



The Truth About Santa Claus

I would love to have written this and would give much credit to the person who did, but I don't know who that might be. As I simply could not write anything better for this Christmas Season, I humbly offer the "Truth" here:

"Son: Dad, I think I'm old enough now. Is there a Santa Claus?

Dad: OK, I agree that you're old enough. But before I tell you, I have a question for you. You see, the "truth" is a dangerous gift. Once you know something, you can't un-know it. Once you know the truth about Santa Claus, you will never again understand and relate to him as you do now. So, my question is: Are you sure you want to know?

-brief pause-

Son: Yes, I want to know.

Dad: OK, I'll tell you. Yes, there is a Santa Claus.

Son: Really?

Dad: Yes, really. But he's not an old man with a beard and a red suit. That's just what we tell kids. You see, kids are too young to understand the true nature of Santa Claus, so we explain it to them in a way that they can understand. The truth about Santa Claus is that he's not a person at all; he's an idea. Think of all those presents Santa gave you over the years. I actually bought those myself. I watched you open them. And did it bother me that you didn't thank me? Of course not! In fact, it gave me great pleasure. You see, Santa Claus is THE IDEA OF GIVING FOR THE SAKE OF GIVING, without the thought of thanks or acknowledgement.

When I saw that woman collapse on the subway last week and call for help, I knew that it was me that summoned the ambulance. I was being Santa Claus when I did that.

Son: Oh.

Dad: So now that you know, you're part of it. You have to be Santa Claus too now. That means you can never tell a young kid the secret, and you have to help us select Santa presents for them, and most important, you have to look for opportunities to help people. Got it?"

Help each other this Christmas. And...be kind!

I'll see you around the neighborhood -- Jim



Upcoming Meetings
(subject to change)

Executive Board Meeting

December
****Cancelled****

General Association

December 3rd, 3:00 pm

General Association 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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My Gift

I, like most people, am caught up in this busy time of year preparing for Thanksgiving and Christmas. I feel so accomplished as I yank off the Thanksgiving table cloth Thursday night, and putting the Christmas table cloth on the table on Saturday. I am planning to get my tree up on the first of December which is VERY early for me. You see, I lost my Dad the week before Christmas fourteen years ago, and my Mom exactly one year later. It was a very difficult time for me and I decided that I hated Christmas because it reminded me of a very sad time in my life. I moved to Ocala four years ago to begin a new life. I love so many things about this area, but especially the open land and the ability to have horses and space for the dogs to run. Then one day in 2021 a very special person came into my life and brought a lot of joy and happiness. Last Christmas, I actually put my tree up two weeks before Christmas. We went shopping for Christmas decorations and for the first time in long time, I felt excited about putting up lights and candles. I no longer dread putting the ornaments on the tree. Christmas once again feels like a wonderful time of the year. I am sharing my story with you in the hopes that if anyone reading this has also experienced sadness during the holidays, you will see there is hope. Time does heal., and life goes on. This is a good time of the year to reflect on all of the triumphs that have occurred during 2022, as well as begin thinking of new goals for the upcoming year. For Christmas this year, I would like for everyone reading this to truly feel the joy of the season.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Gena

Officers of MWFPOA

President	Jim Bain	352-615-2572	jbain2@cfl.rr.com
Vice-President	Mark Cooper	904-350-0253	viciousfish1959@gmail.com
Secretary	Gena DeCamella	727-808-8918	genad66@yahoo.com
Treasurer	Karen Reade	352-622-2030	springlilacs@yahoo.com

Committees

Activities	Kim Cooper Carol English	kandmcooper@comcast.net caenglish55@gmail.com
Maintenance	Chair: Ian Reade	352-622-2030
Beautification	Chair: Chris Banks	706-889-8310
Control	Chair: Dale Kennedy	352-291-1799 imaussified@embarqmail.com
Directory	Chair: Carolyn Camp	352-304-8506
Membership	Frenchie Bisiaux	352-216-4273 Ltfrenchie16@hotmail.com
Newsletter	Editor: Gena DeCamella Dorothy Henry	MWFPOAnewsletter@gmail.com dhorsinaround@yahoo.com
Sunshine	Chair: Jennie Adams	352-854-1914
Welcome	Michele Shuler	mmicheleshuler@gmail.com
Refreshments	Holly Roberts	hbrlifestyle@gmail.com

