Palm Aire SPRING, 2025 Communities Council SPRING, 2025 COUNCIL COUNCI



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MEET THE NEIGHBORS

Connie Hewitt/Clubside

When I was asked to interview Connie for the newsletter and was told that she "did travel books", I must admit to being somewhat underwhelmed. Boy! Was I wrong!

I had the privilege of speaking with Connie in early February of this year and left her home in awe of both her creativity and her skill. Each of her travel books is a work of art, combining journaling with photo albums and counted cross-stitch, and each left me with the feeling that I hadn't had nearly enough time to appreciate them.

I asked Connie what made her decide to start journaling, and she said that her late husband, Ron, was her inspiration. She said that he was a wonderful amateur photographer and that he "took so many pictures that I knew we'd never remember where all of them were taken, so I started taking notes as he took pictures. After the trip, I'd put everything together so we'd have a record of the trip. It's a great way to save memories." That last sentence was an uncomfortable reminder of all the unlabeled pictures that I have lying around!

The counted cross-stitch part of Connie's travel book covers intrigued me, so I asked when she started that and was surprised to learn that it wasn't until she and Ron first moved to Sarasota in 1995. She originally started to combine counted cross-stitch with her love of travel and Disney in order to practice counted cross-stitch, and it took off from there! Her dedication to doing things well extended to even the smaller details: she and Ron would search for the perfect fabric for the album covers in each of the places they visited.

Obviously, Connie is one talented lady, but it wasn't until I started to ask more questions that I realized just how talented she is!

Growing up in Shipman, Illinois, a farming community, Connie didn't really want to go to college. She wanted to study stenography and be a secretary instead. Her parents asked her to "try"

Meet the Neighbors: Connie Hewitt By Cathy Allen

one year of college, and after touring several, she found herself at Western Illinois University and



felt at home. She graduated in three years with a degree in Home Ec and Elementary Education.

She started out teaching Home Ec, but when her husband was elected Regional Superintendent of Schools in Illinois, they moved. She was hired by a school whose Home Ec teacher was "firmly entrenched," and so Connie taught 3rd grade. She retired in 1992.

Connie and Ron were married in 1959 and were blessed with 63 years together and two children. Their son, the Rev. David Hewitt, a Lutheran minister, is now retired. He and his wife have two children. Their daughter, Ronda, is a professional actress who has performed at the Asolo and Players Theatres here in Sarasota. Connie and Ron enjoyed traveling to Canada, the Carlibbean, Austria, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Belgium, France, Scotland, and Italy (their favorite!), among other places. They honeymooned on Lido Beach, and Connie remembers crossing the Ringling Bridge when it was wooden and there

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The Palm Aire Communities

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Club Villas I
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Conservatory Estates
Country Lakes

Desoto Woods
Eagle Creek Condos
Eagle Creek Villas
Fox Pointe
Fairway Six
Gardens at Palm Aire
Golf Pointe
Lakeside Woods

The Links
Misty Oaks
Pine Trace
Rosewood
Timberlake Village
Woodlake Villas
Woodland Green



were slats missing! She and Ron bought their house in Clubside in 1985, when it was still under construction. They moved in 1995 and are charter members of the Palm Aire Country Club. Ron

When asked for advice for someone who might want to start journaling their travels, she said simply, "Just do it!" As a final comment to the people of Palm Aire, she said, "Don't let your pictures sit in a drawer or on your camera! Label them, put them in an album for others to enjoy. It

was a member of the winning Palm-Aire tennis

team in the 1990s!



doesn't have to be a work of art. Your children and your grandchildren will thank you!"

Addendum: I visited Connie again in mid-March, and she shared a memory that perfectly illustrates her advice. Following a 2022 trip to visit their children, Ron said that he "felt off." A visit to their doctor revealed that Ron was suffering from cancer. In the weeks before he died, he spent time looking through each of their travel journals. As he looked through them, he'd smile and tell Connie, "This is like being there again! What wonderful memories!"



What? Mermaids? Says Who?

By Marguerite Puca

Sailors, apparently. According to the South Carolina Aquarium, sailors have been seeing manatees and declaring mermaids since ancient times. In fact, the first written record of manatee sighting in North America was actually authored by Christopher Columbus on his maiden voyage to the Americas in 1492.

Hard to understand the confusion. The typical Florida manatee (of the West Indian species, one of

the skeleton. These bones are vestiges of a time when their ancestor animals lived on land.

