



WELCOME TO THE FIRST ISSUE

of the quarterly *MetroWest Connect* community newsletter!

Connect is designed to keep MetroWest community stakeholders informed about news of interest in our neighborhood. In this issue, you'll find stories about upcoming events, new retail openings, MetroWest Public Safety, and much more.

About MetroWest and the MetroWest Master Association

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. MWMA's mission is to maintain a harmonious sense of community for the diverse cultural neighborhood of families, professionals, students and businesses. MetroWest strives to be the premiere community of Orlando through quality schooling, thriving businesses, visual aesthetics, and community building activities.

MetroWest is a 1,805-acre master-planned community, 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 community include a range of single-family homes



with several apartment, townhome and condominium complexes spread over the gently rolling landscape. The community has swelled to over 10,000 residential units, 1.4 million square feet of office space and 762,444 square feet of retail and restaurant space.

Meet the MWMA Board of Directors



Jim Drayton
President
Palma Vista

Jim Drayton's 45-year professional background in banking, finance and real estate, coupled with his current role as the owner of mortgage company Orlando Home Loans, have helped

manage the MetroWest Master Association wisely and well.

A resident of MetroWest since 2002, Jim served as a MWMA Board Member from 2010–2011, President from 2013–2020, and most recently served as Vice President. Jim combines his financial acumen with his passion for the community to ensure that MetroWest continues to thrive.



Stina D'Uva
Vice President
Fairway Cove

Agostina "Stina" D'Uva has been an integral leader in the Orlando community for decades. Under her direction as the President/CEO, The

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West Orange Chamber of Commerce has grown into the driving force of business that it is today. Stina also has served as a Planning & Zoning Commissioner and on the Orange County Charter Review Commission. Stina was recognized as Orange County District 1 Citizen of the Year in 2007, and was awarded the 2013 Central Florida Women's League Heart of Florida Woman Award. In 2014, she was elected to and continues to serve on the MWMA Board of Directors.

As a parent, Stina was the President of the MetroWest Elementary School PTA, Gotha Middle School PTSA President and SAC Chair, and a founding member and President of the Olympia High School PTSA. She also earned ADDitions Volunteer of the Year while at MetroWest Elementary and served on the Health Central Foundation board as its Chairwoman.



Lynn Walker Wright
Treasurer
MetroWest

Active in the community, Lynn Walker Wright is currently serving as a Supporting Trustee and Director of the West Orange Chamber of Commerce, Director of Cornerstone

Hospice Foundation, and Director of Family Matters of Central Florida. She founded Lynn Walker Wright, P.A. 25 years ago and has offices in MetroWest and Winter Garden. She has consistently been named "Best Lawyer" by U.S. News and World Report, and has held "AV" Preeminent Rating in Martindale Hubbell for 20 consecutive years.

Lynn's grandfather was a founding father of Winter Garden. She and her partner, Paige, are longtime residents of MetroWest. With strong roots in Orange County, Lynn's proudest accomplishments include bringing the West Orange Trail to Winter Garden and construction of the new West Orange Cornerstone Hospice Facility at the Orlando Health/Health Central Campus.



Monica Luiza F. El Rassy
Board Member
Stonebridge Lakes

Before moving to MetroWest in 2000, Monica worked as a journalist and events planner in Brazil, developing a deep understanding of public relations and communications strategies. She has served as President of the Stonebridge Lakes Homeowner's Association since 2017 and as a Board Member of the Promenades Property Owners'

Association since 2019. Monica currently serves as the President of the Rotary Club of Brazil Orlando, a chapter of Rotary International that is focused on connecting with members of Orlando's vast Brazilian community. In many of these roles, she has leveraged her ability to speak English, Portuguese and Italian to assist in the execution of various projects and events.



Kim Robert Kreiger
Board Member
MetroWest

As a Senior Executive in the hospitality field, Kim possesses more than 35 years of experience. Since 2014, he has been a Principal in The Kreiger Group, a consulting firm specializing in the hospitality industry. Previously, he served in several senior positions during 22 years with Hilton Grand Vacations, including as a member of the original team that created the company in 1992. Kim is an IREM Certified Property Manager and an ARDA Registered Resort Professional. He received his bachelor's degree and master's degree from Bowling Green State University. Currently, Kim serves as President of MetroWest Unit Five Homeowners Association.

