

MEADOW POINTE II
CLUBHOUSE

30051 COUNTY LINE RD
WESLEY CHAPEL, FL 33543
813-991-5016

clubhouse@mpiicdd.org

www.meadowpointe2cdd.org

Operations Manager:
Sheila Diaz

Office Hours:
Daily 8am-9pm

Fitness Center: M-F 7am-
8:45pm, SS 8am-8:45pm

Pool: Daily 10am-20
minutes before dusk.
(Wednesdays the pool
opens at 12 noon.)

MPII CDD BOARD

Mike Cline, Chair:
mikecline@mpiicdd.org

Dana Sanchez, V. Chair:
danasanchez
@mpiicdd.org

John Picarelli, Asst.
Treasurer: johnpicarel-
li@mpiicdd.org

Glen Aleo, Asst. Sec.
glen.aleo@mpiicdd.org

Jim Bovis, Asst. Sec.
jim.bovis@mpiicdd.org

MPII RESIDENTS'
COUNCIL

Main Contact: Diana
Cline, Chair
eang211@verizon.net

The RC is a group of vol-
unteers that work to make
our community a better
place to live.

Notary Services are
now available through
the Clubhouse. Call
ahead for availability.

MP II News

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 7

JULY 1, 2017

Hurricane Season

Editor's Note: This same article ran in the June 1st issue. We opted to run it again during a print month so all homes in the community will receive this information.

Hurricane season is officially underway! It runs every year from June 1st through November 30th. Even though the Tampa area has been lucky for many years now, it is vitally important that we all be prepared BEFORE the next hurricane hits our area. The good news is that there are numerous resources available to help all Tampa area residents prepare for potential storms. It is far better to be prepared and have the storm be uneventful than to not be ready when a storm becomes a monster.

One of the best resources is an online site by the federal government. It can be found at www.ready.gov/hurricanes. Another great resource is from the

National Hurricane Center and can be found at <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/prepare/ready.php>. These sites, as well as most legitimate resources, will advise you to do two key things: have a plan, and have supplies. Don't rely on last year's supplies either. If you packed a bin last summer, go through it again. Purge any expired items, restock with fresh items, and make sure all current recommended items are included.

Your plan should include important documents, identification, cash, important lists (phone numbers, medications, etc.). Don't forget to account for pets in the home. Additionally, it's important to know where local shelters are in case your home begins to flood or becomes unsafe in a

storm. Our local shelter is at Wiregrass Ranch High School.

It's also a great idea to do the preparation as a family and include everyone in the home. This way, everyone will know what the plans are, where the supplies are, and what to do. It's been 13 years since the Tampa area got hit hard; hopefully it will be at least another 13. If a hurricane hits this year though, you need to be ready. For additional information, please feel free to consult the following sites:

- <http://www.floridadisaster.org/swaw/2015/documents/2015%20Guide.pdf>
- <http://www.tampabay.com/topics/specials/hurricane-preparedness.page>
- <http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/outreach/>
- <http://www.pascocountyfl.net/index.aspx?nid=712>



Residents' Council Corner

The Meadow Pointe II Residents' Council is looking for a few fresh faces! A good bit of work goes into planning and executing the wonderful events they host throughout the year. If you can spare one night a month for the meetings and a few hours every now and then to help with the events, please join the Residents'

Council! They have canceled the July meeting, so the next meeting is Wednesday, August 9th, at 6:30pm at the Clubhouse. You can also contact Diana Cline at eang211@verizon.net. When the RC reconvenes in August they will be working on the Immunization Clinic which should

occur in September, and they will begin planning this year's Halloween FunFest! So remember – if you can offer a few hours a month to help with these events or if you have new ideas for other events, please contact Diana Cline or come to the August meeting!

News Bits

Tree Removals

The CDD Board has removed 43 trees from Lettingwell that were currently or soon would be damaging sidewalks and aprons throughout the village. In the near future, the Board will have the areas resodded. Additionally, the Board will be planting replacement trees with less invasive root systems.

