

MetroWest

2017 COMMUNITY REPORT

Growing and connecting as a community



2017: A YEAR OF STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

In 2017, MetroWest Master Association made significant strides in our ongoing commitment to creating strong community connections and sense of civic pride. And we have so much to be proud of!



We applauded the opening of a brand new school, Westpointe Elementary, which joins our MetroWest family of top-rated schools.



We weathered a storm, literally, and pulled together to recover from Hurricane Irma.



We welcomed numerous new businesses, including retail and restaurant establishments, to enhance our commercial sector, and marked the groundbreaking of Kirkman Station.



We enjoyed successful community events that brought us all closer.

We continued to expand our innovative public safety initiative, with the ongoing goal of enriching our quality of life now and in the future.



We celebrated the diverse and growing community that is MetroWest, while planning for even greater achievements in 2018. We will continue to strengthen the community connections between everyone who lives, works and plays in MetroWest.

LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR TOP RATED SCHOOLS

Without a doubt, education is the key to success. The best way to ensure your children receive quality educations is by enrolling them in quality schools.

MetroWest is continuing its trend of maintaining top-rated neighborhood schools. And, with the addition of our newest school – Westpointe Elementary – the outlook for academic success continues.

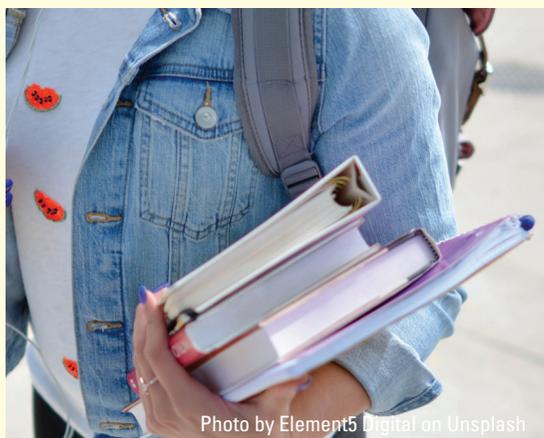
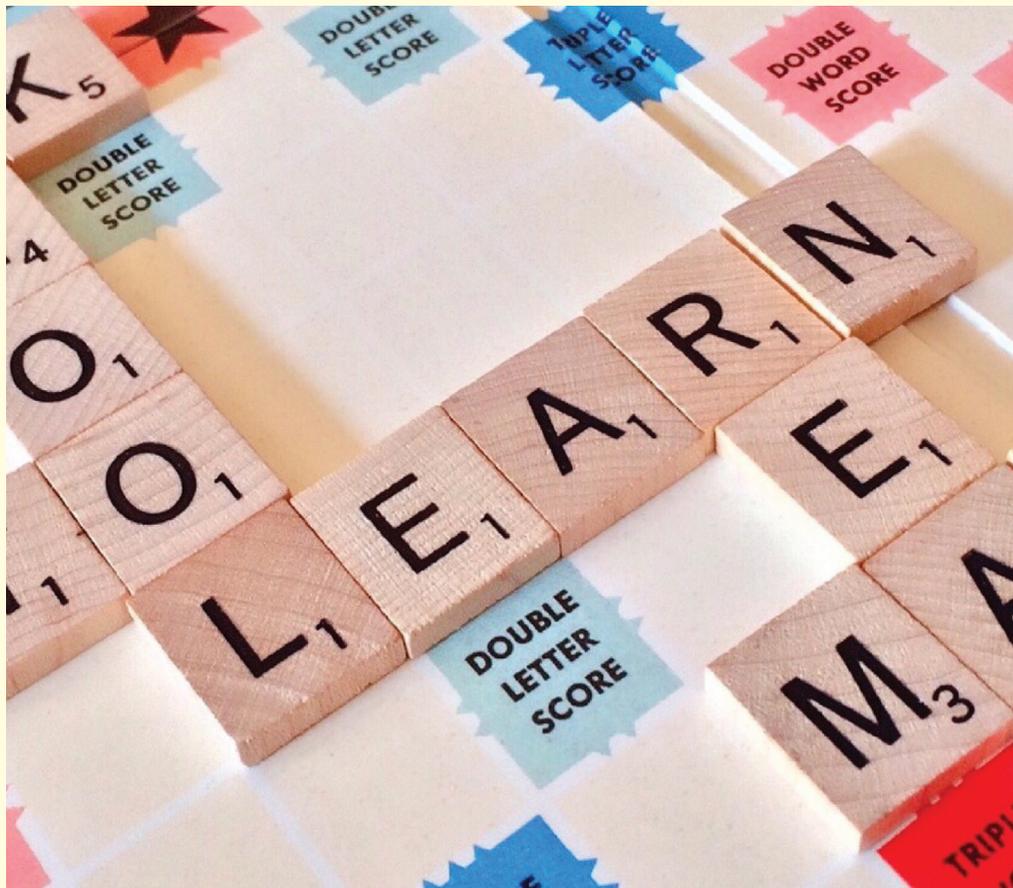


