

MetroWest *Thrive*

A COMMUNITY PUBLICATION



MetroWest's biggest summer celebration lights up July 3

Public Service in Action

Safety updates, community outreach, and neighborhood impact

Celebrating 40 Years

Stories of the people and businesses helping MetroWest thrive

Community Connections

Residents connect with OPD Chief Eric Smith at District 6 meeting



Celebrating 40 Years of Community



Celebrating Independence Day and 40 Years of MetroWest

MetroWest's longtime Independence Day tradition returns this summer with a fresh new name: **Booms & Beats**.

Formerly known as *MusicWORKS*, the newly refreshed celebration will take place on Friday, July 3, 2026, from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM at MetroWest Golf Club, bringing residents, families, businesses, and visitors together for an unforgettable evening of live music, local flavor, and fireworks.

This year's event is especially meaningful as MetroWest celebrates its 40th anniversary alongside our nation's 250th anniversary. Booms & Beats reflects the same community spirit residents have enjoyed for years while introducing an updated energy and experience designed to bring people together in an exciting way.



Guests can enjoy live entertainment from Plant Street Pops, explore a variety of local food trucks, and experience a spectacular fireworks show presented by PyroShows. From dancing along with friends to relaxing under the summer sky with family, the evening is designed to create moments that celebrate community and connection.

To make arrival easy and convenient, complimentary shuttle service will be available to and from MetroWest Golf Club and the designated parking area near MetroWest Blvd & Park Center Dr. Directional signage will be posted throughout the area, and official event shuttles will be clearly marked for guests.

Attendees are encouraged to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and strollers for a comfortable evening outdoors. For the safety and enjoyment of all guests, outside food and beverages, coolers, alcohol, pets, and personal fireworks or sparklers will not be permitted.

As MetroWest celebrates four decades of community, Booms & Beats is more than just a summer event. It is an opportunity for neighbors, families, and local businesses to come together, celebrate tradition, and continue building the vibrant community spirit that makes MetroWest a special place to live, work, and thrive.

BOOMS & BEATS

Friday, July 3 • 7-10 pm
MetroWest Golf Club
2100 S Hiawasse Rd





Light It Up the Right Way:

Your MetroWest Guide to a Safe and Stress-Free Fourth

There's nothing quite like a warm Florida evening, the smell of the grill, and the sky exploding in color over MetroWest. Fireworks are one of summer's great joys, but the rules around them have changed, and a little know-how goes a long way toward keeping the celebration fun instead of frustrating.

So before you spark your first sparkler, here's your friendly neighborhood cheat sheet.

First, the part everyone gets wrong

Quick quiz: how many days a year is it actually legal to set off fireworks in MetroWest? If you guessed "all summer," you're in good company, and you'd be wrong.

MetroWest sits in unincorporated Orange County, and as of June 2025, consumer fireworks, the loud, airborne, boom-in-the-sky kind, are legal on exactly three days each year: New Year's Eve, New Year's Day, and the Fourth of July. Every other day, they're off-limits.

Smaller novelties like sparklers, fountains, snakes, and party poppers

are generally allowed under state law. It's the projectiles and large aerial fireworks that are restricted.

One more thing to keep in mind: during droughts or high winds, fire officials can temporarily ban fireworks entirely, even on a holiday. When in doubt, check for a burn ban first.

Be the neighbor everyone loves

Even on legal days, a little courtesy goes a long way. Give neighbors a heads-up, especially families with young children, pets, or veterans who may appreciate the warning. Try to keep louder fireworks earlier in the evening, and remember that fireworks are not permitted on MWMA common areas.

The Do's: your recipe for a great night

Leave the big show to the pros. Booms & Beats returns Friday, July 3, at MetroWest Golf Club with live music, food trucks, family fun, and a spectacular fireworks show celebrating 40 years of MetroWest.

Whether you're heading to the event or lighting a few sparklers at home, a few simple habits help keep everyone safe:

- ✓ Keep water nearby, like a hose or bucket.
- ✓ Always have an adult handle fireworks.

- ✓ Light one at a time and step back.
- ✓ Give pets a quiet indoor space away from the noise.
- ✓ Soak used fireworks before throwing them away.

