## MEADOW WOOD FARMS NEWSLETTER



A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF M.W.F.P.O.A., P.O. BOX 77-1896—OCALA, FL 34477

# Happy Holidays & A Healthy New Year!



Our new and improved entrances will take less care and be more manageable for the future. Thank you to all who helped.

#### **Upcoming Events**

Next Board Meeting— -January 9, 2014 Thursday—7:00 PM

Next Assoc. Meeting\_ January 16, 2013 Thursday—- 7:00 PM

Agenda: TBA



## Santa and Elf on Christmas Day

After making his deliveries the night before, Santa took time for a relaxing ride through Meadow Wood Farms.



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# President's Message: WHY I LOVE FLORIDA IN THE WINTER



Elizabeth Waller—
President MWFPOA

It's sunny. It's warm but not humid, the nights are a bit crisp and the days are perfection. The light has an exquisite golden quality that filters through the Spanish moss like gentle fire, illuminating the silhouettes of our magnificent oak trees in a way that makes every one of us

want to fetch our cameras and capture it for posterity. The camellias and azaleas astonish us with their enthusiasm at this unlikely time of year.

Floridians become even friendlier (can that be even possible?) as the holidays approach, taking time to wish you a Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, or Happy New Year in a way that makes you think they actually MEAN it. The normally slow pace of life slows down to the speed of molasses as evervone makes the time to connect on a human level. All right, so the motorists on SR200 near the mall aren't all that friendly and laid back, but nobody's perfect!

Our cats and dogs suddenly become more affectionate as they feel the need to cuddle with us in our warm beds or our cozy laps, after studiously staying aloof in the warmer months. They don't fool me, but it's nice all the same.

We hear from dear ones in frigid Northern locations and can gleefully regale them with tales of our trail rides, bicycle expeditions and trips to the beach. They try not to hold it against us... and they begin to make plans to come visit in February.

The hot tub beckons, the fireplace or woodstove provides just the right amount of warmth, and for once, cider makes more sense if it is served hot and spiced instead of icy cold. We fill our calendars with upcoming gatherings and dream of keeping all of our misguided but sincere resolutions for the New Year.

I hope all of you have/had a warm and wonderful holiday and that your hopes for the New Year are as high as mine. I am grateful every day for your friendship, for our community, and for the Winter Paradise known as... FLORIDA.

Take care.

Elizabeth Waller President, MWFPOA

#### Officers of MWFPOA

President Elizabeth Waller 304-8871

Elizabeth@SlowTurningFarm.com

Vice-President Dave Kane 352-509-7754

dck945@yahoo.com

Secretary Connie Story 369-0809

constancestory@msn.com

Treasurer Dick Woodrome 861-2364

rdw218w@aol.com

MINUTES ARE POSTED ON THE WEBSITE AFTER THE BOARD MEETINGS AND THE GENERAL MEM-BERSHIP MEETINGS

www.meadowwoodfarmsocala.com

#### **Standing Committees**

Beautification Chair: Vacant
Control Chair: Vacant

Glen Garnas 304-8417, Elizabeth Waller 304-8871

DirectoryChair: Donna Levin262-497-1618MembershipChair: Dick Woodrome861-2364NewsletterChair: Jodie Gebhard390-3739

email: jgebhard@sbcglobal.net

Parties Chair: Connie Story & 369-0809

Sandy Mollberg 861-9622

Toni Kimball 861-4934

Recycling Chair: Emily Woolf 237-0994

Refreshments Chair: BK Sawyer 861-8883

Sunshine Chair: Sandy Mollberg 861-9622
Welcome Chair: Della Brock 873-2726

#### **Directory Information**

#### New 2013/14 Directories are printed.

They will be available at the meetings or please contact Dick Woodrome at rdw218w@aol.com or call him at 861-2364 to find out how to get yours.

New directories are free for members. Non members may purchase the directory for \$5.00. Members who would like to have an extra copy may purchase one for \$2.00.