MetroWest Public Safety Corner

Catalytic converter thefts are on the rise nationally and in Orlando. What is a catalytic converter? A catalytic converter is part of your vehicle's exhaust system that's located underneath your vehicle. It acts as a catalyst for converting pollutant gases into less harmful ones.

Why are they so valuable? Catalytic converters contain precious metals such as platinum, palladium and rhodium. Platinum is trading at \$970 per ounce, palladium is \$1,330 an ounce and rhodium is \$10,000 per ounce. That means these thieves are making a killing off of each catalytic converter they steal.

How can you protect yourself? The experts recommend parking your vehicle in a garage if possible; if you don't have a garage then park in a well-lit area. There are also anti-theft devices you can buy ranging from \$30-\$90. Make sure you report suspicious activity and keep an eye out for anyone lingering near vehicles at night.

CRIME PREVENTION FACTS

- 1 The majority of vehicle burglaries occur to unlocked vehicles
- 2 Always remove your valuable items from your vehicle
- 3 Always lock your car
- 4 Always report suspicious activity



MetroWest Master Association Presents

MetroWest MusicWORKS Independence Day Celebration July 2

Free Event Will Feature Fireworks and 'Red White & Blues' Tribute to American Blues

The MetroWest community will welcome the third annual MusicWORKS Independence Day event Sunday, July 2 from 4 to 10 p.m.

Staged by the MetroWest Master Association, MusicWORKS is a free community celebration featuring live



music, fireworks, food trucks, rides, vendors, and adult beverages for sale. No ticket of any kind is required.



MusicWORKS 2023 will kick off with Team Fastrax, the largest professional skydiving team in the world, diving into the event with a 2,000-square-foot American flag.



Live entertainment at MusicWORKS will include "Red White & Blues – a Tribute to American Blues" featuring accomplished musicians Will Donato, Matt Marshak, Jeff Kashiwa, JJ Sansaverino, Khristian Dently and Charlyce Simmons.



Starting at 9:30 p.m., the 20-minute fireworks show at the end of MusicWORKS will be staged by Pyro Shows, a 50-year-old pyrotechnic company headquartered in Tennessee.



Performers from top to bottom Will Donato, Matt Marshak, Jeff Kashiwa, JJ Sansaverino, Khristian Dently and Charlyce Simmons.

Attendees should bring chairs or blankets. Personal fireworks, coolers and pets are strictly prohibited. No public entry will be allowed before 4 p.m. MusicWORKS is a rain or shine event, except in the case of extreme weather.

Sunday, July 2, 4-10 p.m.
MetroWest Golf Club
Be sure to bring chairs or blankets
Please, no personal fireworks, coolers or pets

Offsite parking only will be available off Metrocenter Boulevard in MetroWest. Shuttle service to and from MetroWest Golf Club will be provided.

For more information about MusicWORKS and Sponsorship Opportunities scan the code below or contact the MetroWest Management Office at 407-601-5995.



MetroWest Salutes Elementary School Teachers of the Year

MetroWest Elementary School and Westpointe Elementary School are integral parts of the MetroWest community. Every year, the MetroWest Master Association supports the schools with a combined donation of \$10,000. Now it is time to recognize the Teachers of the Year at each school.

According to Xhuljeta Gjini, Ph.D., MetroWest Elementary Principal:

MetroWest Elementary's nominee for Orange County Public School's Teacher of the Year is Nancy Sell. Ms. Sell's leadership impact at MetroWest Elementary through her walk and talk is not only about the welfare of every student who comes through her classroom door but also for all the students throughout the school campus.

Ms. Sell provides unconditional emotional support to coworkers during school hours and beyond. Her gift of creating a cheerful environment either through her decoration skills or organizing events to bring the school community together is done with love and humbleness. A smile and warm approach that makes anyone feel safe is an authentic experience for anyone who meets Ms. Sell. She also uses her instructional expertise and support to mentor new instructional staff at MetroWest Elementary.

Being an educator cannot make an impact on a child's journey unless it is treated as a calling, not a job. Educators like Nancy Sell who have answered a calling inspire hope as she reminds us to continue to keep our focus on our students for who we are called to make a difference in their lives!

Dr. Atresa F. Grubbs-Holmes, Westpointe Elementary School Principal, says:

Ms. Shayla King was nominated as Orange County Public School's Teacher of the Year for Westpointe Elementary School. Ms. King has the unique ability to build rapport with her students and make learning fun. Ms. King left a finance career to become an educator, a position she takes on with passion, and is in her seventh year of teaching in the same community where she completed her internship.

