

MAY 2025

MEADOW WOOD FARMS NEWSLETTER

www.mwfpoa.com



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF MWFPOA , 73 LAKE VIEW DRIVE EAST, OCALA 34482

President's Message

A Mother's Echo

I never set out to write my life story, but as I sit here on the computer in my office, thinking about this upcoming Mother's Day, I feel the pull to reflect. At 59, with my children now scattered across Florida, I realize that being a mother is the thread that has woven through every chapter of my life. It's a dedication that defies simple explanation—a quiet, relentless force that shapes you in ways you never expect.

It began in my early twenties, when I held my firstborn, Chantel, in my arms. She was tiny, fragile, and utterly dependent, her cries piercing the night like a call to arms. I remember the exhaustion, the way my days blurred into sleepless hazes as I juggled a part-time job and household duties. My husband was supportive, but it was I who bore the weight of those first steps, the scraped knees, and the endless questions. I gave up promotions at work, dreams of traveling the world, even quiet evenings with a book, all for the sake of being present. What did it mean? It meant choosing her over myself, every time.

As the years unfolded, two more children followed—Erin and Amanda, twins! Each brought their own storms: Amanda's rebellious teen years, filled with arguments and slammed doors, tested my patience to its limits. I stayed up late, talking her through her anger, reminding her of her worth when the world seemed against her. Erin, my sensitive one, struggled with anxiety in her twenties; I drove hours to be by her side during panic attacks, holding her hand until the storm passed. Through it all, I learned that dedication isn't just about the big sacrifices. It's in the small, unseen acts—the packed lunches with handwritten notes, the late-night laundry folds, the prayers whispered in the dark.

There were joys, too, moments that made the exhaustion worthwhile. Like watching Chantel graduate college, her eyes shining with the same determination I'd instilled in her. Or seeing Erin and Amanda displaying the same work ethics as I have. These triumphs weren't mine alone; they were echoes of the dedication I'd poured into them.

Now, as an empty nester, I often wonder what it all adds up to. Being a mother means a lifelong surrender to love's demands. It's not glory or recognition; it's the quiet art of building others up, even when it chips away at you. I've aged with wrinkles from laughter and tears, but my heart feels fuller, wiser. My children call me their rock, but I know the truth: they are mine. In dedicating myself to them, I've discovered my own strength, my purpose.

At the end of the day, I smile, knowing that this is what it means to be a mother—not just a role, but a legacy, etched into the fabric of life itself. So here's to all of the mothers, who've cried and laughed, lifted others up, but most importantly, have always been there.

Happy Mother's Day

Gena

Upcoming Meetings (subject to change)

Executive Board Meeting
May 6th - 7pm

General Association
May 13th- 7pm

This is an ELECTION Meeting

Meetings will be held at
Friendship Park under the
Pavilion.

Minutes are posted on the
website after all Board and
Association meetings:
www.mwfpoa.com

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Why with so many ways to communicate with each other, does it seem that we do not do it as well. I miss letter writing, it was not that long ago or maybe it was that we sent letters – I hope that is not a lost form of communication, so much history and so many feelings can be found within letters. With some of the newer forms of communication we use now, we use so many different acronyms it is sometimes difficult to follow along because the same acronym can have different meanings depending upon the topic at hand. Acronyms themselves feel like they are their own language or should I say non-language, taking on whatever meaning, we subject to our individual interpretation conjure up. It really is like a non-form of communication in a sense, much like trying to figure out what the carvings on cave walls might be trying to say. Why are we as a society trying so hard not to communicate with each other? I wondered about TV and was that one of the first acronyms, and as an acronym does it have any other meanings...oh yes it does. It is kind of frightening how many different meanings all of the acronyms we currently use have, making it easy to see how we appear to be losing in the communication department as humans. There is certainly a place for them in our world, however I don't know that we should look to replace or shorten the written word at every turn. After writing this, I may just sit down and write a letter to my daughter.

