

# **Weather Salutations to the MCA**

Meadow's Weather/Hurricane Analysis: September 2022 Report

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## **Rainfall & Temperature Data:**

Rainfall for month: 20.8 in.  
Rainfall year-to-date: 59.2 in.  
23 yr. monthly rainfall average: 6.8 in.  
Average high temperature: 89.0 F (normal: 90.0 F)  
Above normal temperature days: 16  
Record high temperature days: 4

**Weather Summary:** Salutations to the Meadows Community Association for their June 2020 approval and support to install a National Weather Service sanctioned weather station on the Community Center grounds. The installation of a wireless Davis Vantage Vue integrated sensor suite at the rear of the property, and a Vantage Vue console (displays and records weather station data) in the library, made it possible to expand this column from singular reporting about rainfall to one that also includes our daytime temperatures.

Reporting about atmospheric temperature has grown in importance during the past two years because of the temperature's direct role in our changing climate – it is the driving force in the area's climate change. Studying temperature trends over time facilitates a better understanding about the potential for significant weather-related events to occur in the Meadows.

Such was the case with the concluding report (statement) in last month's Hurricane Season Analysis: "Due to the persistent high temperatures discussed previously (the May 2022 Weather Summary) ----- it's best to stay on the side of caution by remaining vigilant for the final two months of the hurricane season". And, as if on cue, Hurricane Ian came visiting on September 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Temperature Analysis:** The thirty-month 'heat dome' over the Meadows dissipated with the approach of Hurricane Ian. Temperature reduction was so significant that it lowered the overall monthly temperature to 89 F which was one degree short of normal (something we had not seen in the previous 30 months)!

During the final six days of the month, the direct effect of Ian's approach, day of visit, and aftermath, reduced the average temperature to 78 F – twelve degrees below the ninety-degree normal! Let's hope this trend continues. Other statistics for the month include sixteen above-normal temperature days and four record-temperature days.

**Rainfall Analysis:** A new record was established for total September rainfall. Through the generosity of Hurricane Ian, the 21 inches recorded in the Meadows tied the record set in Sarasota in 1962. Also, this month's total was three times the average rainfall expected during September. The contribution by Hurricane Ian was 9.6 inches. This one-day rainfall was almost half the monthly total.

The year-to-date total (59.2") now exceeds our expected end-of-the year twelve-month average (51.6) by more than one-half foot of water.

Monthly temperature and rainfall data are presented in the graph.

**Hurricane Season Analysis:** Although the 2022 Hurricane season got off to the slowest start in many years, it certainly came to life during September. Nine named storms developed, and this included five tropical storms and four hurricanes, two of which became major hurricanes – Fiona and Ian.

Hurricane Ian formed in the very warm eastern Caribbean 'breeding grounds', moved across western Cuba and entered the very warm (upper 80s F) Gulf of Mexico. After keeping Floridians guessing for several days as to where it would strike, Ian entered Charlotte Harbor on the 28<sup>th</sup> as a strong Cat.4 storm (150 mph) and chose a path much like Hurricane Charlie did in 2004. But Ian was much larger and more destructive and will likely go into the record books as one of the largest and most devastating hurricanes ever to strike the United States, let alone, Florida!

Once again, the Meadows 'dodged a bullet'. In fact, we dodged a cannon shot. But the experience wasn't lost on residents. It was a great drill about hurricane preparation and survival, something that will prove useful when the next storm strikes – and it will!

At the time you read this column, there will be one month remaining in the 2022 hurricane season --- please continue to be vigilant.

Send comments and questions about this month's report to:

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