#### Membership & Newsletter

The current **membership** year runs from June to the end of May the next year. Please renew your membership ASAP. Your membership supports the monthly Newsletter along with a multitude of events and improvements to our community. We need all of you to participate in keeping Meadow Wood Farms the wonderful place to live that we enjoy. Finally, don't forget that as a member you have a voice and a vote and are encouraged to participate in all aspects of the Association.

Need to check if you've paid? Contact Dick Woodrome at 861 -2364 or email him at rdw218w@aol.com. You can have the good feeling that comes from being an involved and contributing member of your community.

The NEWSLETTER will be delivered to everyone in MWF who requested it. Mailing tubes have been attached to your mailbox stand in order to make these deliveries legal in the eyes of the USPS. If you're not getting one and/or need a tube, contact Dick Woodrome at 861-2364 or email him at rdw218w@aol.com

Remember it is ALWAYS available (in vibrant color) online at www.meadowwoodfarmsocala.com. Click Newsletter and the Month you're interested in. The photos look better there too. While you're there, be sure to wander around our new and improved website.

#### **Sunshine Report**

If you are aware of someone who could benefit from receiving a card, whether due to illness or other reason, please notify: Sandy Mollberg at: <a href="lenelew@aol.com">lenelew@aol.com</a> phone at 861-9622.

Condolences to friends and family of Lorraine Stachura on her passing. .

A volunteer group of your neighbors delivers your MWFPOA newsletter every month. This saves the association considerable mailing expense and ensures that you get your newsletter in a timely manner.

# THANK YOU NEWSLETTER DELIVERY PEOPLE!

The newsletter is ALSO always available in living color on the website.



Thank you to our generous members who contribute delicious goodies to our meetings making them more festive and social.

#### **Recycle Your Aluminum Cans**

To Benefit MWFPOA Treasury

MWFPOA is partnering with the Girl Scouts, who will get 25% of the profits for their efforts. Our local scout, Emily Woolf will be heading up the project.

The recycle point for your aluminum cans is at the front entrance to the Friendship Park on Lake View Drive East. Barrels are provided for that purpose.

Cans that are rinsed, tab tops removed and crushed are our favorites.

Tab tops may go to any charity you know or bring them to meetings to go to Shands Juvenile Kidney foundation.

ALUMINUM CANS ONLY PLEASE!

## County Letter re: Drainage in MWF



Marion County Board of County Commissioners

Office of the County Engineer

412 SE 25th Ave. Ocala, Fl. 34471 Phone: 352-671-8686 Fax: 352-671-8687

November 14, 2013

CWP-13-0136

Re: Driveway Culverts within Meadow Wood Farms.

#### Dear Residents:

A key factor in the life of a road is the drainage system. Water is the biggest enemy for road pavement so it stands to reason that maintaining a good drainage system is important. Water can weaken a road bed resulting in alligator cracking, potholes, shoulder erosion, etc. In addition, stormwater often carries a sediment load, which serves to clog culverts and swales. When this occurs, standing water can further weaken the road subbase. Aside from the County's network of culverts, drainage inlets, and swales, driveway culverts are also used to convey stormwater under the driveway. What many homeowners do not realize is that driveways and driveway culverts are their responsibility to keep free and clear of sediment. Clogged culverts will not allow stormwater to flow. This can result in multiple issues including a common outcome such as sediment filling in the swale thus reducing swale storage and causing water to flow to undesired locations.

The Marion County Office of the County Engineer (OCE) is planning to do maintenance work in several areas throughout your subdivision. The work will consist of cleaning out County-maintained culverts and regrading swales that have filled in with sediment over the years. The work is proposed to take place within the next month. However, before it can begin, there are several driveway culverts that need to be cleaned out.

County Road Operations crews will try to contact you before work commences, during which they will excavate sediment at the end of the culverts. Once you notice the ends have been exposed, we are asking you to clean the driveway culvert. You may leave the removed sediment in the swale for the County crews to remove. Once the driveway culverts are cleaned out, County crews will perform the remaining portion of their work in reestablishing the stormwater flow.

If you have questions, please contact me or Gail Mowry, PE, Clean Water Engineer at (352) 871-8688 to discuss the above information.