Our CDD Board has also been in negotiations with Pasco County about removing over 60 trees along both sides of County Line Road. These trees have been

identified as causing damage to the sidewalks as well as the walls for Morningside and Deer Run villages. The county has agreed to remove these trees but they will not plant replacements. The county has also agreed to grind (level) the sidewalks along County Line road where root systems have made the sidewalks trip hazards. This work has already begun.

Sidewalks in Morningside and Deer Run

As it stands currently, the roads and sidewalks in the villages of

Morningside and Deer Run belong to the county. In all other villages, ownership and responsibility for the sidewalks and roads lies with the CDD (or HOA in some cases). Our CDD Board is exploring options and has begun discussions with Pasco County to ultimately repair sidewalks in those villages. There are a number of options and our Board is trying to determine what the best solution is for the residents of MPII. We will update you when we know more.

July Holidays

July 4th – Independence Day. Today all Americans unite to celebrate the birth of our great nation – the anniversary of our Declaration of Independence. Although the Second Continental Congress created our new nation on July 2nd, 1776, it took an additional two days to settle on the wording of the Declaration of Independence and formally approve the document. The first 4th of July fireworks display took place on the one year anniversary (1777) in Philadelphia. Happy 241st to the U.S.A.!



July 14th – Bastille Day. Bastille Day, or French National Day, commemorates the critical turning point in the French Revolution. Our critical ally in the Revolutionary War, France was in an ugly internal conflict by 1789. On July 14th, citizens, rebels, and several

mutinous members of the French Guard stormed the Bastille – which was a fortress/prison. They freed the political prisoners held there and acquired the stored weapons and gunpowder. This success led to the official end of feudalism in France by August 4th. By the end of August, France had proclaimed their pivotal document: The Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, which would serve as the preamble to the French Constitution two years later.

Groundwater Pollution and Storm Drains

Throughout most of the 20th century the biggest contributor to groundwater pollution was industrial waste. By the 1970's, increased awareness, new governmental regulations, and environmental activism helped alleviate nearly all industrial contributions to groundwater pollution as well as clean up much of the damage that had already been done. Unfortunately, the fight against groundwater pollution is nowhere near over.

The biggest contributor to groundwater pollution these days is us. What each of us, usually unknowingly, allow to enter the storm drains or seep into the ground is polluting our own water.

The storm drain system is designed to carry clean rainwater away from homes and streets to prevent flash flooding. This clean water is then fed directly into area ponds (natural and man-made), marshes, lakes, rivers, and underground aquifers. There is no economically feasible way to treat or filter water in the storm water system. This means that every pollutant that comes in contact with storm water is carried back into our water supply. The adverse effects are numerous: unsafe or toxic swimming areas, tainted well water, wildlife exposed to poisons, a deterioration of the natural beauty, and more.

The contributors are everywhere. If you wash your car in your driveway, every chemical in the soap and every piece of dirt that comes off your car flows right into

the drain. If your car leaks oil, gas, or other fluids, all those toxins go right into our water. If you or your landscaper ever blow or sweep grass clippings or other yard waste into the street, all the fertilizer and pesticides go into the water, to say nothing of the clogging problems that yard waste and grass clippings cause to our storm drain system.

Additionally, pollutants can also easily seep through our lawns and enter the groundwater supply. The chemicals in our fertilizers and pesticides – especially if the products are overused – pollute the groundwater. This is especially true when lawns are overwatered – as the chemicals can't be absorbed into the soil and lawn, so they are carried with the excess water into the local water supply. Another big contributor to pollution is pet waste. According to the American Veterinary Medical Association, as of 2012, there were almost 145 million pet dogs and cats in the United States. All that waste adds up to a very significant pollutant to groundwater.

What can we do? That's where there's good news: there is a lot we can all do to easily and significantly reduce how much we pollute our groundwater! First, pet owners must pick up ALL pet waste (even in their own yards!), then either compost it, flush it in a toilet, or throw it away with trash. Second, properly maintain all vehicles. According to FDOT,

there were over 19.6 million registered vehicles in Florida in 2014. If only a fraction of them have leaks, that's still a huge amount of pollution washing into our drains. We could all use less fertilizer and pesticide, and use environmentally friendly products whenever possible. We could landscape larger areas and maintain smaller grass lawns. We could use drought resistant plants, and plants that help filter pollutants out of the water. When we do landscape, we should use mulch wherever we can. We can be careful to never overwater our lawns. When we have chemicals of any kind at home (fertilizer, pesticides, gas, oil, paint, etc.), we must dispose of them properly. Pasco County will take items like these at the East Pasco Transfer Station in Dade City. Perhaps the most important thing we can do is to ensure that our grass clippings and yard waste never get into the storm drains or dumped in ponds and conservation areas. These simple steps, if we all execute them, will help tremendously and will go a long way to ensuring that we, and future generations, can enjoy clean water and a beautiful, SAFE, environment.