A female manatee gives birth about every two years, after a gestation period of 12 to 14 months. At birth, the typical calf (usually a singleton birth) weighs about 65 pounds. It will stay with its mother for 12 to 18 months. Once weaned, manatees are solitary creatures, only congregating in herds when fleeing colder weather.



three species worldwide) is nine to ten feet long and weighs about 1,000 pounds. They have two fore limb flippers which they use to steer and hold food while eating, plus a large paddle-shaped tail that they use for swimming. They are strong swimmers, capable of reaching speeds of up to 15 miles per hour. Although the manatees do not have hind limb flippers, they do have pelvic bones which are small and not attached to the rest of

They are herbivores, eating over 60 different varieties of fresh and saltwater plants. Their preferred food in Florida is sea grass, and when this vegetation is scarce (due to pollution, dredging, sea warming, etc.), the manatee suffer. In captivity they are fed a diet of vegetables—lettuce, cabbage, carrots, sweet potatoes—plus elephant vitamins. Manatees consume their vegetarian diet with 24 to 32 teeth, which are continuously worn down and replaced by newly erupted ones.



Although they spend the major part of their lives under water, they are indeed air-breathing mammals and need to periodically surface to breathe. (You may remember the story of "Snooty," the manatee that lived at the Bishop Museum in Bradenton. In 2017, the 69-year-old manatee died of drowning when he was accidently trapped in a plumbing service area and could not surface to breathe.)

As herbivores, manatees are prey animals. What dangers do they face? Principally, those provided by contact with humans. Natural causes of death include low temperatures; they cannot survive in temperatures below about 65 degrees, crocodile strikes on young manatees and disease. Human contact with manatees produces injuries and death due to:

 Boat strikes. It is apparently quite common to see manatees with scars from collisions

- with propellor-driven boats, since both are occupying prime near-off-shore space.
- Marine entanglement. If discarded monofilament line gets into the seagrass where manatees are feeding, they can become entangled or consume the nonnutritious filament.
- Red tide. The algae produce a toxin that can have toxic effects on the central nervous system of animals with which it comes in contact.
- Starvation. Recently, the seagrass off Florida's coasts has been involved in a dieoff. Cut off from their normal and natural food source, manatees died.

Where can you see a manatee? In the wild, West Indian manatees can be found in shallow, marshy coastal areas of the Gulf of Mexico and the Caribbean Sea. In the US, the edge of the northern range is probably Georgia (although the South Carolina Aquarium offers manatee-watching guidelines as they "start to see manatees arrive in South Carolina"). Locally, manatees can be seen in shallow water around Manatee and Sarasota counties where sea grass is available. At the Bishop Museum (manatee rehab habitat). At Mote Marine Aquarium, Sarasota, Durina the winter months, they can be seen in Apollo Beach (at the TECO power plant water outlet canal) and Crystal River (at the National Wildlife Refuge there, the only refuge created specifically to protect these threatened creatures).



A Message from Palm Aire Country Club







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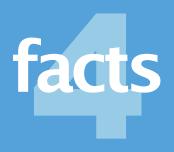
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- 1. I would take 81 years to stay in every single room at the Wald Disney World Resorts.
- 2. In America, the first chemist to successfully develop a sunscreen was Miami pharmacist Benjamin Green (1918-2004). Green served in the Pacific during World War II, and he saw that he and his fellow soldiers needed some way to protect against the
- sun. When he came home to Miami Beach, he developed what we know as Coppertone.
- 3. Florida is Florida is the <u>boating</u> and <u>fishing</u> capital of the world. It has more than 7,700 lakes, 11,000 miles of rivers, 2,276 miles of tidal shoreline, and has produced more than 900 world fishing records, more than any other state, or
- country. Florida has more than 700 <u>freshwater springs</u>. Of them, 27 are classified as first-magnitude springs, more than any other state.
- 4. Florida produces more than 70 percent of the nation's <u>oranges</u>, and ranks number one for tomatoes, grapefruit, sugarcane, snap beans, cucumbers, and oranges.

Neighborhood Spotlight: Eagle Creek by Lesa Hartigan

SPRING, 2025
Palm Aire Communities Council



Eagle Creek Condos in Sarasota, Florida, offer a tranquil and luxurious living experience.

These condos are nestled among beautifully land-

scaped greens and gardens in the Palm-Aire community.

Key Features and Amenities:

- Condo Units: 183 two-bedroom condos, built in 1985-1992 with ground-level and second-floor options.
- Golf Course Views: Many units offer stunning views of the Palm-Aire Country Club golf course.
- Community Pool: A heated pool is available for residents to enjoy.
- Pet-Friendly: Eagle Creek Condos allow pets, making it a great option for pet owners.
- Golf Course Access: Residents can join the
- Palm-Aire Country Club, which offers access to two 18-hole golf courses, an athletic club, tennis courts, pickleball, and fine dining options.



Lo-

cation and Accessibility:

- Proximity to Sarasota: Approximately 8.9 miles
- from downtown Sarasota.
- Beach Access: About 12 miles from Lido Beach and 19.6 miles from Siesta Key Beach.
- Airport Accessibility: Only 4.7 miles from the Sarasota International Airport.