Sincerely,

Todd Crosby, P.E. Project Manager III

cc: Contiguous Property Owners Gail Mowry, PE

"Meeting Needs by Exceeding Expectations"

www.marioncountyfl.org

# SHARE THE ROAD SAFELY- Speeding Issue



Recently, there have been numerous complaints among the neighbors of continued speeding on our roads. Dave Kane, our liaison with the Deputies, has put out considerable effort over the last few months to make our residents more aware of how critical it is for the safety and welfare of the persons and animals in Meadow Wood Farms to maintain safe speeds and be attentive to the multiuse of our roads. In addition to articles published here, signs (like the one left) have been installed to remind folks.

Legally, there is not much that we can do. A neighborhood watch program requires a large time commitment of its members and has the potential of polarizing the neighborhood, something we have been working diligently to avoid. However, an alternate solution might be to catalogue the days, times, locations and models/colors of the cars/trucks that appear to be

causing the most problems. Some of you have been doing this on our online resource. Be as specific as you can and please email or mail these to Dave Kane, who will then offer them as guidance to the deputies. It's hard to cover the entire subdivision all the time, but if we give them some specific areas and times that seem to be the most prevalent, we might get some action. Dave will pursue this and give us some feedback in future newsletters in this column.

Email Dave at dck945@yahoo.com

### Roads Status Report Jim Bain- MWFPOA Liaison with the County

On December 17, I attended the regular meeting of the Marion County Board of Commissioners (BoCC). While the regular meeting began at 9:00, the public hearing portion was slated to begin at 10:00. There were three items on the public hearing agenda, the first being "to consider adoption of Ordinance to authorize the use of uniform collection method for non-ad valorem assessments." This is the item which, among many other communities, included MWF and was posted in "Legals" section of the Ocala Star Banner several weeks before. As I suspected, this is entirely a procedural requirement made necessary by the *prospect* of having our roads reclaimed.

As is customary, the clerk read the legal notice and the BoCC Chair called for questions from the Board. There were none. The Chair then called for public comments. Again, there were none. As such, the Chair called for a vote and the measure was adopted unanimously. This was quickly followed by a similar measure to suspend franchise fees for commercial collection services, also approved. Fundamentally, this suspension benefits small business in Marion County reducing their tax burden, albeit slightly. The final hearing was about the prospect of a tax to help fund a new baseball park for the New York Yankee A level farm team. The item was tabled until the January 7, 2014 Board meeting to allow further research on funding options.

Again, the first item was a routine procedural step which will only be implemented IF the road project goes forward after the final public hearing in late March or early April. As of today, the plans are 80% complete. I'm expecting a call from the county in the next week or so when plans are complete. At that time, I'll be able to review the plans and ask questions of the MSTU staff.

As a side note, the question was raised on the MWF email network as to whether a special assessment might be made to pay for the repairs/improvements to the drainage issues in MWF. The answer is NO, as each of us already pays an Ad Valorem tax to fund the County's Storm Water Management unit as well as an annual \$15.00 Non-ad Valorem Assessment to fund maintenance and improvements specific to MWF.

As always, if you have any questions, please feel free to forward them to me or ask them via email at <a href="mailto:mwfRoads@gmail.com">mwfRoads@gmail.com</a>.

Respectfully submitted: Jim Bain Jbain2@cfl.rr.com 352-237-9672

### SAVE YOURSELF \$ AND GRIEF! - Dwain Henderson

I figured I'd send out a heads up on a few good practices and things to look out for to prevent viruses and data loss on your computer.

Feel free to send along to anyone you know that would find it useful. View as HTML for the links to work. Otherwise just google the programs.

**Before** I get into this YOU SHOULD KNOW that the **Absolute Best protection** you can have are <u>regular full back</u>ups to a *separate* harddrive or the cloud (internet).

This will protect you against data loss due to hardware failure, any and all virus infections, accidental deletion of files, corruption of files, operating system problems, theft, and more.

Backup, Backup! Did I mention Backup?