Community Matters

Calendar of Activities — December 2022

- ◆ **General Association Meeting** - Saturday December 3rd Friendship Park 3:00 pm
- ◆ **Trivia Night** - Thursday December 8th Friendship Park 7:00 pm
- ◆ **Book Club** - Monday December 12th Friendship park 6:30 pm
- ◆ **Equine Club Poker Ride**- Thursday December 18th Friendship Park 2pm
- ◆ **Christmas** - December 25th
- ◆ **Line Dancing Has Returned!!** Saturdays Only 10am



Trivia Night

Trivia Night for the remainder of the year will be at 7 PM at Friendship Park on the following evenings:

Thursday, December 8th

Come join the fun!! We hope to see you there.
For more information contact: Kim Cooper, Carol English or Frenchie Bisiaux
(Ltfrenchie16@hotmail.com)

Meadow Wood Farms Communications

Website: www.mwfpoa.com

The newsletter is available in **color** on our website:

- ◆ From the main page, click on **Newsletter**, and then select the month.

eMail

To join the Meadow Wood Farms email blasts and conversation, send a note to Meadowwoodfarms1@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 service is offered by a private member of the association. It is extremely useful, and we are grateful to them.

Facebook

Ask to join our private groups on Facebook:

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

Neighborhood Sunshine



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

If you would like to schedule an event in Friendship Park, please contact and coordinate with our Activities Chairpersons,

Kim Cooper kandmcooper@comcast.net

or Carol English caenglish55@gmail.com .

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.



When Christmas Was Cancelled

In the early 17th century, a wave of religious reform changed the way Christmas was celebrated in Europe. When Oliver Cromwell and his Puritan forces took over England in 1645, they vowed to rid England of decadence and, as part of their effort, cancelled Christmas. By popular demand, Charles II was restored to the throne and, with him, came the return of the popular holiday.

The pilgrims, English separatists that came to America in 1620, were even more orthodox in their Puritan beliefs than Cromwell. As a result, Christmas was not a holiday in early America. From 1659 to 1681, the celebration of Christmas was actually outlawed in Boston. Anyone exhibiting the Christmas spirit was fined five shillings. By contrast, in the Jamestown settlement, Captain John Smith reported that Christmas was enjoyed by all and passed without incident.

After the American Revolution, English customs fell out of favor, including Christmas. In fact, Christmas wasn't declared a federal holiday until June 26, 1870.

Washington Irving Reinvents Christmas in America

It wasn't until the 19th century that Americans began to embrace Christmas. Americans re-invented Christmas, and changed it from a raucous carnival holiday into a family-centered day of peace and nostalgia. But what about the 1800s piqued American interest in the holiday?

The early 19th century was a period of class conflict and turmoil. During this time, unemployment was high and gang rioting by the disenchanting classes often occurred during the Christmas season. In 1828, the New York city council instituted the city's first police force in response to a Christmas riot. This catalyzed certain member of the upper classes to begin to change the way Christmas was celebrated in America.

In 1819, best-selling author Washington Irving wrote *The Sketchbook of Geoffrey Crayon, gent.*, a series of stories about the celebration of Christmas in an English manor house. The sketches feature a squire who invited the peasants into his home for the holiday. In contrast to the problems faced in American society, the two groups mingled effortlessly. In Irving's mind, Christmas should be a peaceful, warm-hearted holiday bringing groups together across lines of wealth or social status. Irving's fictitious celebrants enjoyed "ancient customs," including the crowning of a Lord of Misrule. Irving's book, however, was not based on any holiday celebration he had attended—in fact, many historians say that Irving's account actually "invented" tradition by implying that it described the true customs of the season.

