

MARION OAKS CIVIC ASSOCIATION
294 MARION OAKS LANE
OCALA, FL 24473
Website: www.Moca1973.org

Gen: M.O. Membership Meeting

Date: May 13, 2025

Established a Quorum (47) members in Attendance plus 14 Guests

Call to Order: Florence Charbonneau, President at 7:05 PM

Prayer by Florence Charbonneau, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance

Safety Report – Lt. Rosa

Deputies assigned to the Marion Oaks District for the month of April 2025, arrested 19 people for 5 felony charges, 19 misdemeanor charges, served 8 warrants, conducted 88 traffic stops, performed 80 sex offender checks, investigated 17 domestic violence cases, wrote 115 long form reports, 85 follow-up reports, dispatched to 1,255 calls for service and worked 1,469 combined man hours.

Presentation of 2025 MOCA Scholarships & Richard H. Dennison Scholarship by Linda Goles (Chair), Stella Owens and Barbara Crowley.

MOCA Scholarships were awarded to the following recipients:

Leanna Alicea – Florida Virtual School. She will be graduating Summa Cum Laude with all of her classes being A's. She Received a Certificate of Excellence in the 80-80 Club and is on the Principal's Honor Roll. She has logged 250 volunteer hours for the Marion Oaks Community at the public library. Her work in the library consisted of translating for patrons, helping other volunteers aiding in programs and helping to set-up for community events. She plans on studying in the field of Marine Biology to become a Marine Scientist. She will be attending the University of Saint Leo in the fall.

Aiden Chicas – Dunnellon High School. He was on the honor roll every year freshman-senior years. Accomplishments include Most Academic Student A/P Physics 2023-2024 awarded by Dunnellon High School. His community service was completed at the public library in Marion Oaks, where he helped with housekeeping, cleaning organizing books and assisting the librarians. He takes pride in helping the elderly with technological related needs. He also enjoyed working with the children find their next adventure books. He plans on studying Electrical Engineering at the University of South Florida in Tampa, FL.

Marissa Boyd – West Port High School. Accomplishments include the honor roll every year from freshman to senior classes. Her extracurricular activities include 2 years of MCYFL Cheer as the coach for the team. She had a summer job employed under Marion County Public Schools as that elementary / high school tutor. She plans on

studying Psychology and English at Florida Atlantic University in Boca Raton, FL In hopes becoming a children's behavioral psychologist.

Linda introduced Jim Lamotte for the Richard H. Dennison Scholarship. Jim is the nephew of the late Richard Dennison and was grateful for the opportunity to present this scholarship. He stated that Rick was a driving force in the Marion Oaks Community and his family is honored to have a scholarship in his name. He presented the scholarship to the following recipient:

Grant Kelly – College of Central Florida. Throughout his younger years he was part of the Boy Scouts and earned the rank of Eagle Scout. He had many years of volunteering during that time, not only with the Boy Scouts but also the Future Farmers of America organization where he also was able to donate his time. He was the cross bearer at St. Jude. He currently works at Peterson Smith Equine hospital and attends the College of Central Florida in the field of Pre-Veterinarian to ultimately get his degree for Equine Radiology.

Congratulations to all that have received these scholarships. Scholarships awarded were for \$1000 each to cover any costs associated with their needs during the next school year.

Guest Speakers: SECO District 4 Representative on the Board of Directors Jim Lamotte and special speaker Dustin Echols

Jim stated that it is coming to hurricane season in Florida and reminded us that Marion Oaks is 18 square miles and that they Seco cannot be everywhere within Marion Oaks at one time. He asked if there are any trees that may be a problem for the electrical wires to report them prior to the storm. To report these trees to SECO you can go online or phone them. When reporting, please make sure and get the ID # off the nearest phone pole to the location. The ID is posted on the front of the pole. He then turned the meeting over to Dustin Echols.

Dustin Echols with Hurricane Management at SECO and is a field service specialist. He provided a very detailed slide show presentation. He was very excited that SECO has been able to improve their time to restore electricity from the previous 2-3 weeks period.

SECO has an Emergency Plan in place the includes:

- Reviewed and updated motels & hotels
- Materials such as transformers are specific locations throughout the county for easier access.
- Coordination of Florida Cooperative Association which includes each head of state sending help through contractors that are within the cooperative.
- Online communication for people to see the location of the storm and this is updated on a regular basis for up-to-date information.

SECO has a rule that if the winds reach 35mph it is not safe to work, so do not expect any action during the high wind times. Also, if a pole is down and needs to be replaced it takes at least a half day to put in poles, this depends on the trees surrounding it.

Make sure and have an emergency plan in place. This includes: 1) Have all your important documents and paperwork in a water safe location. 2) Pets should have updated information tags. 3) Have plenty of medication. 4) If you are not on city water, fill your bathtub with water so that you can flush your toilets. 5) Purchase bottled water and food ahead of time. 6) Make sure your cell phone is charged.