Westpointe opened the 2017-2018 school year, and she has been a part of our family since the establishment of our school. Ms. King is a third-grade teacher and has also been the team leader. In 2019, she was recognized as a HERO teacher at Westpointe. Ms. King creates a warm, creative, and engaging environment for her students, using a variety of mediums within her lessons, and accommodating students of varying abilities. This connection helps her easily teach her students even the most advanced concepts. She incorporates real-life themes, transforming her classroom into relatable events.

Ms. King is innovative, flexible, and creative, not only with students but with her peers as well. She opens her classroom practice for peer observations, works collaboratively with her team, tutors students across the grade level, and offers support where needed. Ms. King establishes a positive relationship with her parents and students alike, and parents commend her for the support she provides her students.

Congratulations to Ms. Sell and Ms. King!

Calendar

June

No MetroWest Food Truck Connection

July 2

MusicWORKS, 4-10 p.m.

August 24

MetroWest Food Truck Connection, 5:30-8 p.m.

Connect with us!

Like us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/MetroWestMasterAssociation) to ensure that you don't miss any MetroWest community news. Also, scan the QR code for our website. It provides a wide range of timely news and updates about MetroWest, including events, business, community stories and more.





Bravo Supermarket Celebrates Grand Opening



MetroWest continues to be a desirable destination for new businesses. Over the past year, many new businesses chose MetroWest as their ideal location:



MD NOW Urgent Care, Sanitas Medical Center, San Julian's Coffee, Artisanal Burgers, Hiawassee Wine & Liquor, Brooks Rehabilitation, Sandra's Health Bar, and OYSTER Dental Clinic.

Most recently, the new 21,480-square-foot Bravo Supermarket celebrated its grand opening. Bravo Supermarkets have more than 70 locations that span from New York to Florida and pride themselves on being neighborhood grocery stores that families can depend on. Because all Bravo stores are independently owned and operated, they have the ability to truly cater to the needs of their communities, which

Bravo Supermarkets have more than 70 locations that span from New York to Florida and pride themselves on being neighborhood grocery stores

is why no two Bravo Supermarkets are exactly alike. Bravo shoppers will find products that are meant for the people who live in the neighborhood, including a large assortment of specialty and international products, fresh meat, seafood, produce and more. Sales and occupancy statistics for both residential and commercial properties indicate very little available inventory in our community, a testament to the prestige of living and working in MetroWest.



MetroWest Public Safety News

Please extend a warm MetroWest welcome to Amber Belanger, our new MetroWest Public Safety Manager!



Amber began her career in 2011 at the South Daytona Police Department working patrol for four years. Her responsibilities

included enforcing traffic laws, responding to calls for service, working undercover during large events such as Bike Week and Race Week, and participating in community events.

In April 2015, Amber joined the Seminole County Sheriff's Office and received her first award for working with troubled juveniles after only six months. After two years of working patrol, Amber received a lateral movement into the Public Affairs Division where she specialized in crime prevention, community events and public engagement. Amber's team

received the Crime Prevention Unit of the Year award from the state of Florida, as well as several other awards for her work with the community.

In 2019, Amber was promoted to the rank of Sergeant, returning to patrol to begin a new path in leadership and spending three years supervising a shift of 10 deputies. She attended several supervisory and leadership courses including Cultivating Leaders in Law Enforcement, Incident Command, National Staff and Command College, and Leadership Philosophies for Leadership and Planning.

In fall 2022, Amber decided to pursue what she is most passionate about: crime prevention and community engagement. She resigned from the Seminole County Sheriff's Office and found her way to MetroWest Public Safety where she has hit the ground running and is ecstatic to be a part of the amazing partnership between Critical Intervention Services and the MetroWest community.

Leave Fireworks to the Professionals

Following are some fireworks that are legal for consumers to purchase and use in some states. But just because they are legal doesn't mean they're safe.

- **Sparklers** – Sparklers can quickly ignite clothing, and many children have received severe burns from dropping sparklers on their feet.
- **Bottle Rockets** – Bottle rockets can cause chest, head and eye injuries.
- **Firecrackers** – They can cause burns and other serious injuries.
- **Roman Candles** – There have been numerous reports of children losing fingers, severe burns and other injuries, which are sometimes caused when the device gets jammed.
- **M-class Fireworks** – They are produced illegally and without quality control, have short fuses and cause hundreds of extremely severe injuries each year.

MetroWest

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