For more information, the following websites are excellent:
www.pascocountyfl.net/stormwater
http://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/publications/files/FFL_Plant_Selection_Guide.pdf
<http://www.waterencyclopedia.com/Oc-Po/Pollution-of-Groundwater.html>

Pet Waste

There are over 321 million people living in the United States, but there are also up to 145 million dogs living in the U.S.! Some estimates have 44 % of American households having at least one dog. Fortunately, Meadow Pointe II is a community that welcomes dogs and their owners (see your individual village deed restrictions for rules on quantity or size).

However, with dog ownership comes responsibility. Obviously taking good care of one's pet is the biggest responsibility. However, the responsibility that affects one's neighbors is picking up the dog's waste. Aside from the obvious common courtesy, it's actually illegal to not pick up after your dog if your dog leaves feces on any property that is not your own. Per Pasco County Municipal Code, Chapter 14-98, the owner of a pet

whose waste is left on someone else's property (neighbor's yard, CDD or HOA property, County property, conservations areas, etc.) can be fined up to \$143.

More importantly – there are numerous reasons why pet waste should always be picked up and properly disposed of. First, it looks and smells unpleasant to all our residents. Second, if stepped in it becomes a potentially dangerous slip hazard.

Additionally – and perhaps most importantly – it's actually bad for the environment. Two studies determined that 95% of fecal matter in urban watersheds was non-human (pet waste). And pet waste contains bacteria that can easily contaminate water supplies. For more information, read this report from SWFWMD: <https://www.swfwmd.state.fl.us/files/>

[database/social_research/Pet_Waste_Final_Report.pdf](#).

The solution is very simple. We all need to be good neighbors. Pet supply stores and big box retailers sell pet waste bags at very reasonable prices. In a pinch you can re-use old plastic bags from shopping. The bottom line is that the dog owner is responsible for properly disposing of their dog's waste. Proper disposal is not bagging it and throwing it into the conservation areas or ponds. Proper disposal would be putting it in one's own trash or using it for composting. Instead of worrying about County citations and fines, let's all be responsible citizens and neighbors. Together we can keep MPII clean, safe, and friendly for pets AND humans.

Meadow Pointe II Clubs

BOOK CLUB Contact Joan Abrams at 813-907-8329 or email ah2wcn97@aol.com.

BROWNIE/DAISY/GIRL SCOUT TROOPS Several troops meet at MPII. Contact your local troop for meeting dates and times.

MAHJONG The Mahjong Group meets Mondays from 1 – 5 pm. The Newcomers Group also meets for Mahjong on Wednesdays from 12:30 – 4:30 pm. Come by for more information.



MEN'S CLUB Meets Friday nights from 5:30 – 9 pm for cards. For

more info, call the Clubhouse at 813-991-5016.



PIANO LESSONS are available at the MPII Clubhouse. For more information, contact Anya Kovalenko at 813-417-3976.

SHUFFLEBOARD CLUB Teams forming now for shuffleboard. Mondays & Thursdays at 6:30 pm. All skill levels and experience levels welcome. Contact Diana Cline at 813-994-8555.

TAMPA BAY NEWCOMERS A group for all women in MPII, whether they are new to the area or established. Meet

every Wednesday to play mahjong from 12:30 – 4 pm. If Mahjong is not for you, they also host many other activities including luncheons, outings, bowling, book club, card games, and much more. For more info contact Anita Savage at 813-397-1551 (retiredanita08@aim.com) or go to www.tampabaynewcomers.com



YARN CLUB Meets every Thursday night from 6 – 8 pm. Open to all adults who knit or crochet – all skill levels welcome.