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561-876-6415

STREET REPS

See Page 2

Also on our website
www.floridagardens.net

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Florida Gardens Newsletter

March 2024 / Volume 55 - Issue 2

The Florida Gardens Newsletter is currently published 5 times per year:
January, March, May, September and November



IN THIS ISSUE ...

- **OUR 2024 CONTRIBUTION DRIVE CONTINUES**
- **STATUS OF SPEED BUMPS ON SPRINGDALE**
- **STATUS OF TRAFFIC LIGHT CHANGE ON OHIO ROAD**
- **SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION DEADLINE APPROACHING**
- **JANUARY/FEBRUARY CRIME REPORT**



Once again, it's time for any graduating High School senior in Florida Gardens who may be interested in applying for the annual Florida Gardens College Scholarship Award to start working on their application. Each year, the Civic Association is proud to award one or two scholarships to college or tech school-bound students from Florida Gardens who meet the qualifications, in recognition of their efforts and accomplishments.

In order to apply, the student must be a bona fide resident of Florida Gardens, graduating from high school in 2023, and entering college or tech school. There are a few other requirements prior to applying, which include family member contributions to the Association in the current and previous year, completion of 20 hours of community service to Florida Gardens, and submitting an application with supporting documents.

The absolute deadline to submit applications is April 15th. We hope to hear from you, so if you're interested in applying please phone our Scholarship Coordinator, Sandra Dale, at 561-436-9852 or email to davidsdale@bellsouth.net.

The scholarships we award to selected High School seniors each year from Florida Gardens would not be possible without the financial support of our residents.
Your annual contribution makes a difference.

STREET REPS

UPDATED 9/19/23

STREET
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CHRISTIE BANKES
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The Danger Electric Vehicles Pose to Pedestrians and Bicyclists

An article suggested by Lisa Richman

Lisa suggests that if you are driving an electric vehicle through the neighborhood and you see people walking, kids playing or someone biking, a tap on the car horn might help prevent an accident. [Editors note:] Electric vehicles, including electric golf carts, are very quiet. Studies have shown that electric vehicles are 37 percent more likely to cause pedestrian collisions and 57 percent more likely to cause bicycle collisions than vehicles that use louder gas engines. As mentioned in the article in our January 2023 Newsletter, on streets with no sidewalks, pedestrians must always walk facing traffic as specified by Florida law.

As far back as 20 years ago, with the advent of the Toyota Prius, lawmakers recognized the potential danger to pedestrians and bicyclists from "silent cars", and continue to this day to try and legislate a solution. One such (laughable) proposed regulation requires that electric vehicles actually be required to generate a sound when traveling below 19 mph. This however wouldn't help much in Florida Gardens where vehicles routinely travel in excess of the 30 mph posted limit. Lisa's 'horn tap' suggestion might be the best solution to help keep pedestrians and bicyclists in Florida Gardens safe from ALL vehicles.

Connect With Us:

Follow the happenings in Florida Gardens through our Social Media postings

Join Nextdoor : Sign up at nextdoor.com

On Facebook @ Florida Gardens Civic Association

On Instagram @ [fla_gardens_civic_association](https://www.instagram.com/fla_gardens_civic_association)

CHECK OUT THE FLORIDA GARDENS WEBSITE AT floridagardens.net , containing

- Information on renting the Clubhouse
- Upcoming Community Events
- Photo galleries of the past year's events
- Links for making a contribution to support your community
- Information on the annual Scholarship Awards
- Copies of Newsletters from the past several years with an articles index
- Association Admin - Your current Board of Directors, Monthly Meeting Minutes, the Association By-Laws and more.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Upcoming Residents Meetings

Meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month except July and August, at 8:00 pm in the Clubhouse. All residents are encouraged to attend. The next scheduled meetings are April 11th, May 9th and June 13th.

Adult Game Night – SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS

THE REVENUE FROM THE ADS IN THIS NEWSLETTER PAYS FOR THE COST OF PRINTING.
PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS AND TELL THEM YOU SAW THEIR AD IN OUR NEWSLETTER.

Support the Florida Gardens COMMUNITY !!

Florida Gardens is a family community. Because we have a clubhouse facility, we have been able to have community events throughout the year. Besides our annual community gathering, the children really enjoy the Easter, Halloween and Christmas parties. All our residents have the clubhouse available to rent for their own special events. Plus, we open the facility to neighborhood support groups for weekly meetings. We also maintain the entrance sign on Ohio Road.

Through the Florida Gardens Civic Association, we provide deserving High School students with scholarship awards each year. We awarded two FG students \$1500 each in 2023.

None of this would be possible without sufficient annual financial assistance from our residents. Yet, in 2023, of 782 households, only 171 made a supporting contribution.