External harddrives are **cheap** compared to virus removal, file recovery, software problems, etc. My favorite low price place to shop online is <a href="https://www.newegg.com">www.newegg.com</a>

An external harddrive of <u>500gb or more is sufficient</u> for most people but it does depend on how much information you store on your computer.

A 1TB (1000gb) or more would allow multiple backups to be stored at a time typically (recommended)

Windows 7 and newer has built in backup utility and there are plenty of free backup tools from the makers of the harddrives themselves.

**The next level** of protection is Antivirus: No need to go get the most expensive or most popular either. (*read: not a fan of Norton, McAfee, etc.*)

ESET or NOD32 are excellent options for purchase if you are looking for full featured AV.

A few free options that work very well are: (ctrl + click them to go directly to the download site)

Avast Free Antivirus, Microsoft Security Essentials, AVG Free Antivirus

Windows 8 comes with Microsoft Security Essentials built in.

Also there are many free scanners that you can use manually to remove any infections that you currently have:

Malwarebytes Anti-malware, ESET online scanner, TrendMicro Housecall Scanner

"Infections" include: Malware, spyware, ransomware, hijackers, redirectors, Trojans, worms, etc.

- <u>Some</u> are aimed at <u>opening security holes</u> in your firewall to allow the exchange of information (worms, Trojans)
- Others are aimed at <u>file corruption</u> or secretly <u>gathering information</u> from your computer for identity theft or <u>for targeted ads</u> for your viewing. (malware, spyware, hijackers, redirectors)
- <u>And yet others</u> are for locking your files or computer access until you pay money over the internet to unlock them (ransomware)
- <u>Bloatware</u> is worth a mention but is not malicious. Bloatware are programs that are included with legitimate programs such as java, adobe reader, anything FREE, etc. Often times free is free because they are paid by a company to include their product in the install. Just read each window when installing something and uncheck the box to install the extra "Bloatware". If you installed by accident then you can remove it in control panel. All off the shelf computers from the store have Bloatware programs that are pre-installed and beg for your activation when you log in.

#### Surf safely:

Type the address of the site you want to visit and be careful where you click to go to a site. Google search is pretty safe but make sure you read because "phisher" sites will be at the top of the list too to look like the official site but will almost definitely have Bloatware or worse attached to their

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#### ITEMS OF INTEREST

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download or page.

<u>Look up reviews on a program or website</u> if you are unsure. If you are unsure or it looks shady then chances are 10,000+ other people thought so too and may have some info to warn you or Ease your mind.

<u>Don't open email attachments from people you don't know</u> or if it looks suspicious like <u>XD12cB896apOK1.pdf</u>. Delete the email. If you think it may be legit but are unsure, call the person or company!

If possible use an email program like Microsoft outlook in order to "preview" your emails as opposed to "opening" them.

My personal recommendation:

**Uninstall java**. You really don't need it. JavaScript will run just fine on most sites without the full java installation. <u>Java is a huge security issue in my experience.</u>

#### Quick warning:

There is a Nasty Ransomware Virus out there right now that is prompting this email from me. It is called Cryptolocker.

It basically <u>uses military grade encryption</u> to <u>lock your files</u> and gives you 3 days to pay \$100-\$300 to get the key to unlock (decrypt) them or the private key is destroyed forever and you will never get your files back.

I told you it was nasty.

<u>Never pay without checking around first</u>. This is the first ransomware I have personally ever seen that cannot be removed and your files saved without paying. So check before you pay out. Fake "FBI warning" ransomware and others are very common and removable by a knowledgeable tech.

Prevention is possible with antivirus, removal of the program is easy as well but won't get your files unlocked (decrypted), and getting your files back is possible **ONLY** if you have **REGULAR FULL BACKUPS** on a separate drive.

If not then the only recourse for Cryptolocker currently is to pay.

Click the link below for more info if you are interested.