MS (pun intended)

Officers of MWFPOA

President	Gena DeCamella	727-808-8918	president@mwfpoa.com
Vice-President	Mark Cooper	904-370-0253	viciousfish1959@gmail.com
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Treasurer	Karen Reade	352-622-2030	treasurer@mwfpoa.com

Committees

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Welcome	Dale Kennedy	imaussified@embarqmail.com
Refreshments	Chris Banks	chrisbanks272014@gmail.com
	Holly Roberts	hbrlifestyle@gmail.com

Community Matters

Calendar of Activities — May 2025

All events will be held at Friendship Park unless otherwise stated

- ♦ **Executive Board Meeting** - May 6th 7pm
- ♦ **Frenchie's Graduation Party** - May 9th 7pm at Green Gaits Pavilion
- ♦ **Mother's Day** - May 11th
- ♦ **Food Truck** - May 13th
- ♦ **General Association Mtg** - May 13th 7pm
- ♦ **Equine Club Meeting** - May 22nd 7pm
- ♦ **Memorial Day** - May 26th
- ♦ **Trivia** - May 29th 7pm
- ♦ **Line Dancing** - See FB for updates and times

If you are a resident and would like to schedule an event in Friendship Park, please contact and coordinate with our Treasurer, Karen Reade treasurer@mwfpoa.com



IF YOU HAVE NOT YET REGISTERED AS A MEMBER/USER ON OUR WEBSITE YOU ARE MISSING OUT! IT'S EASY, JUST CLICK ON REGISTER NOW AND IF YOU ARE A MEMBER IN GOOD STANDING YOU WILL RECEIVE YOUR PASSWORD.

Meadow Wood Farms Communications

Website: www.mwfpoa.com

Become a Member for full-access

What is available on our website?

- ♦ Event Calendar! Want to know what is going on When?? Go to mwfpoa.com
- ♦ Neighborhood Directory
Names, addresses, and contact information of your neighbors
- ♦ Neighbor to Neighbor
A list of Agents & Contractors that are tried and tested by your neighbors. Eliminate the guess work
- ♦ Newsletter in Full Color
- ♦ Meeting Minutes
- ♦ Advertisers
They support our association, so please support them!
- ♦ Board Member Contact Info
- ♦ Committee Member Contact Info

Neighborhood email blast

Meadowwoodfarms1@aol

Neighborhood Facebook pages

Ask to join our private groups on Facebook:

- ♦ **Meadow Wood Farms**
- ♦ **Meadow Wood Farms Equestrian Club**
- ♦ **Meadow Wood Farms Garden Exchange**

Please reach out to any Board member or Committee person listed on page 2 of this publication if you need any

Do you know of a Meadow Wood Farms neighbor in need? The Meadow Wood Farms Angels is a group of anonymous volunteers who are ready to help with those small, one-time projects that our neighbors cannot do by themselves by reason of age, illness, disability, or lack of funds.

To submit a request for assistance, email: MWFAngels@gmail.com or call Jim Bain (352) 615-2572. The Angels will contact you and obtain additional information in order to evaluate the request.



PAST EVENTS

MEET & GREET APRIL 12TH

The MWFPOA was excited to bring back the annual Meet & Greet at the Park. They sponsored the event by providing Hot Dogs and Hamburgers, and the neighbors stepped up by providing all of the sides. Our illustrious VP Mark Cooper adorned his apron and chef's hat to do the grilling that day. There was music, games, and plenty of food for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who took the time to help by bringing dishes to share, set up, clean up, and most of all, for being such a valuable part of this community.





UPCOMING EVENTS

May 13th - Food Truck

All Friends and Neighbors are invited to come and enjoy the Smoked Biscuit Company food truck that will be at Friendship Park on May 13th. They will be serving from 4 to 7ish and the Meadow Wood Farms association Meeting will follow. Please see the menu below.

MWF with the help of Kim Cooper, is planning to have a variety of food trucks in the Park for the next 6 months!

SANDWICHES	& MORE	SIDES
Brisket Sandwich...14 Slow smoked Brisket sliced and piled high on a brioche bun. Side of BBQ sauce.	Bbq Street Tacos...10 2 street tacos with your choice of meat, then topped with queso, shredded cheese, smoky sour cream, fried onions and bbq sauce.	Hash Brown Casserole...3.50
Pulled Pork Pulled Pork Sandwich...13 Our 13 hour smoked hand pulled pork on a brioche bun served with a side of BBQ sauce.	Bbq Pork Nachos...14 Bed of tortilla chips layered with pork, queso, shredded cheese. Then drizzled with smoky sour cream and bbq sauce.	Gouda Mac & Cheese...3.50
Bbq or Hot Honey Chicken Sandwich...11.50 Smoked Chicken Thigh drizzled with your choice of sauce and served on a brioche bun.	Bbq Plate...15 Choose...brisket, pork or chicken Choose one side... Comes with a biscuit.	Smoked Green Beans...3.50
Grilled Cheese... Plain...5 Brisket...15.50 Pork...15 Grilled on Texas Toast and drizzled with bbq sauce.	Mac or Hash Bowl Gouda mac & cheese or hashbrown casserole topped with your choice of meat and drizzled with bbq sauce.	Fresh Apple Coleslaw...3.50
	BRISKET...13 PORK...12 CHICKEN...11	Drinks Assorted Can Soda...2 Zephyrhills Water...2
		SALES TAX NOT INCLUDED **ALL ITEMS SOLD SEPARATELY**