Unlike most communities in South Florida, we are not an HOA. There are no mandatory fees. ALL RESIDENTS of Florida Gardens are members of the Florida Gardens Civic Association, and your voluntary annual contribution to the FGCA makes it possible to provide you and your family with events that bring our community together and make Florida Gardens such a great place to live. Even if you don't attend any of our family events, the community still needs your support. We ask for a contribution of at least \$50 for the year, but ANY contribution amount is greatly appreciated. We Sincerely Thank You.



KIDS EASTER PARTY 2023



HALLOWEEN CARNIVAL



KIDS XMAS PARTY 2023

SEE ALL THE EVENT
PICTURES ON OUR
WEBSITE

MAKING A CONTRIBUTION IS EASY!

CONTRIBUTE BY CHECK, ON OUR WEBSITE, OR VIA **VENMO** or **ZELLE** ON YOUR PHONE

Use the VENMO QR Code below to make a contribution with VENMO. Enter "@floridagardensca" as payee. If asked for the last four payee phone digits, enter 0541. Type your name and street address in the comments field so we can properly record your contribution.

Use the ZELLE QR Code below to make a contribution with ZELLE. Please type your name and address in the MEMO field so we can properly record your contribution.

To make your contribution online with a credit card, go to - floridagardens.net - and select "CONTRIBUTE" in the top menu bar. Depending on your device, it may be located under "More". Your transaction is secured through PayPal, but you do NOT need to have a PayPal account. Enter the contribution amount and select either PayPal or your own credit card. After entering your credit card info, please select the "Share your mailing address..." check box so we can properly record your contribution. Also, please note that the Association must pay a processing fee for contributions made online through our website or through VENMO.

To contribute by check, use the coupon at the bottom of the next page and place both in the envelope provided. You can mail it or save the cost of a stamp by just dropping the envelope in the secure drop box in front of the Clubhouse.

NOTE - All member contributions received, regardless of the receipt date, are for the calendar year in which they are received.



venmo

Point your camera at the QR code, open the link and then follow the payment instructions. **Make sure to add your name and address in the memo portion so we may keep track of contributions.**



zelle

Traffic Light Changes Coming at Lake Worth Road / Ohio Road - UPDATE

by Gary Oliwa

In several previous issues of this Newsletter I have reported on my efforts to have the traffic signals at the Ohio Road / Lake Worth Road intersection modified to reduce the number of accidents caused by drivers turning left from both Ohio and Nassau Roads in conflict with drivers going straight across the intersection, all on simultaneous green lights. This effort started in September 2022 (!) with a report I generated and sent to the County with a recommendation for modification of the traffic signals to implement dedicated left-turn arrows for the turn lanes similar to most other intersections. County Traffic Engineering opted for flashing yellow arrows to simply alert drivers that the vehicles in the turn lane needed to yield to the vehicles coming straight across the intersection. It was not what I had hoped for, but was better than nothing. Their proposal was forwarded to the Florida Department of Transportation for their review, since Lake Worth Road is a State road under their jurisdiction. They approved the change in February 2023. The next step was for engineers at FDOT to investigate whether the current traffic signal arms were sufficient to hold the weight of the new signals that would be required for the change. They were! The project was then finally released to a contractor in December. NOW it has been reported that the signal controller (that big silver box by the side of the road) was too old to implement the County's flashing yellow arrow idea. They deemed it too costly to replace the controller and are now looking to pursue implementing my ORIGINAL request to install dedicated green turn arrows for the turn lanes (apparently the old controller can accommodate that). The project has now been sent BACK to Palm Beach County Traffic Engineering for their approval (recall that they rejected the green arrows and opted for the flashing yellow ones). I have enlisted the help of County Commissioner Barnett whose office has been in contact with Traffic Engineering. We will see what happens next in the now 18-month struggle to reduce the accidents at this dangerous intersection.

UPDATE ON SPEED BUMPS ALONG SPRINGDALE ROAD.

By Gary Oliwa

There has always been a problem with Lucerne Lakes residents using Springdale Road and the connection into Lucerne Lakes via Columbia Road as a way to avoid traffic and traffic lights on Lake Worth Road. There have often been complaints of speeding along Springdale. The problem will be exacerbated by the additional residents introduced by the golf course conversion.

When the golf course conversion was proposed 3 years ago, we made Mattamy Homes, the developer, aware of this concern. To help alleviate the problem their development will create, they agreed to fund the installation of two speed bumps on Springdale Road.

Now that the litigation between Mattamy and the Lucerne Lakes HOA is over and the development is proceeding, we have presented our proposal for the location of the two speed bumps (see the map on the front page of the January Newsletter).