Real Estate and Rental Options:

Condos for Sale: Prices vary, but you can find condos listed around \$245,000 to \$300,000. Rental Options: Units are available for rent. with annual prices \$1800 - \$ 2200 and seasonal starting at \$3000 per month.

From Palm Aire Country Club

Greetings Palm-Aire Neighbors.

Beginning April 21st and continuing through the first weeks of December, 2025, Palm-Aire Country Club will be renovating the Lakes Golf Course. This is the golf course that is visible along Whitfield Avenue.

This is an exciting time for the Club and community. An enhanced physical property brings value and a favorable awareness to the Club and community.

The project also brings some disruption and distraction. During construction, there will be heavy equipment on property. This equipment will bring a different noise level and activity will kick up some dust. Work will be pursued during daylight hours. There will be signage (Do not enter!) around the perimeter of the property communicating that the

property is off limits to activity, such as walking, jogging, and the operation of personal golf cars, just to name a few. The effort to keep people off property during construction is for the safety of all. We will offer scheduled tours of the property (project) to our Members and those wanting to see the evolution of the project.

We are investing in our community. We are building our Club. We will all share in the benefits.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Greg "GM" Martzolf General Manager/COO Palm Aire Country Club Cell: 772-828-1799

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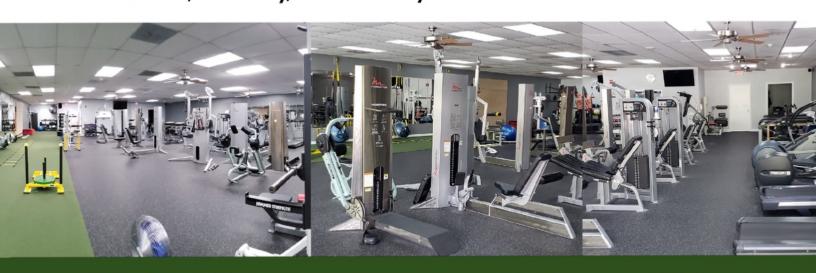
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What Home Buyers and Sellers Need to Know

by Julie Jacques

SPRING, 2025 Palm Aire Communities Council

New MLS Buyer Compliance Agreements Effective August 17, 2024:

Starting August 17, 2024, new MLS rules will require real estate agents working with buyers to have a signed written agreement before showing homes. This rule, part of the National Association of REALTORS® (NAR) settlement, is meant to improve transparency and professionalism in real estate transactions.

How the New Rule Affects Buyers

Buyers will now need to sign a written agreement with their agent before touring homes in person or via live virtual showings. This agreement will:

- Outline agent services so buyers know what to expect.
- **Disclose compensation** details, including how the agent is paid.
- Clarify that commissions are negotiable, reinforcing that buyers have choices in how they compensate their agent.

This change ensures buyers understand their financial obligations upfront, preventing confusion later in the transaction.

How the Change Affects Sellers

While the rule directly applies to buyers and their agents, it has **major implications for sellers as well**:

Potential Changes in Buyer Agent Compensation:

Sellers traditionally offered commissions to buyer agents through MLS listings. With buyers now signing agreements specifying agent compensation, sellers may see fewer buyers expecting seller-paid commissions. This could lead to more negotiation over who pays the buyer's agent.

2. Shifts in Listing Strategy:

Sellers and listing agents may need to **adjust pricing and marketing strategies** to attract buyers who now have clearer expectations about agent compensation. Some sellers may still offer incentives to buyer agents, while others may shift to direct buyer negotiations.

3. Impact on Buyer Pool:

If buyers are now directly responsible for paying their agent, some may hesitate to work

with agents or may negotiate lower commission rates. This could affect how many buyers consider a property, especially in price-sensitive markets.

4. Greater Transparency in Transactions:

Since commission structures are now explicitly negotiated and documented in writing, sellers and buyers will have clearer discussions on who pays what in the deal. This could reduce misunderstandings at closing.

What Sellers Should Do

- Talk to their listing agent about the potential impact on attracting buyers.
- Consider alternative compensation strategies to remain competitive in the market.
- Prepare for more direct negotiations on agent commissions in buyer offers.

Conclusion

The new MLS rule requiring written buyer agreements is a significant shift in real estate transactions. While it directly affects buyers and their agents, **sellers must also adapt** to potential changes in commission structures and buyer expectations. Being proactive and informed will help both buyers and sellers navigate these new rules successfully.



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A few Properties Sold in the Last Three Months			
Single Family		Condos/Villas	
5040 /creekside Tr.	450,000	5847 Clubside Dr.	330,000
5833 Fairwoods Cir.	475,000	7732 Palm Aire Ln.	365,000
8003 Conservatory	639,900	7104 St. Andrews Ln.	429,000
7715 Broadmoor Pines	875,000	7318 Golf Pointe Cir.	485,000



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