The Don'ts: how a great night goes sideways

- ⊘ Don't use fireworks outside the three legal dates.
- ⊘ Don't hand fireworks to children, including sparklers.
- ⊘ Don't relight a dud. Wait and soak it instead.
- ⊘ Don't aim or throw fireworks at people.
- ⊘ Don't mix fireworks and alcohol.
- ⊘ Don't use illegal or homemade fireworks.

The bottom line from MetroWest Public Service

We want one thing this summer: a MetroWest where everyone celebrates big and gets home safe. Know the rules, be considerate of your neighbors, and when possible, leave the grand finale to the professionals.

Happy Fourth, MetroWest!

MetroWest Public Service Team:

Community in Action

The MetroWest Public Service Team continues to make a meaningful impact through strong community outreach, sustained high-visibility presence, and proactive safety initiatives across MetroWest.

Community Engagement

Officers proudly engaged residents at signature school-based events, including Party in the Park and Green Day at MetroWest Elementary School, where they supported event operations, interacted positively with students and staff, and encouraged 5th-grade students through education-focused engagement. These efforts strengthened trust and fostered positive relationships with students, families, and school leadership.

The team also supported the PanCAN PurpleStride event, promoting pancreatic cancer awareness while providing safety checks and hands-on engagement with organizers, volunteers, and participants. At the MetroWest Nursing and Rehab

Coffee and Donut Social, officers fostered meaningful connections with residents and staff in a warm, welcoming environment.

Visible Safety, Active Presence

Public safety efforts remained highly visible throughout MetroWest with proactive deployments in both commercial and residential areas. Officers enhanced safety at school bus stops and crosswalks using safety lighting, supported traffic-calming initiatives along major corridors and intersections, and conducted nighttime operations to reinforce community confidence.

Public Service message boards along Raleigh Street, Westpointe Boulevard, and South Hiawassee Road further increased traffic awareness throughout the community. The team also provided motorist assistance and partnered with the Orlando Police Department and Community Service Officers during vehicle crashes to assist with traffic control and safety.



2,500

community connections have been made in that last few months

What's Next

Following the completion of a bike safety course, officers will soon be seen throughout MetroWest communities on Public Service bicycles, further enhancing visibility, accessibility, and community engagement. The team is also advancing drone capabilities, expanding the modern tools available to support public safety operations.

Public Service leadership and officers rounded out these efforts through active participation in the OPD Chief's Community Meeting, directly addressing concerns related to traffic safety, trespassing, and neighborhood security. Coordinated planning with OPD Crime Prevention is now underway to explore expanded traffic-calming strategies and neighborhood watch initiatives.

MetroWest Public Service: Visible, Connected, and Committed to Community Safety.



Officer Spotlight: *Public Service in Action*

Public Service Officer Brian Faer demonstrated quick thinking and a strong commitment to community safety while assisting a stranded motorist on Kirkman Road at Valencia Drive. After observing a disabled vehicle stopped in the roadway, Officer Faer immediately activated his overhead lights to help secure the scene and protect both the motorist and passing traffic.

Recognizing the immediate safety concern, Officer Faer safely pushed the vehicle out of the roadway and onto a nearby swale, helping restore traffic flow and reduce risk to others. He remained on scene until the motorist, Abby, was able to connect with a responding family member who assisted in resolving the situation by arranging fuel for the vehicle.

Officer Faer's proactive response, focus on safety, and willingness to go above and beyond reflect the dedication MetroWest Public Service officers bring to the community each day.





Celebrating 40 Years of the People, Places & Businesses That Make MetroWest Thrive

Celebrating 40 Years of Community

Neighbor in Business:

BIZCENTER USA

Celebrating 40 Years of MetroWest, One Story at a Time

When Fernando Mariano talks about MetroWest, he calls it *"the hidden jewel of Orlando Southwest."* Eight years ago, that's exactly what drew him here — and it's what has kept BIZCENTER USA rooted in the community ever since.