Christmas Gifts for Horsemen and Horse Lovers

- Grey Horse Candle Company sells hand made soy candles with fragrances such as:
Fresh Cut Hay
High End Saddle
Sweet Feed
Fly Spray
And many others. They can be found on Etsy.
- The Savvy Horsewoman has fun and practical gifts on their website:
<https://www.savvyhorsewoman.com>
With goodies such as the tote bag labeled “Mother Mucker” or a cute coffee mug that states “Horse Dad. They neigh, I pay” one can just about find a gift for everyone.
- Tee shirts are always a good option. Available on Etsy are some of the following:
“Sorry I’m late, I saw a horse.”
“I like horses, and maybe 3 people.”
“If you want me to listen to you talk about horses.”
- Head over to Amazon for cool finds for wine lovers such as
Horse wine holder
Horse wine charms
Horse bottle stopper
Horse wine glasses
- Back in The Saddle catalog and web site (<https://www.backinthesaddle.com>) offers many different gifts
From socks to shirts, ornaments to pajamas there is something for everyone.
One cool pick: A Whoa horsey clock in a whimsical design featuring a horse with a bird and a horseshoe as the pendulum.
- Every year Breyer puts out their holiday horse, dressed for the season in a lavish costume sure to delight a horse lover of any age. These lovely horses can be found in tack shops (Or try the new toy store at WEC!) or through online catalogs.

With a bit of research one can find a unique gift for every horse lover on your list!

Submitted by:
Pat VanNostrand

A LOOK BEHIND

Page 6

Veteran's Day/First Responders BBQ was a HUGE success!

Thanks to everyone who came out and celebrated with us. We had 73 Attendees in addition to a wonderful singer for the Star Spangled Banner and a visit from the local Fire-Rescue Department. Our neighbors, Ron Roberts and Dave Kane presented the Flag in full Uniform.



Tack/Craft Sale

The First Community Tack and Craft sale went very well! Lot's of different great items were offered up at some amazing prices. Everything from saddles to antiques, exercise equipment. There was even a chili bar set up at Jeff Rice's Trailer full of goodies.



Trivia Night - Thursday, December 8th at 7:00 pm

The next Trivia Night is on Thursday, December the 8th at the Park starting at 7:00 pm. The Sophmoronics are now 3 for 3. Who would like to challenge this team?? Bring your own beverages and snacks and be ready to laugh and have a great time!

Hope to see you there!



Book Club - Monday, December 12th at 6:30 pm

We have selected our next book to discuss at the December 12th book club meeting. It is "Wild" by Kristin Hannah.

See the book review below:

From the *New York Times* number one bestselling author of *The Nightingale* and *The Great Alone*, Kristin Hannah, comes *Wild*, a remarkable story about the resilience of the human spirit, the triumph of hope, and the promise of new beginnings.

In the rugged Pacific Northwest of the United States lies the Olympic National Forest – a vast expanse of impenetrable darkness and impossible beauty. From deep within this mysterious land, a six-year-old girl appears. Speechless and alone, she offers no clue as to her identity, no hint of her past.

Having retreated to her hometown after a scandal left her career in ruins, child psychiatrist Dr. Julia Cates begins working with the extraordinary little girl. Naming her Alice, Julia is determined to free her from a prison of unimaginable fear and isolation, and discover the truth about Alice's past. The shocking facts of Alice's life test the limits of Julia's faith and strength, even as she struggles to make a home for Alice – and find a new one for herself.

