul-De-Sac Maintenance Policy | City of Punta Gorda, FL. Examples include Foxtail Palms, Christmas Palms, and several native shrubs. A few years ago, we collaborated with the city to plant and enhance all the cul-du-sacs. Many sites have existing queen palms; if these palms were originally planted by the city, city crews will manage trimming and will remove dead trees as needed. Replacement trees will always be self-pruning palms, such as Foxtail or Christmas Palms. Each year, as requested by the board, the city supplies bagged mulch for the cul-du-sacs, but it is our responsibility to spread it. Many cul-du-sacs are maintained by neighbors, and their efforts are greatly appreciated. Our contracted weed control service avoids spraying areas with healthy plantings to prevent accidental damage; this decision is made by the contractor based on their assessment. We are pursuing hiring a contractor to trim shrubs and perform other necessary maintenance tasks.


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USPS Changes May Delay Postmark Dates

WHAT IT MEANS FOR YOUR TAX RETURNS, BALLOTS, BILLS AND MORE

KEY POINTS

• The U.S. Postal Service said it is not changing how or what it postmarks but rather is clarifying for the public what to expect in terms of when that postmark is applied.
• Limited pickups from some post offices, as well as mail traveling farther to reach regional distribution centers — where postmarks are done — have led to an increase in delays between when you mail something and when it gets postmarked.
• To make sure you get a postmark that reflects the day you mail something, you'll have to go to a post office counter and ask for a manual postmark.

Depending on where you live, relying on a postmark to prove you mailed your tax return, mail-in ballot, bill payment or any other time-sensitive document by a specific date may no longer work as you expect.

As the U.S. Postal Service continues implementing operational changes to shore up its finances and modernize its infrastructure, the agency expects an increase in delays between when you mail something and when it is postmarked, according to a public notice in the Federal Register that took effect Dec. 24. A postmark shows the date your mail was processed and historically has been applied the same day you mail an item.

However, due to limiting pickups at many postal locations and mail now often traveling farther to regional processing centers where the postmark is applied, "the postmark date does not inherently or necessarily align with the date on which the Postal Service first accepted possession of the mail piece."

While households increasingly use digital options to file taxes, pay bills and handle other personal business, there are still people who use the Postal Service for time-sensitive mail.

Of the 163.6 million tax returns received by the IRS last year, about 10 million were not filed electronically, according to the agency's latest data. About 29% of voters mailed in their ballots last year, according to USAFacts. And 13% of households paid their bills by mail last year, according to the Postal Service's 2024 Household Diary Study.

"Consumers have always assumed that the post office will postmark their

mail on the day they take it to the post office or drop it in a box," said Edgar Dworsky, founder of advocacy site Consumer World and a former assistant attorney general in Massachusetts who focused on consumer protection. "Who would expect it could be several days before it has a postmark on it?"

MAIL IS TRAVELING FARTHER TO PROCESSING FACILITIES

While the Postal Service said in the notice that it is not changing how it postmarks mail — that has always been done at its processing facilities — the agency has added language to its Domestic Mail Manual to clarify for the public when postmarks are applied.

In 2021, USPS unveiled an initiative called Delivering for America to improve its financial condition, which included increasing postage prices and redesigning its network and processing operations.

Changes to transportation schedules and the consolidation of processing facilities under that initiative mean many post offices that previously sent mail twice a day to a hub now do so only once in the morning, according to new research from the Brookings Institution. Under the new network, roughly 26% of post offices are within 50 miles of their assigned regional center, and another 26% are between 150 and 500 miles away, according to the research.



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The upshot is that some mail generally doesn't begin moving through the system until at least the following day, resulting in the postmark not being applied the day you mailed that item. In some cases — i.e., ahead of weekends or holidays — it could take longer than a day for that crucial stamp to be applied.

HOW TO MEET MAILING DEADLINES AMID POSTMARK DELAYS

The importance of ensuring your mail is postmarked in time applies to a range of documents or forms that have deadlines. For example, ballots that are mailed can require a postmark by a specific date to be counted, as can federal and state tax returns and certain legal documents.