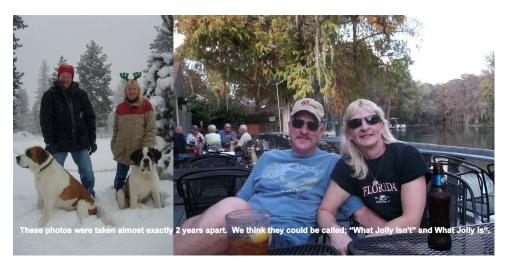
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/CryptoLocker

I hope this helps those who read it and take precautions and if not then don't say I didn't try.

Dwain Henderson, MCSE

16 Nashua Way

**Ocala FL 34482** 



Why do people move to FL?

Dave and Deb Kane explain it very eloquently with these photos taken 2 years apart.

Support Your Local Merchants. They're Supporting Us.

Promote your business with an ad in the Meadow Wood Farms Newsletter. For more information or to place an ad, please contact Jodie Gebhard 352 390-3739. Although the Association cannot warrant its advertisers, many are your neighbors and all will appreciate your patronage.

# TOTAL FARM MAINTENANCE, LLC

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WATER LINES & DRAINAGE PROBLEMS BARN BUILDING AND REPAIRS
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JOHN AND DENISE THOMPSON

CALL FOR FREE ESTIMATE AND LIST OF REFERENCES

352 425-3578







I come to your house. Less stress for your pets! pam@ezsignsonline.com OCALA, FL Years of horse & vet tech experience. M.W.Farms Resident



#### NEED HELP FOR PETS

# Sandy Mollberg Resigning from her PET Registry & Rescue Service

The rescue service Sandy has provided for many years is not officially affiliated with the MWFPOA, but it certainly has benefit-ted many of us. Is anyone willing to step up to take over, or perhaps a group of people—a team, to share the tasks? Please call her at 352 861-9622.

Lynn and Allison Zachary have fostered and helped to find homes for several lost and abandoned pets in the neighborhood. I've asked them to give us the benefit of their experience with some tips that might help prevent or deal with a lost or found pet.

There is unfortunately an epidemic of lost and abandoned animals everywhere. Many who live in this area have probably grown accustomed to seeing dogs wandering along the streets. Owners of these dogs have either dumped them or nonchalantly let them wander thinking the dog wants to explore. What the owner fails to realize is just how dangerous letting your dog wander free and allowing it to leave your property really is, especially without proper ID. An animal that is allowed freedom to leave can get into fights and either be killed or kill wildlife (which would then put them in the nuisance list along with Burmese pythons), they could be hit by cars, they could get lost or they could be stolen.

A huge contributor to animals not being returned to their owners is failure to properly ID your animals with tags such as ones you can purchase from Petco or Walmart for \$5 that will engrave their name and your address/phone number as well as getting your animal micro chipped and registered. Microchips are not able to be seen by the naked eye (hence the name). The animal must be taken to a veterinarian to be scanned. If an animal is chipped the owner can be located.

We live among wildlife, coyotes, especially, have been spotted in the MWF area as well as Bobcats, and both animals are accustomed to fighting for their lives. A domestic dog (regardless of how vicious you think your pooch is) is NO match for an animal that grew up in the wild. If your animal is lost the best way to recover it is to put up lost ads (via MCAS, craigslist, Ocala4sale, petharbor, etc). There are many websites that allow you to post ads about a missing/lost pet and it's always best to post as many ads on as many different sites as possible in case the person who found your pet only checks a certain page – checking animal control is the best option as they tend to pick up a lot of strays.

