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For more information contact:

Betsy Culpepper, Patterson Bach Communications
betsy@pat-bach.com, 407-645-1880

MetroWest Kicks-Off Yearlong 30th Anniversary Celebration

ORLANDO, FL (May 20, 2016) – MetroWest Master Association (MWMA) kicked off its 30th Anniversary Celebration at the recent 2016 MetroWest JazzFest by revealing its commemorative logo (attached.) The celebration will continue throughout 2016 as long-term residents and businesses are recognized and commemorative promotional items are distributed.

MetroWest is a 1,805-acre master-planned community in southwest Orlando, with the main entrance situated on MetroWest Boulevard, off of Kirkman Road. The community was developed in the 1980s by Debra, Inc., an Orlando-based developer, as a business, commercial and residential community; a place where people can live, work, play and connect. Housing options in the diverse community include a range of single-family homes with several apartment, townhome and condominium complexes spread over the gently rolling landscape.

“Today, the community has swelled to almost 10,000 residential units; 1.4 million square feet of office space and 762,444 square feet of retail and restaurant space,” said Jim Drayton, President of the MetroWest Master Association Board of Directors. “That’s an enviable accomplishment, especially for a member-owned community.”

MetroWest is owned by its members and managed by the MetroWest Master Association (MWMA), which has the overall responsibility, and right in maintaining the standards of all common areas located within the community. The beautiful award-winning landscaping and clean environment keep MetroWest at the top of the City of Orlando’s most beautiful places to live.

“I am proud to say that I am a 26-year resident of MetroWest. I have witnessed firsthand the incredible growth of the community and I am thankful that it has continued to thrive and develop into one of Central Florida’s largest and most beautiful places to live, work, play and connect,” said Stina D’Uva, Secretary of the MetroWest Master Association Board and President/CEO of the West Orange Chamber of Commerce.

History of MetroWest

Prior to its development, the area south of Hiwassee Road, a county road, was endless rows of orange groves divided between the city limits of Orlando and Orange County. Between 1980 and

1981, Aaron Dowd, vice-president of Debra, Inc. bought the MetroWest Development acreage for \$22 million in cash from 23 landowners, in behalf of unidentified investors. In 2009, South Florida businessman and developer Carl Shakarian, bought three acres of MetroWest for an undisclosed sum from former developer Kevin Azzouz, who faced financial troubles at the time. In that transaction, he also assumed control of the association and its multimillion-dollar budget. In 2014, the residents of the community voted to buy out Carl Shakarian for \$2 million, thus assuming control of their community.

Work on the MetroWest Golf clubhouse was started in 1986. It was opened and dedicated the following year. The course was first managed by the Arnold Palmer Golf Management. Residential development near the community's 18-hole golf course was started in 1987. By 1989, about 700 single-family homes or villas have been built or planned. Another 1,300 apartment units had been built or were on the drawing boards. Development was also started on the community's most exclusive residential area, *Palma Vista*, a planned 200-lot subdivision that surrounds the 13th and 14th holes of the golf course on the highest land in the community. The crest of the property, at an elevation of 198 feet above sea level, is one of the highest points in Orange County and offers views of downtown Orlando's skyline 5 miles to the east. The community's first shopping center, MetroWest Village at the corner of S. Hiawassee Rd and Westpointe Blvd, was opened in the fall of 1990 completely leased.

About MetroWest

MetroWest, developed in 1986, is one of Orlando's first master-planned communities and features award-winning landscaping and MetroWest Golf Club, as well as all "A" public schools, Valencia College campus and convenient access to both I-4 and 408 from the West side of Orlando. MetroWest offers a community lifestyle with neighborhood businesses and outdoor recreation options. The diverse community is complemented by a range of living options, from single-family homes of all sizes to apartments and condominiums. For more information, please visit www.MetroWestCommunity.com.

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