'One of Kristin Hannah's most compelling and riveting novels' - *Booklist*



ADVERTISEMENTS

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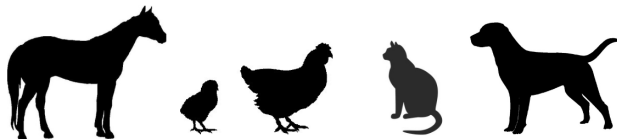
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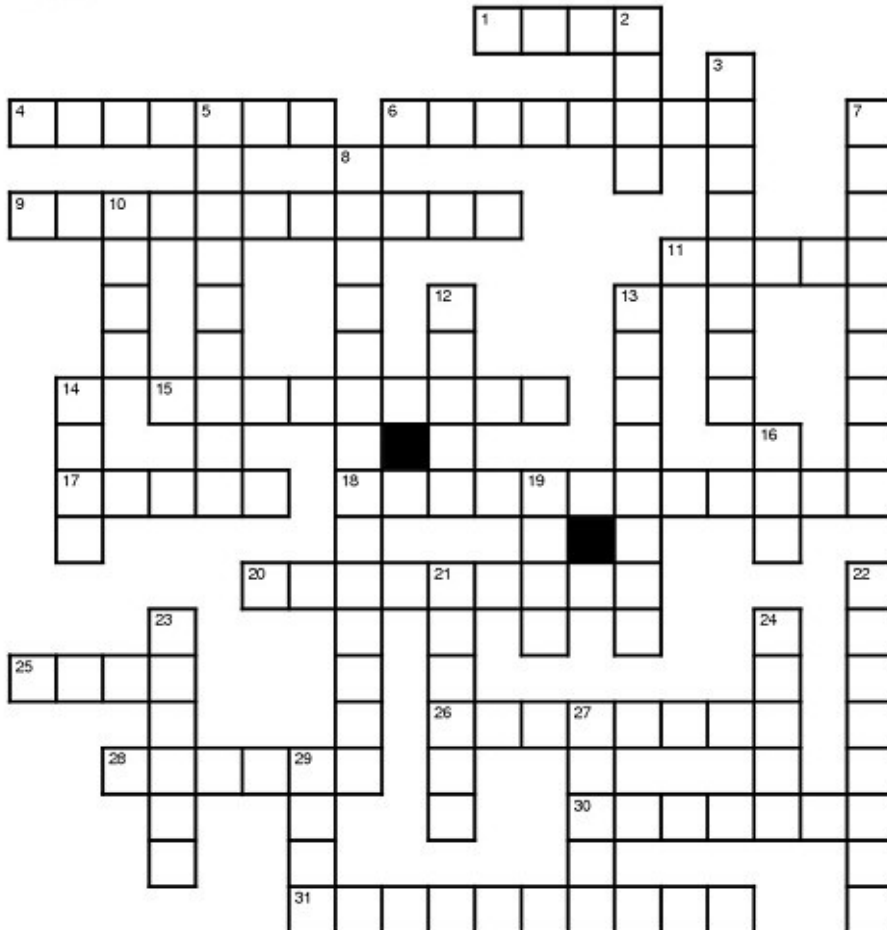


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Business card	\$10/ month	\$15/ month	\$50	\$75
1/4 page	\$20/ month	\$30/ month	\$100	\$150
1/2 page	\$30/ month	\$45/ month	\$150	\$225
Full page	\$70/ month	\$80/ month	\$350	\$400

Do you have an electrician, plumber, hairdresser or anyone that you use and would like to help them build their business? Please let your vendors know that they can reach over 450 readers every month by running their ad in our newsletter. These ads are available to anyone, not just residents of MWF, at a very low price,. Proceeds from the ads go directly to our Association and can have a huge benefit for all of us to enjoy.



Christmas Crossword



Merry Christmas!

Across

- 1. Another word for present.
- 4. Santa's door?
- 6. Animals that pull Santa's sleigh.
- 9. What people put on their Christmas tree.
- 11. Something on Santa's face.
- 15. The day after Christmas.
- 17. Santa's helpers.
- 18. The day before Christmas.
- 20. A piece of snow.
- 25. What Santa gives to bad girls and boys.
- 26. A sock that hangs by the chimney.
- 28. People put these bright things on their house.
- 30. A reindeer with a red nose.
- 31. A jolly man in a red suit with a beard.

Down

- 2. Something people decorate.
- 3. What people give each other.
- 5. Where Santa's workshop is located.
- 7. A striped Christmas treat.
- 8. Drink and food left for Santa.
- 10. Something people send to each other to say 'Merry Christmas'.
- 12. The presents are usually _____ the tree.
- 13. The month of Christmas.
- 14. Look at a present before you should.
- 16. The color of Santa's suit.
- 19. A common decoration for the top of the tree.
- 21. A famous snowman.
- 22. The place where Santa makes toys.
- 23. Santa's car?
- 24. A common decoration for the top of the tree.
- 27. A Christmas song.
- 29. What Santa gives to good girls and boys.





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 springlilacs@yahoo.com.

Your MWFPOA thanks you!

Please Join - Renew your Membership

MEADOW WOOD FARMS PROPERTY OWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

(Annual Dues Effective June 1, 2022, effective through May 2023)

Please send your check for \$55.00 with this form to:
Meadow Wood Farms Property Assoc., Inc., P.O. Box 77-1896, Ocala FL 34477

Please *print* to provide the information below :

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

YES **NO** Put my/our information in the directory.

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

(Otherwise, it is available on the website, which saves the Association printing and mailing costs.)

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

mwfpoa.com

*Photos always look
better in our online
edition.*

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****REMINDER****

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SAFETY OF PEDESTRIANS AND ANIMALS OF
ALL SIZES**