While some animals are simply lost, the other end of the spectrum brings us to the ones who were dumped, like the giant lovebug that was found in November at Artie Ringfield's. "Beau" was recently adopted by a new Meadow Wood Farms resident. Too often, those dogs get killed or taken to MCAS and euthanized if it's in bad shape. On rare occasions the pet has a stroke of luck and is picked up by an animal lover and care for, those situations are few and far between based on the limited number of rescue organizations that can take on new projects due to lack of donations and an even smaller number of foster families that are willing to provide a loving family, until it's forever home comes along. There are MANY rescues in the area that are not only desperate for donations but also for foster families – (Pet Network Inc and Plenty of Pit Bulls are two amazing organizations in the area who would be thrilled for volunteers, fosters and/or donations). There are MANY benefits to fostering, you can test run if you want a full commitment of a dog without actually having to make the commitment yet, you can help an animal that desperately needs it, dogs provide unconditional love, especially the ones that have been rescued and they show you a sort of appreciation that no human could ever duplicate. If a family has the chance to foster a dog that is pregnant it is one of the most amazing experiences a person can witness. I was lucky enough to be a part of it last month when my foster dog gave birth to 10 puppies! My mom and 2 kids were also able to see it and it was something that definitely changed my life. To wrap this up, please - attach ID to your animals if you want them to be returned home and if you feel your home or heart is empty, consider getting involved with a rescue.

Submitted by Allison Zachary and Lynn Zachary

# Meadow Wood Equine Club

(not affiliated with MWFPOA)



MWEC - Meadow Wood Equine Club Inc. is a social group of horse oriented people. Join us for discussions, find someone to ride with, camaraderie, food, etc.. Guests / Visitors are welcome. Membership is open to anyone – you do not have to own a horse or live in Meadow Wood Farms to join. Membership is \$5.00 a year. Members receive a 10% discount off "most in store items" at Seminole, Tack Shack and J & J Tack. - some restrictions apply – some items are not discounted, such as feed, hay, shavings, and warehouse items. Ask store for their details. You must show your membership card to receive the discount..

For more general information, please call: Secretary-Treasurer Kathy Rohlwing at 861-7405, or Vice-President Carol Shockey at 873-4719, or President Leroy Conro at 873-2153.

## Sign of the Times by Dave Kane

There is the new sign soon to be seen in Friendship Park. For a long time the Meadow Wood Farms Property Owners Association has provided barrels for people using the park to put their garbage into. What we found happening was some of our furry friends would tip the barrels over and help themselves to some of the leftovers, leaving their plates, cups and napkins scattered about. I'm sure they had a lot of fun trash tipping and playing in the contents of the barrels, but it made for a mess in our park and folks spent a lot of time picking up the litter.

So now MWFPOA bought two signs and will place one of them near the entrance to the park and one near the pavilion just to remind users to take their garbage with them when they leave. It's in everybody's best interest to keep the park clean and help our friendly little scavengers find another source of entertainment.

Here is a sneak peek at what our new signs will look like. MWFPOA thanks everyone for their cooperation and help in keeping our park clean.



#### JOIN MEADOW WOOD FARMS ASSOCIATION

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# Membership Form & Information to Access Our Website, etc.

Please send or email items to be published to: Jodie Gebhard 14 Carry Back Road Ocala, FL 34482 Ph: 352 390-3739 email: jgebhard@sbcglobal.net

Send payment for ads to
Dick Woodrome
MWFPOA, P.O. Box 771896, Ocala, FL 34477

Annual membership dues for the MWFPOA are June through May. 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 check if you've paid? Contact Dick Woodrome at 861-2364 or email him at rdw218w@aol.com.

To Join The Meadow Wood Farms Email Blasts and Conversation, go to Meadowwoodfarms l@aol.com and ask the site master to add your email address. Please respect the rules...no politics, or religion or any attachments or offensive material. This site is offered by a private member of the association. It is an extremely useful tool and we are grateful to that person.

MEADOW WOOD FARMS WEBSITES:

www.meadowwoodfarmsocala.com

From main page, click on Neighbor to Neighbor-Neighbor to Neighbor Directory

From main page, click on Newsletter - and then the month.—Newsletters

### Please Join

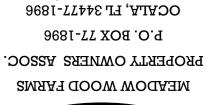
#### MEADOW WOOD FARMS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

Please send your check for \$55.00 (Annual Dues Effective June 01, 2013) with this form to:

Meadow Wood Farms Property Assoc., Inc., P.O. Box 771896, Ocala FL 34477

A directory is distributed to MWFPOA member at no charge. It may be purchased by non-members for \$5.00. Additional copies for members = \$2.00.







www.meadowwoodfarmsocala.com

Photos always 600/8