It is hoped that the addition of these two speed bumps will reduce the dangerous speeding traffic along Springdale and perhaps even dissuade Lucerne Lakes residents from using Springdale as an alternative to Lake Worth Road. Please note that Palm Beach County Road and Bridge Division must approve the installation, so determining the proposed locations was simply the next step in the process that Mattamy Homes is taking to fulfil their commitment. **Assuming they are approved by the County, Mattamy will install the speed bumps at the same time the southbound left turn lane to Columbia Road is added on Ohio Road.**

SEE ARTICLE ON PREVIOUS PAGE



FLORIDA GARDENS CIVIC ASSOCIATION 2024 MEMBER CONTRIBUTION COUPON

Make check payable to "Florida Gardens Civic Association"

Use the envelope provided and either drop it in the secure drop box in front of the Clubhouse or mail to : Florida Gardens Civic Association ; 134 Ohio Road ; Lake Worth, FL 33467-3828

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Amount \$ _____

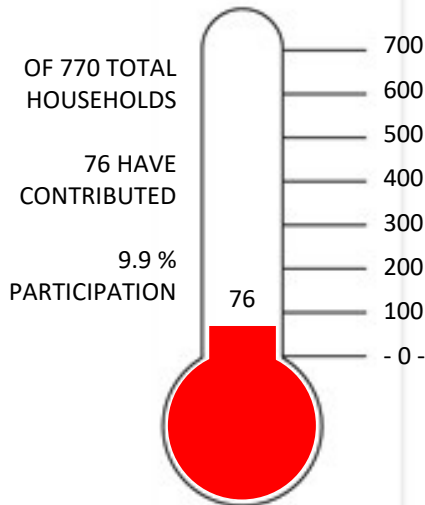
Street Address _____

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD!



NUMBER OF HOUSEHOLDS THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED

ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION STATUS



In the January Newsletter, we kicked off our annual contribution drive. We detailed how your contributions fund the various community activities and children’s holiday parties. We asked that you check with your friends that live in HOA communities and see what they pay annually in mandatory HOA dues and what they receive in return. We also have a safe, simple method to make a contribution online through our website or even on your phone if you have the Venmo app if a mailed check is too inconvenient.

As of March 13th, only 76 of our 770 households in Florida Gardens have recognized the need for their involvement and have been generous enough to contribute. Most have contributed \$50. Some have contributed more. To everyone who has contributed thus far, we say THANK YOU!

In this Newsletter, we are again including simple instructions on how to use our website to make your contribution online, and a contribution coupon and mailing envelope for those of you who like to contribute by check. All contributions received, regardless of the receipt date, are for the calendar year in which they are received. The Association fiscal year runs from Jan 1st to Dec 31st.

Please consider what this great community has to offer and make a contribution to help keep our activities funded.

REMINDER : We have several ways to contribute. You can make your annual contribution to the Florida Gardens Civic Association by check using the enclosed mailing envelope. You can use any credit card online from our website (floridagardens.net). Simply select “CONTRIBUTE” from the main menu and follow the directions. Finally, you can also pay using Venmo. Enter @Floridagardensca as payee. If prompted, use 0541 as the last 4 digits of the payee phone.

As of March 13th, the percentage of households by street who have contributed this year is as follows.

Cleveland	8/34	23.5%	Ohio	7/79	8.9%
Cypress	7/44	15.9%	Rubber Tree	4/46	8.7%
Palmetto	7/46	15.2%	Dayton	3/36	8.3%
Mango	5/42	11.9%	Coconut	3/44	6.8%
Plumosa	5/42	11.9%	Pine Tree	3/44	6.8%
Barberton	4/34	11.8%	Springdale	2/31	6.5%
Akron	8/74	10.8%	Arch	2/54	3.7%
Cuyahoga	4/38	10.5%	Palm	1/44	2.3%
Canton	3/33	9.1%			

CLUBHOUSE RENTAL INFO

FOR INFORMATION ON RENTING THE CLUBHOUSE, FIRST VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT www.floridagardens.net AND CLICK ON THE CLUBHOUSE TAB. REVIEW THE INFORMATION AND THEN CALL TERRY AT **561-968-9970*** TO SCHEDULE YOUR EVENT. **RESERVE EARLY - WE ALREADY HAVE DATES BOOKED IN DECEMBER!**

***VOICE MAIL ONLY—DO NOT SEND TEXTS TO THIS NUMBER.**





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EASTER

Sunday, March 31st

9:30 EASTER EGG HUNT

10:30 MODERN WORSHIP

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FROM HEAVEN, AND I WILL FORGIVE THEIR SIN AND WILL
HEAL THEIR LAND."
2 CHRONICLES 7:14

MAY 2ND

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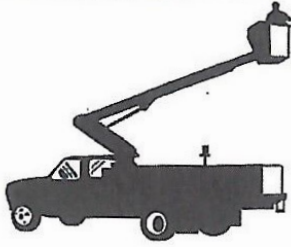




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