May 13th - Election /General Association Meeting

Hello MWF neighbors, it's almost that time again. Time for what? Time to make your vote count and your voice heard. There are some big things in the works and it has been a very busy year since the last election. Your current board prides itself on getting things done! But it takes a whole village to keep things going. If you have ever considered taking a committee position, or a board position now is the time. I can honestly tell you that it does not take as much time, as it does passion and a desire to be involved and a part of this community.

Officially all positions are available on the board. Nominees can be taken from the floor at the General Association Election Meeting on May 13th. Or you can notify anyone on the board via email or phone listed on page 2 of this newsletter to inform us of your interest. Currently, we have the Activities position. This is a fun position! Please consider donating your time and talents.

TRIVIA NIGHT- May 29th 7pm

Trivia Nights at Meadow Wood Farms featuring Frenchie, has returned!! We plan to host this event monthly. So dust off your thinking caps, pack your cooler and snacks and meet us at the Park. If you have a team, great! If you don't, even better!! It's a fun way to meet people or just meet up together.



P.S. Frenchie is celebrating her graduation at Green Gaits Pavilion on Friday, May 9th at 7pm. Let's get together and show our support and enjoy this venue before they shut down for the summer.

NEIGHBOR SUBMISSION - A STORY OF TRUE LOVE

April 25th.....

What's in a day?

Well.... Today is the anniversary of the first of hundreds, no thousands, of the greatest days in my life....

Why am I smiling a wistful smile? Because I can.

You see, 55 years ago I was smitten. I was in the front yard of my parent's house. Washing that old rusty red Studebaker Hawk my dad had bought new. I rode home from the dealer in that car. My dad had just given it to me to learn to work on cars. So, out in the front yard I was, washing all the crud and road salt off of it. Dreaming of how cool I was going to be someday driving that red Studebaker around and impressing my friends. Then it happened. I looked out onto Cherry Street and there she was. Just a walking down the street. I knew the words that came next but could only mumble to myself... Wow, she is gorgeous! I remember what she was wearing to this day. She had on these thick platform shoes that were popular in the day. She had this pantsuit thing on. It was deep cobalt blue with wide bell bottoms with thick cuffs. The top of the pantsuit looked like bib overalls what with the shoulder straps. Bright copper buttons. She had on a frilly blouse with sort of poofy sleeves and the fabric was silky white with a stitched pattern sewn into it. She had long thick hair flowing all the way down her back past her butt. She had this head-band that looked like woven daisies in it. She was...perfect.

As I stood and gawked, she floated by. I was frozen in place. Right then and there I knew I had to know more about her. Today you would say I had decided to stalk her. I was smitten. Off to high school I went. Didn't think much after that until I saw her in the hall.

Same reaction. Still, I was frozen. Anyways, there were a few close calls and then I was introduced to her through a friend. It took a while but I finally worked up the courage to ask her to go to a movie with me. And.... She said yes! I had to ask my older sister to drive us to the movie theater because I was only fifteen years old and didn't have a drivers license. But on a date we were going. I made my sister sit three rows in front of us. Didn't want her to see us making out. The movie? James Bond, 007. "On Her Majesty's Secret Service". Other people hated it because it twas the first James Bond movie without Sean Connery. I loved it because she was with me.

That was April 25th.... Fifty five years ago. She's been with me ever since.

Carrie is still my girl!

Jeff Rice
8 Saddle Drive





The Magic of Music

If you follow the MWF group on Facebook or are part of the MWF email string on AOL, you are probably aware that I am a big fan of music and its almost magical effects. Permit me to share a bit of background.