Photo by Element5 Digital on Unsplash

Our top-rated neighborhood schools are:

- MetroWest Elementary School
- Westpointe Elementary School
- Chain of Lakes Middle School
- Gotha Middle School
- Olympia High School

Westpointe Elementary opened August 14, 2017, sharing a campus with its sister school, MetroWest Elementary. Education officials said they considered a number of locations for Westpointe but decided the existing MetroWest campus was the best option because it offered easy walkability and access for the students who would attend. Join us in welcoming the Westpointe Dolphins to the neighborhood! And congratulations to all the students, teachers and employees working together to maintain our scholastic reputation! *Keep up the good work!*



METROWEST MEANS BUSINESS

2017 was a banner year for business in MetroWest with existing businesses enjoying strong patronage and numerous new businesses opening.

In October, Izziban Sushi and BBQ opened its fourth Central Florida location in MetroWest. Izziban offers a unique buffet featuring includes Korean-style meats and unlimited sushi. Diners agree that Izziban has been a great addition to the MetroWest restaurant scene.



Tennis anyone? To the delight of local tennis players, the courts have reopened at MetroWest Golf Club. MetroWest Tennis features four Har-Tru (clay) tennis courts in a country club setting. Players can enjoy private lessons, junior and adult instruction, social round robins and more. Now under the management of Bob Myerson, a USPTA pro with 40 years of experience, MetroWest Tennis is up and swinging.

The MetroWest Golf Club, which has been voted one of the best golf courses in Orlando, came under new management in 2017, an exciting development for local golfers. Hampton Golf is a premier golf course management company, known for their wealth of experience in all aspects of the hospitality industry.

2017 also saw the groundbreaking for the Kirkman Station development at the intersection of Raleigh Street and South Kirkman Road. Kirkman Station will bring a highly-anticipated Wawa convenience store and 24 Hour Fitness, a California-based fitness center open 24/7. Developers acknowledge the location is ideal for attracting students from Valencia College, which backs up to Kirkman Station.

From great restaurants and coffee shops to corporate headquarters, MetroWest boasts a diverse and robust business community and that has never been more evident than in 2017.



Photo by Toni Cuenca from Pexels



PUBLIC SAFETY PARTNERSHIP ENHANCES OUR COMMUNITY

In 2017, MetroWest marked the fourth year of our community partnership with Critical Intervention Services (CIS), a Florida-based company that specializes in enhancing public safety. CIS Public Safety and bike officers serve as community liaisons, building relationships with community members, businesses, the Orlando Police Department (OPD), and other law enforcement officials and entities.



Over the past year, CIS officers were involved in more than 16,000 community contacts within MetroWest, a clear sign that the program is unifying residents and businesses to promote the highest standards of public safety.

Also in 2017, MWMA and CIS continued to facilitate the process by which MetroWest communities can implement the principles of Crime Prevention through Environmental Design (CPTED) in order to achieve Crime Free Certification from OPD. We also worked with OUC and our individual community managers on the “Light Up MetroWest” initiative which helps make lighting more pedestrian friendly. In addition, MetroWest developed community leasing standards that will also enhance the public safety initiative.

We envision continued success in 2018 and appreciate the efforts of all our neighbors who strive to ensure the safety of MetroWest residents, businesses and visitors.





ANNUAL EVENTS BRING US TOGETHER

Fun annual events have become a tradition in MetroWest and in 2017, our community events grew in appeal and attracted thousands of attendees.



In May, the 5th Annual MetroWest MusicFest drew more than 2,000 attendees who enjoyed a beautiful afternoon at MetroWest Golf Club filled with live music from talented local bands and school groups. Previously known as JazzFest, the event was renamed MusicFest to reflect the variety of musical genres represented. Featured entertainers included a capella sensation Pop Fusion, bluegrass/pop group Mighty Swell, and I-4 Band, a high-energy dance/top 40 band.



Then in December, more than 2,500 attendees joined us to kick-off the holidays at the 6th Annual WinterFest. The free, family event featured fun for all ages and included the holiday movie "Shrek the Halls" shown on a big



screen on the MetroWest Golf green, an ice skating rink, photos with Santa and Mrs. Claus, and performances by local artists.

event, which helps increase Neighborhood Watch participation and make our neighborhoods safer. The MetroWest Realtor Tour serves to update local realtors on everything our community has to offer to residents and businesses. More than 50 realtors participated in the 2017 tour, all of whom left with a greater appreciation of MetroWest's many community assets.

Other successful MetroWest events in 2017 included National Night Out and the annual Realtor Tour. More than 1,500 attendees enjoyed the annual National Night Out



STAY CONNECTED!

MetroWest is a vibrant community with many events and activities taking place throughout the year. To be sure that you don't miss out on any of the fun, like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MetroWestMasterAssociation). Also, our website, www.metrowestcommunity.com, provides a wide range of timely news and updates about MetroWest, including events, businesses, community stories and more. Residents can also stay current on local events through our award-winning quarterly *MetroWest CONNECT* magazine, produced in partnership with the West Orange Observer.





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