

WINTER PARK

32789 Neighbors

AUGUST 2023

MEET THE *Rooks Gory* FAMILY



INSIDE

- Mayor's Message
- Anxiety. Let's Talk About it.
- Hurricane Preparedness -Ensuring Your Roof's Safety
- Orange County Schools 2023-2024 Calendar
- August Calendar of Events

 Best Version Media

Cover Photo by Chris Gillyard Photography

MEET THE *Rooks Gory* FAMILY

BY CAROLINE MALONE • PHOTOS SUBMITTED BY CECE ROOKS



Jim Gory and Cece Rooks wanted to live in a place where there was a sense of community. They found that and more in Winter Park!

The couple bought their home in Windsong subdivision in 2019 because it checked off all the boxes on their wish list. They were pleasantly surprised by all the families raising children in the neighborhood, it really made them feel a sense of belonging.

“We love seeing all the walkers and joggers go by our house. We see live peacocks stroll down our street sometimes too! It truly is the best neighborhood to call home,” said Cece.

“During 2020, when the world stood still, we really got to know our neighbors, who are now our best friends. We went from happy hours on Fridays on our patio to having a standing dinner date each week.”

The neighbors also celebrate holidays together with their families. All the moms get together once a month for social time at the community clubhouse. “It is an informal way to catch up and get to hear what everyone is up to,” Cece added.

We love living in close proximity to great schools and a vibrant cultural scene,” Jim and Cece agreed. “We enjoy the arts. We regularly attend shows and events at the Dr. Phillips Center. We are involved with many community organizations.”



Cece serves on the board of Support Our Scholars -- a local non-profit, she is a member and on the board of the National Women in Roofing's Central Florida Chapter. Cece also recently graduated from Leadership Winter Park, Class 33. She likes to play tennis with the WAIT C League.

Jim is an avid cyclist. For the last decade he has participated in the Dolphins Cancer Challenge, raising money for the Sylvester Comprehensive Cancer Center. A fan of all sports, Jim looks forward to the upcoming football season. He will be watching the Miami Dolphins, one of his favorite teams! Jim is a great cook on the grill with a fun wine collection. He enjoys golfing too.

Hayden Rooks, age 11, finished fifth grade at Park Maitland and will start Trinity Prep School as a sixth grader this Fall. He plays Volleyball at the YMCA and is currently taking tennis lessons.

He loves anything with remote control that can fly. He has a wide selection of remote-controlled planes. He also enjoys riding his bicycle.

The family has a three-year-old fur baby, Rory, a Labradoodle who loves to play fetch and go on walks. He has a best friend, Brody, in the neighborhood and makes it a point to visit his bestie daily.

On the weekends, the family attends church at St. Margaret Mary, enjoys taking a family stroll along Park Avenue and at the Winter Park Farmers Market, then lunch at one of the many restaurants.

“We love Rocco's Italian Grill,” said Cece. “I like to also browse at Lauren Sigman Collection and Hayden looks at the art at Ocean Blue Galleries and shops at Rocket Fizz.”





The family travels often and had recently visited Greece and Italy, with plans for future trips to France and Spain.

Jim, who is originally from Miami, moved to Central Florida 30 years ago for work. Fast forward to today, Jim has been in the roofing business for 40 years. "For three generations my family has been in the industry," he shared.

When Jim's grandfather, Angelo Gory, came back from WWII, he and his brothers needed to find jobs. They realized everyone needs a roof and started manufacturing concrete roofing tiles in South Florida. Gory Tile can still be found on many Florida homes today. The success of this endeavor led them to open a roofing distribution network and this is where Jim started his journey in the business.

Jim would spend his summers working in his family's distribution business. After college, Jim moved into a sales position in distribution which then propelled him into technical and sales positions within various roofing manufacturing companies.



While Cece, who is originally from Southern California, was attending college she needed a job and applied to a help wanted ad for a receptionist in the newspaper. This turned out to be a receptionist for a roofing manufacturing company. She was hired. While working there, Cece went from front desk, to inside sales and purchasing. "Turns out the saying is true," shared Cece. "Once in roofing, always in roofing. I never left the industry." After time in roof manufacturing, she moved into roofing sales.

Having immersed themselves in the roofing industry for countless years they recognized that there was a need to bring a consultative approach to the trade.

"By adopting this mindset, we were able to provide personalized guidance, tailored recommendations and comprehensive solutions that align with each client's specific needs," said Jim. "Being part of a family legacy in the roofing industry has instilled in us a sense of purpose and responsibility to carry on the values, the expertise and reputation that have been created over time," he added.

"The joy and satisfaction of our clients when we deliver a roof that not only protects their belongings, but also enhances the beauty of their property is so rewarding and the reason why we do what we do," added Cece.

Citrus Roofing Contractors is a Winter Park based, family-owned roofing and contracting company formed in 2022 by Jim and Cece.

"We love our community," they agreed. "Beyond roofs, it is the genuine friendships we make along the way that brings us the most joy."