I want to take you back to 1965. I was 12 years old. The Beatles were the rage and “garage bands” were starting in every neighborhood. I started to learn to play the guitar. My twin brother played the drums. My older brother could knock it out on the piano. Add a bass player and a lead guitar and we had a band. We were just 13 and 14 year old kids. Our older brother was just starting to drive and date so he bailed on the band very quickly. We weren’t good but were good enough. We won a few “Battle of the Bands” contests and played many of the fraternity parties at Purdue University. We played gigs at all the local high schools and made enough money to pay for lessons, instruments, and amplifiers. We were living the dream as Junior High kids! Music was our ticket to being popular and famous, albeit in a very small circle. It was magical.

Fast forward to the days of college, the early 1970’s. Bands like CSNY, Chicago, Styx, the Stones, Traffic, America, and Loggins and Messina were all over the radio and our stereo systems. James Taylor, Roberta Flack, and Carly Simon were cranking out hits. We were indulging in a few unhealthy things and loving life. The music was always in the background if not right out in front on the stage.

Following college were the “adulthood” years. Get a job. Get married. Have kids. But the music was still there. Personally, I didn’t pick up my guitar regularly but always had it handy. I would get it out of the closet for the holidays, brush up on some Christmas Carols, and teach my kids the words. We’d sit around the Christmas tree and sing those songs. Can you imagine anything more magical than that?

Fast forward again to Florida and retirement. Once again, I have dusted off the old guitar and started to play, this time with a zeal I’ve never really had before. I’m having a ball. I’m playing a few of my favorite songs from the early years. I’m playing some songs from my college years. And I’m learning some newer stuff that I’ve heard on the radio and like. The bottom line is that I’m still not very good, but I’m good enough. I’m good enough for me. I love playing. I love singing. I love sharing the music. And why wouldn’t I? It’s magical.

I’ll see you around the neighborhood. – Jim

P.S. Keep an eye out for information about a little open mic event I’ve put together for Sunday, May 18 at 4:00 at Friendship Park. Hopefully, you too will enjoy the magic of music.



ACROSS

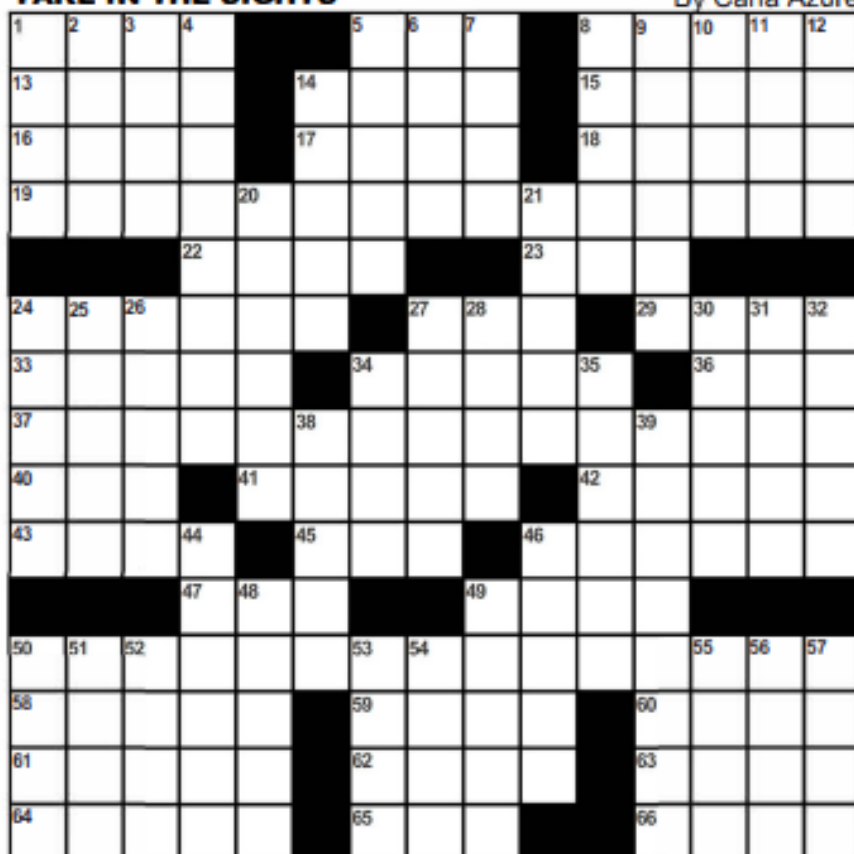
- 1) Cereal grains
- 5) Grazing ground
- 8) Noticeably shocked
- 13) Mingle-mangle
- 14) Improvise musically
- 15) Something to work for
- 16) Duck's home
- 17) Mayberry drunkard
- 18) Man with a mission?
- 19) Not be taken in
- 22) Green gem
- 23) Hawaiian gift
- 24) Chinese government offices
- 27) Monopoly token
- 29) Birds that sound deserving?
- 33) Prefix with "mentioned"
- 34) Bettered, as skills
- 36) Awed answer
- 37) Is hardly angelic
- 40) Noise of disapproval
- 41) Make fun of
- 42) Gov't interest bearer
- 43) ___-ran
- 45) Feeling of anger
- 46) Move unsteadily
- 47) Dust remover
- 49) Adventurous
- 50) Have a different opinion of
- 58) Keyboard key
- 59) 1996 presidential candidate
- 60) Small combo
- 61) Past its prime
- 62) Costly
- 63) Not yet a marquis
- 64) Trucker's expenses
- 65) Done with a wink
- 66) Not the original color