Tucked along Metrowest Boulevard, BIZCENTER USA isn't just a coworking space. Fernando and his team have built what they consider Orlando's most luxurious coworking destination, offering private suites, virtual offices, and conference room rentals designed for professionals who want more than a desk and a Wi-Fi password. It's a space built around the same values that define MetroWest itself: quality, care, and community.

Ask Fernando what he loves most about being here, and he'll point to the details that often go unnoticed — the security that gives residents and business owners peace of mind,

the immaculate landscaping, the streets that always feel cared for. *"The cleanness of the streets,"* he says, is something that has stayed with him from the very beginning.

He's also watched MetroWest evolve. New businesses are arriving more frequently, more residents are calling the area home, and surrounding developments — from the continued growth of Universal Studios to the transformation of Kirkman Road — have only made MetroWest more attractive. Yet, as Fernando notes, the heart of the community has stayed the same.

One memory in particular stands out for him: the aftermath of the last hurricane. While many neighborhoods spent days or even weeks cleaning up, MetroWest was nearly back to normal within 24 hours. *"It could be a minor thing,"* Fernando says, *"but I was pretty impressed."* For him, that moment captured everything MetroWest does well — showing up, taking care of its own, and getting things done quietly and efficiently.

As MetroWest celebrates 40 years, Fernando reflects on what this milestone means, not just for the community, but for the businesses

and families who call it home:

"MetroWest proudly celebrates 40 incredible years of growth, community, and excellence in Orlando — a vibrant region that continues to bring people together through its beauty, diversity, and spirit of progress. Wishing MetroWest continued prosperity, lasting success, and many more remarkable years ahead!"

That spirit of progress is exactly what BIZCENTER USA contributes every day — a place where local entrepreneurs, remote workers, and growing businesses can find a professional home in a neighborhood that feels like one.

Here's to 40 years of MetroWest, and to the neighbors like Fernando who make it thrive.



BIZCENTER USA

6000 Metrowest Blvd., Suite 200
multimediausa.com



Have Fun, Make Money

40 Years of Innovation, Right Here in MetroWest

For four decades, Alcorn McBride has quietly helped power some of the world's most recognizable theme park attractions from its headquarters on Binloop Drive in MetroWest. If you've experienced a dark ride at Walt Disney World, visited an immersive museum exhibit, or watched a perfectly synchronized media display, there's a good chance Alcorn McBride technology was working behind the scenes.

Founded in 1986 by Steve Alcorn, the company eventually made its home in MetroWest by design. Unlike many manufacturers located in industrial parks, Alcorn McBride chose a community-centered environment that reflects the company's culture and values.

"MetroWest is a great location for its proximity to our local customers, but it is also just a beautiful place to work," says Loren Barrows of Alcorn McBride. "It feels like a community rather than an industrial park."

That sense of community has shaped the company's culture for 40 years. Inside the building, the team lives by a simple motto: *"Have fun, make money."* It's a philosophy built around matching people's talents to meaningful work while creating an environment where employees genuinely enjoy what they do.

The approach has earned national recognition, including honors from Inc. 5000, the Florida Governor's Award for best new product, and Orlando Business Journal's Best Places to Work. But the company says its proudest achievement is something more personal: the people.

"Steve built this company for his employees," Loren says. "Over 40 years, Alcorn McBride has provided great incomes, full medical benefits, and, as a result, raised families."

Many employees have spent decades with the company, and several second-generation family members now work there as well. As MetroWest and Alcorn McBride both celebrate 40 years in 2026, the milestone reflects not only innovation and business success, but a shared commitment to building something lasting.

Forty years in, Alcorn McBride continues proving that world-class innovation can grow in the heart of a strong community like MetroWest.

Alcorn McBride Inc.

Alcorn McBride Inc.
6488 Binloop Dr
alcorn.com



cts Designed for Themed Entertainment



Want to feature your
MetroWest business?

Email Terrell Fawbush
at adm@mwmaorlando.com

A Year of Recognition:

The Debra MetroWest Celebrates Three Major Awards

MetroWest Community Spotlight

The team at The Debra MetroWest has had a remarkable year, earning three prestigious recognitions that reflect their ongoing commitment to resident satisfaction, community engagement, and industry excellence. From national honors to a top individual achievement, these awards speak to what makes The Debra a standout community within MetroWest.