If someone wants to ensure "that the postmark aligns with the date of mailing, the customer may take the mail piece to a post office, station or branch and request a [manual postmark] at the retail counter,"

according to a statement issued by the Postal Service.

Asking a postal clerk to manually postmark something costs nothing. Or you can pay $5.30 to send a time-sensitive document via certified mail, which includes a receipt for the sender as well as a return receipt showing when it was delivered and who signed for it. Alternatively, a certificate of mailing, which you keep for your records, costs $2.40 and shows the date you mailed something.

“Waiting in line at the post office is never fun, but you get that proof of timely mailing,” said Josh Youngblood, an enrolled agent and founder of The Youngblood Group in Dallas. “The reality is, otherwise, you are at the mercy of whenever that postmark gets applied.”

Given the possibility of a delay, you may want to explore electronic filing or payment options when available. Or give yourself a deadline to mail something important well ahead of the official due date.

CONSIDERATIONS FOR MAILING TAX RETURNS

Ahead of tax filing season, it’s worth taking note of the possible delay. While April 15 is when federal taxes are due, the IRS considers any tax return postmarked on or before April 15 as being filed on time, even if it’s not received until days later.

So, if you are prone to waiting until the last minute to file taxes and do not do it electronically, you can’t assume dropping off your return at the post office or putting it in a mailbox means it will get postmarked that day.

“If I’m mailing something to the IRS, I’m going to go into the post office to the actual person, where they stamp it,” Youngblood said.



Blueberries in Florida

Florida is known for its sunny beaches and warm weather, but did you know that it's also a great place to go blueberry picking? Our state is a leading producer of blueberries in the United States, with a significant number of farms offering u-pick experiences. The blueberry season in Florida typically runs from late March through early May, although some varieties may be available into June or July. U-pick blueberry farms have been popping up all over the state, offering a chance to experience the joys of harvesting their own fresh fruit.

Blueberry picking is a fun activity for families and friends and a great way to support local agriculture and indulge in healthy, delicious snacks. So grab a bucket and get ready to explore the sweet and juicy world of Florida blueberries! And if you have any left over, check out the great **Fresh Blueberry Cobbler** recipe in this issue.



Below are two locations found online for the 2026 growing/picking season

Blueberry Bunch Farm
Sunshine Blueberry Farm In Sebring Florida | PYO Blueberries



Recipe of the Month

FRESH BLUEBERRY COBBLER



This rendition of the popular dessert has a few special touches that give it a Southern spin. Buttermilk brings the batter together, lending the same sort of richness that it does to your favorite Sunday morning pancakes. A touch of cornmeal in the batter delivers an intriguing texture that sets this cobbler apart. A good amount of melted butter bubbles up through the fruit as the cobbler bakes, ultimately giving the topping a gooey butter-cake sort of feel. It's a dessert that you'll be proud to serve your friends and family. The berries turn juicy and luscious, while the crust remains crisp and gooey.

INGREDIENTS

½ cup unsalted butter
6 - 8 cups fresh blueberries
1 ½ cups sugar, divided
2 Tbsp. cornstarch
1 Tbsp. fresh lemon juice
1 ¼ cups all-purpose flour
1/3 cup fine yellow cornmeal
2 tsp. baking powder
½ tsp. salt
¼ tsp. baking soda
1 2/3 cups whole buttermilk
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract

DIRECTIONS

Place butter in a 13- x 9–inch glass or ceramic baking dish. Place dish in oven; preheat oven to 375°F (leave dish in oven as it heats).

Combine blueberries, ½ cup sugar, cornstarch, and lemon juice in a large bowl, tossing well to coat.

Whisk together flour, cornmeal, baking powder, salt, baking soda, and ¾ cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar in a medium bowl. Add buttermilk and vanilla to flour mixture; stir until well combined.

Carefully remove baking dish from oven. Arrange blueberry mixture over butter. Pour batter over blueberries. Sprinkle remaining 2 tablespoons of sugar evenly over batter.

