

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS – January 2025

- President Donna Habing announced that Jennifer Lawrence with *Take Stock in Children (Clay)* has been invited to speak briefly at the General meeting about her organization's mentoring program. She will speak for 5 to 10 minutes after the meeting adjourns and prior to the scheduled presentation.
- A good time was had by all at the Holiday Luncheon. There were 63 RSVPs, with 53 in attendance. This year it was requested that the set up for the luncheon occur the night before. The activity center was available that night. A suggestion for next year would be to reserve the venue for the night before and the day of the luncheon. Our Santa, Stan Forfa, did a great job. Thanks go to Marty Essex, Lorna Broughton, and Donna Habing for the games and songs. The membership donated 282 pounds of food and items to the Food Pantry of Green Cove Springs.
- Upcoming General meeting programs:
 - The January program is Gentle Yoga and Qi Gong instruction provided by Carol Newbern. The membership has been informed to wear comfortable clothing.
 - The February program brings a live flower arranging demonstration.
 - March brings John Fletcher of the FBI whose presentation had previously been cancelled.
 - In April, Magnolia Point Homeowners Association's Access Control Chairman, Paul Werring, plans an enjoyable presentation on some of the activities he experiences in his position.
- Upcoming Socials:
 - In January, there will be an outing to the Keystone Heights Tea Room on Friday, January 17, at 11:00 a.m. The maximum attendance is twenty-four people. Cost, including tax and gratuity, is \$34 per person (with salad \$41). Payments are required to be in cash. The RSVP list has started to form, and carpools will gather at 10:15am. on that day.
 - In February (date to be determined), lunch and billiards are planned at Corner Pocket.
- Luminaria Co-chair Sarah McWhorter reports that this year was different than in the past. Feedback received from block captains was evidence that some block captains did better, and some did worse than last year. Some reported that more people planned to travel this year, so that could be reflective of the higher donation amount (\$4,000 in 2024 vs. \$3,077 in 2023). Driving through the neighborhood on Luminaria night showed there were fewer lights.
- Directory Ads Chair Lorna Broughton is still seeking an apprentice to work with her this year. She is prepared to move forward with letters to prospective ad buyers. An e-blast will be out in early January with more specifics regarding the apprentice position and it will be on the January 8, 2025, General meeting agenda.
- Fundraising Director Joanne LaBeouf presented an excellent and detailed report regarding the pros and cons of sponsoring the Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair and to assist the Board in making an informed decision on whether MPWC should sponsor the Holiday Arts & Crafts Fair in 2025. After a lengthy discussion and a secret ballot vote, the Board decided not to hold the Fair in 2025. Instead, MPWC will consider having several smaller fundraising events throughout the year.
- President Donna Habing adjourned the meeting with the message that "sometimes things must fall apart before other things fall into place."