Golden Key Resident Experience Award

In January 2026, The Debra was honored with the Apartment Association of Greater Orlando's Golden Key Resident Experience Award, a prestigious recognition given to communities that demonstrate exceptional resident retention through outstanding service, innovative programming, and meaningful partnerships.

The Debra's monthly resident events are well-attended and thoughtfully

designed, but the team's impact extends well beyond the property. Their charitable efforts include collecting an impressive 1,700 toys through Toys for Tots, supporting Move for Hunger, and participating in the Ronald McDonald House Baking Buddies program. Even the community's four-legged residents are welcomed with treats and toys as part of the experience.

AT&T Connected Communities Outstanding Community Award

The Debra's forward-thinking approach to connectivity earned another major honor: an AT&T Connected Communities Outstanding Community Award. The Debra was one of only six properties nationwide to receive this recognition out of more than 1,000 eligible communities, a testament to the team's commitment to innovation and enhancing the resident experience through technology and meaningful partnerships.

Doris Granger Named CPM of the Year

Community Manager Doris Granger, CPM, CAPS, ARM, CAM, was recognized by the Institute of Real Estate Management (IREM) Central Florida Chapter as Certified Property Manager of the Year. This honor reflects not only her dedication to The Debra community but also her significant contributions to the real estate management industry and her commitment to mentoring the next generation of property management professionals.

A Community Built on Excellence

Together, these three recognitions paint a clear picture of what The Debra MetroWest stands for: a resident-first community driven by a team that shows up, gives back, and leads by example. MetroWest is proud to celebrate these achievements and the people behind them.





Pictured: Orlando Police Department's Chief Eric Smith with MetroWest community members and MWMA staff

MetroWest Connect:

MetroWest Residents Connect with OPD Chief Eric Smith at District 6 Community Meeting

On March 11, MetroWest residents gathered at Westpointe Elementary School for a District 6 Community Meeting hosted by Orlando Police Department Chief Eric Smith. Held in the school cafeteria, the event created an open forum for residents to connect directly with local law enforcement and discuss community safety.

Chief Smith shared updates on local crime trends and introduced District 6 officers to attendees, while residents had the opportunity to ask questions, share concerns, and engage in meaningful conversation with the department. The quarterly meetings are designed to strengthen trust, encourage communication, and build lasting relationships between officers and the community they serve.

MetroWest General Manager Julie Sanchez noted the strong turnout and the importance of maintaining open dialogue between residents and law enforcement. Special recognition was also given to Captain Capece for his continued engagement and visible presence throughout the MetroWest community.

Residents interested in attending future District 6 Community Meetings or staying connected with OPD can contact Corporal Michelle Rogers at 407.246.2095 or michelle.rogers@orlando.gov.

Green Day: Celebrating Student Achievement at MetroWest Elementary

On March 12, MetroWest Elementary School transformed an ordinary school day into a celebration of student growth, recognizing approximately 65 students in grades 3 through 5 during its annual Green Day event.

Led by Reading Coach Lisa Harrison, the initiative was built around yearlong reading benchmark assessments designed to encourage progress and support student success. Students who scored 70% or higher on at least 6 of 8 assessments earned an invitation to the celebration, while top-performing VIP students received additional recognition.

The campus came alive with music, dancing, bounce houses, bubbles, and interactive activities as students celebrated the results of their hard

work. MetroWest Public Service Officers DeAngelo Rolax, Monique Shepherd, and Brian Faer volunteered throughout the event, assisting with setup, lunch coordination, and student engagement.

Officer Faer also stepped in to calmly assist a student experiencing a minor asthma attack, remaining by the student's side until they were able to safely return to the festivities.

Principal Shauana Harris reflected on the day by sharing, *"Green Day was a powerful way to celebrate our students' dedication and growth. Their success reflects not only their hard work, but also the commitment of our teachers to providing focused, data-driven instruction that meets every student's needs."*

For many students, the celebration left a lasting impression. One student shared, *"I can't wait until next year. I'm going to try harder for the gold pass."*



MetroWest
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