Bake at 375°F until filling is bubbly and topping is browned, 40 to 45 minutes.







Calling All Pet Owners!



Tell us about your pet(s)! Every month we will feature one family's pet(s) in an article in *Meadows Connection*. All you must do is write between 200 to 600 words about your much-loved dog, cat, or other animal and include a couple of high resolution pictures. Some ideas to show off your beloved pet include – how you named him/her; a description of his/her looks; favorite activities and toys; what makes him/her special to you, or whatever else you'd like to share with readers. This is limited to Burnt Store Meadows owners and residents.

Your submission doesn't have to be a literary masterpiece; we will edit and format it for the monthly newsletter. Have fun writing about your pet and send to joyce.tilden.bsmpoa@gmail.com for submission in the *Meadows Connections*.

WATER RESTRICTIONS REMINDER



PUNTA GORDA
SEAFOOD & MUSIC FESTIVAL

April 17th – 19th

PUNTA GORDA SPRING SEAFOOD & MUSIC FESTIVAL™

Outdoor food and fun await at the Annual **Punta Gorda Seafood & Music Festival** at **Laishley Park** in Punta Gorda from **April 17th-19th, 2026**. A weekend filled with delicious food, live music, and festive activities beginning **Friday evening from 4pm-10pm**, continuing **Saturday from 11am-10pm**, and finishing **Sunday from 11am-6pm**. **General admission is FREE!**

The seafood & music festival is crafted like an outstanding meal, incorporating the finest ingredients. Choose from a variety of entrees including seafood, meat, and vegetarian options, all cooked fresh onsite. Complement your meal with an array of side dishes and scrumptious desserts. A selection of both alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks will also be available.

Sit back and enjoy the captivating sounds of live musical performances on stage by some of Florida's and the region's top musical talents. In addition to the music and food, explore a marketplace of arts and crafts, featuring items such as paintings, mixed-media, glasswork, gourmet food items, and specialty products. Enjoy shopping during the breaks between band performances!


CITY OF PUNTA GORDA PRESENTS
remake learning. days
PICTURE PERFECT:
PROJECTS & POPCORN
A SUNCOAST REMAKE LEARNING DAYS EVENT
FREE ENTRY
FREE SNACKS
FREE CRAFTS
FREE MOVIE
POP CORN
FRIDAY
APRIL 24
6:30 PM
AT LAISHLEY PARK
CRAFT
MOVIE
SNACKS

Suncoast remake learning. days

Punta Gorda

Join us for "Desserts & Discourse"

Saturday April 18th
10 AM - 12 PM
120 Laishley Ct
Punta Corda, FL 33950

and learn how SWEET public speaking can be!







Writers Wanted!!!

To make the *Meadows Connection* interesting and readable to our residents, we invite you to share your stories, experiences, and perspectives. We welcome articles about books, travel, pets, sports, TV and movies, Tech, and/or content that will get our community talking and sharing. Just avoid topics such as politics and religion in keeping with our policy to avoid controversy.

Please limit your words to between 200 to 600 words and feel free to include a couple of jpeg photos with high resolution. We'll be happy to give you a byline!

Have fun writing and send to joyce.tilden.bsmpoa@gmail.com for submission in the *Meadows Connection*.

Being a Good Pet Owner and Neighbor!

REMINDER

Being a good neighbor and animal owner means picking up after your dog. Also, while our deed restrictions do not specifically state your animal must be leashed, it does state the animal must always be under the owner's control. Not having the animal leashed could constitute a nuisance and that is a violation of our deed restrictions.

Tell us about your pet(s)! We would like to feature one family's pet(s) in an article in the ***Connection.*** All you need to do is write between 200 – 600 words about your much-loved dog, cat, or other animal and include a couple of high resolution pictures. Some ideas to show off your beloved pet include – how you named him/her; a description of his/her looks; favorite activities and toys; what makes him/her special to you, or whatever else you'd like to share with readers. This is limited to Burnt Store Meadows owners and residents.

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