Please call SECO if your power fails (**DO NOT CALL 911**). Report to SECO if you see a electrical wires arcing on the ground, this is important because if the lineman are up in the pole it is very dangerous for them. Also any wire that is hot on the ground can be dangerous to you, STAY AWAY from hot lines, if these line hit sugar sand it can turn into glass, just imagine what it can do to you!!!!

Restoration of power – Transmission lines are large and feed the substations. The substations then feed the smaller lines that go to the homes. To restore power to your home SECO is sent to the area that was hit. If the hit was at a substation, your power should be restored sooner. If you are a little further away from the substation it may take longer.

There are two programs that Dustin discussed:

SMART CONNECT – This program is for those who choose to use smart devices in their home such as thermostats, electric vehicle (EV) chargers and battery backup systems.

MITIGATOR SERVICE – This program is available for a cost. It protects your home from surges and spikes that may occur during storms. It is installed behind your electric meter and will stop the power spikes or surges from destroying your large appliances such as refrigerators and TV's. For pricing to install this product go to the SECO website or call them for more information.

There were several comments made regarding generators, transfer switches and internal disconnect switches for generators.

Parks and Rec Report – Dave Pierce

- MSTU walking trail paving has been completed.
- May 16th the Vegas Roadshow will be in the auditorium from 6-9pm. Tickets are \$5 or \$7 at the door.
- Introduced Eva a new employee and had her come up to discuss programs that she will have.
 - Eva discussed new programs and events that she has planned for the upcoming months.

- Belly Dancing Class - starting June 4th from 9-10am or June 5th from 4-5pm.
- Music in the Park, May 30th
- Open night karaoke
- Community talent show

Treasurer's Report: Nora Burch

As of April 30, 2025:

MOCA: \$15,497.27

BINGO: \$5,618.26

Bingo Report: The Chairman of the Bingo Committee, Lynn Greene, resigned her position and Linda Goles will now fill that position.

During the month of April there were (2) sessions

Total bingo deposits for the month: \$2,148.75

Total concession deposits for the month: \$ 450.25

Average attendance: 81

Deed Report – Carmen Reyes

Permits Opened: 20 Closed: 8

Violations: Opened: 19 Closed: 15

Pending Violations: 11 Sent to Code Enforcement:

Estoppels: 56

Violation Letters to residents & owners: 33

Carmen thanked Doris Center and Florence for working hard in the office while she was on vacation for a month.

Member Report – Ray Charbonneau

Members Present: 47 New: 2 Renewals: 7 Guests: 14

President's Report: Florence Charbonneau

- June 28th will be the bulk garbage pickup behind the community center from 9-2pm. After the bulk pickup MOCA will be having a Meat Raffle in the auditorium, doors will open at 2:00pm and the drawing will be at 3:00pm. This event is a raffle of packages of meat and other food items. Tickets will be old for 1 ticket for \$2, 5 tickets for \$4 and 7 tickets for \$10. This is a fundraiser for special events.
- May 12th – SMA had their grand ribbon cutting ceremony. We are so excited to welcome SMA to Marion Oaks. SMA is a rehabilitation center for women and their babies. SMA has reached out to see if there may be any volunteers that are knitters, quilters or people to rock the babies.
- June 10th Kathy Bryant will be the guest speaker at the MOCA meeting.
- We are excited to bring 50/50 drawings which will be conducted at the MOCA meetings and at Bingo as a fundraiser for special events.
- Advanced Auto will be having their Grand Opening on May 29th @ 10:30am.

A question was asked regarding the cables that are being placed on Marion Oaks Blvd. Florence stated that it is Luman coming in with fiber optics.

Linda Goles addressed the association members regarding volunteering. She stated that the board members have been working very hard to bring events to the community, however, we need help. We all have challenges in our lives that take away our precious time, such as family, illness in family members or ourselves, vacations and such. She is looking for the members of this community to possibly spare one, two, or three hours of their time to help with the many fundraising events. She will putting up a volunteer stand at the door at each meeting with the specifics of the events coming up, with the dates and times people are needed. Please make sure and stop by on your way into the meeting.

Linda also mentioned that she has a vision of incorporating a Junior Board consisting of high school students of Marion Oaks to work with the Board of Directors. Through this program she is hoping they can bring fresh new ideas for events that may target the younger generation in the community. It will also give students the opportunity to learn what the Board of Directors are responsible for in a non-profit organization. The students would be required to be at meetings on the first and second Tuesday of the month. Each student will get community service hours for the efforts they put forward. If you know any students that may be interested in this opportunity, please have them contact the MOCA office. Linda will be getting in touch with the schools to make this happen.

A motion was made by Jacque Glaze to accept April 2025 minutes as presented with a 2nd by Jeff Hurley, unanimously approved.

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45pm by Henry Munoz, with a 2nd by Sonia Menses, unanimously approved.