DOWN

- 1) "My bad"
- 2) Soothing succulent
- 3) Fork feature
- 4) Fountain worker of old
- 5) Cafe concoction
- 6) Arabian chieftain
- 7) It abuts the bema
- 8) Copious
- 9) Water polo position
- 10) Sheriff Taylor of Mayberry
- 11) "Scope" prefix
- 12) Storm centers
- 14) Annuls
- 20) Most together mentally
- 21) Make changes to
- 24) Big Three conference site
- 25) Run ___ of the law (commit crimes)
- 26) Makes irrelevant, as a debating point
- 27) It may be taken for a ride
- 28) Poker starter
- 30) Mechanical being
- 31) Nick of Hollywood
- 32) Complete and utter
- 34) Wintry frost
- 35) "This I gotta hear!"
- 38) Pretend to have, as an illness
- 39) Like a first draft
- 44) "1984" author George
- 46) Babel had one
- 48) Buenos ___
- 49) Secure, as a sailor's rope
- 50) Optional part of a suit
- 51) "What's gotten ___ you?"
- 52) And others, for short
- 53) Does simple arithmetic
- 54) Holiday song
- 55) Not black or white
- 56) Engage for work
- 57) Gave an account

TAKE IN THE SIGHTS

By Carla Azure



Dues Matter! Time to Renew

These are just some of the many things your dues help to pay for:

Maintaining the landscaping at our two front entrances

Decorating the front entrances for holidays

Electric lights and power at the entrances and the park

Maintaining Friendship Park including the pavilion and the playground

Liability insurance for the common areas, the Association, and the Board

A comprehensive neighborhood directory

Social gatherings and events at Friendship Park

Port-a-john at Friendship Park for both community and private events

Multiple community activities

Welcome packets for new residents

“Care” cards for our neighbors who May be injured or ill

Our outstanding monthly Newsletter

MWF Website

And much more...

The truth is that your mere \$95 per year provides a relatively small budget to make Meadow Wood Farms the wonderfully special place it is to live. Please join us in making this the community of choice in Marion County!



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Neighborhood Sunshine

If you are aware of someone who could benefit from receiving a card, please notify Jennie Adams at 352-854-1914

**Support your local merchants.
They're supporting us.**



Membership Information

If you aren't a member, we would love for you to join us. The MWFPOA provides all kinds of services for your neighborhood (including this newsletter). Please use the form below to accompany your check.

Need to find out if you've paid? Contact Karen Reade at 352-622-2030 or email her at treasurer@mwfpoa.com.

Your MWFPOA thanks you!

Please Join - Renew your Membership

MEADOW WOOD FARMS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

(Annual Dues Effective June 1, 2025, effective through May 30, 2026)

Please send your check for \$95.00 with this form to:

Meadow Wood Farms Property Assoc., Inc., 73 Lake View Drive E., Ocala FL 34482

Please *print* to provide the information below :

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

_____ **YES** _____ **NO** Put my/our information in the on-line directory.

_____ **YES** _____ **NO** Deliver my/our newsletter to my/our address.

_____ **YES** _____ **NO** I have a newsletter tube.

_____ **YES** _____ **NO** I WANT a newsletter tube installed free of charge.

(The newsletter is also available on the website in full color. Just go to www.mwfpoa.com)

mwfpoa.com

Photos always look
better in our online
edition..

MEADOW WOOD FARMS
PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOC.
73 LAKE VIEW DRIVE EAST
OCALA, FL 34482



****REMINDER****

**PLEASE RESPECT OUR SPEED LIMIT FOR THE
SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS AND ANIMALS OF
ALL SIZES**